

DEVELOPMENT PLAYER POLICY

Purpose

This paper supports and gives interpretation to the Competitions by-laws relating to Finals Eligibility as detailed in by-laws 10.

Intent

The purpose of development players is to allow junior players to further develop their game by allowing a second game per week to be played for the same club. Once development status has been granted by the Competition Operations Group (COG), players may play in two grades within the same age group (e.g. Premier and A Grade) for the entire season. No penalty under the promotion or relegation of provision of the by-laws is applicable to development players.

Criteria for Development Player status

Specific criteria must be met to allow Development Player status to be approved.

- Up to two development players per team may be selected and nominated no later than 2 weeks after the start of a competition.
- Development Player status is applicable only for the season nominated and is subject to review before and during that season.
- A player would normally only be considered as a development player for one season within an age group.

Junior Premier and Grade competitions

- They cannot be, in the view of the Competition Committee, a consistent starting 5 player in the highest grade they are developing for,
- They cannot be an ACT representative (14, 16 or 18s National Championships) or in the ACT NITCP,
- No more than two in total, Development and/or Relegated Players (players temporarily playing in a lower grade under the by-laws) may play in the lower graded team in any game,
- Development Player status may be applied individually to players from either Premier or Junior Grade competitions, not both.

All (desirable)

They should be developing under Basketball ACT's development and representative programs pathways (eg. Waratah Junior Southern League, Talent Development programs)

Movement of Development Players during a Season

Whilst it is expected that teams will be made up of players nominated at the beginning of the season, there will be circumstances where development Player status may change during the year.

- A Development Player may have their Development Player status revoked through the season.
 - The team will be allowed to nominate, once only, a replacement who has effect for only the remainder of the season and who will be subject to COG approval

- A Development Player may become injured or leave the competition through the season.
 - The team will be allowed to nominate a replacement, once only, who has effect for only the remainder of the season and who will be subject to COG approval.
 - These players cannot be interchanged at all for the remainder of the season regardless of the original player's recovery from injury.
- In both circumstances, replacements players must conform to the by-laws, with the Competition Manager notified as soon as possible and before any substitution.

Finals Eligibility

All development players, so long as they have qualified under the final's eligibility by-law, can be qualified for two final series.

- Best efforts and endeavours will be made to avoid scheduling conflicts; however it is not the responsibility of the COG to avoid clashing of finals schedules.
- Teams need to endeavour to play their development player in the lower grade as a priority, and/or negotiate a change to the finals schedule during the appropriate time-frame as laid down by the Competitions Management.
- As the intent of development player is indeed in developing and enhancing their skills using this status, their contribution to the higher grade is expected to be minimal to non-existent.

Junior / Senior development

There does not exist under the Development Player by-laws any scenario where this could be applied to players playing in both Senior and Junior competitions.

- It states under Senior Grade by-law 9b: "Any player, who is eligible to play Under 16s and younger competitions, is not to play in senior competitions unless a written request (with signed parental approval) has been lodged with and approved by the Competition Committee".
- For the purpose of consistency and application of Duty of Care and to mitigate against the risk of legal consequence, this will be applied to Senior Premier as well. NB. This in no way grants Development Player status to the junior players affected.
- Players can only gain development status in one competition and they cannot be granted this status in both junior and senior competitions

Lodgement of Development Player status request

- Each season, the club/team coordinator will nominate the players requesting this status for approval by the COG on the approved electronic form no later than week 2 of start of a competition.
- Upon receipt of the application an email acknowledgement will be sent of receipt of the application. This will provide initial approval for the player to play as a development player pending final approval by the COG.
- It is expected COG will formally approve or reject all Development Player status within 4 weeks of commencement of the competition.
- Development Player lists will be placed on the Basketball ACT as soon as possible after they have been approved.