

TOURNAMENT PLAYER ELIGIBILITY POLICY - JUNIORS

UPDATED November 2019

For a player to be eligible to compete in an official AO Junior Representative Tournament they must meet the below requirements. Associations who play in-eligible players will receive tough penalties. These penalties are outlined at the end of this policy.

Player requirements to be eligible to compete in an AO Junior representative tournament:

1. Players must be a registered player in the Association / Region they are representing and have played a minimum of seven games in the one team over a seven week period in the Association's **Current* Junior Domestic Competition which must run for 10 weeks or more.**

2.1 Current season means a junior competition offered over the spring or summer leading into the tournament. The competition can finish after the tournament date. Players will only qualify for the Association / Region if they have played a minimum of 7 games in the one team over a 7 week period in the junior domestic competition they are representing prior to the tournament.

If the competition has not completed 7 or more rounds the player must have participated in the domestic competition from last season.

2. An exception will be made for players who are still eligible (15 years +) to play both juniors & seniors, but don't have a junior domestic competition in their area. If this is the case they must be a registered player at the Senior Competition. In this instance a Senior Association would be permitted to enter a Junior Team in a Junior AO Representative Tournament.
3. A player/s who leaves a junior association & joins a senior association where no junior competition is played, will not be allowed to join that regions team to play juniors.
4. If there is a junior domestic competition offered by the Association / Region you are representing you must be a registered player in that junior competition to represent at a Junior Tournament.
5. If there is a junior competition offered in the area/region then a Senior Association is not permitted to enter teams in the Junior representative tournament.
6. If there is both a Junior Association and a Senior Association in the same area (LGA), whether a single person holds the licence to operate both or 2 different people hold the licence, players must be registered in the Junior competition to be eligible to compete in a Junior Representative tournament. Only being registered in the senior competition does not qualify a player for a Junior Representative Tournament, regardless of the player's age.

7. Players who have not played the seven games due to extenuating circumstances may apply in writing to the tournament director for permission to play. E.g. injury etc. If a player is granted an exemption they may only qualify to represent an Association / Region at which they have previously played.
8. Age divisions are determined by the age you turn that year – e.g. if you turn 11 in December the year of the tournament you will be playing in the 11's division at the tournament regardless if the player is still only 10 when the tournament is played.
9. Proof of age – if a player's age is questioned a birth certificate, passport or other identification must be supplied upon request. In some instances you may be given within seven days of the tournament to produce. If a breach of the policy is proven the team will be subject to penalties outlined in this policy. If it was the winning team they will be stripped of the title and the second placed team will be crowned champions.
10. Players who miss the Summer Junior Competition due to being contracted in any Harold Matthews, SG Ball league teams and are eligible to compete in the Junior State Cup and Junior Nationals, must show prior history in Junior Oztag, will be given dispensation to compete.

COMPLAINTS

11. If an official complaint is received the Tournament Director will investigate the eligibility of the player. Complainants may remain anonymous.
12. Associations who cannot provide evidence at the time of the complaint will have seven days after the tournament to produce the evidence to show the player was eligible to play. However, the tournament director still has the discretion to disqualify the team or player at the time.

PENALTIES

13. **First Offence:** Any team playing an ineligible player/s will be disqualified from the tournament. If it is proven after the conclusion of the tournament, a title if won will be stripped from the Association and the runners up be awarded that division. The coach, manager and player/s involved will be suspended from playing / coaching at any representative level for any association for a period of 12 months. This disqualification will include the same tournament if it falls outside the 12 months the following year. The association/region will also be fined \$500. **THE ONUS IS ON THE COACH & MANAGER TO ENSURE ALL PLAYERS ARE ELIGIBLE.**
14. **Second Offence:** The coach, manager and player/s involved will be suspended from playing / coaching at any representative level for any association for a period of 12 months. The association will receive a \$1000.00 fine.

15. Third Offence: If an association is caught on 3 separate occasions of playing ineligible players the association may be disqualified from entering teams in any division at any AO tournament for 12 months or a period set by the AO.