



Age Dispensation Policy

VICTORIAN RUGBY UNION. INC
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1. Purpose and Scope

- 1.1. This document outlines the Victorian Rugby Union's (VRU) policy on dispensation for a player to participate outside of their Two Year Window (i.e. Play in a competition below their own age), in accordance with the ARU Two Year Window policy.
- 1.2. This policy is applicable to all registered junior players, in competition Rugby (U11-U18) under the VRU and to any clubs affiliated with the VRU.
- 1.3. Junior Dispensations will only be granted to a player with a genuine need and to facilitate clubs team entry.

2. Dispensation

- 2.1. A dispensation to play down shall only be considered for a player to play down one age group (1 year only).
- 2.2. Dispensation shall only be provided for the competition season that approval has been made. Dispensation shall be required to be applied for before the commencement of the competition season or one week following the registration of a new player.
- 2.3. Players who receive dispensation will not be permitted to trial for representative teams.
- 2.4. Dispensation under this policy shall **only** be considered on the following basis:
 - a) The player has a legitimate physical and/or intellectual impairment; and
 - b) The physical and/or intellectual impairment has impacted on their physical and/or intellectual development relative to players their own age; and
 - c) Sufficient documentation supporting the player's application is provided.
- 2.5. Dispensation applications will only be reviewed under extenuating circumstances.
- 2.6. Dispensation shall **not** be granted for the following:
 - a) A player is new to the game
 - b) A player wants to play with friends/siblings in a lower age group
 - c) The club does not have a team in that age group
- 2.7. Any match where a player that plays in an age group below their nominal age group without having prior approval from the VRU will be automatically determined a Forfeit by that player's team, which shall then be subject to the terms of forfeits under the VRU Competition Rules and Regulations.

3. Application Process

- 3.1. The Age Dispensation Policy is to be initially administered by the club. However the final approval regarding the application of this policy will be provided by the VRU.
- 3.2. A parent/guardian makes the request to the player's club, seeking Age Dispensation for their child to play in one age grade below their nominal age group.
- 3.3. The club provides the parent/guardian with a "Request for Dispensation" form to complete.
- 3.4. The club will make a decision to either deny or support the player's application for Age Dispensation based on the requirements of this policy.
- 3.5. If the club denies the request for Age Dispensation the club shall advise the parent/guardian of the decision and reason (s).
- 3.6. If the club supports the request for Age Dispensation the "Request for Dispensation" form shall be forwarded to janelle.duncan@melbournerebels.com.au and chris.evans@melbuornerebels.com.au
- 3.7. Any application to the VRU must be accompanied by the following:
 - a) A Level 2 Coach Assessment; while the player is participating in a match, in the age group that they are eligible to play in. The Level 2 Club coach must be approved by the VRU prior to the assessment taking place. No player will be provided a Dispensation without participating in their correct age group
 - b) \$75 Dispensation fee
- 3.8. The VRU will make a decision to either deny the application or to continue with the application for dispensation.
- 3.9. If the VRU decides to continue with the dispensation, an independent assessor will be appointed by the VRU to view the player in the age group they are eligible for.
- 3.10. The assessor in conjunction with the VRU will determine if the players needs to receive a Dispensation to play down.

4. Outcome

- 4.1. The outcome of the Dispensation request will be communicated to the club.

- 4.2. A player is not permitted to play in an age group below their eligible age group until a decision is made by the VRU.
- 4.3. If an application under this policy is approved for Age Dispensation, the VRU will advise the club in writing of the approval.
- 4.4. A letter of approval will be provided by the VRU and a copy must be provided upon sighting the Players ID card before the commencement of any match that player takes part in.