



Maroochydore Eagles Basketball Association Inc.
Trading as Suncoast Clipper Basketball Club

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PLAYING UP POLICY

This policy outlines the conditions under which a player from a younger age group may be allowed to participate in an older age group within the Clippers Basketball Club. **Our club policy is that all players must play in their nominated age group first.** Playing in an older age group is via application and will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

While a child may possess advanced skills, other attributes such as court awareness and decision-making are equally vital and often develop best within their own age group. Playing at the appropriate level allows athletes to build leadership qualities, share the game with teammates of varying skill levels, and learn to make decisions that benefit the team as a whole—not just individual performance. These grassroots experiences are essential for long-term growth and maturity in the sport.

The goal of this policy is to ensure player development, safety, and fairness while providing appropriate opportunities for challenge. Requests to play in an older age group will also be dependent on available spots in that group.

Exceptions:

In certain circumstances, exceptions may be made at the discretion of the age group coordinator, coaching staff, and junior committee. **If you believe your child has a compelling reason to play in an older age group, please submit a request following the process outlined below.**

ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY UP:

1. General Guidelines:

- Players may request to play in a higher age group if they meet certain criteria and follow the correct procedure, outlined below.
- Players must first participate in their assigned age group each week to be eligible to play in a higher age group that same week.
- Only top age players will be eligible to play up in a higher age group.

2. Application Process:

- Players wishing to play up in a higher age group must submit a formal request to the Junior Committee via the official online link provided by the club. A detailed form will be available for submission, which must include the following:
 - Player's name and current age group.
 - The higher age group they wish to play in.
 - Reason for wanting to play up.
- Players approved to play in both their current and age group higher will need to complete 2 registrations via Basketball Connect. The first for their actual age group and the second for the "second competition fee" that is a discounted fee

3. Considerations:

- Skill Level & Physical Readiness
- Higher representative duties
- Team Balance & Availability
- Player Pathway & Long-Term Development
- Social & Emotional Readiness
- Competition Structure & Fairness

4. Requests to Play Only in an Older Age Group

- We understand that there are exceptional cases where playing exclusively in an older age group may be appropriate. If you believe your child meets all the criteria outlined above, they may be considered for this option if a position is available.
- To request to play only in an older age group (and not in their standard age group), please complete and submit the same request form outlined in the application process above.
- Each request will be reviewed by the Junior Committee, based on the considerations previously mentioned.
- *Please note:* this option is limited and will only be granted to a small number of players in each age group per season.

5. Approval and Notification:

- Once the Junior Committee has reviewed the request, they will notify the player and their parents/guardians of the decision. All approvals are subject to availability and the best interests of team dynamics and player safety.

6. Criteria for Approval:

- The committee will consider the following when evaluating requests:
 - Player's skill level compared to others in the higher age group.
 - The player's physical and emotional maturity.
 - Availability and requirements of the higher age group team.
 - Overall impact on the younger age group's team structure and performance.

7. Appeals:

- Players will be notified of the outcome after the committee's review.
- There will be a 1-month probation period for all rulings, after this time it is the players responsibility to notify the junior committee if they would like their ruling to be reassessed.

Conclusion: This policy aims to balance the opportunity for younger players to advance in competition while ensuring fairness and safety across all age groups. The club encourages players to apply when appropriate but ensures that player development remains a top priority. We appreciate your understanding and support in keeping Clippers Basketball strong and inclusive.

For any additional inquiries, please contact the Junior Committee.