



## COMPETITION MATTERS – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

In the opening two weekends of competition there have unfortunately been instances where teams have breached the rules of the Association that have resulted in teams losing points, clubs incurring financial penalties and players being suspended.

In order to try and reduce these unwanted outcomes, attention is drawn to the following rules; very specifically for those teams competing in league competitions 12 years and above.

### Minimum number of Players

Rule 1.11.6 requires teams to field at least seven (7) of the team's registered at the commencement of the match and at all times during the match. If a team cannot field seven or more of that team's registered players at any point during the match, for whatever reason, the match will be considered to have been forfeited by that team to the opposition, regardless of the amount of match time elapsed.

### Players Playing Up (out of age group or division)

The maximum number of players that may be brought up into a higher graded or different age group for any given match 12 years and above is four (4). Please see Rule 5.2.11.

The team sheets only provide for a maximum of four (4) substitute players from different teams. This seems to be ignored with some team managers listing as many as seven or eight substitute players from other teams.

### Ineligible Players – Sanctions

Rule 5.4.1 lists the penalties which apply for the playing of ineligible players. Below are the definitions for an ineligible player;

- is unregistered, or
- needs a permit to play and has not obtained such permit, or
- is not registered in that team in accordance with the Association Constitution and Rules, or
- is registered with another Association or soccer organization without Board permission, or
- is under suspension, or
- is not eligible to play in that team according to any rule of the Association.

The sanction for the team and/or ineligible player shall for each match that the person has played in,

- deemed to have lost each match, and
- forfeit three competition points (even though the team may not have earned any points in the match played), and
- be fined an additional registration fee, and
- be dealt with additionally as the Board deems fit

For each match that an ineligible person has played as mentioned in rule 5.4.1 the team's opponents will be declared the winners, and three competition points and three goals "for" shall be credited to them.

A player who, whilst Disciplinarily Ineligible, plays in any official match conducted under the auspices of the Association shall be automatically suspended for a period of 12 months commencing on the date that the penalty is advised to the player's Club by the Association.

An adult player who, whilst Administratively Ineligible plays in any official match conducted under the auspices of the Association shall be automatically suspended for 2 matches commencing on the date that the penalty is advised to the player's Club by the Association.





## Players Playing out of their Age Group

Football NSW has a policy that is also reflected in the CDSFA Rules, which limits junior players playing more than two years out of their respective age. The relevant key points are publicly available on the CDSFA website. Team managers and coaches should note the following:

- players in the under 8 to under 18 age groups (for boys) and under 8 to under 16 age groups (for girls) must play in the age group of the birthday they will achieve in that calendar year or *a maximum of 2 years higher age group*.
- No player in an under 8 to under 21 age based team may play for a team in an *age group or in a division lower than the age group and/or division into which the player has been graded for that season*. This provision being subject to any official regrading of the player's team during that season
- A male player must attain his 18th, 19th 20th or 21st birthday in the relevant year to be automatically eligible for the under 21 male age group.
- A female player must attain her 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th 20th or 21st birthday in the relevant year to be automatically eligible for the under 21 female age group.
- A female player who would turn 15 years of age in the relevant year may be eligible to play in this age group subject to parental application to the Board. *Parental application for registration in this case must acknowledge and accept all risks deriving from that registration, and that application must be made and approved by the Association prior to the player participating in the under 21 competition*. Approval may be granted following the CDSFA evaluating the capacity of the player to compete in the competition for which the application is made.
- Where two or more teams from the same Club are in the same age and division, then no interchange of players between those teams is permitted.
- Where a player is registered in the same age group and graded in a *lower division* team the player is permitted to play in a higher division team, but NOT the other way round. E.g. A 12 3<sup>rd</sup> Division player may play in a 12 2<sup>nd</sup> Division team, but a 12 2<sup>nd</sup> Division player may not play in a 12 3<sup>rd</sup> Division team.
- A player registered and graded in a lower age group can play in a higher age group, **SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS:**
  - (a) Where the difference in age group is only one year (e.g.: under 12 to under 13) then a player from the lower age group can play in the higher age group at the same division or higher. e.g.: a 12/2 player could play in 13/2 or 13/1 but NOT in 13/3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a maximum of two players from the lowest team in a particular division may play up into the lowest team of the next highest age group. e.g.: a 15/1 player may play up into a 16/2 team if both of those teams were the lowest graded teams in their respective age groups.
  - (b) Where the difference in age group is two years (e.g. under 9 to under 11) then a player from the lower age group can play in the higher age group in any division which is not more than 3 divisions lower than the player's registered division.





Unfortunately, there have been five (5) instances where teams have played age ineligible players. The breach has impacted on three junior teams and two senior teams. This has resulted in the loss of points; fines being incurred and in one individual case a suspension being imposed in accordance with the Competition Rules.

Most regrettably this seems to occur at the beginning of each season.

The Association would be grateful for your assistance in making those individuals responsible for tasks associated with managing and coaching teams on match day, aware of issues around age and player eligibility.

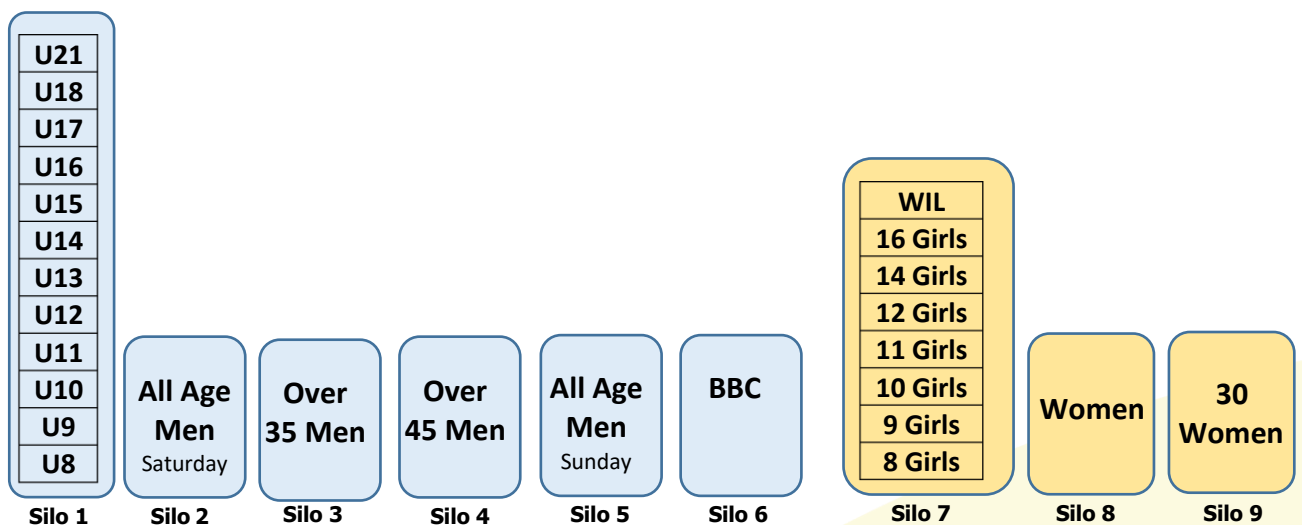
### Players must play in their Age Group Silo

As part of maintaining the integrity of competitions players may only play in the group silo in which they are a registered player.

The group silos are as follows:

- Silo 1: Under 8 to Under 21 (Male/Mixed)
- Silo 2: All Age Men (Saturday Competition)
- Silo 3: Over 35 Men
- Silo 4: Over 45 Men
- Silo 5: All Age Men (Sunday Competition)
- Silo 6: Bill Brackenbury Cup
- Silo 7: 8 Girls to Women's Intermediate League
- Silo 8: Women
- Silo 9: 30 Women

Players cannot play outside these silos unless the rules specifically permit you to do so and such exemptions are extremely limited. By way of example a registered player in the All Age Men's Saturday competition **cannot** play in an All Age Men's Sunday Competition. A registered player in an O45 Men's Competition **cannot** play in an O35 Men's Competition. A registered player in a Girls' Under 12 Competition **cannot** play in a Boys' Under 12 Competition.



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**Chief Executive**

