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NZTFI Age Eligibility Policy

1. Age Bands:

- For players up to the age of 18 years, the age bands will be 3 years each (with the exception of Under 7s grade). This means players can play within an age band that spans a range of three years (e.g., 13-15 years for under 16s grade).
- Importantly, **no dispensations** are allowed within these age bands. This means that players must strictly adhere to their designated age band without exceptions.
- A player must be of age at 1st January 2nd year of the season split (e.g 1st Jan 2025 for the 2024-25 season).

2. Minimum Age for U21s and Open Grade:

- The minimum age requirement for participating in the U21s grade and Open grade is set at **17 years**.
- Similarly, **no dispensations** are permitted for these grades, ensuring that all players meet the minimum age requirement without exceptions.

3. Minimum Age for Junior Events:

- The minimum age requirement for any junior event is 5 years at the given date of participation/date given.
- As with the other grades, **no dispensations** are allowed, meaning participants must meet the specified minimum age to compete in junior events.

4. Minimum Age for Senior Grades:

- The minimum age requirement for any senior grades is, you must be turning the age of the grade in the year the event is played (e.g 29 turning 30 for the 30s grade, you cannot be 28 in the year of the event for the 30s grade).

As with the other grades, **no dispensations** are allowed, meaning participants must meet the specified minimum age to compete in events.

Interpretation and Implications:

- **Age Bands Clarification:** By setting age bands of 3 years up to age 18 without dispensations, the policy aims to balance competition and safety within specific age groups. This structure aims to provide suitable competition levels while ensuring fairness and safety based on players' age and developmental stages.
- **Minimum Age Requirements:** Establishing minimum age requirements (17 years for U21s and Open grade, 5 years for junior events) with no dispensations ensures consistency and safety standards across different levels of play. It prevents younger or less experienced players from participating in higher age grades prematurely.
- **Policy Implementation:** It's crucial to ensure that these guidelines are clearly communicated to all stakeholders—players, coaches, parents, and officials. Clear communication helps in maintaining fairness and adherence to the policy across all levels of participation.
- **Review and Adjustment:** Periodic review of these age band and dispensation rules ensures they remain effective and aligned with the safety and developmental goals of NZTFI. Adjustments may be necessary based on feedback, changes in safety guidelines, or evolving needs within the tag football community.



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In summary, these agreed outcomes provide a structured framework for managing age bands and minimum age requirements in tag football, aiming to optimize safety, fairness, and player development across different age groups and competitive grades.



Yours in Tag,

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