JUNIOR MEMBERSHIPS POLICY

Background
The issue of junior membership of UQ Sport has been highlighted in recent years due to an increase in the number of clubs wishing to be granted status as a club with junior members as well as a number of applications from people wishing to become Junior Members of UQ Sport.

Whilst UQ Sport is sympathetic to the notion of junior members being involved in our sporting clubs, care must be taken to ensure that we maintain the unique culture of the University of Queensland sporting and recreational clubs. With many of the club facilities already at critical levels, it would be remiss of UQ Sport to actively encourage new members who may be seen as competing for access to these facilities along with other members, and particular students of the University.

As a result of the restriction on junior members due to the UQ Sport membership categories, most clubs have grown up with largely an adult membership. There has been little emphasis regarding specialist junior coaching, equipment specific to junior athletes or policies relating to juniors in our clubs.

A number of UQ clubs have entered into loose affiliations with outside junior clubs in order to meet criteria for junior development that is placed on many of our fixture clubs by parent bodies.

Requirements for Junior Membership of UQ Sport

Mandatory Requirements
The following requirements must be met before applications from either a club seeking Junior Club Membership status or for individuals wishing to become junior members of UQ Sport will be considered:

1. A Junior Member of UQ Sport may be any person 15 years of age (at the time of application) and under 18 years of age who is not a current university student;

2. The relevant club has been classified as a club that may have junior members;

3. Affiliated Clubs granted Junior Membership Status must demonstrate their compliance with child protection policies;
4. Junior membership numbers are not counted as part of an Affiliated Club Members compliance;

5. Junior membership within an Affiliated Club granted Junior Membership Status must not exceed 40% of its total membership.

The following guidelines must be satisfactorily answered in applications from a Club seeking Junior Club Membership status or on behalf of individuals wishing to become junior members of UQ Sport:

1. Junior membership is a requirement for the relevant clubs ongoing affiliation with a parent sporting body;

2. The junior members will not impose additional strain on the existing facilities;

3. Junior membership is necessary for ongoing club development in relation to strengthening teams, providing necessary options for team / club development etc;

4. The club can demonstrate that the junior member will be advantaged in terms of their ongoing sporting development;

5. The club has the ability to cater for junior members in relations to coaching, facilities, equipment, and policies specifically relating to junior members (please refer to the Child Protection Policy (Policy Number: Schedule D 8 (a) (i) of the Club Agreement);

6. That the balance of members of the club (student, ordinary, exempt, special and juniors) does not jeopardise the goals of UQ Sport and affiliated clubs.

Conditions of Membership
1. Junior members will have no voting rights and cannot hold positions on the club executive or the UQ Sport Executive or Committees

Approvals
A club wishing to be granted status as a club permitted to have junior members must submit to UQ Sport a written document responding to each of the requirements and guidelines above.

The application will be assessed by the Executive Director and will be submitted for approval at the next Board Meeting.