



School Sport ACT Age and Gender Eligibility Policy

The School Sport Australia Age Dispensation Policy allows for the provision of age dispensation to state and territory teams participating in School Sport Australia (SSA) events, where it is considered appropriate. The SSA National Programs Advisory Group (NPAG) determines if age dispensation will be beneficial to the requesting state or territory and what form of dispensation is most appropriate.

Requests for age dispensation to NPAG from SSACT, if deemed necessary, are made either on an annual or triennial basis dependent on the sport. Being granted age dispensation is not guaranteed.

The ACT is the beneficiary of age dispensation across many sports in a variety of forms, the most common is the allowance of a pre-determined percentage of players that can be selected who are 6 to 12 months older than the sports specified age eligibility. Age dispensation is not granted for the sports of Rugby League or AFL due to the safety issues of body size in relation to the direct contact nature of these sports.

Age Eligibility within the ACT

- As age dispensation is granted from SSA for state teams, it is only utilised, where necessary, in the selection of ACT teams at open trials. It is up to the discretion of the state team coach to open the trials to students falling outside the age eligibility range, it is not an automatic process.
- Students whose date of birth falls within the age eligibility range will always be considered for selection above those that fall outside. If age dispensation is not required it will not be used.
- The age eligibility range for 12 and Under regional events is for students turning 10, 11 or 12 in the calendar year of competition. Students turning younger than 10 or older than 12 in the calendar year of competition **are not eligible to trial**.
- The regional event is the very first step of the representative pathway, as such age eligibility aligns with state team selection and SSA National Championship eligibility restrictions.

Gender Eligibility

The SSACT Gender Eligibility Policy is currently under development as we seek advice from other states and School Sport Australia.

In the interim, SSACT will support the participation of transgender students who identify themselves with a gender differing from their gender at birth. SSACT will respect and recognise the transgender student's gender identification and will address each circumstance individually and on a needs basis.