



UNDER 7S PLAYING UNDER 8S PROCEDURE

BACKGROUND

Rugby Australia participation policy states that:

- Rugby should be safe, inclusive and fair.
- All endeavours must be made for Rugby participants with broadly compatible physical development in conjunction with ability and/or experience to play with and against each other.

For players that are Under 7 (turning 7 years old in the calendar year), Rugby Australia's starting position is that they should play in the Under 7 age grade. This is appropriate to the Junior Player Pathway game type to suit their development and stage of learning.

There are rare occasions where individual players may apply to participate in the Under 8 age grade by undertaking the following procedure.

This procedure is for individual players and should not be utilised by Clubs or Schools to move entire teams / the majority of players from Under 7 competitions to Under 8 competitions.

HOW DO THE 'SIZE FOR AGE' GUIDELINES APPLY?

Rugby Australia has published its 'Size for Age' Guidelines that contain mandatory assessment guidelines for male and female age grade players. These guidelines require that players in the age groups **Under 10 to Under 15** that fall either above or below height and weight parameters for each age group must undertake an assessment by an **Independent Qualified Assessing Coach** to determine the child's appropriate age grade under this procedure. Given that the Age Grade Dispensation Procedure relates only to Under 8 to Under 18 years of age, the 'Size for Age' Guidelines provide only a reference point for the Competition Manager in this procedure for the relative physical development of the Under 7 player seeking to play in the Under 8 Age Grade.

RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of all Coaches, Club Officials, Unions and Affiliates and Parents / Guardians to follow this procedure to ensure inclusion whilst having primary regard for the Rugby Australia Safety Policy. Intentional or reckless disregard for the Rugby Australia Safety Policy, Rugby Australia Participation or this procedure **may result in disciplinary action under the Rugby Australia Code of Conduct or the Rugby Australia Member Protection Policy**.

Each State or Territory Union must designate an appropriate person(s) to apply this procedure within a competition. The competition manager will typically be the person responsible; however, the State or Territory Union may nominate an alternate person to make decisions in the application of this procedure.

This procedure is applicable to registered players turning 7 years of age in the calendar year in a Junior Player Pathway competition except for the non-contact form of Rugby, Touch7s.



STEP BY STEP PROCEDURES

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	NOTES
1	The parent / guardian of a participant turning 7 in the calendar year wishes the participant to play in a in an Under 8 age group competition	Parent or Guardian	A parent or guardian of an Under 7 player expresses a desire for the player to participate in mixed gender competition in the Under 8 age group.
2	Under 8 Consent Form is obtained	Club / School Parent / Guardian	The Club / School provide the Parent / Guardian with the Under 8 D Consent Form OR the Parent / Guardian downloads from website.
3	Under 8 Consent Form is completed and provided to the Competition Manager	Parent / Guardian	The Under 8 Dispensation Consent Form is completed and provided to the Competition Manager, either directly or via the School or Club.
4	Under 8 Consent form is evaluated, by the Competition Manager	Competition Manager	On receipt of the Under 8 Consent form the Competition Manager undertakes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A check of the 'Size for Age' Guidelines; and b. The number of years the player has played in Under 6 or Under 7 Kids Pathway Rugby c. Other requests from registered players in the same Club or School in the Under 7 age group
5	Decision made on whether to approve, deny or request a Qualified Independent Coach to assess player in an Under 7 competition	Competition Manager	The Competition Manager (or other designated State or Territory Union representative) will review the assessment and either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Accept or decline the application; OR b) Request an independent assessment in line with the Rugby Australia Safety Policy and the Rugby Australia Participation Policy before making any decision; OR
6	Changes made to competition management system and parties notified	Competition Manager	Appropriate changes are made in the Competition Management System to enable participation in the approved Under 8 competition. The Club / School is notified as well as the Parent / Guardian.

OTHER INFORMATION

Note that players must be suitably trained to participate in Under 8 contact (tackle rugby) and preferably participated in Under 6 and / or Under 7 previously.

Any grievance by players (or their parents/guardians) regarding decisions made pursuant to this Under 7s to Under 8s Procedure must be dealt with pursuant to the grievance procedure of the relevant Union with jurisdiction for the competition.

Rugby AU has the discretion to review any decision made pursuant to this Mixed Gender Dispensation Procedure or conduct an investigation as appropriate.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [Rugby Australia Code of Conduct](#)
- [Rugby Australia Member Protection Policy](#)
- ['Size for Age' Guidelines](#)
- [Under 8 Consent Form](#)
- [Rugby Australia Safety Policy](#)
- [Rugby Australia Participation Policy](#)
- [Junior Age Grade/Senior Rugby Guidelines Table](#)