



NORWEST JUNIOR RUGBY UNION CLUB

REGISTRATION AND AGE GROUP POLICY

Objectives

- To ensure that all Norwest Junior Rugby Union Club players, coaches, managers and officials are correctly registered and covered by the Rugby AU insurance policy.
- To ensure that all Norwest Junior Rugby Union Club players are allocated to teams that are appropriate for their age.
- To ensure that Norwest Junior Rugby Union Club teams are allocated players in a manner that maximises their ability to field players into the future.

Principles

- All players, coaches, managers and officials must be correctly registered in accordance with Rugby AU and SJRU registration requirements.
- Decisions to allocate players to age groups must be based on the best interests of Norwest Junior Rugby Union Club ('best interests' includes player safety and the sustainability of age groups).
- Under normal circumstances, players benefit from playing in their chronological age group, even where their skills may be greater than other team members. This improves their teamwork and leadership and enables other players to develop their support play and to learn from the example set by better players.

Policy

- A player will be considered registered when a player has completed the on-line registration process, including full payment of all fees owing.
 - The only exception will be the acceptance of a written payment plan made between the parent(s) and the Registrar or Treasurer and the 1st payment has been completed. Under these circumstances, payment of fees must be completed on-line with a credit card by a third party. Norwest JRUC will reimburse the third party in full. Repayment of fees owing will be to Norwest JRUC.
 - To maintain registration under a payment plan, payments must be paid as per the plan. Players who fail to maintain payments according to the plan are ineligible for selection and are not permitted to compete in matches.
- Team positions are filled based on the order of complete registration and payment received by the club.
- Players who have played in the previous season will be guaranteed a place in their team, provided they register on or before the first official training night of the season.
- Registrations will be accepted to the maximum number of players allowed to participate in the SJRU Competition – ie Under 10 & 11: 18 players per team, Under 12-Opens: 23 per team. Players who register after their age group reaches these numbers will be placed on a waiting list, in the event that other players withdraw their registration. New players who register before or on the last Wednesday in February will be offered positions on the team before those who register after that day. Selection trials may be held for the remaining players. Extra players may be referred to neighbouring clubs.



- The chronological age group of all players is determined by their calendar year of birth. In other words, all players whose birth date is in the same year are in the same age group. Their age group is determined by deducting their year of birth from the applicable year of competition.
- Players shall play in their chronological age group, unless exceptional circumstances exist. The club committee will determine whether a player's circumstances are considered to be exceptional. Coaches who are also committee members and have a conflict of interest relating to an age group decision, are not permitted to vote on that decision.
- Where a team is not available in an age group, the Registrar may seek Age Dispensation from the SJRU to enable a player to 'play down' in an age group below their chronological age group, in accordance with the Rugby AU Size for Age policy. Such players must be assessed by a qualified Size for Age Assessor who is independent of Norwest JRUC. Approval to play in the lower age group must be obtained from the SJRU in accordance with the SJRU Competition Rules.
- A Parent may submit a written request to the Club Secretary for their child to 'play up' one age group on a permanent basis. Such requests will only be approved if they are in the best interests of the club overall (eg, they enable the club to improve the viability of both the gaining and losing age groups). Such players do not require a Size for Age assessment.
- Requests for players to play up two age groups (ie, in an age group two years higher than their chronological age group) will only be approved under exceptional circumstances in ALL age groups. Parents are advised that for a player to play up two age groups, it is Rugby AU policy that the club must apply for a 'Two Year Window' dispensation in accordance with the Rugby AU Size for Age policy. Such players must be assessed by a qualified Size for Age Assessor who is independent of Norwest JRUC. Approval to play in the 'Two Year Window' age group must be obtained from the SJRU in accordance with the SJRU Competition Rules.
- The Club Committee may allocate players to age groups other than their chronological age group based on (in decreasing priority order):
 - Availability of a team in each age group,
 - player safety,
 - the viability of an age group for the current season,
 - the viability of an age group in future seasons,
 - the match time and enjoyment of players in both the gaining and losing age groups
- Players who are permitted to 'play up' an age group shall not do so to the detriment of match time for the players in the gaining age group.
- An Under 9 player is permitted to compete in the Under 10's Sunday competition in addition to the Under 9 Saturday Minis competition.
- From time to time, occasional opportunities to 'play up' one age group may arise due to a shortage of players in the higher age group. Playing up under these temporary circumstances does not entitle players to 'play up' permanently.