

IHQ Playing Up and Down Rules

Rules Governing “Playing Up” into Higher Age Grades or “Playing Down” into Lower Age Groups

Eligible players aged under 18 years, wishing to "play up" into a higher grade or “play down” into a lower grade than their grade of registration, are required to lodge an 'Annual Playing Up or Playing Down Approval Form' for each and every higher grade team.

The fully completed form must be lodged with IHQ prior to the first game played in the specific grade, bearing the approval of the parent or guardian, coaches, and a club office bearer. A player that is approved to play up or play down may do so provided their grade of registration is not disadvantaged.

Note: The reasons for this are:

- The IHQ "duty of care" to ensure that all the nominated parties are of the opinion that the player has the ability to compete proficiently and safely at the proposed level.
- The administrative needs to ensure that all those involved are aware that the player will be committed to play for more than one team, and that they accept the logistical implications of this.
- Players requesting to play up 2 divisions must apply for written approval from IHQ.
- 1st year Pee Wee to Bantam playing up form must be submitted to IHQ for formal written approval.
- 1st year Bantam to Midget playing up form must be submitted to IHQ for formal written approval.

Playing Up and Playing Down Regulations

A player that is approved to play up or down may do so provided their grade of registration team is not disadvantaged. This means that a player that is approved to 'play up' or 'play down' has the obligation to play for the team of his/her initial registration, that being the age-based team, if any games occur at or around the same time.

It is the responsibility of both the individual player and the coach of the 'play up' or 'play down' team to ensure compliance with this regulation.

Should a player be played in contravention of this regulation, the play up/down team who allows the player to participate will forfeit all competition points for that game. In addition, the coach of the team choosing to play the play up/down player will automatically be suspended for 2 games.

Players and coaches who continually abuse this rule will be brought before the IHQ executive committee for a 'show cause' hearing.

Goalkeepers may be an exception to this rule, on application to the IHQ Executive.

IHQ strongly recommends that a player that is approved to play up/down may do so provided no player registered on the play up/down team is disadvantaged. This means that a player approved to play up should not be used to replace a player that is registered on that team and is able to play.

Specifically, should a team carry able players to satisfy the team requirements, coaches have an obligation to play the players registered in that age group as a priority.

Coaches who continually abuse this recommendation will be brought before the IHQ Executive committee for a 'show cause' hearing.