



Sport 'Out of Age' Procedure

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| Whole school | INTRANET |
| Statutory? | No |
| Reviewed | April 2021 |
| Next review | April 2023 |

SPORT – OUT OF AGE GROUP PLAYING PROCEDURE

Over age for year group

Where a pupil is over age for his or her academic year group, King's will try to ensure that the pupil is able to play sport within his/her year group. Where appropriate guidelines and criteria exist, King's will follow these for the particular National Governing Body concerned. Where age boundaries are however a prerequisite for particular competitions, the competition rules will be followed and the pupil will only be eligible to play in his or her specific age group.

Representing the School out of age group

Individual Sports:

Pupils performing individual events/sports may represent King's Ely against older performers if this is in the best interests of their sporting development and there is no increased risk to their welfare, either physically or from a pastoral perspective.

Team Sports:

It is the intention of King's Ely for pupils to play within their own year group, when representing the school.

However:

- When particular competitions allow for age groups to be combined, it is the responsibility of the Master/Mistress i/c that sport to oversee the selection of these teams, in liaison with the Director of Sport.
- For sports where the relative lack of numbers requires teams to be made up of pupils from a range of age groups, it is the responsibility of the Master/Mistress i/c that sport to ensure no pupil is at undue risk, either physically or in terms of their skill and/or social development, by playing with pupils older than themselves. The requirement for Year 10 or Year 11 pupils to play alongside 6th Formers must be sanctioned by the Director of Sport prior to a pupil's selection.
- For the major team games it is only in exceptional circumstances that individual pupils may play for an older age group team. The pupil in question must have demonstrated outstanding natural ability and be performing at a high level for their own age group. It must be felt that they would be able to contribute equally at that higher level and compete successfully, without disproportionately increasing the risk to their physical and/or emotional well-being. The repercussions of their loss to their age group team must also be considered. The selection of a pupil to play for an older age group team must therefore be in the interests of the team and the individual pupil concerned.
- For a pupil to play 'up' – the following procedure must be adhered to:
 - o If a member of staff wants to select a pupil out of age group – representation must be made to the Director of Sport in the first instance, explaining why that pupil should be selected for a higher age group team.
 - o The Director of Sport will liaise with the relevant HsM to ascertain the pastoral implications of that pupil playing out of age group.
 - o The parents of the pupil concerned will be consulted to ensure they are happy with this scenario, and they will be asked to provide written confirmation of this.

- If a player is displaced for the pupil playing up, the displaced player will be consulted out of courtesy.
- The Director of Sport, in consultation with the Head, will then make a decision as to whether that pupil will be allowed to play out of age group, taking into consideration, amongst all the others factors, whether any pupil has been displaced.

[NB – under **NO** circumstances may a pupil play ‘down’ a year group, without following appropriate National Governing Body rules – this must also be sanctioned by the Director of Sport.]