

Player Development Framework Concept

18 Month Registration Window

To further enhance the Rugby League experience for participants born in the second half of the calendar year, the game is excited to be offering the 18-Month Registration Window. The rationale behind the concept is attempting to promote a more enjoyable environment for younger players who, for a number of reasons, may feel overly challenged in their calendar group and to minimise the impact of the Relative Age and Maturation Effects in Rugby League.

By providing an opportunity for players who are born between July and December to register in the year level immediately below their calendar grouping, Rugby League is seeking to promote a players ongoing participation and personal development.

Please Note: This provision has not been introduced to allow for a player who is meeting the demands of their calendar year age group to utilise in order to dominate younger divisions. The purpose of the policy is to improve the Rugby League experience for players who are being adversely impacted by the Relative Age and Maturation Effects.

The provision is available to all Junior age groups and for players entering their first year of senior competition in regions where this occurs prior to eighteen (18) years of age.

If you believe this provision will enhance your child's Rugby League experience, please access further information below and apply.

Eligibility

All Junior players that are born in the second half of the calendar year (July 1 – 31 December) are eligible to apply for the 18-Month Registration Window. Only Senior players who are entering their **first** year of a senior competition, up to and including the age of nineteen (19) years of age and are born in the second half of the calendar year (July 1 – 31 December) shall be eligible to apply for the 18-Month Registration Window.

Considerations when identifying players eligible to apply for 18-month registration include, but are not limited to:

- Weight and/or height of participants and those who are deemed above the 85th percentile of the age group they are applying to play in.
- Differences in physical, mental or emotional maturity relative to remainder of calendar group
- Feeling overly challenged in their calendar age group
- Unavailability of the applicant's calendar group
- New participant to the game of Rugby League



- Additional provisions may be provided in extenuating circumstances (including but not limited to medical reasons)

Successful applicants of the 18-Month Registration provision will forfeit the following:

- Consideration for Junior Representative teams
- Eligibility for 'portability' clearance to transfer to another competition
- Eligibility in a Restricted Weight Division outside their calendar group
- The right to participate in their calendar group unless under special circumstances (e.g. a team would forfeit without their involvement)

A comprehensive list of all successful applicants will be sent to all participating clubs prior to the commencement of the season and is subject for review until the completion of Round 4.

Application Process

Full Name *

Email Address *

Participant/player name *

Participant/player date of birth *

Weight (kg) *

Height (cm) *

Club that the participant/player is registered with *

Group/Junior League location *

Reasons for requesting 18-Month Registration Window *

- Differences in physical, mental or emotional maturity relative to remainder of calendar group
- Feeling overly challenged in their calendar group
- Calendar group not available
- New to the game
- Other

Please provide any additional supporting information

Handling Disputes

An appeal process will be available for Clubs wishing to request a review of a player participating under the policy. Each League will nominate an appropriate committee for the review of disputes of initially successful 18-Month Registration players. Local League staff may also act as representatives.

The Committee will be responsible for the collection of supporting information to assist in the decision-making process as to whether the player who was previously admitted the 18-Month Registration



provision shall remain in their nominated age group or be returned to their respective calendar age group. Supporting information includes, but is not limited to:

- a) The players weight, to assist in determining which percentile they fall in on the weight-for-age percentile scale
- b) Interviewing/gathering feedback from opposing coaches to the player in question
- c) Previous scorecards

The Committees determination of which age group the player should continue in shall be final.

Should any situation or matter arise, not covered by these rules, the matter shall be referred to the Local League, State League or NRL for decision, which will be final.

