

## MEMO 02 - 23

**To:** Advanced Clubs  
**From:** Football Queensland  
**Subject:** FQ Academy Leagues Player Dispensation Process  
**Date:** January 16, 2023

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Dear Clubs

Player development is a long term and non-linear process, consequently Football Queensland's baseline policy position is that all players are required to compete within their own age group.

Dispensation requests to play outside of a player's age group should be only made if it has been substantiated that it is in the athlete's best interest, and that each clubs' technical directors have formed a qualified position that playing outside of age satisfies the player's needs considering their technical, physical, social and psychological development.

Please note that male players will be able to play up one single age group if permanent dispensation is approved. Female players (from the higher year bracket of their current double age group only) are also able to play up to the next double age group following permanent dispensation approval.

Players will be permanently locked in the newly approved age group should they take the field at any time in a single game for more than 40% of the matches of any competition (i.e. after playing up the 12<sup>th</sup> time within a 27 round season) regardless of their match minutes.

FQ Academy clubs that have identified players who will be required to play down in a lower age group or play up permanently in the higher age group are required to submit a Permanent Dispensation Request. This process is designed for FQ Academy players between the age of 12 and 16 years (both boys and girls) to play up, and 13 to 16 years old girls and 13 to 17 years old boys to play down.

In these specific circumstances, please submit the below form for any season long or permanent player dispensation requests within FQ Academy Leagues 1, 2, 3 and 4:

[2023 FQ Academy Leagues - Player Dispensation Form](#)

### First Window

- 16-29 January: Permanent Player Dispensation submission window (via form)
- 3 February: Outcome of Permanent Player Dispensation communicated or further details requested
- 8 February: Additional details submission (if requested)

- 10 February: Outcome of the final decision communicated regarding all remaining Permanent Player Dispensation

#### **Second Window**

- 6-12 March: Permanent Player Dispensation submission window (via form)
- 17 March: Outcome of Permanent Player Dispensation communicated or further details requested
- 22 March: Additional details submission (if requested)
- 24 March: Outcome of the final decision communicated regarding all remaining Permanent Player Dispensation

Players may be granted 'permanent' or 'temporary' dispensation by FQ with a specific review date. Declined player dispensations may be reconsidered mid-season. Players who were granted 'permanent' playing down or playing up dispensation will be tied to the age group in order to maintain competition integrity.

It is the club's responsibility to provide comprehensive details, data and evidence to support their request. The decision is made by Football Queensland's technical and competition departments through a mediated process. All communications must be delivered and prepared by the Club Technical Director to maintain professional integrity. It is also the club's responsibility to communicate the outcome to their coaches and the player's parents.

Given the flexibility that both the temporary playing up opportunities and the detailed permanent dispensation process offers to clubs to manage their players and teams, submitting week-to-week dispensations are now redundant and will no longer form part of FQ's process moving forward. Any exceptional circumstances request remains the sole remit of the FQ Competitions Department.

End.