



Date: 2nd May 2024

NZTFI Eligibility Review

(Executive Board meeting 2.5.24)

New Zealand Tag Football have recently reviewed the policy related to age cohorts and player safety in tag football under the New Zealand Tag Football Incorporated (NZTFI).

Policy Review Overview:

- **Purpose:** Ensure safety while allowing flexibility for players in smaller communities.
- **Timing:** Review annually at the end of each season.
- **Context:** Consideration of Sport NZ guidelines and local conditions.

Background:

- **Risk Management:** Acknowledges inherent risks in tag football and commitment to safety.
- **Player Support:** Emphasizes enjoyment and lifelong engagement with the sport.
- **Flexibility:** Recognizes challenges in smaller communities where players might need to play in older cohorts for sufficient competition.

Key Points for Review:

1. **Safety Protocols:** Ensure that safety measures are clearly defined and consistently applied across all age cohorts. Consider any updates in safety guidelines or best practices from Sport NZ.
2. **Flexibility and Fairness:** Evaluate whether the policy strikes the right balance between safety and flexibility in player placement, particularly in smaller communities. Ensure that any exceptions to age cohorts are justified by safety considerations and do not compromise fairness in competition.
3. **Community and Local Context:** Review how well the policy reflects the unique challenges and opportunities present in different regions of New Zealand, particularly in rural areas. Consider whether additional support or guidelines are needed for these communities.
4. **Player Development:** Assess whether the policy adequately supports the holistic development (physical, mental, emotional) of players across different age groups. Ensure that playing in older cohorts does not hinder the development or safety of younger players.
5. **Communication and Implementation:** Review how the policy is communicated to stakeholders (players, coaches, parents) and ensure clarity on how exceptions to age cohorts are approved and monitored. Consider any feedback or issues encountered during the previous season.



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Recommendations:

- **Annual Review:** Continue the practice of reviewing the policy annually to incorporate any new insights, feedback, or changes in guidelines.
- **Consultation:** Seek input from stakeholders (coaches, referees, parents, players) during the review process to ensure the policy remains relevant and effective.
- **Documentation:** Update the policy document to reflect any changes or clarifications resulting from the review process.

By focusing on these areas during the policy review, NZTFI can ensure that the policy remains aligned with its safety goals while supporting the development and enjoyment of tag football across New Zealand, particularly in diverse community settings.

Yours in Tag,

The NZTFI Administration Team

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