



## **Tournament Player Eligibility Policy – Seniors**

**Updated 28 January 2022**

For a player to be eligible to compete in an official Australian Oztag Ltd (AO) Senior Representative Tournament they must meet the below requirements. Associations who play in-eligible players will receive tough penalties.

These penalties are outlined at the end of this policy.

### **Player requirements to be eligible to compete in an Australian Oztag Senior representative tournament.**

**Australian Championships:** Registered Oztag players are eligible from anywhere in Australia if they meet the below criteria.

**State Championships:** Players must be registered in the state of the tournament & meet the below criteria.

- Players must be a registered Oztag player for the Association / Region they are representing. To be eligible to play for that Association/ Region you must meet the following criteria:
  1. Have played 7 games in ONE TEAM per season in either of the proceeding \* two seasons prior to the tournament. *Eg A player would play in a team playing one game per week over a seven week period. A referee is eligible providing the referee has refereed at least one game a week over a seven week period during the season. Refereeing multiple games in a week does not count.*

*\* The Proceeding two seasons are any senior domestic competitions offered by the Association they are representing that has a minimum of 10 competition rounds plus semi-final & grand finals that is scheduled to be or has been completed by the first day of the tournament. A player playing in several divisions on several nights does not accumulate the 7 games this way. Only one team in one competition counts.*
  2. Players who have not played the seven games due to extenuating circumstances may apply in writing to the tournament director for permission to play. E.g. injury, returning from overseas, the domestic competition doesn't finish before the tournament is played etc. Players need to submit their request in writing. If a player is granted an exemption they may only qualify to represent an Association / Region at which they have previously played.
- An exception will be made for players who are still eligible (15 years +) to play both juniors & seniors, but don't have a senior domestic competition in their area. If this is the case they must be a registered player at the Junior Competition. In this instance a Junior Association would be permitted to enter a Senior Team in a Senior AO Representative Tournament.

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- **If there is a senior domestic competition offered by the Association / Region you are representing you must be a registered player in this senior competition to represent at a senior Tournament.**
- **If there is a senior competition offered in the area then a junior Association is not permitted to enter teams in a senior representative tournament.**
- If there is both a Senior Association and a Junior Association in the same area (LGA), whether a single person holds the licence to operate both or 2 different people hold the licence, players must be registered in the Senior competition to be eligible to compete in a Senior Representative tournament. Only being registered in the Junior competition does not qualify a player for a Senior Representative Tournament, regardless of the players age.

Age eligibility requirements for each division:

**NOTE: *Players can only play in a senior domestic competition when they turn 15.***

**Men's 20's / Women's 20's / Mixed 20's:** Players must still be 20 on the first day of the tournament.

**Men's / Women's / Mixed Open:** No age limit.

**Women's 30's:** Players must be 30 years or older by 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year of the tournament. Teams are entitled to TWO exceptions (must be aged 28 or 29 by the first day of the tournament). **ONLY applies to 2021**

**Women's 40's:** Players must be 40 years or older by 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year of the tournament. Teams are entitled to TWO exceptions (must be aged 38 or 39 by the first day of the tournament). **ONLY applies to 2021**

**Mixed Seniors:** Women must be 30 years or older by 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year of the tournament, men must be 35 years or older by 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year of the tournament.

**Men's 30's, 35's, 40's, 45's, 50's & 55's:** Players must be the age of the division they are playing in or older by 31<sup>st</sup> December the year of the tournament.

**Proof of age** – if a player's age is questioned a birth certificate, passport or other identification must be supplied upon request within seven days of the tournament. If it is proven after the conclusion of the tournament, a title if won will be stripped from the Association and no winner will be awarded for that division. Other penalties outlined in this policy will also apply.

### **Complaints**

Any Association / coach / player wishing to make an official complaint regarding the tournament are required to fill out the complaints form and submit it to the tournament director. Once a complaint has been received the Tournament Director will investigate the eligibility of the player. Associations who cannot provide evidence at the time of the complaint will have seven days after the tournament to produce the evidence to show the player was eligible to play.



## **PENALTIES**

- **First Offence:** Any team playing an ineligible player/s will be disqualified from the tournament. If it is proven after the conclusion of the tournament, a title if won will be stripped from the Association and the runners up be awarded that division. The coach, manager and player/s involved will be suspended from playing / coaching at any representative level for any association for a period of 12 months. This disqualification will include the same tournament if it falls outside the 12 months the following year. The association/region will also be fined \$500. **THE ONUS IS ON THE COACH & MANAGER TO ENSURE ALL PLAYERS ARE ELIGIBLE.**
- **Second Offence:** The coach, manager and player/s involved will be suspended from playing / coaching at any representative level for any association for a period of 12 months. The association will receive a \$1000.00 fine.
- **Third Offence:** If an association is caught on 3 separate occasions of playing ineligible players the association may be disqualified from entering teams in any division at any AO tournament for 12 months or a period set by the AO.

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