

Junior and Youth Football Age Group Policy Aspley Hornets Football Club (Aspley AFC)

AuskickPlay Football

AuskickPlay Footy is a Development Program for children in the 5 to 7 age groups. The program is an extension of NAB AFL Auskick, where participants play game-based activities leading into modified AFL matches.

As this is a program, not a competition AFLQ will not accept playing up or down consent forms. All participants must be born within the age groups designated by the AFLQ each year.

Players wishing to play up in U8s despite the minimum age policy, must be complete an AFLQ dispensation form. Players must have played at least 1 year of Auskick and Auskick Play (Superstars) for the application to be accepted.

Juniors – Under 8, 9, 10, 11 (Boys and Girls)

All players are to register and sign-on within their age group. Aspley AFC strongly advocates for all players to play in their appropriate age group.

Junior players may request to be allocated to play up one age group at the time of registration without getting consent from Aspley AFC. However, Aspley AFC reserves the right to decline a request if it results in a player in the older age group missing out on a game of football or teams having too many players. This will be communicated at the time of Junior team allocations.

If players are wanting to play two age groups up, then permission is needed from the AFLSEQJ. Please contact Aspley AFC for more information.

On match days, players may play up one age group if there are insufficient numbers in the older age group on a particular day.

Every effort will be made to ensure that all players can play as much football as possible in relation to:

- The number of games played in a season.
- The on field playing time each week. Every effort should be made to ensure each player plays at least 3 quarters per game.
- Opportunity to be involved in the game while on the field. Players must be rotated through differing positions to expand their knowledge of the game and positional play.
- In order to assist in this approach, team managers for these age groups may keep records of the interchange at the commencement of each quarter to assist coaches.

Youth - Under 13, 15, 17 Boys and Girls

Players registering in Boys and Girls Youth Football are required to play within their age group as set by AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook. This is deemed necessary given the following considerations to all parties:

- Playing in correct age group generally ensures the club has competitive teams across all age groups and individuals are allowed to develop appropriately within their age group.
- Undue pressure placed on player seeking to play higher age
- Pressure placed on team mates to cover underage player
- Correct age team are compromised in their ability to learn from player who is now “Playing up an age group”
- Undue pressure on correct age team covering for the player who is likely key contributor in that age group
- “Playing up an age group” player likely taking team spot of a correct age player

Only in exceptional circumstances where size, height, weight, playing ability and/or all points made above are not impacted will an exception be considered with the final decision to be made by Aspley AFC

The Sibling Rule

If due to logistical issues players are unable to participate in their selected grade/age – e.g.:

- Children at different venues
- Pooled transport arrangements

Parents are to engage with the Junior Football Co-ordinator to resolve these issues.

The final decision will rest with Aspley AFC

Playing Down an Age Group

The AFLQ have strict rules regarding players playing up or down in all Junior Football. An application must be submitted for AFLQ approval. Please note applications are only considered on medical or health grounds, medical certificates will need to be supplied with the application. Contact the Junior Football Co-ordinator for further information.

Academy Pathway

Players may be allowed to apply to play up an age group if they are in the Academy Programs and are looking for further development at a higher age group. This applies only for Level 2 and 3 Academy Players NOT the Tier 1 U13 Academy Players. An application must be made to Aspley AFC for confirmation of status and final decision to be made.