

POLICY – PLAYER AGE GROUPS

1. A player is eligible for senior competition without assessment if he / she turns sixteen (16) years of age in that year.
2. Male players who turn fifteen (15) years of age in that year or female players who turn fifteen (15) or fourteen (14) years of age in that year, if assessed as capable as per the set assessment criteria, may be permitted to participate at senior level.
3. Male players fourteen (14) and younger or Female players thirteen (13) and younger are not to be assessed into any senior competition, and the registering Zone Council are to refuse registration into senior competitions.
4. There will be no assessment of players from Non-Competitive Rooball age groups into Competitive 11 v 11 age groups.
5. As of 11 January 2006 players eligible for Rooball will not be permitted into Competitive age groups.
6. Junior players (male and female) are eligible to participate in junior competitions one Division or two (2) years above their level without the need for an official Player Assessment.
7. Any player who is assessed to be capable of playing in a competition higher than two (2) years of their chronological age group may do so once assessed by a suitably qualified Technical / Staff Coach as appointed by the Technical Department of the Football Federation Northern Territory.
8. Any player wishing to play in an age group / division younger than their chronological age will also be required to undergo a formal assessment to ascertain their competency in the competition applied for.
9. Assessments are to be in written form on official Football Federation Northern Territory forms. All forms are to be signed by the assessing officer, players parent / guardian and approved by the Zone Council before the player is cleared to play at a higher / lower level.
 - 9.1. Assessments are to be conducted by the Coaching & Development Manager, Southern Zone Development Officer or suitably qualified personnel authorized by the Football Federation Northern Territory Inc.
10. Attached are suggested forms as point of reference:
 - A) Player Assessment Form
 - B) Request for a Player Assessment

Procedures:

- 1.1 Clubs requesting players to be assessed must do so in writing to the Football Federation Northern Territory on a "Request for a Player Assessment Form"
- 1.2 Forms are to be submitted to the Football Federation Northern Territory for processing
- 1.3 Upon receipt of "Request for a Player Assessment Form" the Technical Department will contact the club contacts directly to arrange a suitable time for the players to be formally assessed.
- 1.4 At the assessment, players will be identified for their physical characteristics, physiological capabilities (Strength, Speed, Reaction Time) and psychological characteristics based on players of similar abilities in the competition for which the assessment is sought.
- 1.5 On completion of the assessment the Assessing Officer will complete the Assessment Form and sign off on their report and recommendations. The parent / guardian of the player assessed will also have to Sign the form as confirmation of the findings.
- 1.6 The Assessing Officer will also discuss his / her findings with the players parents to offer professional advice on what would be in the best interest of the player.
- 1.7 The forms will be returned to the Football Federation Northern Territory for reproduction with a copy going to the Zone Council for their records and recommendations.
- 1.8 The Zone Council will forward a copy of the form to the club who originally requested the assessment with a final decision as to whether the players registration will be accepted or not into the higher competition.

This process should also be used for incidents where older players (In particular girls / or those players with physical or mental disabilities of older players) when playing down into younger age groups. The process would be the same utilizing the same forms and procedures.

Approved: Board meeting of 24 May 2005