

Age Dispensation for younger players moving up a grade and older players playing down a grade procedure.

Junior Players 10th Grade to 15th Grade Boys and Girls

Why do we have dispensation?

Players have dispensation primarily upon the premise that it will be better for their development as players to play in an age group higher than that which by age they are assigned to play.

Factors such as technical ability, physical maturation and psycho-social intelligence should be considered at the first step of the dispensation process.

We must also be mindful too of the need to have dispensation for players where there is a significant lack of depth prohibiting all players of a squad to be of the appropriate age for that competition.

This is particularly applicable in smaller clubs where player numbers often make it difficult to assemble teams made up of age appropriate players.

Criteria

The majority of players within any junior competitive graded squad (10th to 15th grade) must be of the appropriate age for that competition. Appropriate age is the age of the grade, for example: 10th grade means player turning 10 years of age in that playing year. If dispensation is required there will be a maximum number of players born in the following calendar year that will be permitted to have dispensation to the appropriate age group.

Born in the following calendar year means in the above 10th grade example the player would be turning 9 years of age in that playing year.

The number of players who may have dispensation per team by grade are.

10th Grade – 3

11th Grade – 4

12th Grade – 4

13th Grade – 5

14th Grade – 5

15th Grade – 5

Players who wish to have dispensation above the one year age band will be vetted by Mainland Football before dispensation is granted.

Youth Players 17th Grade to 19th Grade and Girls 12th, 14th and 16th Grade

The majority of players registered to play in that squad must be born in the two year bracket of that competition. Example: 17th grade majority of players to be made up with players who are turning either 16 or 17 year old in that playing year, the balance if required may be made up with 15 year old players.

Age dispensation for Youth players wanting to play in Senior football

As per Mainland Football Regulation 1 (Christchurch Competitions)

8. Youth players under the age of 15 (Girls) and 16 (Boys) require dispensation to take part in senior matches and must have written permission from their parent or guardian. And the appropriate age dispensation form handed to the operations manager or the DMG.

Dispensation will be looked at by Mainland Football's Technical Department on the following criteria.

- Consultation with the clubs Development officer
- Technical maturity to compete in senior competitions
- Physical maturity to compete in senior competitions

Age dispensation for players wishing to play below their appropriate age group

As per the coaches hand book

1. Players shall be graded according to age between 1st January and 31st December in the playing year. This means that: 7th Grade is for players younger or turning 7 during year, 8th Grade is for players younger or turning 8 during year. Exceptions for three players, per grade, per Club may be made if their birth date is after 1st October in the previous year. Any team that has more than two dispensations per team will play for zero point's exception being rural teams.

The above regulation for players playing down an age, is only applicable for Div 3 or lower 11th Grade to 15th Grade