

# DISPENSATION PROCESS

**Bendigo Amateur Soccer League**

**Season 2025**

Extract from 2024 Rules of Competition



# BENDIGO AMATEUR SOCCER LEAGUE

## EXTRACT – BENDIGO AMATEUR SOCCER LEAGUE - 2024

### RULES OF COMPETITION

#### PLAYING UP OUTSIDE RULES OF COMPETITION

#### SENIOR COMPETITIONS

##### 7.2 Senior Player Eligibility

7.2.1 To be eligible to play in a Senior (Men or Women's) competition:

**(a) Playing Youth:**

A player can play youth from the age of 14 if they have turned 14 before the 1st of January in the year of that season commencing. If they turn 14 during the season and want to apply for dispensation to play, after they have turned 14, they can do so by providing BASL the relevant documentation.

Note: No dispensation will be considered for players who turn 14 after the Registration Closing date each year as advised by Football Victoria each season.

**(b) Playing Senior Men's:**

A male player can play senior men from the age of 15, if they have turned 15 before the 1st of January in the year of that season commencing. If they turn 15 during the season and want to apply for dispensation to play, after they have turned 15, they can do so by providing BASL the relevant documentation.

Note: No dispensation will be considered for players who turn 15 after the Registration Closing date each year as advised by Football Victoria each season.

**(c) Playing Senior Women's:**

A female player can play senior women from the age of 14 if they have turned 14 before the 1st of January in the year of that season commencing. If they turn 14 during the season and want to apply for dispensation to play, after they have turned 14, they can do so by providing BASL the relevant documentation.

Note: No dispensation will be considered for players who turn 14 after the Registration Closing date each year as advised by Football Victoria each season.

#### Examples:

1. *John is 14 on the 31st of December (born 21 May, turning 15) and wants to play in the Senior Men's Team. He is unable to play Senior Men's until after he turns 15 on 21 May. His club will need to lodge a dispensation request for him to play on or after the 21 May. Cut-off will be Close of Business (COB) on the Wednesday prior to the fixture. As he is already 14 he can however play in the clubs Youth fixtures without need for a dispensation.*
2. *Brian has already turned 15 when the season has started (born on 12 February) and wants to play in the senior men's team. There is still a requirement to lodge a dispensation request as Brian was not 15 prior to 1 January.*



# BENDIGO AMATEUR SOCCER LEAGUE

3. *Michelle is 13 when the season starts (born 21 November, turning 14) and wants to play in the Senior Women's team). As she does not turn 14 until after the registration cut-off date has passed, she is unable to apply to play under a dispensation agreement.*
4. *Felicity joins the club on 12 July. When joining she has just turned 14. As she was not 14 before 1<sup>st</sup> of January and the registration window has not closed, her club still does need to apply for a dispensation agreement to play in the team.*

7.2.2 An application made under Regulation 7.2.1 must submit a dispensation agreement with BASL prior to any player taking the field of play. The agreement must be lodged at [competitions@basl.com.au](mailto:competitions@basl.com.au) no later than the close of business (COB) the Wednesday prior to the fixture.

The agreement will cover:

- Previous experience playing outdoor football, 11v11.
- While the players are still physically developing that we recommend that they are monitored for growth spurts and their load managed to suit.
- Does the club have an age group for this player to play in with their own age?
- Reasons for this player playing in an older age group.
- Signed by the club (Representative), Player, Parent/Guardian.
- Needs submission to BASL Prior to taking the field of play. Cut-off will be the Wednesday prior to a fixture.
- The agreement would include a statement that they understand that the player will be playing in a senior competition and will be in and around a senior/adult environment.

7.2.3 An application made under Regulation 7.2.1 will be considered by BASL. BASL has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.

7.2.4. Any Team which fields an ineligible player may be subject to penalty under the GDT.

7.2.5. Teams playing any player under a dispensation granted by BASL must produce the letter of dispensation on match day upon request by the Match Official. Failing to produce a letter of dispensation upon request by the Match Official may result in a charge of Misconduct under the GDT.

7.2.6. If there is a dispute about a player(s) eligibility on the day of a Competition Fixture, the Match Official must note the details of that dispute and send those details to BASL together with an incident report. No Club or Match Official may prevent a player from taking the field in a Competition Fixture on suspicion of ineligibility.

7.2.7 Any Club or Player who in the opinion of BASL is in breach of any items under 7.2 will be ineligible and subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the GDT.



## JUNIOR COMPETITIONS

### 8.2 Junior Player Eligibility

8.2.1 To be eligible to in a junior age group higher the following applies:

#### Playing Junior Competitions:

For Junior Divisions (Under 6 to Under 16 (including Under 18 Saturday)) a player may only play up, in line with the table below, unless an application to BASL for exemption from Regulation 8.2.1 is made by the player's Club on behalf of the player and is accepted by BASL.

The determination is based on the players age as of 31 December in the previous season. Note if a specific age group is not offered by BASL or fielded by the players club, they cannot play in the next available higher age group.

Player Age (As determined on 31/12 in the previous year)	Maximum Age Group Possible
6	Under 10
7	Under 11
8	Under 12
9	Under 13
10	Under 14
11	Under 15
12	Under 16
13	Under 17
14	Under 18 (Sat)

#### Example:

1. John is 10 on 31 December (in the previous season) making him a Under 11 (playing in the Under 12's in the coming season. He is eligible to play up to Under 15 competitions for the competition season. As no Under 15 competition is being conducted, he remains eligible only up to Under 14.

8.2.2 An application made under Regulation 8.2.1 must submit a dispensation agreement with BASL prior to any player taking the field of play. The agreement must be lodged at [competitions@basl.com.au](mailto:competitions@basl.com.au) no later than the close of business (COB) the Wednesday prior to the fixture.

The agreement will cover:

- Previous experience playing outdoor football, 11v11.



# BENDIGO AMATEUR SOCCER LEAGUE

- While the players are still physically developing that we recommend that they are monitored for growth spurts and their load managed to suit.
- Does the club have an age group for this player to play in with their own age?
- Reasons for this player playing in an older age group.
- Signed by the club (Representative), Player, Parent/Guardian.
- Needs submission to BASL Prior to taking the field of play. Cut-off will be the Thursday prior to a fixture.
- The agreement would include a statement that they understand that the player will be playing in a senior competition and will be in and around a senior/adult environment.

8.2.3 An application made under Regulation 8.2.1 will be considered by BASL. BASL has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.

8.2.4. Any Team which fields an ineligible player may be subject to penalty under the GDT.

8.2.5. Teams playing any player under a dispensation granted by BASL must produce the letter of dispensation on match day upon request by the Match Official. Failing to produce a letter of dispensation upon request by the Match Official may result in a charge of Misconduct under the GDT.

8.2.6. If there is a dispute about a player(s) eligibility on the day of a Competition Fixture, the Match Official must note the details of that dispute and send those details to BASL together with an incident report. No Club or Match Official may prevent a player from taking the field in a Competition Fixture on suspicion of ineligibility.

8.2.7. A Player will not be prevented from playing above his or her age group except where other rules with the 2025 ROC apply and would be broken.

8.2.8. A Player who is participating above his or her age group will not be prevented from returning to play in his or her rightful age group unless that Player is suspended and except where other rules apply (e.g., Cup Competitions or Grading).

8.2.9 All requests for dispensation must follow the dispensation request guidelines and be submitted by the players club. All requests received other than from a club will not be considered.

8.2.10 Players who are listed on the Match Record will be deemed to have participated in the fixture regardless of whether they take the field or not, unless otherwise noted by the Match Official.

8.2.11 Any Club or Player who in the opinion of BASL is in breach of any items under 8.2 will be ineligible and subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the GDT.



## PLAYING DOWN OUTSIDE RULES OF COMPETITION

### 2.1 Dispensation – Playing Down

2.1.1 A Player **may** in BASL's sole discretion be permitted to play down one age group in the following circumstances:

- (a) if the Player has not previously been registered with FFA or FV. An application made under this provision is not automatically approved (needs to be the exception) and consideration of physical size, previous sports played etc. needs to be provided by clubs applying. Consideration as to whether a club already has an age-appropriate team will also be included in any final decision:  
or
- (b) if the Player has previously been registered with FFA or FV and the Player's Club provides satisfactory evidence that the Player is not capable of competing at the higher level including but not limited to the following:
  - (i) Club Official to submit a formal request in writing either on Club letterhead or from an official club email account outlining the request
  - (ii) Supporting evidence in writing or email from the player's parent(s)/guardian(s)
  - (iii) Medical Certificate outlining the player's condition and reason(s) for needing to play in a younger age group

2.1.2 All requests for dispensation must follow the dispensation request guidelines and be submitted by the players club. All requests received other than from a club will not be considered.

2.1.3 To ensure that no team has numerous players playing day on dispensation, a cap of 2 players per team applies to this rule.