



# TCL Dispensation Policy

## 1. Overview

Thunder Cricket League (TCL) seeks to maximise the opportunities for junior players to participate in cricket. Clubs may request a dispensation for a player or players to compete in a competition that lies outside their defined Age Group Range (see below) and/or skill level. These requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

All requests must be submitted to the TCL Competition Coordinator via a delegated Club executive 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.

## 2. Age Group Ranges

Ages are calculated as at 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 2010 to 31 Aug 2011 | U15/16's          |



### 3. Playing in a Higher Age Group and Higher Division

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.

### 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 TCL Competition Coordinator and the request must be approved in writing before a player may take the field.

Female players may play ONE age group below their age group without any dispensation approval. Clubs may seek dispensation for a player to play in an age group which is more than ONE age group lower.

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 TCL Competition Coordinator via email.

### 5. Finals Dispensations

Any player receiving a dispensation for the finals series will have a restriction placed on them for the entirety of the finals. These restrictions will be determined by the CNSW Competition Committee and be communicated with all clubs in the TCL.



#### 5. Penalties

Breaches of the dispensation policy may result in a 'Forfeit – Loss' for the offending team. The non-offending team will receive points for a 'Forfeit – Win.'

Coaches, managers and Club Administrators may submit a protest via submission to the competition coordinator. The matter would be reviewed and outcome determined by the CNSW Competition Committee.

#### 6. Reviewing Dispensations

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

A decision to approve or reject the dispensation for future rounds will be made for all players.