



PLAYING OUT OF AGE POLICY

Introduction

It is the preference of the Heathmont Jets Junior Football Club that children play in their correct age group. To qualify to participate in a particular competition age group, a player must meet the age requirements as of the 1 January prior to the season in question. No player shall be permitted to play in the junior competition unless they attain at least the age of eight years during that person's first year of registration with the EFNL.

In order to play out of age, a written application from the player's parents must be sent to the Heathmont Jets Junior Football Club Executive Committee which includes the Football Director for consideration. Each application will be considered on its individual merits.

Playing Up

The committee will assess the application utilising, but not limited to, the following considerations:

- The player's welfare in playing out of age.
- Team numbers – in order for a player to play in a higher age group, there must be a vacancy on the higher age group's playing list and their correct age group must not be left with insufficient numbers.
- Players playing in their correct age group have precedence for registration in that age group.
- Discussion with the coach or coaches familiar with the player's ability.
- History of the player playing out of age.
- School year cut-off dates and friendship groups.
- Parent/guardian's agreement for their child to play at a higher age must be sought.
- Any other considerations raised by the committee or on the application from the player.

A new application must be submitted for each season.

Playing Down

Playing down will most commonly only occur in the non-competitive age groups (U8/9/10) based on medical grounds and after due consideration by the Jets Juniors Executive Committee and the EFNL, however, under exceptional circumstances (predominantly a shortage of players in the lower age group), the club will apply for a special permit to allow a player to play in the age group below. Players in the higher age group and higher grade cannot play in a lower age group and lower grade, unless approved by the EFNL for exceptional circumstances and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. E.g. a player in U13 B grade cannot play in the U12 C or D grade team.

Effective Date

This policy is effective from November 2025 and will be reviewed every 3 years by the committee or sooner if there is a significant event or legislation that warrants sooner review.