



MIXED GENDER POLICIES AND PROCEDURES 2018

3.11 Junior Player Eligibility for Rugby on Mixed Gender Teams

Risk Statement:

It is important that all people involved in a decision to permit a junior player to participate in a different gender category, which may also involve a different age category, fully understand that rugby is a contact sport and, like all contact sports, players are exposed to the risk of injury. This risk should not be heightened by allowing players to participate in competitions organized for a different gender and age without taking under careful consideration the differences in physical and mental development of boys and girls at their different stages of progression through Rugby Ontario's established age-grade categories.

Policy:

3.11.1 In keeping with the [World Rugby Mixed Gender Rugby Guideline](#), participation in mixed gender contact rugby teams will be permitted only until the end of the season in which the player turns 12 years of age unless there are exceptional circumstances as noted in 3.11.2.

3.11.2 A player over 12 but under 15 years of age may play on a mixed gender contact rugby team where no other option in continuing to play contact rugby exists, provided that the player complies with:

- (i) the policies in 3.10.2/3 governing participation in a higher age-grade competition (i.e. the two-year window) or a lower age-grade competition (i.e. the one-year window);
- (ii) the procedures set out below and receives approval from Rugby Ontario.

3.11.3 Each application must include a signed assessment by a qualified coach; a signed confirmation by the player's parent or legal guardian; and a signed medical clearance by a physician or sports medicine specialist.

3.11.4 Applicants must not participate in mixed gender matches until written notification of approval has been received.

3.11.5 An approved application will only be valid for the year in which the application is made.

3.11.6 There are no age restrictions on mixed gender teams in non-contact, recreational rugby.



Procedures:

3.11.7 The [Application for a Junior Player to Participate on a Mixed Gender Team Form](#) must be completed and submitted to the RO Office.

3.11.8 Applicants will receive an acknowledgement that their application is complete and when approval in the form of written notification will be provided.