Loddon Valley Football Netball League
Overage Policy

Rationale

The physical development of junior netballers and footballers occurs at differing rates and consequently there are some players who are not ready to play their sport with similar aged peers. Further, the LVFNL has a duty of care to all of its junior players to ensure their safety and they are playing in a competition which approximates their development and current skill level.

Purpose

- To provide a duty of care to young people who are not ready to transition to a higher age group.
- Encourage the retention of netballers and footballers in a competition with their peers.
- Provide opportunities for young people with disabilities to play sport.
- The purpose of this policy is not to provide opportunity for clubs to make up numbers in age groups where player numbers are scarce.

Implementation

- Clubs can apply to the Board using the "***Overage Player Application Form***" which can be found on the LVFNL website www.lvfnl.com.au
- This application must reach the LVFNL League Administrator and LVFNL Secretary at least two weeks prior to the start of the current season.
- The nominated players must have played with the club in the previous season.
- All Overage players will be assessed by an Independent Panel as to their ability and suitability for overage status.
- The Independent panel will be comprised of members from the LVFNL Board. This panel shall be empowered to co-opt appropriate persons to assist with an individual assessment if required.
- Each approved Overage Player will be continually monitored throughout the season, and the Independent Panel may revoke any approval at any time during the current season.
- The Independent panel's decision shall be final and only one application per player shall be permitted.
- Junior Coaches cannot be involved in the independent assessment of one of their own players.
- Up to 2 players (football) and 1 player (netball) can be named on a team sheet per team per match. These players must be designated with "**OA**" next to their names on the team sheet.
- Any approved Overage Player that is named as a player on a higher-grade team sheet will have their approval automatically revoked, unless under the proviso of ***Exemption to Play in a Higher Grade***.
- A Club Official of an opposing Club can call for an Overage Player to be re-evaluated if they deem the player to be unsuitable for overage status. The player

must then be re-assessed at the next club match by the Independent Panel if the player wishes to continue to qualify as an overage player.

- Following this re-assessment, the decision of the Independent Panel based on all available evidence shall be final and no further correspondence in this matter shall be considered.
- Overage players must not exceed one full year above the age group on 1 January in the year they claim overage exemption.
- In some exceptional circumstances, the Board may grant overage status to young people who do not meet these age requirements.
- Approved overage nominations will be circulated to all clubs.
- It is the discretion of the Board to reject nominations and/or exceptions.

Criteria for Overage Selection

Any player accepted for overage status will be assessed in the areas outlined below and on their ability to influence the result on any given day. Factors to be taken into account include:

1. **Ability to influence a game**
    - General Motor Skills
    - Coordination
    - Speed and Agility
2. **General Football Skills (Netball Skills)**
    - Marking (Catching)
    - Kicking (Passing)
    - Ball Handling
3. **Ability to influence others**
    - Conduct - Plays in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rules, Netball Victoria Rules, LVFNL & Club Codes of Conduct
    - Behaviour - Does not display an aggressive nature towards other players. (There will be a
      strict zero tolerance of aggressive behaviour)
    - Physical attributes

Exemption to Play in a Higher Grade

- Clubs can apply, on an individual basis, for an exemption for a player who has received an overage exemption from the LVFNL Board to allow them to play in a higher grade **ONLY** in the club's final two matches of the home and away season. The LVFNL Board expects that this player would participate in training with the team in the higher grade along with playing the game as an introduction and preparation for the following season.