



Exceptional Circumstances Process - Playing In A Higher Age Group

All applications for a Player to Play Age Up will be considered in line with the NRL, NSWRL and PJRL Rules and Policies.

With respect to applications received, the PJRL are upholding the NRL Laws of the Game, NRL Player Development Framework and NSWRL advice with respect to:

1. The Laws of the Game stating that classification of groups is by age (as in singular age)
2. The PDF requiring an U6 to play League Tag
3. The PDF requiring an U7 to undertake TackleReady
4. The PDF requiring an U10 to play in a Development Competition
5. The NSWRL advising that it and Leagues will not approve any action designed to circumvent PDF implementation

Therefore due to the changes to the rules of the game and the mandated implementation of the Player Development Framework, it will be necessary (outside of Exceptional Circumstances), for players aged 5, 6, 7 and 10 to play in their natural age group.

If players do play up in other age groups, it will be compulsory for them to play in Development Competitions in line with the PDF going forward (i.e. if a 9yo plays U10s in 2024, when they are 12 in 2027, they will have to play in their natural age group, they cannot circumvent the PDF).

Parents/Guardians are to complete their section of the **Playing In A Higher Group Consent Form** and must detail the individual exceptional circumstances to their Club.

The Club is to complete their section of the Form and is to detail why the Club requires the player to play in a higher age group. The Club is to then submit the Forms.

Once received by the PJRL, the Club will be supplied with a Lodging number, and the application will be considered by the Junior League Qualifications Sub-Committee for their review.

The Junior League Qualifications Sub-Committee will give an outcome that is in the best interests of all, and should their decision be to decline the request, they will provide their determination.