



OTAGO WATER POLO CLUB

Policy: Age Grade Playing Up

Version: 1 Approved 22/04/2025

Reviewed: Otago Water Polo Committee

Date: March 2025

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to clearly outline the expectations for players and parents when a player is asked or invited to play in a higher age division. This policy also provides guidelines for player selection and team composition.

Policy Details

Age Grades: U12 to U18 (Boys and Girls)

Selection Criteria:

- Selection is by invitation only by the coaches above and current age group. The head coach will have the overall say.
- Player selection is based on the coaches' assessment of the player's capacity to be competitive at the higher level.

Training Commitment:

- A player invited to play up an age group must continue to play in their designated age group for the remainder of the year/season. Playing up an age grade is considered an additional commitment and privilege.

Fees:

- Players invited to play up must pay training fees for both their designated age group and partial fees of the higher age group. These fees can be paid in installments if needed.
- This includes the full training fees for the term for their age group and 50% of the fees from the age group above, plus any applicable tournament fees.

Age Grades: U14 to U16 or U16 to U18 (Boys and Girls)

Selection Criteria:

- Selection is by invitation only.
- Player selection is based on the coaches' assessment of the individual's ability to be competitive at the higher level.

Training Commitment:

- Players selected to play up are expected to attend all U16/U18 training sessions where possible.
- Priority is to be given to the "in-season" age group training sessions. A player invited to play in the above division must continue to play in their designated age group for the remainder of the year/season. Playing up an age grade is considered an additional commitment and privilege.

Fees (U14 to U16 or U16 to U18):

- Players invited to play up must pay training fees for both their designated age group and partial fees for the higher age group. These fees can be paid in instalments if needed.
- This includes the full training fees for the term for their age group and 50% of the age group above, plus any applicable tournament fees.

National Tournament Selection

- **U12 players** are eligible to play in U14 Division 2 only (*exceptions for exceptional talent as identified by coaches*). Maximum 4 players born 2013 with Dispensation required for 2014.
- **U14 players** are eligible to play in U16 Division 2 only (*exceptions for exceptional talent as identified by coaches*). Maximum 4 players born 2011 with Dispensation required for 2012.

If more than four non-age grade players are needed on a team, Otago Water Polo will seek dispensation from NZWP to enter an invitational team to ensure current age-grade players retain playing opportunities. Note on NZWP Rule 5: No more than four U12/U14 players are permitted on the same team for National Tournaments. This rule exists to encourage clubs to prioritize current age-grade players, fostering player retention and development within the club.