



**How long does my child play in an age group?**

Players have 2 seasons as a bottom age player Summer & Winter and 2 seasons as a top age player Summer & Winter, before moving to the next age group.

**I am worried about my child playing against older children?**

Your child will only ever be playing against children born in the same year as them or either 1 year younger or 1 year older, depending if your child is top age or bottom age.

**My child is bottom age, turning 11 why are they playing Under 14's**

Your child will be competing with every other child who is turning 11 in their same year as birth and 1 year older.

**My child is too old for the current age group but his/her friends are the right age, what do we do?**

If your child is too old for an age group, they will need to play in the correct age group i.e find a new team or the entire team can move up an age group. If a team moves up an age groups all competitions are graded and the team will be placed in an appropriate division against players of similar size and ability.

**Can a team move up an age group?**

Yes, teams can play up one group. We have many teams that do this for various reasons, including a more suitable day of competition or they have a player or two that do not meet the age group criteria. Our grading and divisions allow for this and teams have a competitive and enjoyable experience.

**Can a player or team play down an age group?**

No, players or teams cannot play down an age group, you must play in your correct age group and exemptions do not apply.

**Can I apply for an exemption to play in a lower age group?**

Players and teams are not given an exemption to play in a lower age group.

**My child is born in the later part of the year and miss the 31<sup>st</sup> December, cut off by a few days or weeks, can they have an exemption?**

No, there are no exemptions granted based on a player's date of birth. We have over 3500 playing members and the rule is applied equally across every competition to be fair. Your child will be playing against every other child born at the same time of the year and the same age as your child. Any time an age group cut off is in place we know there will be some that feel it is a disadvantage and others an advantage, we draw and line in the sand it is applied firmly.

**What happens if a team plays a player in the incorrect age group?**

The team may lose 12 premiership points, have the match forfeited and/or be expelled from the competition.

**My child has to find a new team due to the age cut off, what do we do?**

We suggest that you contact one of our Club's to find a suitable team. Other alternatives are to speak with friends from school or contact Mornington Basketball and have your details published to Team Connect, where teams looking for players or a player looking for a team are listed.

**Why do basketball association's have different cut off dates?**

Each Association determines the age group cut off that best meets their needs. Traditionally basketball allows for 2 years of birth in each age group, unlike many other sports. Mornington Basketball's age group cut off aligns with the VJBL, which allows for a clear pathway and transition between domestic and representative basketball.