



## Policy: Juniors Playing in a Senior Competition

A junior player is anyone aged less than 18 years of age on the 1 January of the playing year and currently enrolled in Year 12 or below.

Generally, it is expected that regardless of their abilities or aspirations, junior players play in the junior competition.

However, on occasions, juniors may play at the senior level as described below.

### 1. A junior who plays in a senior competition only

Where the Club is not able to field a team in a particular age group (it is anticipated that this may arise from time to time in the J11/12 age group), with the permission of their parent/guardian, a junior may opt to play in a senior competition. Consideration will be given to the player's ability and maturity in identifying an appropriate senior team.

Fees will be payable at the rate set by the junior committee as if the junior were playing in the relevant age group. If the junior is playing in a turf team, then the junior is required to pay relevant match fees on game day.

In exceptional circumstances where a junior player displays significant talent and maturity, with the permission of their parent/guardian, the Senior and Junior committees may consult and give approval for a junior to play exclusively in the senior competition as a development opportunity. In this instance fees will be payable at the concessional (ie full time student) senior rate. Relevant match fees on game day will also be payable.

### 2. A junior playing seniors on a less than regular basis as a development opportunity or to fill a side

This is by invitation only by relevant coach or Senior Co-ordinator and in consultation with the Junior Co-ordinator and only where a regular full time registered senior is not displaced.

In this instance, no additional club fees are payable, however the junior is required to pay relevant match fees on game day.

### 3. A junior who plays in both a junior and senior competition on a full time basis

A junior will be granted full-time senior & junior status when the respective senior coach confirms with the Executive that the junior is required on a full time basis and not at the expense of any existing senior player.

Where a junior is established as a regular member of a senior side as well as their junior side, that junior will be required to pay a second set of fees equivalent to 50% of the senior rate of the relevant competition in order to redeem some of the costs associated with running that senior side. Juniors are also expected to pay relevant match fees on game day as applicable.



In the rare occurrence of competition clashes, junior competition should take priority. The Senior Coach will discuss ramifications with the Junior Coordinator should the need arise, however the Senior Coach may not make a unilateral decision.

### **Other considerations**

Registering an interest to play seniors as a second competition does not guarantee a place in any specific team and the regular senior selection policy applies to these players.

Any junior that has been invited to play in a senior grade by the Senior Coach as a full time development opportunity will have all the entitlements, expectations and responsibilities of a regular full time senior team member. This includes being subject to the senior selection policy.

Junior training takes priority and juniors playing in both junior and senior teams on a full time basis will be required to participate in one senior training session a week.

Any senior coach requesting a junior to play in senior competition shall comply with Working with Children legislation and policy. In cases where juniors are playing in a more permanent capacity in a senior team, the team manager shall also agree to act or appoint a senior member of the team as a mentor to foster a healthy environment in which to develop that junior.

*POLICY ADOPTED*                      *February 2017*

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