



Maroubra Saints Policy: Junior Members Seeking to Play Up an Age Group

Subject to the review of the Club Committee from time to time and the current AFL By-Laws, the current Maroubra Saints Junior Australian Football Club (Saints) policy for any Junior Member seeking to play up an age group applicable to that Junior Member is as outlined below.

1. The Saints policy is that Junior Members join a team in their actual age group each year of Membership. This then leads to the Junior member playing in actual age group.
2. Before sending in application, please consider the following:
 - a. Application must be for the development of the Game for Junior Member only.
 - b. Applications will not be considered for playing with friends, night of training, day of game or transport issues (the club can help here, please contact us separately for this)
3. If a Junior Member/Parent has considered Point 2 above and still wishes to play in an older age group for a relevant year of Membership, then the Parent Member of the Junior Member may apply. This will be to the club email address in first instance seeking that the Junior Member plays up an age group. Note: Applications to play up an age group must be made each year of Membership. If approved by the Age Group Sub Committee to play up an age group only applies for the relevant year of application. A new application must be made each year.
4. The Parent Liaison will refer the application to the Age Group Sub Committee for decision.
5. The Age Group Sub-Committee will consist of:
 - a) 4 Committee members (Development committee) who will then consult with:
 - a. the Coach of Junior Member's previous Team;
 - b. The Coach of the team that the Junior Member is due to play with (if not the same as a. above)
 - c. the Coach of the team in the older age group that the Junior Member wishes to play in;



6. The Age Group Sub-Committee will convene and decide if the Junior Member is eligible for playing in an older age group. In making its determination the Age Group Sub-Committee will assess the following in priority order listed below:

- a) Does current team/age group have satisfactory numbers?
- b) Will the current team/age group be affected negatively by the member leaving permanently? (i.e. in some cases, even losing one skilful player, can have adverse effect on a team and the division they are in)
- c) Does the requested team already have enough numbers? Will adding more push out true age players?
- d) Is the Division/level of requested team too high or suitable for Junior Member?
- e) Does the Junior Member have the required skill level, maturity or physicality to play against top level players in that age group/division?
- f) Is the better option for the club and the Junior Member that they play in own age group and then play a second game in higher age/division for development?

7. The Age Group Sub-Committee will inform the Parent Liaison of its decision and the Parent Liaison will inform the Parent Member. – Please note, the majority of cases will be declined as a strong preference is that Junior Members always play in their age group and play a second game up for development.

8. If approved, the Junior Member will not be able to take the field until all appropriate documentation has been signed by the Parent/Guardian, Club and on some occasions AFL NSW/ACT