



Southern Tasmanian Netball Association

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SOUTHERN TASMANIAN NETBALL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

AGE EXEMPTION POLICY

Policy Number – NOP-203

DATE: 9/01/2024

Approval

| | Name | Title | Phone | Date |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Prepared by | Monika Andersch | | 0400250706 | 9/1/2024 |
| Approved by | Alison Lai | President <i>(on behalf of the STNA Board of Management)</i> | | 12/03/2024 |

Revision History

| Version | Approved by name | Approved by title | Amendment notes |
|---------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 0.0 | Alison Lai | President <i>(on behalf of the STNA Board of Management)</i> | New Policy |
| 1.0 | | | |



STNA Age Exemption Policy

PURPOSE

This policy provides a guide for Clubs and/or junior players wishing to apply for an age exemption when participating in Southern Tasmanian Netball Association (STNA) rosters.

The STNA is committed to providing the best playing environment and development opportunities for participants, while promoting inclusivity for all players.

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Outline under what circumstances a junior player or Club (on behalf of the player) may wish to apply for an age exemption prior to or during an STNA roster.

Through the implementation of this policy, the STNA aims to:

- Contribute to a junior player's enjoyment and safety.
- Allow for junior players to play with like-minded peers, taking into account social capacity, skill level and maturity.

POLICY

It is the policy of the STNA to provide a safe and supportive environment for all junior players, encourage active learning, while providing opportunities to increase skills and knowledge and a love of netball.

The STNA acknowledges that children's social and motor skills develop at different rates and are not strictly related to age.

IMPLEMENTATION

The STNA provides the following guidelines for players seeking an exemption from competing in their eligible age group.

APPLICATION

- Applications must come from the player's club Roster Delegate, with the express support of the club.
- A player may only play one year below their eligible age grouping. (e.g. a player turning 12 in the year of competition may apply to play in the 11 and Under age group, but a player turning 13 is ineligible to play 11 and Under unless extraordinary circumstances exist).



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- First year players may seek an exemption if they have not previously played school or club netball and they demonstrate a skill level under that of their eligible age group.
 - Players may seek an exemption if their school year group matches their eligible age group (e.g. a child turning 12 in Grade 5 may apply to play in 11 and Under with other Grade 5s).
 - Junior players may also play UP an age group (or further), providing they abide by age regulations as set out in the STNA Bylaws and the player has the support of their Club.
 - Any granted applications will be for one (1) competition season only. If a player wishes to continue participating below their deemed age group a new application must be submitted each year.
 - The STNA Age Exemption Application Form can be found on our website alongside this policy, on the 'STNA Policies' page under 'About Us'.

APPROVAL

- Exemptions to play down an age group may be granted based on supporting evidence provided by the player/parent/Club. Such evidence should include support from a doctor, teacher or other professional able to speak to the player's physical or social abilities .
- Examples of when a doctor or teacher might support an age exemption include:
 - The player is physically smaller than others in their eligible age group.
 - The player's social skills are under-developed and do not meet that of others in their eligible age group.
 - The player has a congenital or cognitive medical condition which requires them to play in a lower age group.
- Assessment of the player may also include observation by qualified netball coaches (Development accreditation or above) but should be unobtrusive and respectful of all parties concerned.
- All exemptions must be considered with inclusivity in mind.

OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES

- Southern Tasmanian Netball Association Bylaws
- Netball Tasmanian Age Exemption Guidelines