

MEMO 42 - 23

To: Queensland Clubs
From: Football Queensland
Subject: Outside of Eligible Age Dispensation for 2024 Season
Date: November 8, 2023

Dear Clubs

Football Queensland has confirmed key information and processes regarding Outside of Eligible Age Dispensation for the 2024 season.

Clubs are reminded that based on the long-term development goals in place, Football Queensland's established position is that all players should participate within their own age group.

Any request made to Football Queensland to play outside of a player's eligible age group should be made only if in the best interests of the individual player considering their technical, physical, psychological and social development and supported by submissions detailing comprehensive evidence by the club's technical directors and officials.

With these factors in mind, please note that no dispensation requests will be able to be submitted and will not be considered by FQ until January 17, 2024, allowing for further maturation to occur before the beginning of the season.

No approvals granted for the 2023 season will be carried over into the 2024 season.

The outcome of any requests submitted to FQ should in no way impact the ability for a player to be accommodated in a team at their club. All offers being made to players must be **UNCONDITIONAL**, with no promises able to be made to players regarding positions in teams outside of their eligible age group.

Noting that borrowing limits and regulations will apply similarly to previous seasons, which will be outlined in the Rules of Competition, the following processes will pertain to all cases of playing outside of eligible age group:

Permanent Dispensation Requests

- All cases of playing below eligible age group will require the *Permanent Dispensation Request Form* to be submitted, with a determination provided by FQ after consultation between the FQ Competitions and FQ Technical departments.
- This opportunity only applies to junior players and is not available for any boys turning 19 years of age to play in U18s, or girls turning 18 years of age to play in U17s. Any applications submitted for these age groups, or for any request to play two or more years below a player's eligible age, will not be considered.

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- Any players wishing to participate in age groups two or more years above their eligible age must also complete the *Permanent Dispensation Request Form* for a determination from FQ. The only exception to this rule is in the combined FQ Academy Girls (SEQ) age groups, where players from the higher year bracket of their current double age group who wish to play up either permanently or as a borrowed payer must complete the *Ad Hoc Dispensation Form*.
- All cases of girls wishing to play permanently in the FQ Academy Boys competitions (SEQ) must also complete the *Permanent Dispensation Request Form* for a determination from FQ.

For all Permanent Dispensation Requests pertaining to players in the FQ Academy Leagues (SEQ), the following windows will apply. Any requests submitted outside of these windows will not be considered.

- **Window 1:** Form open for submissions from January 17-31, with determinations to be provided to the club by FQ no later than February 6, 2024.
- **Window 2:** Form open for submissions from March 4-10, with determinations to be provided to the club by FQ no later than March 15, 2024.

Ad Hoc Dispensation Requests

- All players who wish to play in one age group above their eligible age in the FQ Academy Leagues (SEQ), or from the higher year of their combined girls age group into the next available combined girls age group, must complete the *Ad Hoc Dispensation Request* prior to doing so. This form must only be completed on **one occasion per player** and applies to playing up permanently or when being borrowed within the restrictions outlined in the Rules of Competition.
- All cases of boys turning 16 years of age in 2024, or girls turning 15 years of age in 2024 who wish to participate in senior competitions, in line with any restrictions outlined in the Rules of Competition, will also require an *Ad Hoc Dispensation Request Form* to be completed.
- All community level players may participate in one age group above their eligible age without any forms being completed, however this must only be done in the best interests of the player and within any borrowing restrictions outlined in the Rules of Competition.
- The *Ad Hoc Dispensation Request Form* will also be utilised for any requests regarding players being borrowed for higher divisions/age groups for Round 1 matches, and subsequently requesting a particular grading status. Borrowing requests throughout the season that fall outside of what is permitted in the Rules of Competition and requests for permanent regrading of players will also require the submission of this form. A written response and determination from FQ will be provided for all requests of this nature, which must be delivered prior to these players participating in any fixtures.

All forms will be made available to clubs from January 17, 2024 with further details regarding permanent dispensation and borrowing processes to be confirmed in the Rules of Competition.

For any further information, please contact the FQ Competitions team on competitions@footballqueensland.com.au.

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