

## **POLICY | JUNIOR PLAYERS IN SENIOR COMPETITION**

This policy applies to junior players wanting to play up an age group in Junior Domestic Competitions, Representative Competitions or who want to play in an Shoalhaven Basketball Association (SBA) Senior Domestic Competition.

### **Junior Players playing up an age group in Junior Domestic Competitions**

1. The SBA process is as follows:
  - a. The parent of the player needs to write to the SBA Board seeking permission for the player to play up in the higher age group;
  - b. Before any request is approved by SBA, there is to be a meeting of the player, at least one of the player's parents/guardians, and preferably two SBA coaches regarding the request. If the player is an SBA representative player, one of the coaches is to be the representative coach of the player. If the player is not an SBA representative player but has an SBA Junior Domestic Competition coach, that coach will be one of the coaches; and
  - c. Depending on the circumstances, experience and ability of the player, an assessment of the player may or may not be necessary.
2. If permission is granted, the player is to continue to play in the Junior Competition at their age level unless they receive a specific exemption from the Board to only play in the higher age group.
3. Players will only be permitted to play in Division 1 of the older age group (if there are two or more divisions).
4. The player will be required to pay full term fees for the first competition and 50% of the terms fees for the second competition.

### **Junior Players playing in a higher age group in Junior Representative Competitions**

5. The SBA process is as follows:
  - a. The parent of the player needs to write to the SBA Board seeking permission for the player to trial/play in a higher age group;
  - b. If there is a shortage of players in the higher age group, then a player from a younger age group may be permitted to trial/play for the higher age group;
  - c. Before any request is approved by SBA, there is to be a meeting of the player, at least one of the player's parents/guardians, and preferably two SBA coaches regarding the request. If the player is an SBA representative player, one of the coaches is to be the representative coach of the player. If the player is not an SBA representative player but has an SBA Junior Domestic Competition coach, that coach will be one of the coaches; and

- d. Depending on the circumstances, experience and ability of the player, an assessment of the player may or may not be necessary.
- 6. If permission is granted, the player may be required to play in the Junior representative team of their age level as well.
- 7. The player may be required to pay additional representative levies.

#### **Junior Players playing in an SBA Senior Domestic Competition**

- 8. The general position is that players must be over the age of 18 to compete in an SBA Senior Competition. However, SBA will consider junior players playing in Senior Competitions on a case by case basis.
- 9. SBA follows guidance that is provided by BNSW in relation to junior players (those players under the age of 18) playing in Senior Competitions.
- 10. The SBA process is as follows:

For players aged between the ages of 16 and 18 –

- a. The parent of the player needs to write to the SBA Board and seek permission for the player to participate in an SBA Senior Competition;
- b. Before any request is approved by SBA, there is to be a meeting of the player, at least one of the player's parents/guardians, and preferably two SBA coaches regarding the request. If the player is an SBA representative player, one of the coaches is to be the representative coach of the player. If the player is not an SBA representative player but has an SBA Junior Domestic Competition coach, that coach will be one of the coaches;
- c. Depending on the circumstances/experience/ability of the player an assessment of the player may or may not be necessary; and
- d. If permission is granted by SBA, the parents will be required to sign an indemnity/waiver prior to the player commencing playing in an SBA Senior Competition.

For players younger than 16 years of age –

- a. The parent of the player needs to write to the SBA Board and seek permission for the player to compete in an SBA Senior Competition;
- b. Before any request is approved by SBA, there is to be a meeting of the player, at least one of the player's parents/guardians, and preferably two SBA coaches regarding the request. If the player is an SBA representative player, one of the coaches is to be the representative coach of the player. If the player is not an SBA representative player but has an SBA Junior Domestic Competition coach, that coach will be one of the coaches;

- c. The player will need to be assessed to ensure they exhibit a level of maturity, physical prowess and skill that will enable them to compete in the SBA Senior Competition; and
- d. If permission is granted by SBA, the parents will be required to sign an indemnity/waiver prior to the player commencing playing in an SBA Senior Competition.

NOTE: There is a limit of two (2) players under the age of 16 per senior team.

- 11. Junior players will not be permitted to play in an SBA Senior Competition at the expense of playing in an appropriate SBA Junior Competition. This means that all junior players granted permission to play in an SBA Senior Competition are required to play in the appropriate SBA Junior Competition for their age, unless they have received an exemption from the SBA Board to only play in the SBA Senior Competition.
- 12. All junior players granted permission to play in an SBA Senior Competition are required to play a minimum of **50% of games in each term** that comprises the appropriate SBA Junior Competition for their age. This means, for example, a junior player must play 50% of games in Term 2 and 50% of games in Term 3 to meet the requirement of playing 50% of games for the Winter Competition.
- 13. If a Junior player does not meet the 50% rule requirement, permission to play in the relevant SBA Senior Competition may be revoked.
- 14. The player will be required to pay both SBA Junior and Senior Competition term fees. The player will be required to pay full term fees for the Junior competition and 50% of the Senior terms fees.
- 15. Playing in an SBA Senior Competition is in addition to playing in an SBA Junior Competition, not instead of playing in it.
- 16. In the case of u16 and u18 SBA Junior Representative teams, the relevant representative coach may seek permission for a team to compete in an SBA Senior Competition.

SBA reserves its right to reconsider, at any time, its decision to grant a junior player permission to play up an age group in a Junior Domestic Competition, play up in a higher age group in Junior Representative Competitions or play in an SBA Senior Domestic Competition.

SBA Board