



Group 3 JRL – Age Policies - Trial Development Framework

Background:

Half-Age Policy

- a) The current half age policy currently classifies an applicant as either able to play down in age groups or must stay in their correct age group. There are no development actions required by a Club to assist the player in returning over time back to their substantive age group.
- b) For those applicants playing down two years there is inconsistency in each medical practitioner's report with varying levels of information provided. There is often insufficient medical evidence available that may be to the detriment of the applicant and the other participants.

Playing Up Two-Year Policy

- c) The current policy requires a Senior Club Coach to provide a written report on an applicant wanting to play up in an age group above their substantive age group. Review clearly shows that only a sign off is being provided or passed onto the NSWRL Community Engagement Officer thus removing any club responsibility in reviewing the player and their ability to play up in ages.

Required Documentation Framework:

Half-Age Policy

Develop an 18 Month Senior Club Coach Assessment Report template for them to complete for any child wishing to play down so that Club Senior Club is responsible in the first instance for the initial assessment. This places the Club as the first assessment hold point before being submitted to Group 3 JRL.

In addition, it has been noted the difference levels of medical practitioner report for players applying to play down. A template is required to be developed which sets the minimum report requirements at Appendix D.

The players height and weight statistics must be provided to the Group 3 Secretary as soon as a half age applicant is known by email.

Playing Up Policy

Develop a specific Senior Club Coach Report template for coaches to assess any player who wants to play up one or two years above their substantive age group. The template will direct the Senior Club Coach to all necessary assessment factors so that the applicants Club can ensure that the player is suitable for the targeted age group. If no Senior Club is available, then the most experienced coach in the Club will complete the assessment form.

Half-Age On-Field Playing & Development Framework:

In addition to the written half age assessment checklist, as part of the half age player development. Each player approved to play down shall play two half games one age group above their approved age group excluding those with a medication practitioners report approved by the NSWRL Doctor.



Each Club's Senior Club Coach shall develop a personal training and development plan specific to the player, so they are supported in returning to their substantive age group over time. This includes off field training and development activities to increase the player resilience and ability to play back at their substantive level. Within the two half games the coach shall ensure that the player play a minimum of two unbroken quarters or one full unbroken half by Round 11 of the regular season. Failure to achieve this will result in the player not being able to remain in the lower age group.

Support Materials:

Half-Age Policy

The specific Half Age Playing Down Checklist template is attached at Appendix D. The Group 3 JRL Secretary will send to all Clubs for their use. All completed forms will be returned to the Group 3 JRL Register & Secretary for the President's review and then NSWRL Mid Coast Region. Once approved the Group 3 JRL Secreary will update the players status and retain the assessments.

Any player utilising a medical practitioner will need to provide the template to their medical professional for completion and return to the Group 3 JRL Secretary, then for the Presidents review and finally to NSWRL Mid Coast Region for final approval.

Playing Up Policy

The specific Playing Up Checklist template is attached at Appendix E. The Group 3 JRL Secretary will send to all Clubs for their use. All completed forms will be returned to the Group 3 JRL Secretary for the President's review and then NSWRL Mid Coast Region. Once approved the Group 3 JRL Secretary will update the players status and retain the assessments.

Application

This trial policy will be reviewed at the end of the season with NSWRL to review the policy and its impacts on the players development, skills, and resilience. Retention factors will also be reviewed.

Appendix

- A. Group 3 JRL – Half Age Registration & Assessment Process
- B. Group 3 JRL – Playing Up Two Years Application & Assessment Process
- C. Group 3 JRL – Playing Up Two Years Player Assessment Checklist Template
- D. Group 3 JRL – Half Age Player Assessment Checklist Template
- E. Group 3 JRL – Medical Practitioner Half Age Player Assessment Template
- F. NSWRL – League Tag Playing Up Form (both one & two years)
- G. NSWRL – Tackle Playing Up Form (both one & two years)



APPENDIX A

Group 3 JRL – Half Age Registration & Assessment Process

- 1) Player registers their half age request/interest through;
 - a. the www.playrugbyleague registration website, or
 - b. through their NRL Profile, or
 - c. by email to their respective Club Secretary
- 2) The Group 3 Secretary in respect of step 1a & b shall generate a half age applicant register of all online applicants.
- 3) From step 2 the Group 3 JRL Secretary email individual clubs of their respective online applicants, accompanied with an assessment form as at Appendix D
- 4) Those applying through their Club shall also be recorded on the register by the Grp3JRL Secretary and an assessment form as at Appendix D shall be sent to the respective Club for their assessment.
- 5) In each application method the respective Clubs Senior Club Coach shall undertake an assessment using the Appendix D checklist. If the Club Senior Club Coach determines that the applicant does not meet the requirements to play down then the Club shall advise the player of its assessment, with a copy to the Grp3JRL Secretary.
- 6) If the Club's Senior Club Coach determines that the applicant meets the criteria, then the completed assessment Appendix D form will be sent to the Grp3JRL Secretary.
- 7) The Group 3 JRL Chairman shall then program the Half Age Review Team to assess the player within the first four weeks of play, and against NSWRL Policy.
- 8) The Group 3 JRL Secretary shall advise both the player and their Club Secretary by email of the decision outcome.
- 9) Excluding those with a medical professional's report, all other approved applicants will be required to play two half games in their correct age group. The applicants Senior Club Coach will design a development plan to develop the applicant's self-confidence and skills so that in the future the player may return to their substantive age group.
- 10) Any aggrievement of the decision by the player can be lodged to the Grp3 JRL Secretary for review by the NSWRL whose decision shall be final.



APPENDIX B

Group 3 JRL – Playing Up Two Years Application & Assessment Process

- 1) Player registers their interest in playing up through an email to their Club Secretary.
- 2) The Club Secretary shall complete the playing up request form and have the parent sign the form.
- 3) The Club Secretary shall have their Senior Club Coach undertake an assessment of the player and complete the assessment using the form at Appendix D and shall retain that assessment form.
- 4) If the Senior Club Coach finds through assessment that the player should not be approved to do so the Club Secretary shall advise the parent.
- 5) If the Senior Club Coach assessment determines and recommends that the player can play up two years
- 6) In each application method the respective Clubs Senior Club Coach shall undertake an assessment using the Appendix D checklist. If the Club Senior Club Coach determines that the applicant does not meet the requirements to play down then the Club shall advise the player of its assessment, with a copy to the Grp3JRL Secretary.
- 7) If the Club's Senior Club Coach determines that the applicant meets the criteria then the completed assessment Appendix D form will be sent to the Grp3JRL Secretary.
- 8) The Group 3 JRL Secretary will provide the Senior Club Coach assessment along with the Playing Up form to the NSWRL for approval.
- 9) The Group 3 JRL Secretary shall advise both the player and their Club Secretary by email of the decision outcome.
- 10) Any aggrievement of the decision by the player can be lodged through the Grp3 JRL Secretary for review by the NSWRL whose decision shall be final.



APPENDIX C

Playing 2 years above natural age division

Players Name:

DOB:

Club:

| Criteria | Score | Scoring Criteria | | | Notes |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Physical size for older age division | | 1 - Well below average | 3 - Average | 5 - above average | |
| Maturation | | 1 - below average for higher age | 3 - average for higher age | 5 - above average for higher age | |
| Game awareness | | 1 - below average | 3 - Average | 5 - above average | |
| Physical presence | | 1 - No physical presence | 3 - Average physical presence | 5 - Strong Physical Presence | |
| Suitability to play in a higher grade | | 1 - Not Suitable | 3 - Competent | 5 - Highly suitable | |
| Carry into contact | | 1 - Poor | 3 - Competent | 5 - Strong | |
| Confidence in defence | | 1 - Not confident | 3 - Confident | 5 - Very Confident | |
| Total Score | | Score of 21 or above will be deemed competent to play up 2 age divisions. | | | |

Assessing Club Coach Name (print):

Signature:



APPENDIX D

Playing 1/2 years below natural age division

Players Name:

DOB:

Club:

| Criteria | Score | Scoring Criteria | | | Notes |
|--|-------|--|----------------------------------|--|-------|
| Physical size for younger age division | | 1 - Smaller than average for younger age | 3 - Average size for younger age | 5 - above average size for younger age | |
| Maturation | | 1 - No physical presence | 3 - some physical presence | 5 - Strong physical presence | |
| Game awareness | | 1 - Less than average for younger age | 3 - Average for younger age | 5 - above average for younger age | |
| Physical Impact | | 1 - No impact | 3 - some impact | 5 - strong impact | |
| Suitability to play in natural age group | | 1 - Not confident | 3 - Confident | 5 - Very Confident | |
| Carry into contact | | 1 - Not confident | 3 - Confident | 5 - Very Confident | |
| Confidence in defence | | 1 - Not capable | 3 - Capable | 5 - Very capable | |
| Total Score | | Score of 11 or less - The player may be deemed eligible to play down 1 age group. Score of 12 or above - The player will be declined to play down 1 age group | | | |

Assessing Club Coach Name (print):

Signature:



APPENDIX E

Dr John Smith MD, M.Ped
110 Best St
Newcastle NSW 2300

1/4/2022

Re: Ms Fred Jones

Dear Group Secretary,

I am writing to you in support of Fred Jones in playing below his age group division for the season ending Dec 2022. His mother Mary has advised me of the unfortunate circumstances that he is unable play in the U12's team due to his date of birth being 11 days beyond the qualification date in accordance with the 18-month policy.

I offer the following personal information in support of Fred's application.

Fred's height is 156 cm (85th centile for same age), and his weight is 40.1kg (75th centile for same age). This gives him a BMI in the 22nd centile boys of same target age. I would like to emphasise that although his height is in the 85th centile, and his BMI is in the 22nd percentile. Having reviewed Fred personally, and a team photo with his peers it is obvious that his overall size is like the majority of the target team.

Fred has not previously played Rugby League in the past four years having found the sport beyond his physical and mental capabilities. His Mother advised me that he often lacks self-confidence and needs encouragement to start new hobbies and sports. He has been very engaged and actively participating in the pre-season preparation and is openly excited to play at a level that suits his capabilities.

In my opinion it would benefit Fred's social, emotional, and mental development to play in the U12's team matching his capabilities. If you require any additional information regarding his health don't hesitate to make contact through Mrs Mary Jones.

Kind Regards

Dr John Smith

NSW Community Rugby Leagues Association



PLAYING IN HIGHER AGE GROUP (TAG) CONSENT FORM

APPLICATION TO PLAY

☐ **1 YEAR UP**

☐ **2 YEARS UP**

☐ **3 YEARS UP**

☐ **CASUAL APPLICATION** *(player will play up occasionally throughout the season)*

☐ **PERMANENT APPLICATION** *(player will be playing up all season and will not participate in their natural age group)*

PARENT/GUARDIAN TO COMPLETE

I hereby give permission for my child

_____ DOB ____/____/____ to play with the
(insert full name)

_____ Under _____
(insert Club) (insert higher age division)

I am aware of the increased risk my child will be exposed to both physically and mentally by playing in a higher age division. I am aware that my child is required to fulfil their obligations to their correct age division prior to competing in the higher age division (if playing up an age group on a casual basis).

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

CLUB TO COMPLETE

On behalf of the _____ JRLFC
(insert Club name)

I hereby give permission for the abovementioned player to play with the Under _____ in 20_____.

I am aware of and have explained the increased mental and physical risks of playing a higher age division to both the player and their parent/guardian.

Club Representative Name _____

Club Representative Signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE NOTE: FOR BLUES TAG COMPETITIONS, PLAYERS MAY PARTICIPATE IN COMPETITIONS A MAXIMUM OF 3 YEARS ABOVE THEIR NATURAL AGE GROUP (i.e. A PLAYER TURNING 12 THIS YEAR MAY PLAY IN AN UNDER 15s COMPETITION BUT NOT AN UNDER 16s COMPETITION).

DISTRICT TO APPROVE

League Secretary Signature _____ Date _____

FOR PLAYERS PLAYING UP **IN BLUES TAG COMPETITIONS** COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE DISTRICT AT THE EARLIEST CONVENIENCE – FORM WILL BE SIGNED BY DISTRICT AND UPLOADED TO THE PLAYERS MYSIDELINE MEMBER RECORD

ONCE DISPENSATION HAS BEEN GRANTED, PLAYERS WILL BE ABLE TO BE ADDED TO TEAM LISTS AND TEAM SIGN ON SHEETS

NSW Community Rugby Leagues Association



PLAYING IN HIGHER AGE GROUP (TACKLE) CONSENT FORM

APPLICATION TO PLAY

☐ **1 YEAR UP**

☐ **2 YEARS UP**

☐ **CASUAL APPLICATION** *(player will play up occasionally throughout the season)*

☐ **PERMANENT APPLICATION** *(player will be playing up all season and will not participate in their natural age group)*

PARENT/GUARDIAN TO COMPLETE

I hereby give permission for my child

_____ DOB ____/____/____ to play with the
(insert full name)

_____ Under _____
(insert Club) (insert higher age division)

I am aware of the increased risk my child will be exposed to both physically and mentally by playing in a higher age division. I am aware that my child is required to fulfil their obligations to their correct age division prior to competing in the higher age division (if playing up an age group on a casual basis).

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

CLUB TO COMPLETE

On behalf of the _____ JRLFC
(insert Club name)

I hereby give permission for the abovementioned player to play with the Under _____ in 20_____.

I am aware of and have explained the increased mental and physical risks of playing a higher age division to both the player and their parent/guardian.

Club Representative Name _____

Club Representative Signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE NOTE: IF A PLAYER IS PLAYING TWO YEARS ABOVE THEIR NATURAL AGE GROUP CLUBS MUST ATTACH A WRITTEN LETTER FROM A SENIOR CLUB COACH OUTLINING THAT THE ABOVEMENTIONED PLAYER HAS THE APPROPRIATE SKILLS AND PHYSICALITY TO PARTICIPATE IN A COMPETITION TWO YEARS ABOVE THEIR NATURAL AGE GROUP. APPLICATIONS THEN NEED TO BE APPROVED BY THE PLAYERS DISTRICT AND NSWRL. APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE REQUIRED ACCOMPANYING LETTER. APPLICATIONS TO PLAY UP 2 YEARS FOR PLAYERS IN MODIFIED AGE GROUPS (U6-U12) WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS PER THE NRL LAWS OF THE GAME.

DISTRICT TO APPROVE

League Secretary Signature _____ Date _____

NSWRL TO APPROVE (FOR APPLICATIONS TWO YEARS ABOVE NATURAL AGE GROUP)

NSWRL Representative Signature _____ Date _____

FOR PLAYERS PLAYING UP **ONE YEAR ABOVE THEIR NATURAL AGE GROUP** COMPLETED FORMS CAN BE SUBMITTED TO THE DISTRICT AT THE EARLIEST CONVENIENCE AFTER THE PLAYER HAS PARTICIPATED – FORM WILL BE SIGNED BY DISTRICT AND UPLOADED TO THE PLAYERS MYSIDELINE MEMBER RECORD

FOR PLAYERS PLAYING UP **TWO YEARS ABOVE THEIR NATURAL AGE GROUP** FORMS MUST BE SIGNED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT AND NSWRL PRIOR TO PLAYER TAKING THE FIELD IN THE HIGHER AGE GROUP