



ACS GENDER GUIDELINES FOR SPORT

If the ACS does not provide an opportunity for a student to play a sport in ACS competitions because it is not a sport programmed for their gender, a student can play in the team subject to the guidelines set out by the national/state body of the sport.

ACS sports that this may apply to are:

- Australian Football
- Cricket
- Netball

Using the Guidelines:

Individual schools will need to determine on a case by case merit and in accordance with ACS guidelines and guidelines of the national/state sports organisation governing the sport in question if the student is able to play in the sport/team. The current guidelines for AFL, Cricket and Netball are detailed below.

The school concerned must consider a duty of care in that the student must have adequate skill, development, strength, stamina and physique to compete safely in the competition. Once the school and the Head of Sport has determined the above considerations are met, all ACS members must be notified (via email) of the inclusion of the student in the team prior to the season commencing.

AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL:

The following is an extract from the AFL Victoria (AFLV) Regulations (Regulation 4 – Gender Regulation) in relation to the participation of males and females within Australian Football competitions conducted by AFLV and AFLV Members.

4. GENDER REGULATION

In accordance with the Equal Opportunity Act 1995 (Vic.) (“the Act”), people aged under 12 years of age cannot be excluded on the basis of sex or gender identity from participating in a competitive sporting activity.

Pursuant to section 66 (1) of the Act, people of one sex or gender aged 12 and over can be excluded from participating in competitive sporting activities in which the strength, stamina and physique of competitors is relevant.

AFL Victoria Members will exclude females who reach 14 years of age as at 1 January in the year of play from playing in any competition that is not a ‘female competition’.

Definition: Female competition

A female competition is a competition in which the majority of the players are female.

CRICKET:

If no female competition is available Cricket Victoria is supportive of girls playing in boys’ competitions relative to their skills and development.

NETBALL:

From Netball Australia's Equal Opportunity Fact Sheet
--

13 & Under

In this age group there are certain minimum requirements that must be included in the club/association by laws. Boys turning 12 in the calendar year of competition must be allowed to play. If you have boys in this age group you can cater for them in a number of ways:

- a) Designate a section of mixed or modified mixed and include a by law which states boys eligible for 13 & Under may play (i.e. allow 12 & 13 year old boys to participate). The by law must also state which modified mixed rules apply
- b) Designate the section as mixed or modified mixed and state which modified mixed rules apply (refer to section below) and include either of the following by laws:
 - i. Boys may play the season in which they turn 12, or
 - ii. Boys may play the year in which they turn 12
- c) Conduct a boys section only. This may be for all eligible 13 & Under boys

Modified Mixed

Mixed rules enable clubs or associations to select the best type of competition for their members, taking into account the number of boys wishing to play and the number of sections available. There are 3 types of modified mixed as well as the mixed rules usually used in adult competitions.

- a) Teams may have up to 1 boy on court at any one time.
- b) Teams may have up to 2 boys on court at any one time. If two (2) are on court at any one time they must play in separate thirds of the court (as indicated below).
- c) Teams may have up to 3 boys on court at any one time. If three (3) are on court at any one time they must play in separate thirds of the court. If two (2) or more boys are on the court at any one time they must play in separate thirds of the court, i.e. one as GS or GA, one as C, WA or WD, and one as GD or GK.
- d) Clubs or associations may also conduct mixed sections as per adult rules, i.e. teams must have 3 males and 4 females on the court at any one time. Males must play in separate thirds of the court (as outlined above).