

AIFF Age Verification Procedure for Age Group Competitions

The AIFF Sports Medical Committee meeting held on 29th November 2015 at JW Marriot Hotel, New Delhi has formulated the following age verification procedure for implementation in verifying the age of each player (Men & Women) participating in all age Group Competitions conducted by All India Football Federation.

Henceforth, all participating Member Associations are required to submit the following documents at the time of registration of players for the respective competitions.

1. Original Birth certificate issued by the Panchayat/Municipal Authorities/Registrar of Births. The date of registration of birth mentioned in the certificate should be within one year of the actual date of birth of the concerned player.

OR

2. School leaving Certificate (other than play school) from the first attended recognized school, that is clearly indicating the date of birth of the concerned player.

In cases where the player/Member Association is unable to produce any of the above documents at the time of registration, a medical age certificate issued by a registered and qualified Radiologist, preferably from the Government Hospital should be produced along with the latest X-Ray/MRI film as per the guidelines given below:

FOR 12 years

- 1) X-ray Elbow Joint (AP View) or MRI Elbow Joint
 - Fusion of the lateral epicondyle to humerus
- 2) X-ray Wrist (AP View) or MRI Wrist Joint
 - Appearance and development of pisiform bone

FOR 14 years

- 1) X-ray Elbow Joint (AP View) or MRI Elbow Joint
 - Fusion of medial epicondyle to humerus
- 2) X-ray Wrist joint (AP View) or MRI Wrist Joint
 - Epiphyseal union of metacarpal bones

FOR 17 years

1) X-ray Wrist and Hand (AP View) or MRI Wrist and Hand

- Epiphyseal union of the lower end of radius

2) X-ray Knee joint (AP View) or MRI Knee Joint

- Epiphyseal union of the distal ends of femur and upper ends of tibia

FOR 20 years

1) X-ray Pelvis (AP View) or MRI Pelvis

- Complete fusion of the iliac crest

Though, MRI is strongly sensitive for age group of 17 years only, it is listed for other age groups also mostly to minimize radiation exposure. It is as good as plain radiography for other age groups.

In case there is doubt by the Match Commissioner or by the Medical Committee appointed by AIFF on the age of a player by their physical appearance or when there is a valid written protest (as per the competition regulations) against any player by an opposing team, a radiological examination as per the above guidelines should be conducted to determine the age of the concerned player.

If dispute remains even after following the above procedures, the matter should be referred to a three Member Medical Committee, duly constituted by All India Football Federation, which shall consist of a Radiologist, a Dentist and a Physician.

The decision taken by the three members Committee will be final and binding.

The participating member associations are responsible for fielding only eligible players. Failure to do so will automatically lead to disciplinary actions as stipulated in the AIFF Regulations and Disciplinary Code.