

Policy No 3

Request to change Age Group

Overview

This Policy aims to provide the Mount Barker District Athletics Centre (MBDAC) a set of strategies to

- Provide a process to enable athletes to request to be raised or lowered 1 or more age groups at centre meets.
- Provide a just and structured approach for requests to move age groups
- Ensure that requests are assessed on merits and every reasonable effort has been taken to consider the best outcome for all athletes, facilitators and the sport of Athletics.

Requests for athletes to transfer age groups that differ from the SA Little Athletics age group calculator can be made for many reasons, this policy has been developed to permit a formal application to the committee to review the request, assess the benefits and risks and make a final determination to allow to deny the request.

Once the decision has been made via a closed vote, this decision is final and cannot be disputed.

Default position

The current South Australian Little Athletics Age group calculator is the recognised default position of the Mt Barker District Athletics Centre for determining age groups for athletes in Little Athletics. This age grouping is applicable to meets at the Mt Barker centre and all other little athletics meetings in South Australia.

Formal requests to change age groups

A formal request to change age groups may be made in writing to the committee of Mt Barker District Little Athletics. Formal requests can be emailed to info@mbdlac.org.au, hand delivered to an official committee member at a little athletics meet or posted to PO Box 1408 Mt Barker SA 5251.

Formal requests must include all relevant information to assist with the assessment including the following;

- Parent/guardian full name and date of the request letter
- Athlete full name and current recognised age grouping
- Advice of what age group is requested for the athlete
- Detailed letter outlining the request and explanations to substantiate the request, please include any medical constraints (letters from certified practitioners)

Requests to change age groups only affect athletes at Mt Barker District Little Athletics meets, meets at other centres or SA Little Athletics meets will require the athlete to compete in the recognised age group as described in the "default position" description above unless approved by SA Little Athletics.

Assessment and determination

The formal request to change age groups must be tabled at a committee meeting, the meeting must consist of the required quorum as stated in the constitution.

All details of the meeting must be recorded in the meeting minutes.

The committee will endeavour to meet and determine an outcome within 10 calendar days of receipt of the request. If there is no monthly committee meeting scheduled within this time, a special general meeting to table and review the request.

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The committee may, if it believes more information is required, or additional substantiating documentation is required, request additional information. The determination period associated with the initial request of 10 days will be closed and once the supporting or additional information is received, a further determination period of 10 days will be applied.

The requester may request to attend the committee meeting and put forth their request, once the chair of the meeting is satisfied that all the information has been tabled, a closed vote will be taken in accordance with the constitution. (The requester or family member of the applicant is not able to vote on this decision).

On completion of the closed vote, the chairperson will count the votes and advise the outcome to be formally recorded in the meeting minutes.

Advice of outcome

The applicant will be advised in writing, the outcome of the meeting and final decision made by the committee. The details of this advice must include (where available).

- Name and details of applicant
- Paragraph outlining the initial request
- Paragraph outlining the considerations made by the committee
- The final decision outcome

Appeals

The decision made by the committee is final and cannot be disputed. However, if it is determined that there is information to substantiate the request in the form of a certified medical practitioner or professional statement that was not available at the time of assessment, this can be presented at the next committee meeting.

Disclaimer

The committee and its officials, will undertake the assessment to the best of their abilities based on the information at hand, it is recognised that the committee has no medical or professional background and the decisions made are not bias or discriminatory.

We believe in fair for all and providing an opportunity for every child to attend little athletics, develop skills, better themselves and have fun.