

AUSTRALIAN RUGBY UNION POLICY

Policy Title (Reference)	Age Grade Two-Year Window (COM009)			
ARU Functional Area	Community Rugby			
Policy, Application, Objective and Exception	Policy:	A player shall not participate in an age grade competition more than two years above his or her age on 1 January in the year which the competition is run. This two year period is known as the two-year window.		
		Example: A player participating in an Under 12 competition must be turning 11 or 12 years of age during the year in which the competition is run.		
		is Policy must be followed unless the exception below is plicable.		
	Application:	The policy applies to all junior/school age grade competitions/matches (up to and including U19's) played in Australia.		
	Objective:	This policy aims to protect the safety and welfare of age grade rugby players by trying to ensure that participants with broadly compatible physical development and skill levels play with and against each other.		
	Exception:	exceptional cases, a player's physical development, skill vel and experience may be such that he or she may be lowed to participate in an age grade competition that is more an two years and no greater than three years above his or her ge.		
		Players are only be permitted to participate above the two-yea window in a junior/school age grade competition in the followir circumstances:		
	 (a) where the player will not play age grade rugby front row (prop or hooker) – he or she must com the procedure described in <u>Schedule A - Exception Two-Year Window Policy</u>, including completion of <u>Consent Form</u>; or (b) where the player will play age grade rugby in the row (prop or hooker) – he or she must comply with procedure described in <u>Schedule A - Exception to Year Window Policy</u>, including completion of the <u>Consent</u>; 			
		and		
		 he or she must also apply to ARU for approval play in the front row (prop or hooker), as outlined in <u>Schedule B</u> - <u>Exception for Front Row</u>, including completion of the <u>Submission Form</u>. Such consent will be given on a case by case basis. 		
		ARU approval to play in the Front Row must be received before the player participates in age grade rugby as an exception to this Policy.		
Related Policies	ARU Insuran	ce Scheme Policy		
Approved By	ARU Board [27 February 2009].			



Schedule A Exception to the Two-Year Window Policy

Before a player wishes to participate in an age grade competition more than two years above his or her age on 1 January in the relevant year, the information in this Schedule should be carefully considered and the attached <u>Consent Form</u> must be properly completed and sent to the Competition Manager.

PLEASE NOTE: Players wishing to participate above the two-year age grade window and play in the Front Row (prop or hooker) must also apply for approval from the ARU prior to participation, as outlined in <u>Schedule B - Exception for Front Row</u>. The player may not play in the Front Row above the two-year age grade window until ARU approval has been received.

been received.						
Risks:	It is important that all people involved in a decision to permit a player to participate in an age group above the two-year window understand that rugby is a contact sport and, like all contact sports, players are exposed to the risk of injury.					
	This risk may be heightened where a player participates in a competition above the two- year window in circumstances where the player's physical development, skill level and experience are inferior to that of the players he or she will play against.					
Considerations:	In assessing the suitability of a player to participate in a competition above the two-year window, the coach assessing the player and the player's parent or guardian should consider the following factors:					
	What is the player's level of physical development (e.g. height, weight, build et when measured against potential playing colleagues? Is the player physically equipped to compete on an equal basis with players in the proposed age grade competition?					
	Does the player have a high skill level; both specific to their playing position in relation to the games fundamentals (e.g. tackle, pass, ruck, maul, scrum of Will the player's skill level place the player on an equal basis with players in proposed age grade competition?					
	What is the player's level of experience? Is the player reasonably experienced and has the player gained that experience in a comparable standard of competition?					
	What is the standard of competition in the proposed competition? Is it at a level in which the player can compete safely?					
More information:	More information on player safety can be found at www.rugby.com.au/communityrugby					
Role of the Coach - Player Assessment:	The suitability of a player to participate above the two-year age grade window must be assessed and the potential risks explained to the player and his/her parent or guardian.					
	The coach undertaking the player's assessment must:					
	 Hold both a minimum current level 2 coach accreditation and SmartRugby qualification, and be registered on ARU's MyRugby; 					
	 Consider the player's suitability to play above the two-year window against the considerations described above; and 					
	Talk to the player and his/her parent or guardian to ensure that they understand that the player will be competing against older players and this may involve an increased level of injury risk.					
Role of the Parent or Guardian:	A parent or guardian of a child under the age of 18 must consent to the child playing above the two-year window. That consent must be evidenced by completing the attached Consent Form.					
Role of the	The Competition Manager must:					
Competition Manager:	 Ensure that a copy of this Policy (complete with Schedules A & B and the Consent Form) is included in the competition rules; 					
	Do their best to ensure that the Policy is observed by all teams participating in the competition; and					



AGE GRADE TWO-YEAR WINDOW - CONSENT FORM

COMPLETED FORM TO BE SUBMITTED TO YOUR COMPETITION MANAGER

PLAYE	R (please p	orint clearly)					
Name:			MyRugby No.				
Club/S	chool:		Competition/State	:			
Date of Birth:			Actual Age Grade:		(ie. U12's, U16's)		
Playing Position:			Requested Age Gr	rade:	(ie. U14's, 1 st XV)		
Contac	t No.		E-mail:				
ASSES	SING COAC	Н					
Name:			MyRugb	y No.			
Contac	t No.		E-mail:				
Coachi Qualific	•	Level [2][3] please circle Expiry	SmartRugby Qualification:	Expiry			
Coach to assess the player against the following considerations. If the answer is NO to any of these considerations, then the player shall NOT be considered capable of competing safely with players in the proposed competition. PLEASE NOTE: Players who participate above the two-year age grade window and play in the Front Row (prop or hooker) must							
Physical	also apply for approval from the ARU prior to participation in rugby, as outlined in Schedule B - Exception for Front Row. Cal Does the player's level of physical development allow the player to compete with						
Develo	pment:	players in the proposed age grade competition? Is the player's skill level comparable with other players in the proposed age grade				no	
Skill Le	evei:	is the player's skill level comparable w competition?	ith other players in t	ne proposed age grade	yes	no	
Level of Does the player have the experience to comparable standard of competition?			o compete with othe	r players at a	yes	no	
Standa Compe	rd of	Is the standard of competition in the prallow the player to compete safely?	roposed age grade o	ompetition suitable to	yes	no	
In my o	pinion, the pl	ayer's physical development, skill level th players in the proposed age grade.	and experience is su	ufficiently high that the pla	ayer is cap	able of	
I have explained to the player and his/her parent or guardian that the player will be competing against older players and this may involve an increased level of injury risk.						s and	
Name:	Signature:		Date	Date:			
PARENT / LEGAL GUARDIAN							
I confirr	n that:						
a)							
b)							
c)	 The coach has explained to me that, in his/her opinion, the player's physical development, skill level and experience is sufficiently high that he/she is capable of competing safely with players in the proposed age grade; 						
d)	It has been explained to me that the risk of injury may be increased by the player playing in the proposed age grade competition; and						
e)	e) I understand that rugby is a contact sport and, like all contact sports, players are exposed to risk of injury. I also understand that the level of risk may be heightened where a player participates in a competition above the two-year window in circumstances where the player's physical development, skill level and experience are inferior to that of the players he or she will play against. In addition to understanding these risks, I also agree, to the extent permitted by law, to waive all claims for liability against any participant (including players, coaches, volunteers and administrators) and release every such participant from all liability that may be incurred in connection with the player's participation in the proposed age grade.						
Name:	Signature: Date:						

COMPETITION MANAGER

I confirm that:

- a) A copy of this Policy (complete with Schedules A & B and the Consent Form) is included in the competition rules; and
- b) Records of completed Consent Forms are kept.

Name: Signature: Date:



Schedule B - Exception for Front Row (prop or hooker)

A player wishing to participate above the two-year age grade window and play in the <u>Front Row (prop or hooker)</u> must also apply for approval from the ARU prior to participation in age grade rugby. The player may not play in the Front Row in age grade rugby until ARU approval has been received.

The player and parents/guardian should consider the information provided in:

- Schedule A Exception to the Two-Year Window Policy; and complete the Consent Form.

 [Competition Manager approval is not required until ARU approval to play in the Front Row is granted], and
- > Schedule B Exception for Front Row and complete the Submission Form.

NOTE: Both Consent Form and Submission Form must be submitted to the ARU for consideration of this exception.

Risks:

It is important that all people involved in a decision to permit a player to participate in an age group above the two-year window understand that rugby is a contact sport and, like all contact sports, players are exposed to the risk of injury.

This risk may be heightened where a player participates in a competition above the twoyear window in circumstances where the player's physical development, skill level and experience are inferior to that of the players he or she will play against.

Medical studies support that players in the Front Row (prop or hooker) are exposed to a higher level of serious injury than players in other positions.

Considerations:

In assessing the suitability of a player to participate in the position of Front Row (prop or hooker) above the two-year age grade window, the following factors will be considered and addressed in the Submission Form.

(i) skill level, experience and the level of coaching received -

Player experience in the Front Row (prop or hooker)

- Number of years experience playing in front row
- Did you play in the front row last year?
- If you missed a game through injury last year please identify the injured area (eg R. Shoulder, L. Knee or neck etc)

Level of coaching received

- What Level coaching qualifications does your current coach have?
- ➤ Have you received any specialist front row coaching in the last 2 years? If Yes, please outline coaching received, identify the coach who provided this coaching, and outline their coaching qualifications and experience?

(ii) strength -

- Do you undertake a regular strength program? If Yes, how many times a week do you complete strength training, identify who provided the program and their qualifications, and provide the strength program that you have completed over the past 4 weeks.
- How long have you been doing regular strength training? (ie months/years)
- Provide maximum number of lifts for
 - (i) Bench Press at 60% of body weight
 - (ii) Squat at 75% of body weight
- > Provide current height and weight

In addition to the above information, an objective assessment of body structure may also be required if deemed appropriate.

(iii) body structure –

If your skill/experience and strength levels outlined above have been considered adequate, the ARU may request additional information in the form of CT scans or MRI scans, prior to approving an exception for Front Row.

A referral for these investigations will be posted to you if appropriate. The costs of these investigations must be borne by the athlete.

Submission Forms can be sent to:

Australian Rugby Union Fax: (02) 8005 5681; or

E-mail: communityrugby@rugby.com.au

Approvals

Approvals will be granted on a case by case basis.



FRONT ROW EXCEPTION - SUBMISSION FORM

COMPLETED SUBMISSION FORM, ATTACHMENTS AND CONSENT FORM TO BE SUBMITTED TO AUSTRALIAN RUGBY UNION

Fax: (02) 8005 5681 or e-mail communityrugby@rugby.com.au

PLAYER (please print clearly)						
Players Name: Club/School:						
Phone: E-mail:						
ASSESSMENT (attached further information if required) In assessing the suitability of a player to participate in the position of Front Row (prop or hooker) as an exception to this Policy, the player must complete this Submission Form addressing the considerations outlined in Schedule B.						
Playing skill and experience in front row						
1. Please enter the number of years played in front row						
2. Outline level of rugby played in front row (eg club/school, representative, etc and year played)						
3. Did you play in the front row last year? YES or NO (circle)						
If No, please state why:						
4. Did you miss any games due to injury in the last year? — VEC or NO (single)						
4. Did you miss any games due to injury in the last year? YES or NO (circle) If Yes, how many games were missed due to injury last year? missed games						
If Yes, how many games were missed due to injury last year? missed games List injuries causing a missed games:						
Level of coaching and training received in front row						
1. Have you received any specialised front row coaching in the last two seasons? YES or NO (circle)						
If Yes, specify details (eg what coaching, identify the coach, level of coaching qualifications & experience, etc)						
2. Provide your current coach's name, coaching and SmartRugby qualifications						
Name: SmartRugby Expiry						
Strength and Conditioning						
1. Do you undertake a regular (> 2/week) strength program? YES or NO (circle)						
If Yes, how many times a week do you complete strength training? per week						
2. How many years have you been completing regular strength program? years months						
3. Outline who wrote the strength program and their S&C qualifications						
Name: S&C qualifications OFFICE USE ONLY						
Attach copy of the strength program completed over the past 4 weeks. YES or NO (circle)						
4. Provide maximum number of lifts for (i) Bench and (ii) Squat S/C: □ SP: □						
(i) Bench Press: kgs (at 60% of body weight) (reps / number of lifts) BP: □						
(ii) Squat: kgs (at 75% of body weight) (reps / number of lifts) SQ: □						
5. Player's Current: kgs (weight) cm (height) APP: Y N						
I declare that the information provided and attached is true and correct.						
Name: Signature: Date:						