



## **HAMILTON FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION – REQUEST TO PLAY UP PROCEDURES**

### **SCHEDULE A & COACH/PARENT GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM**

Before a player **'plays up'** in an age grade tackle football competition, his/her eligibility will be based on his/her age on 31 December in the relevant year, the information in this Schedule A should be carefully considered, and the appropriate consent/waiver form be properly completed and sent to Hamilton Football Association (HFA) office.

#### **Risks**

It is important that all people involved in a decision to permit a player to participate in an age category higher than the player's current age group, understand that football is a contact sport and, like all contact sports, players are exposed to the risk of injury. This risk should not be increased where a player participates by 'playing up' in a competition, particularly in circumstances where the player's physical development and maturity are superior to that of the players he or she will play with or against in the upper age category.

#### **Considerations**

In assessing the suitability of a player to participate in a competition in an age grade higher than his/her current one, the coach assessing the player and the player's parent or guardian must recognize and consider the following factors:

- What is the player's level of physical development (e.g. height, weight, build, etc) when measured against potential playing opponents at the new level; when measured against playing opponents at his current age level?
- Is the player physically equipped to compete on an equal basis with players in the proposed higher age grade competition?
- Will the player's skill level place the player on an equal basis with players in the proposed higher age grade competition?
- Is playing up a level at which the player can compete safely? Does it provide for a possible increased risk of injury to the said player or other participants?
- Are other teams within league play allowing for similar age upgrade.

#### **Role of the Coach in Player Assessment:**

The suitability of a player to 'play up' must be assessed and also communicated to his/her parent guardian to ensure that they understand that the player will be competing against older players as a measure to ensure his/her safety, athletic development and enjoyment of the sport. The coach undertaking the player's assessment must:

- Hold a minimum current Safe Contact trained accreditation,
- be currently registered as a coach with the HFA

#### **Role of the Parent or Guardian:**

A parent or guardian of a child under the age of 18 must consent in writing to the child playing up. That consent must be evidenced by completing the attached **Parent/Guardian Request/Consent Form**



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**HAMILTON FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION PLAYER UP FORM – CONSENT FORM**

*In accordance with the HFA, this exception documentation verifies that with respect to:*

**Section 1 – Player Information (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ M F

Club or Rep Team: \_\_\_\_\_

D.O.B (d/m/yy)      /      /      Actual Age Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Requested Age Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Playing Position: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2 – Assessing Coach Information (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NCCP #: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Lv. Coaching Qualifications: \_\_\_\_\_ Safe Contact Certified: YES NO

*All the above assessing coaching qualifications **MUST ALL** be fully met, in order for this document to be valid for the purpose of an exception to play up.*

*The coach is to assess the player against the following considerations: If the answer is NO to any of these considerations, then the player SHALL NOT be considered capable of competing safely with players in the proposed age category*

<b>Physical Development</b>	Does the player’s level of physical development allow the player to compete safely with players in the proposed age group?	YES	NO
<b>Skill Level</b>	Is the player’s skill level comparable with other players in the proposed age category?	YES	NO
<b>Level of Experience</b>	Does the player have similar experience levels to compete with other players at a comparable standard of competition at the new level?	YES	NO
<b>Competition Standard</b>	Is the standard of competition in the proposed age grade competition suitable to allow the player to compete safely?	YES	NO

*This is to attest that the player’s physical development, skill level and experience are such that the player is capable of competing safely with players in the proposed higher age grade. I have explained to the player and his/her parent/guardian that the player will be competing with and against older players and this many involve increased risk.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Coaches Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Coaches Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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***Section 3 – Parent/Legal Guardian Information (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)***

I confirm that:

- I am a parent or legal guardian of the above mention player, and that I have been provided with a copy of HFA's Playing Up policy including Schedule A
- The coach has explained to me the risk of the higher age grade and potential playing time or lack thereof.
- I also understand that football is a contact sport and, like all contact sports, players are exposed to risk of injury
- I also understand that the level of risk should remain the same where a player participates in a competition under the one-year playing up policy in circumstances where the player's physical development, skill level and experience similar to that of the players he or she will play against.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**All forms must be submitted to the HFA**