

**Policy number: 16**

**Version 1: January 2021**

**To be reviewed: November 2024**

**Person responsible: Principal, School of Sport Education NT**

### **Introduction**

School Sport Australia (SSA) acknowledges that some member bodies may struggle to field teams at SSA Championships for a variety of reasons such as:

- A reduced population of appropriately aged students in a specific sport.
- A small general population from which to select students
- A specific sport is in a growth phase in development.

To allow for this SSA has a Sport Participation Policy which includes:

- Age Dispensation which allows overage students to participate in a team and allow that member body to compete at the SSA Championship.
- Modified rules to enhance the positive experience of participants.
- Mixed State teams which can allow students from states unable to field a full team to participate.

The School of Sport Education NT benefits from this policy at the interstate level and applies aspects of it to inter-region programs to ensure consistency.

### **Purpose**

To maximise opportunities provided to students at both the interstate and interregional levels of competition, The School of Sport Education NT adopts the SSA sport participation strategies for School of Sport Education NT programs.

### **Policy**

#### **1. Age Dispensation**

SSA may grant age dispensation on application for School of Sport Education NT teams in selected sports. If age dispensation is granted, School of Sport Education NT teams may include team members who are up to 6 months older than the Championship age level, provided:

- Students turn one year older than the Championship age level between 1 July and 31 December in the year of competition.
- No more than 50% of the team members are in the older age group, and
- The number of older team members is less than the starting line-up for the specific sport.

The School of Sport Education NT has been granted age dispensation for a number of sports at the interstate level as detailed in Attachment A.

At the inter-region level age dispensation is applied as shown in Attachment B.

**Sport Participation Policy.**

2. Modified rules

Modified rules which apply at the interstate level of competition are reflected in competition at the interregional level to ensure consistency of approach and understanding for students and team officials.

3. Mixed Teams

On occasion students from other states have joined School of Sport Education NT teams to ensure adequate numbers for the SSA Championship. Similarly at the interregional level students from one region have supplemented numbers of another to allow them to participate.

4. Under or Over age student nominations

Where the addition of a student who turns a year older or younger than the approved age range in the year of competition allows for a region to enter a team in an Inter-Region Championship, application for consideration to the Assistant Principal can be made.

Each case will be considered on its merits and a determination made.