

MEMO 57 - 25

To: Advanced Clubs
From: Football Queensland
Subject: 2026 Advanced Leagues Dispensation
Date: December 9, 2025

Dear Clubs

Football Queensland has confirmed key information and processes regarding Outside of Eligible Age Dispensation for the Advanced Leagues, including FQ Academy Leagues, for the 2026 season.

Clubs are reminded that based on the long-term development goals in place, Football Queensland's established position is that all players should participate within their own age group.

Any request made to Football Queensland to play outside of a player's eligible age group should be made only if it is in the best interests of the individual player considering their technical, physical and psychological development and supported by submissions detailing comprehensive evidence by the club's technical directors and officials.

With these factors in mind, please note that no dispensation requests will be able to be submitted or considered by FQ until 5 January 2026, allowing for further maturation to occur before the beginning of the season.

Approvals granted for the 2025 season will NOT be carried over into the 2026 season. The outcome of any requests submitted to FQ should in no way impact the ability for a player to be accommodated in a team at their club. All offers being made to players must be **UNCONDITIONAL**, with no promises able to be made to players regarding positions in teams outside of their eligible age group.

In order to assist clubs with managing administration requirements, there is no longer a requirement to submit a *Dispensation Request Form* for a player being borrowed one year above their eligible age, noting that borrowing limits and regulations will apply similarly to previous seasons, which are outlined in the [2026 Advanced Rules of Competition](#). Clubs are required to familiarise themselves with these Regulations, specifically Sections 3.1 & 3.2.

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The following processes will pertain to the below cases of playing outside of eligible age group:

Dispensation Requests

- All cases of playing below eligible age group will require the *Dispensation Request Form* to be submitted, with a determination provided by Football Queensland after consultation between the FQ Technical and Competitions departments. Written approval must be granted by Football Queensland before any player is eligible to participate below their eligible age group.
- This opportunity only applies to junior players and is not available for any boys turning 19 years of age to play in U18s, except on strict medical grounds as outlined in the Rules of Competition. Any applications submitted for this age group, or any request to play two or more years below a player's eligible age, will not be considered.
- Any players wishing to participate in age groups two or more years above their eligible age must also complete the *Dispensation Request Form* for a determination from Football Queensland. The only exception to this rule is in the combined FQ Academy League Girls age groups, where players from the higher year bracket of their current double age group who wish to play up may do so in line with the borrowing restrictions outlined in the Regulations.
- For all cases of girls wishing to play in the FQ Academy League Boys competitions, clubs must submit the *Dispensation Request Form* and obtain written approval from Football Queensland before the player is eligible to participate.
- For all cases of boys turning 16 years of age in 2026, or girls turning 15 years of age in 2026 who wish to participate in senior competitions (**NPL - FQPL 2 Men & Women, including Cup competitions**), in line with any restrictions outlined in the 2026 Advanced Rules of Competition, clubs must submit a *Dispensation Request Form* and obtain written approval from Football Queensland before the player is eligible to participate.

For all Dispensation Requests pertaining to players in the FQ Academy Leagues, the following window will apply:

- **Window 1:** Form open for submissions from 6-16 January 2026, with determinations to be provided to clubs by FQ no later than 23 January 2026.

Exceptional Circumstance Dispensation Requests

- Clubs may also complete the *Dispensation Request Form* outside of the above prescribed window for any Exceptional Circumstance Dispensation Requests. These requests must be submitted no later than **5pm on the Thursday before the match**. A written response and determination from Football Queensland will be provided for all requests of this nature, which must be delivered prior to these players participating in any fixtures.
- The *Dispensation Request Form* will also be utilised for any requests regarding players being borrowed for higher divisions/age groups for Round 1 matches, and subsequently requesting a particular grading status.

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All forms will be made available to clubs from 5 January 2026, with further details regarding permanent dispensation and the borrowing process outlined in the [2026 Advanced Rules of Competition](#).

For any further information, please contact the FQ Competitions team on competitions@footballqueensland.com.au or your Club Development Ambassador.

End.