Southeast Asia
Public Policy Institute

Cheat Sheet: Social Media Age Restrictions

November 2026

Where twelve governments stand on minimum ages for social media accounts.

Country	Age Threshold	Policy Approach	Latest Development / Next Step
RESTRICTIONS IN FORCE			
Australia Since 10 Dec 2025	16	Designated platforms must take reasonable steps to stop under-16s holding accounts.	Compliance monitored; civil penalties of up to A$109.2m.
Indonesia Since 28 Mar 2026	16	Under-16 accounts deactivated on designated "high-risk" platforms (Reg. No. 9/2026).	Around 9m under-16 accounts deactivated on TikTok (Oct 2026).
Malaysia Since 1 Jun 2026	16	Platforms with 8m+ users must verify ages, including via ID, and bar under-16s.	Age checks for existing users rolled out over six months.
Vietnam Since 25 Dec 2024	16	Under-16s cannot register alone; parents register and supervise accounts (Decree 147).	Draft amendment: under-13s could not post or comment.
LEGISLATION / REGULATION PROPOSED			
Philippines Passed both houses	13 House 18 Senate	House bill (HB 11566) bars under-13s; Senate bill (SB 2424) bars under-18s.	Bills must be reconciled before going to the President.
South Korea Seven bills pending	14 | 19	Account ban for under-14s; curbs on addictive design and algorithms for under-19s.	Regulator backs advancing the bills via public consultation.
China Draft, Sep 2026	16	Mandatory "minor mode" for under-16s across social, video, gaming and AI services.	Consultation closed 17 Oct 2026; no timeline announced.
Singapore Partly in force	13 | 18	Age assurance extended to social media; stranger DMs and autoplay curbed for 13–17s.	Amendments due early 2027; 18+ if safeguards fall short.
UK Announced Jun 2026	16 | 18	Under-16 ban on major platforms, messaging apps excluded; overnight curfew for 16–17s.	First rules by end-2026; expected to take effect spring 2027.
POLICY UNDER CONSIDERATION			
Japan Policy review	No minimum age set	Stronger age verification and safer platform settings, rather than a blanket ban.	Ministry policy conclusion targeted for end-2026.
POLICY OPTIONS BEING EXPLORED			
India Supreme Court ruling	No minimum age set	Graded, age-based safeguards explored; Supreme Court rejected blanket restrictions.	Court awaits the government's response on a national framework.
Thailand Under study	No minimum age set	Studying an under-16 law; child-protection mode on by default on new Apple phones.	Talks with other platforms continue.

Accounts barred below this age Parent-held account or restricted mode below this age Additional safeguards up to this age

Source: Southeast Asia Public Policy Institute, Protecting Children Online: Policy Approaches to Social Media Age Restrictions (November 2026).