

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS DISCRIMINATION REGARDING GIRL PLAYERS

Girls In Mixed Teams Guidelines for Associations

Based on advice received from the Anti-Discrimination Board and Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and the Australian Sports Commission regarding discrimination of Girl Players we advise:

- 1/ Girls under the age of 12 years are permitted to play sport with boys, as they are considered to be equal based on strength, stamina and physique.
- 2/ No person should be excluded or discriminated in sport based on gender.
- 3/ Girls should be put where they have the best sporting opportunity and therefore girls can play in a mixed team after they have turned 12 years of age. (refer point 4)
- 4/ Any decision as to whether a girl 12 years and over is suited to play a sport in a particular team, should be based on the players suitability by strength, stamina and physique. This decision is ultimately the decision of the Association.
- 5/ If a person is excluded based on their gender, then it is important to be aware of the possibility of the case being taken to the discrimination board for a decision.

From the advice received, a girl has the right to play in a mixed team at any age and cannot be excluded just because of her gender.

Based on this information it is recommended that girls should initially be given the opportunity to play in a girl's or women's team. However, if a girl then indicates that she would prefer to play in a mixed team, it would then be a decision for the Association in consultation with Football NSW if required.

The decision to allow a female aged over 12 years to play in mixed competition should be based on her suitability for that team and such players should be assessed to determine whether they have the strength, stamina and physique to play in that team and against players of mixed gender in that age group.

For further information please contact Football NSW on 02 8814 4400
Information is also available at www.playbytherules.net.au