

TCL Age Dispensation

1. Overview

Thunder Cricket League (TCL) 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 TCL 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 2025. The table below indicates the date of birth range for each age group for the upcoming 2025/26 season:

Birth Range	2025/26 Age Group
Players born 1 Sept 2015 to 31 Aug 2016	U10
Players born 1 Sept 2014 to 31 Aug 2015	U11
Players born 1 Sept 2013 to 31 Aug 2014	U12
Players born 1 Sept 2012 to 31 Aug 2013	U13
Players born 1 Sept 2011 to 31 Aug 2012	U14
Players born 1 Sept 2009 to 31 Aug 2010	U15/16's



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.

Note: Clubs must notify TCL Competition Coordinator of any players playing in a higher age group for administrative purposes only.

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. 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 TCL 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 TCL Competition Coordinator of substitutes for administrative purposes only.

6. Penalties

Playing a player outside their age group without approval from the TCL Competition Coordinator is in breach of this policy.

Breaches of the age dispensation policy will 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 this link (form to be built and also housed on TCL Website).

7. Reviewing Dispensations

The TCL will conduct a single review of all approved full season dispensations after four rounds of the season. The TCL will not conduct a review of approved dispensations for split season competitions.

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 TCL Website for public viewing. This list will be updated weekly or as required.