



SEYMOUR CLUB S.D.C.A.

Overage Junior Player Permit Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Overage Junior Player Permit Policy is to ensure that all junior participants within the Seymour District Cricket Association (SDCA) can take part in cricket safely, fairly, and inclusively. This policy provides a transparent framework for granting permits to players who exceed the standard age limit for a junior grade but who require placement in a lower age group due to legitimate safety, developmental, or medical considerations.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all clubs, teams, players, coaches, administrators, and officials participating in competitions conducted by the Seymour District Cricket Association.

3. Eligibility for Overage Junior Player Permits

An overage player may be granted permission to participate in a lower junior age group if **one or more** of the following conditions apply:

3.1 Safety Concerns

A permit may be granted where the SDCA determines that playing in the player's chronological age group would pose a **genuine risk of physical harm**, including but not limited to:

- Significant size or strength disparities
- Low physical capability relative to peers
- Documented history of injury or medical fragility

3.2 Disability or Impairment

A permit may be granted where the player has a **disability, impairment, developmental delay, or medical condition** that affects their:

- Physical capacity
- Cognitive capacity
- Motor skills
- Ability to safely compete in their normal age group

Applications in this category must be supported by suitable documentation (see Section 6).



SEYMOUR CLUB S.D.C.A.

3.3 Risk of Harm or Welfare Concerns

A permit may be granted if the player would be **at risk of injury, distress, or undue pressure** by playing in their chronological age group, including circumstances such as:

- Significant inexperience relative to peers
- Welfare concerns raised by parents, guardians, or professionals
- Return from significant injury or extended absence requiring gradual reintegration

3.4 Conditions Not Met

If **none** of the above conditions are met, **no overage junior player permit will be granted** under any circumstances. Permits will not be issued for reasons related to team selection, competitive advantage, convenience, or player preference.

4. General Principles

When assessing applications, the SDCA will consider:

- The safety and wellbeing of the applying player
- The safety, fairness, and competition integrity for all participants
- The spirit of junior cricket and equal participation
- The need to ensure no competitive advantage is created

Overage permits exist **solely to support welfare and safety**, not to influence competitive outcomes.

5. Permit Conditions

If approved, an overage permit may include specific conditions such as:

- Restrictions on eligibility for finals
- Restrictions on fielding positions or bowling workloads (consistent with junior cricket guidelines)
- Time-limited approvals (e.g., one season only)
- Requirement for mid-season review
- **The SDCA Executive will monitor and review the player's progress throughout the season to ensure safety, wellbeing, and fairness are being maintained.**



SEYMOUR CLUB S.D.C.A.

- The player will be ineligible for all Association awards within the age group in which they are playing under an overage permit.

Permits may be revoked if conditions are breached or new information arises that changes the risk assessment.

6. Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted by a parent/guardian or club representative and must include:

- A completed SDCA Overage Player Permit Application Form
- A written explanation of the reason for the request
- Supporting documentation where relevant, such as:
 - Medical certificates or reports
 - Statements from allied health professionals
 - School or support organisation assessments
 - Club observations or welfare statements

Incomplete applications may be delayed or returned.

7. Assessment and Approval Process

1. **Submission:** Applications should be lodged before the start of the season unless exceptional circumstances apply.
2. **Review:** The SDCA Executive (or designated officials) will review each application on its merits.
3. **Consultation:** The SDCA may seek further information from parents/guardians, clubs, coaches, or professionals.
4. **Decision:** Applicants will receive written notification of the decision and any conditions.

8. Confidentiality

All personal, medical, or sensitive information supplied will be treated confidentially and used only for assessing the permit application.