
QUEENSLAND RUGBY UNION JUNIOR RUGBY DISABILITY INCLUSION POLICY

Policy No: QRU020 – Junior Rugby Disability Inclusion Policy

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1. Policy Overview

1.1 Policy Statement

This document outlines the Queensland Rugby Union's guidelines on dispensation for a junior player with a physical and/or intellectual disability to participate in a Rugby Union competition one (1) year below their eligible age group.

1.2 Policy Coverage

The policy applies to junior players in all junior rugby competitions/matches sanctioned by Queensland Rugby Union and played in accordance with the laws of the game of Rugby Union in Queensland.

1.3 Objective

The objective of this policy is to provide a process for parents/guardians and clubs to ensure the game remains inclusive for players with disabilities whilst maintaining a safe and enjoyable environment for all participants.

2. Definitions

2.1 Definitions

- a) **Club** means a body or organisation affiliated directly or indirectly to a Union.
- b) **Competition Manager** is the person deemed responsible for the day to day operational management of the competition.
- c) **Medical Specialist** is defined as any person who has completed a recognised Medical degree and is registered as a Specialist by the Medical Board of Australia.
- d) **QRU** is the Queensland Rugby Union Ltd.
- e) **WR** is World Rugby

3. Eligibility and Application

- 3.1** Dispensation under this Policy shall only be provided to a player as per the requirements listed in this Policy and the corresponding Schedule A and Verification and Consent Form.
- 3.2** Dispensation will only be considered for the player to play in the age group immediately below their eligible age group. (ie a player eligible for U7s will only be considered for dispensation to play in U6s.)
- 3.3** Dispensation once granted is valid for the competition season of the proposed age group. Dispensation is required to be applied for at the commencement of each competition season irrespective of previous approved dispensation applications.
- 3.4** Dispensation shall **NOT** be granted for the following:
- A player is physically smaller than the other players in their age group ; or
 - A player is new to the game; or
 - A player wants to play with friends in a lower age group; or
 - The club does not have a team or the union/sub union does not offer a competition for the eligible age group of that player; or
 - The player is not eligible to participate in junior rugby due to their current age.
- 3.5** Any match where a player that participates in a match below their eligible age group without having prior approval under the QRU Junior Rugby Disability Inclusion Policy will be automatically determined a forfeit by that player's team, the player will not be covered under the ARU Insurance plans and the Club will also be subject to sanctions available under the competition's rules and regulations.

4. Approval and Review

4.1 Dispensation submissions will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the Queensland Rugby Union as per Schedule A and the Verification and Consent Form.

4.2 Once granted, it is the duty of the Competition Manager to notify Clubs with teams in the proposed competition that dispensation has been provided to a player under the QRU Junior Rugby Disability Inclusion Policy prior to the player participating in a match in the proposed age group.

4.3 All instances of approved dispensation are open to review by the Queensland Rugby Union.

Schedule A
Disability Inclusion Policy

Before the parent or guardian of a player with a physical and/or intellectual disability applies for dispensation to allow their child to participate in a junior rugby competition one (1) year lower than their nominal age group, the information in this Schedule should be carefully considered. The attached Consent Form must be properly completed and sent to the Competition Manager who will liaise with Queensland Rugby Union for approval.

Risks:	It is important that all individuals involved in a decision to permit a player to participate in a junior rugby competition one (1) year lower than their nominal age group, understand that rugby is a contact sport and, like all contact sports, players are exposed to the risk of injury.
Considerations:	<p>In assessing the suitability of a player with a physical and/or intellectual disability to participate in a junior rugby competition one (1) year lower than their nominal age group, the coach assessing the player, the medical practitioner and the player's parent or guardian should consider the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the physical and/or intellectual disability impacted on their physical and/or intellectual development relative to players of their own age? • What is the player's level of physical development (e.g. height, weight, build etc) when measured against potential playing colleagues in the proposed age group? • Is the player physically equipped to compete on an equal basis with players in the proposed junior rugby competition? • Will the player's skill level in relation to the game's fundamentals (e.g tackle, pass, ruck, maul, scrum etc) allow the player to compete on an equal basis with players in the proposed junior rugby competition?
More information:	More information on player safety can be found at: http://www.rugby.com.au/rugbylink/PolicyRegister
Role of the Parent or Guardian:	A parent or guardian of a child with a physical and/or intellectual disability under the age of 18 must consent to the child participating in a junior rugby competition one (1) year lower than their nominal age group. That consent must be evidenced by completing the attached Consent Form.
Role of the Medical Specialist:	A Medical Specialist must be able to confirm that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the player has a legitimate physical and/or intellectual disability; and (b) The player is physically and/or intellectually able to participate in contact sport; and (c) The physical and/or intellectual disability has impacted on their physical and/or intellectual development relative to players of their own age; and (d) The player's participation would not heighten the level of risk posed to other players within the proposed aged competition.
Role of the Assessing Coach - Player Assessment:	<p>The suitability of a player with a physical and/or intellectual disability to participate in a junior rugby competition one (1) year lower than their nominal age group must be assessed and the potential risks explained to the player and their parent or guardian. The coach undertaking the player's assessment must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a minimum current Level 2 Coach Accreditation and SmartRugby qualification, and be registered on ARU's MyRugbyAdmin; • Consider the player's suitability to participate in a junior rugby competition against the considerations described above.
Role of the Competition Manager:	<p>The Competition Manager must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that a copy of this Policy (complete with Schedule A and the Consent Form) is included in the competition rules; and • Ensure that the Policy is observed by all teams participating in the competition; and • Keep records of completed Consent Forms; and • Send the completed Verification and Consent Form to Queensland Rugby Union via the Rugby Services Manager - Michael.Backstrom@qru.com.au for final approval.

Disability Inclusion Policy - Verification and Consent Form

COMPLETED FORM TO BE SUBMITTED TO YOUR REGION'S COMPETITION MANAGER

PLAYER (please print clearly)

Name:	Rugby Link ID:
Club:	Competition/Sub Union:
Date of Birth:	
Playing Position:	
Phone:	Email:

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN (please print clearly)

I confirm that:

- a) I am a parent or legal guardian of the abovementioned player;
- b) I have been provided with a copy of the QRU's Disability Inclusion Policy including Schedule A of that Policy;
- c) The Coach has explained to me that, in his/her opinion, the player's physical development, skill level and experience is sufficient that the player is capable of competing safely with players in the proposed junior rugby competition;
- d) A Medical Doctor has explained to me that in his/her medical opinion, the players physical and intellectual development is sufficient that the player is capable of competing safely with players in the proposed junior rugby competition;
- e) I understand that rugby is a contact sport and, like all contact sports, players are exposed to risk of injury. 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 junior rugby competition.

Name:	Signature:	Date:
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MEDICAL PRACTITIONER(please print clearly)

I confirm that:

- (a) I have been provided with a copy of the QRU's Disability Inclusion Policy including Schedule A of that Policy;
- (b) the player has a physical and/or intellectual disability; and
- (c) I have attached supporting documentation to verify the nature of the physical and/or intellectual disability of the player; and
- (d) The player is physically and/or intellectually able to participate in contact sport; and
- (e) The physical and/or intellectual disability has impacted on their physical and/or intellectual development relative to players of their own age; and
- (f) The player's participation would not heighten the level of risk posed to other players within the proposed aged competition.

Name:	Medical Board of Australia Registration No.
Signature:	Date:

ASSESSING COACH

Name:	
Phone:	Email:
Coaching Level [2] [3] Please circle	SmartRugby
Qualification: Expiry:	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.

Physical Development:	Does the player's level of physical development allow the player to safely compete with players in the proposed junior rugby competition?	YES	NO
Skill Level:	Is the player's skill level comparable with other players in the proposed junior rugby competition?	YES	NO
Standard of Competition:	Is the standard of competition in the proposed junior rugby competition suitable to allow the player to compete safely?	YES	NO

In my opinion, the player's physical development, skill level and experience is sufficient that the player is capable of competing safely with players in the proposed junior rugby competition.

Name:	Signature:	Date:
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Disability Inclusion Policy - Verification and Consent Form - continued

COMPETITION MANAGER *(please print clearly)*

I confirm that:

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

Name:	Signature:	Date:
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Competition Managers are to send completed Verification and Consent Forms including supporting medical documentation to:

**Queensland Rugby Union
c/o Michael Backstrom - Rugby Services Manager
michael.backstrom@gru.com.au**

NOTE: Approvals will be granted on a case by case basis in writing to the Competition Manager by the Queensland Rugby Union. Once granted, it is the duty of the Competition Manager to notify Clubs with teams in the proposed competition that dispensation has been provided to a player under the QRU Disability Dispensation Policy.