

ACC Charter: Policies & Recommendations - Section D7: Age Classification Policy

AGE POLICY

It is the policy of the ACC that students competing in ACC sport must be under 19 years of age as of 31st December. Students who have turned 19 years of age are not permitted to participate in ACC sport. It is also ACC policy that student participation is limited to "secondary school students" and that the minimum level for participation is enrolment in Year 7.

The age policy of the ACC exists to ensure the safety and well being of ACC students competing in ACC events. The age policy is also in place to ensure a fair and equitable "playing field" in terms of competitor age range.

In the case of students whose age falls outside the policy it is recommended that their individual sporting needs be adequately catered for outside the ACC environment in community sport and recreation.

1.1 POLICY EXEMPTIONS

In exceptional circumstances, schools may seek an exemption from the ACC for individual students to compete in ACC events if their age falls outside the current policy.

- 1.1.1 Exceptional circumstances would refer to things such as: Socio-economic barriers that may have prevented the student attending school within the normal age ranges e.g. refugee status, overseas student.
- 1.1.2 Health/illness that may have prevented the student attending school over a normal age range and period.
- 1.1.3 The following scenarios would not be considered for age exemption:
 - 1.1.3.1 *Students who have repeated year levels will not generally be considered as having exceptional circumstances, except in the case of a student(s) having a significant and verifiable learning disability.*
 - 1.1.3.2 *Any student seeking an age exemption that has any significant physical characteristics (e.g. height/weight) that could create a possible safety risk or unfair advantage against other students will be ineligible for an age exemption.*
 - 1.1.3.3 *Any student that has been a state or national sporting representative will be automatically ineligible for an age exemption.*

1.2 AGE POLICY EXEMPTIONS PROCESS:

- 1.2.1 Schools are to apply in writing to the Director of Sport for any age exemptions, stating the background and exceptional circumstances of the student(s) involved.
- 1.2.2 The Director of Sport will review the application to ascertain if exceptional circumstances apply.
- 1.2.3 If the Director of Sport finds that there are exceptional circumstances then the Director of Sport, where possible, will visit the school and meet with the student(s) in question to do a final verification check to ascertain whether they would be eligible for an exemption. This final check will be to ensure that the student in question does not have any significant physical characteristics (e.g. height/weight) that could create a possible safety risk or unfair advantage against other students.
- 1.2.4 In the case of a country school the ACC will conduct a non face-to-face review.
- 1.2.5 If the Director of Sport rejects the application the school can request that another ACC school Principal and Head of Physical Education department independently review the matter. The decision of this independent review will be final.

1.3 MAJOR CARNIVALS AGE CLASSIFICATION:

- 1.3.1 **Age Group** Cut off dates: As of 2015 all ACC carnivals will use the age cutoff date of 30th June. This is to bring the ACC age group cut off dates in line with the new school start age which was introduced for students born in 1997. The new age cut off dates are as follows:
 - Age group calculation = 30th June: *for those born after 31st December 1996 i.e. born after 1996: these students will continue to use this age reference date for future years.*
 - To preserve record status the previous records under old age group cut off systems of 1 October pre 1996 and 31 December pre 2010 have been maintained.
 - Competitors are permitted to compete in an age group above their actual age group, provided that they compete in only *one* age group, for all events on the day. e.g., a competitor who qualifies to compete in U14, but elects to compete up in U15 for his or her first event, *must remain up in U15 for all other events*, including relays. The school must notify the ACC before the carnival that the competitor will compete up in a higher age group.
- 1.3.2 **Cross Country**
 - U13, U14, U15, U16 and OPEN
 - Inclusive: "Open Age" event conducted in conjunction with the U16 event.

1.3.3 Athletics:

- A, B, C, D & E Divisions – U13, U14, U15, U16, and OPEN
- F Division – U13, U14, U15, U16, and OPEN
- G, H & I Divisions – U13, U14, U15 and OPEN
- J Division – U13, U14, and OPEN
- Junior categories include U13, U14 and U15, *except G-J Divisions U13 & U14*
- Senior categories include U16 and Open, *except G-I Divisions U15 & Open.*

1.3.4 Swimming:

- A, B, C & D Divisions – U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, and Open
- E & F Divisions – U13, U14, U15, U16, Open
- G, H & I Division – U13, U14, U15, Open
- Junior category includes U13, U14 and U15, *except G-I Divisions U13 & U14*
- Senior category includes U16, U17 and Open, *except G-I Divisions U15 & Open*
- *For medley relays, U13 swimmers are categorized as JUNIOR.*

1.4 **RECORDS and ALL-STAR AGE DISPENSATION:** In swimming and athletics, schools may seek a dispensation “post carnival” for a student to gain All-Star selection or Record acknowledgment in cases where, a student in a lower division carnival equals or betters the record for their actual age group (not their carnival age group), and if they also performed at a level that would qualify them for All Star selection in their actual age group.

- 1.4.1 ACC staff would check and verify the request and if correct the honours would be awarded.
- 1.4.2 This policy and process is only relevant in lower division carnivals with reduced age categories.
- 1.4.3 Students that choose or are made to compete in a higher age group for other reasons are not eligible for any dispensation.
- 1.4.4 The dispensation process is only enacted when a school submits a formal dispensation request.
- 1.4.5 Schools would have a set period in which they could lodge their dispensation request after the carnival. Requests would not be considered during the conduct of a carnival or after the submission period.
- 1.4.6 The period for submission is 3 business days after the last carnival, which is the same as the standard period for lodging disputes and complaints as per ACC Charter policy.
- 1.4.7 In cases where the dispensation is granted.
 - 1.4.7.1 the student would only be selected in one All Star age group for that year and that would be their actual age group. Students cannot be selected in two All Star age groups in the same year. If an All-Star dispensation is enacted, then the ACC would select the next best performer(s) to fill the All-Star selection in the higher age group event.
 - 1.4.7.2 If a record is equalled or broken in more than one age group, then the student would achieve the record honour in multiple age groups for that year.
 - 1.4.7.3 In athletics, field event specifications must be the same for multiple age records to be awarded and All-Star selection granted.
 - 1.4.7.4 Only schools can lodge a dispensation request, students and family members may not lodge a request.
 - 1.4.7.5 Dispensation requests are not retrospective and cannot be lodged for performances that took place before the current set of carnivals in that year.