

Memorandum

To: Calgary Rugby Union, Edmonton Rugby Union
CC: Rugby Alberta
From: Alberta Junior Rugby Association
Date: 4/25/2016
Re: Dispensation Process for Moving Players Down an Age Grade

This is an informational memorandum for the Alberta sub-unions to explain the criteria and process for dispensating a player into a lower age grade competition than the player is eligible to play in.
AJRA Player Dispensation Down Guidelines:

A player's age grade is determined by their age at 12:01 am on January 1st at the beginning of each Season and that age grade applies for the whole season.

Players may only play contact rugby with other players of their age grade unless they have received dispensation from AJRA to play with players in a lower age grade. **Any player receiving approved dispensation down may not play in their actual age grade for the remainder of the year or the club will be fined \$500.** E.G. A U19 player cannot dispense to U18 and still play senior or U21 at any time in the year.

Note: Particular attention is drawn to the need to ensure that player safety is not compromised when applying any of these dispensations since players of different age grades and development will be playing together and the duty of care owed to players means it may not always be appropriate to allow a player to take advantage of a dispensation.

Age dispensation for players to play in a grade for which they are not age eligible is considered a privilege (not an automatic right) and requires application to, and approval by, the Alberta Junior Rugby Association.

Eligibility Requirements for Basic Dispensation down:

A player is not eligible for dispensation down if they have been a provincial representative player (Rugby Alberta) in either of the two previous seasons.

A player that is two years older than a respective age grade is not eligible for basic dispensation but through special dispensation if extenuating circumstances are present. For example, the player's safety may be compromised due to a developmental disability (physical or behavioural). Players that fall into this category will require an in-person evaluation by a representative of the AJRA before special dispensation is granted.

In order to be eligible for dispensation down a player must have a calculated AGE/WEIGHT/HEIGHT score equal to or below for the age grade the player wishes to play in:

AGE/WEIGHT/HEIGHT Scores:

Age Grade	Boys	Girls
U11	706	706
U13	801	795
U15	891	845
U17	957	897
U18	982	917

Calculating a Player's AGE/WEIGHT/HEIGHT Score:

$$\left[\left\{ AGE + \left(\frac{12 - MONTH\#}{12} \right) \right\} \times 20 \right] + (HEIGHT \times 6) + WEIGHT = SCORE$$

- Age is the age in years as of January 1st.
- Month is the birth month (i.e. April = 4)
- Weight is in pounds to the nearest full pound.
- Height is the height in inches to the nearest inch

For example, if player is 176 lbs, 69" tall, 16 years and 3 months old as of January 1st of the current year, their score will be calculated as follows:

$$\left[\left\{ 16 + \left(\frac{12 - 3}{12} \right) \right\} \times 20 \right] + (69 \times 6) + 176 = 925$$

$$[\{ 16 + 0.75 \} \times 20] + (69 \times 6) + 176 = 925$$

$$[16.75 \times 20] + (69 \times 6) + 176 = 925$$

$$[335] + (414) + 176 = 925$$

Players who exceeds the AGE/WEIGHT/HEIGHT score for the age grade may apply for special dispensation. Players that fall into this category will require an in-person evaluation by a representative of the AJRA before special dispensation is granted. Special dispensation will only be given when the situation clearly requires it.

Special Dispensation Down:

There are a number of factors considered in special dispensation but the most common will be a player who is technically an age grade older than their peers but in the same school grade. In these instances the player may either add 20 points to the Dispensation Score Maximum or waive the representative restriction of playing for Alberta in the last two years. Other consideration will also be assessed including players who have physical or mental restriction however the one field safety will be prioritized first.

All players wishing to play in another age grade game must, not less than 7 days prior to the commencement of play, have submitted a completed Age Grade Dispensation Form to the AJRA prior to participating in the age grade league the player wishes to play in.

The form must be signed by:

- Parent or Guardian
- Certified NCCP Coach
- Club President or Jr Director

All dispensated players are to be identified to the opposition coach/manager and noted on the team's game sheet prior to the commencement of play.

Dispensations which are granted are under continuous review by the AJRA, official and opposition coaches. Any dispensation received with false or misleading information will result in a fine of \$500. Teams are required to inform the AJRA if the player's Dispensation Score exceeds the maximum at any time during the season (this will not necessarily result in the player being ineligible to play in their preferred league).

The AJRA reserves the right to revoke any player's dispensation.

Basic and Special Dispensation forms can be found on the Rugby Alberta website. The AJRA requires one week to process a dispensation form. Any club that allows a player to participate without dispensation will be fined \$500.

Sincerely,

Kenton Poelzer – AJRA President