

Age Dispensation Policy 2023/24

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 2023. The table below indicates the date of birth range for each age group for the upcoming 2023/24 season:

Birth Range	2023/24 Age Group
Players born 1 Sept 2013 to 31 Aug 2016	U10
Players born 1 Sept 2012 to 31 Aug 2013	U11
Players born 1 Sept 2011 to 31 Aug 2012	U12
Players born 1 Sept 2010 to 31 Aug 2011	U13
Players born 1 Sept 2009 to 31 Aug 2010	U14
Players born 1 Sept 2008 to 31 Aug 2009	U15
Players born 1 Sept 2007 to 31 Aug 2008	U16
Players born 1 Sept 2006 to 31 Aug 2005	U17
Players born after 1 Sept 2014	U9 Girls
Players born 1 Sept 2012 to 31 Aug 2014	U11 Girls
Players born 1 Sept 2010 to 31 Aug 2012	U13 Girls
Players born 1 Sept 2008 to 31 Aug 2010	U15 Girls
Players born 1 Sept 2006 to 31 Aug 2008	U17 Girls

3. Playing in a Higher Age Group

Players may play in age groups higher than their date of birth range indicates, without the need for a request for *age dispensation*. 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.

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)

Clubs must be as thorough as possible when providing a request for *age dispensation*. Dispensations will not be granted without a reasonable 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 full season dispensations after four rounds of the season. The SCL will not conduct a review of approved dispensations for split season competitions.



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A decision to approve or reject the dispensation for future rounds will be made for all players and advertised via the 'Dispensation List.'

8. Eligibility for Competition Awards

Any player provided dispensation to play in a lower age group are ineligible for individual competition awards.

9. Dispensation List - Public

Any approved requests for *age dispensations* shall be listed on the SCL Website for public viewing. This list will be updated weekly or as required.

Below is a template of the 'Dispensation List' to be published on the SCL website:

Players Name	Club	Date of Birth (Age Group)	Approved Age Group/Competition	Review Date	Review Status	Notes
John Smith	Sydney Coastal CC	10/01/ 2010 (Under 14)	Under 13	10/11/2023	Rejected	Player must play in a competition within their DOB Range (Under 14s or higher).
Jayne Smith	Eastern Suburbs CC	10/01/ 2012 (Under 12)	Under 11	10/11/2023	Approved	Player may continue to play in the approved age group competition (Under 11 Girls).
Joe Smith	Randwick Juniors CC	10/03/ 2011 (Under 13) Auto Approved, within 6 months DOB.	Under 12	10/11/2023	Approved	Player may continue to play in the approved age group competition (Under 12).