



Dispensation Policy 2026/27

1. Overview

Sixers Cricket League (SCL) seeks to maximise the opportunities for junior players to participate in cricket. Clubs may request an *age dispensation* for players to compete in a competition that lies outside their defined Age Group Range (see below) and requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

All requests must be submitted to the SCL Competition Coordinator via a Club President/Secretary/Junior Coordinator/Registrar for approval. Requests received by any other means will not be considered. Requests for seasonal *age dispensation* must be submitted seven days prior to the commencement of the season.

Specific guidelines for occasional substitute players are provided below in Section 5 - Substitutes.

2. Age Group Ranges

Ages are as of 31 August 2026. The table below indicates the date of birth range for each age group for the upcoming 2026/27 season:

Birth Range	2026/27 Age Group
Players born 1 Sept 2016 to 31 Aug 2017	U10
Players born 1 Sept 2015 to 31 Aug 2016	U11
Players born 1 Sept 2014 to 31 Aug 2015	U12
Players born 1 Sept 2013 to 31 Aug 2014	U13
Players born 1 Sept 2012 to 31 Aug 2013	U14
Players born 1 Sept 2009 to 31 Aug 2012	U17's

3. Playing in a Higher Age Group

Players may play in age groups higher than their date of birth age group range indicates or a higher division within the same age group, without the need for a request for age dispensation for the regular season. The decision to place a player in a higher age group is at the discretion of the Club. The Club should consider the ability level of the player, the quality of the competition, the player's maturity level and whether it is safe for the player to participate in the higher age group.



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4. Playing in a Lower Age Group

For a player to play in a lower age group, an age dispensation request must be made by the Club to the SCL Competition Coordinator and the request must be approved in writing before a player may take the field.

When assessing an application, the player's previous performances and gradings will be considered. Applications for dispensation should provide the following details:

- Player Name
- Club
- Date of Birth
- Requested Age Group
- Reason for Request (detailed)

Dispensations will not be granted without an acceptable reason. Requests for age dispensation must be submitted to the SCL Competition Coordinator via email.

5. Substitutes

Where a team for an upcoming match cannot field the minimum number of players for the grade as stipulated in the *Playing Conditions*, playing substitutes can be sourced from a lower division in the same age group or from the age group below. Clubs are responsible for evaluating a player's ability and ensuring it is safe for a player to play up a division or age group.

Only registered players can be used as substitutes.

Note: Clubs must notify the SCL Competition Coordinator of substitutes for administrative purposes only.

6. Penalties

Refer to Playing Conditions Law 16.16 Use of an illegible player.

7. Reviewing Dispensations

The SCL will conduct a single review of all approved dispensations after four rounds of the season.



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8. Replacement Players for Teams Impacted by Division 2 Representative Commitments

Where a team is unable to field eligible players required under SCL Playing Conditions as a direct result of one or more player's being unavailable due to Division 2 representative cricket commitments, the Competition Committee can approve the use of replacement player to enable the fixture to proceed and avoid a forfeit.

Prior to the relevant finals period, Cricket NSW and club representatives will meet to identify those division 2 rep players and assess the potential replacement players. Local club knowledge will be utilised to ensure consistency and fairness in all replacements. Where agreement cannot be reached, Cricket NSW will have the final determination on any dispensation granted.

Replacement players may only be used with the prior approval of the Competition Committee. The Competition Committee may impose restrictions on the participation of any replacement player, including but not limited to restrictions on batting position, batting opportunities, bowling overs, or any other measures deemed necessary to maintain the integrity and competitive balance of the match. Approval of a replacement player is not automatic. Each application will be considered on its merits, taking into account the circumstances of the affected team, the availability of eligible players within the club, and the best interests of the competition.

The purpose of this guideline is to ensure teams impacted by Division 2 representative commitments can continue to participate in scheduled fixtures while preserving the integrity, fairness, and spirit of the SCL competition. The Competition Committee's decision regarding the approval, eligibility, and conditions of any replacement player will be final.