



PLAYING OUTSIDE OF AGE GROUP POLICY

POLICY SCOPE

Ellenbrook United Football Club is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all its members. The club believes that it is important that members, coaches, team managers, administrators and parents associated with the club should always show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of all players. This runs in line with the Club's and Football West values.

EUFC is committed to providing a safe structured environment for all its members where children can learn and enjoy the game of football regardless of ability, age or gender.

EUFC is also committed to creating Academy teams that can compete at the highest level in their age groups to enhance the development of both the individual and the team, along with producing capable players for the First Team and the long-term success of the club.

It is our full intention for children to play in their correct age group. For the 2024 season, the following age groups apply to your child's birth year –

AGE GROUPS 2024	
UNDER 8	born 2016
UNDER 9	born 2015
UNDER 10	born 2014
UNDER 11	born 2013
UNDER 12	born 2012
UNDER 13	born 2011
UNDER 14	born 2010
UNDER 15	born 2009
UNDER 16	born 2008

We understand that children will have friends in their school class that will be split between age groups. We believe that football is opportunity to make new lasting relationships outside of the school environment.

Moving forward, each player will be evaluated on their ability to play in a different age group in line with Football West competition rules and the Club's technical direction. These criteria used for assessment are listed on the last page of the application.

HOW TO APPLY

For clarification - EUFC's stance on players playing above/below their age will require the player to go through an assessment process. To initiate this process -

1. Parents must complete the application form for their child to play outside (play up or down) from their age group



2. Players wishing to play in an age group more than 2 years outside their age group will require special dispensation from Football West - The club will organize an assessment once an application is received.
3. All applications will be dealt with on a case-by-case bases.

THE PROCESS ON ACCEPTANCE OF THE APPLICATION

Upon acceptance of the application -

1. The appropriate Junior Technical Director will discuss the process with the player's parents, as well as coaches from both Age groups concerned.
2. The player will train with the team that they wish to play for a short period, to be decided by the TD and DoF.
3. The player will be assessed by an independent TD, DoF and/or FFA Licensed coaches from other age groups as required. All results to be recorded and filed ready for the final report.
4. The report will be prepared by the TD and discussed with all relevant coaches and presented to the Director of football.
5. DoF will make the final decision.
6. In the event that there the DoF position is vacant, the TD will make the final decision.
7. The decision will be emailed to all relevant parties

CRITERIA REQUIRED IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR MOVING AGE GROUPS

The criteria for consideration of moving outside of their age group includes, but is not limited to –

1. The child is developmentally (physically) ahead of their peers and competitors
2. The child is technically and tactically superior to their peers and competitors
3. Their current age group provides little/no challenge
4. Player/s are required to play outside their age group due to lack of numbers in a particular age group

SOLE REASONS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED TO MOVE AGE GROUPS

The application will not be considered based on reasons such as, but not limited to –

1. Friendship groups
2. The Coach of the age group (unless it is for player safety)
3. Other players who have been allowed to play up
4. The practices of other clubs

GRIEVANCE/APPEALS PROCESS

If the final decision is challenged by the parents and player, the DoF may take the matter to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee have the right to decline an appeal, and may also bring in an outside assessor in the form of Football West technical staff or FFA licensed Coach if deemed necessary.