



PLAYING OUT OF AGE GROUP Club Policy

Sherwood Football Club Limited
ABN: 12 010 443 937
41 Chelmer St East
CHELMER QLD 4068

The importance of personal and player development for footballers at Sherwood Magpies Australian Football Club is of utmost importance to the custodians of the club at any given time. This ethos applies to decisions surrounding players playing outside their age group, whether it be via request from the club, or via a request from the player or their family.

The below policy is formulated to ensure the club is able to make what may appear to be *inconsistent* decisions, using a *consistent* framework.

Request by Club:

Junior Football (u8-u11)

When registrations result in unsuitable numbers for creation of 2 or more teams whereby there are excess interchange players, or insufficient numbers for an additional team – the junior football sub-committee at their discretion will request that players play outside their age group in order to create more suitable numbers across the registered age groups. They may also seek expressions of interest. There is no obligation for a player/family to agree to this request and player is always welcome to play in their own registered age group should that be their desire.

Players who are to be approached will be discussed with current and previous coaches and will be determined by various factors including both football related (size, capability etc) and non-football related. (siblings, travel, game times etc)

Youth Football (u12-u16)

When registrations result in unsuitable numbers for creation of two or more teams whereby there are excess interchange players, or insufficient numbers for an additional team – the junior football sub-committee at their discretion will request that players play outside their age group in order to create more suitable numbers across the registered age groups. They may also seek expressions of interest. There is no obligation for a player/family to agree to this request and player is always welcome to play in their own registered age group should that be their desire.

It is a priority in Youth Football to field multiple teams in each age group to ensure inclusivity and that there is an appropriate team for various skill levels. As such, from time to time requests for Juniors (u11) to play Youth (u12) may be made to ensure two teams can be fielded where possible, provided there are sufficient players willing to participate. The same logic may be applied between Youth Age groups, but will generally be less prevalent.



Request by Player/Family:

All Junior/Youth Football

Any player may request to play outside their age group each season. This is done via application (available on club website or on request).

This application is assessed by the Club Board of Directors, who may consult with Junior and/or Youth Coaching Coordinators (and any other party deemed relevant by the board. eg. Previous years coach)

Assessment from the board will include the following factors:

- Consideration of registered numbers in each age group (both the correct age group and the desired age group)
- Size of the player
- Ability of the player
- Siblings, family or other extenuating circumstances (eg family driving a long way to club having siblings playing/training on different days)
- Other sporting or extra-curricular commitments that may preclude a child from playing and/or training on a certain day
- Any other matters deemed relevant by the board and tabled on behalf of the player

All decisions from the Board are final and the matters remain private.

Players playing up an age group whether it be via request from the club or application by player are to be treated as a registered player in that age group and have playing time allocated in accordance with club policy.

Each decision is reviewed annually. Approval is a season by season requirement.

Filling in during season:

Due to injury, illness or just general unavailability for various reasons – players might be asked to fill in for a different age group during the season. This may also include playing for a second team in the same age group.

In cases like this, the fill in must not significantly displace a player who is part of the team on a week to week basis. However, any player asked to fill in should still be given sufficient game time to recognise their effort to make themselves available, or in some cases to turn up to a ground on a different day and time to their own scheduled game.

QAFL & QFAW Senior Football & QAFL Colts:

The minimum age set by the governing body (AFL Queensland) for Senior Men's Football is 15. The minimum age for Senior Women's Football is 16. The Sherwood

Football Club policy within the governing body framework is 'if you're good enough, you are old enough' as evidenced by senior football being played by many Sherwood juniors aged 15/16.

For players who are u16 age group (male) seeking to play Colts and/or Senior Football, no application is necessary via this policy – this is a personal decision made by the player. For players in u17 age group (Female) seeking to play Senior Football, no application is necessary.

However, should you be youth eligible and choose to pursue Colts/Senior football, you have chosen to be at the mercy of selection. If not selected in any of the available senior teams, you do not have the right to automatically fall back to youth football and displace a member of that team. Your selection in youth football is at the discretion of the coaches and Youth Football Coordinator.

It is preferred that Youth eligible players are promoted to the Senior program to play Seniors or Colts and not reserves for male players and Seniors only for female players. Unless there are extenuating circumstances (eg. availability and limited numbers) youth eligible players should not play Reserves or 3rds football in the male and female senior football program.

Updated: Oct 2021 SFC Board

Version 1.3