

JUNIORS PLAYING SENIORS



Juniors Playing in a Senior Competition

A junior player is anyone currently attending year 12 or below, or aged 17 years or younger at 30 June in the year of competition. School years are the primary factor for creating teams. The age criteria only covers players who no longer attend school or who are not bona fide enrolled school students in Western Australia.

Juniors playing at senior level fall into four categories:

1. A junior who plays in a senior competition only:

A junior may opt to play in a senior competition instead of juniors and in this instance the junior is subject to all the entitlements and expectations of a regular senior team member and is subject to the associated fees that apply to the senior competition. Selection will be based on senior selection criteria.

This junior who elects to only play seniors will only be given the opportunity to play in a junior side as a fill-in if there are no qualified juniors available to fill the side from other junior teams.

2. A junior playing senior turf grades on a less than regular basis as a development opportunity or to fill a side:

By invitation only by relevant coach and only where a regular full time registered senior is not displaced.

3. A junior who plays in both a junior and senior turf competition on a full time basis by invitation:

Any junior that has **been invited** to play in a senior turf grade as a full time development opportunity who wishes to play in both competitions will have all the entitlements and expectations of a regular full time senior team member.

Where a junior is **by invitation** established as a regular member* of a senior side as well as their junior side that junior will be required to pay a second set of fees equivalent to 50% of the senior rate of the relevant competition in order to redeem some of the costs associated with running that senior side.

4. A junior who registers to play in both a junior and senior turf or grass competition on a full time basis:

Any junior that has **registered** to play in a senior turf or grass grade as a full time player in both competitions will have all the entitlements and expectations of a regular full time senior team member.

Where a junior **has registered** as a regular member they are subject to the associated fees that apply to the senior competition only.

A junior will be granted full-time senior & junior status when the respective senior coach confirms with the Executive that the junior is required on a full time basis and not at the expense of any existing senior player.

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*A junior member will be considered to be a regular member of a senior side once they have played 9 games in the senior competition and therefore subject to additional fees as detailed above. *Please note juniors who play in a senior comp in any capacity are expected to pay match day turf fees where applicable.*

For the purposes of this policy invitation for a junior to play seniors as a development opportunity will only apply to the turf grades of the Club. Playing in the senior grass competition is not considered to be a development opportunity.

In the rare occurrence of competition clashes - junior competition should take priority under category 2 & 3 above. Senior coach will discuss ramifications with Junior Coordinator if the need arises.

Junior training takes priority and juniors will only be required to participate in one senior training session a week under category 2 & 3 above. By registering interest to play seniors as a second comp does not guarantee a place in any specific team and regular senior selection policy applies to these players.

Any senior coach requesting a junior to play in senior competition shall do so in consultation with the junior's parent/guardian and the SRHC Junior Co-ordinator. In cases where juniors are playing in a more permanent capacity in a senior team the coach or team manager shall also agree to act or appoint a senior as a mentor to foster a healthy environment in which to develop that junior.

The SRHC Executive Committee is responsible for ensuring that the Juniors Playing Seniors policy is adhered to at all times.

POLICY ADOPTED January 2015

POLICY REVIEWED January 2018