

Player Dispensation Update & Timeline – 2017 Season

Application Process & Review:

For the 2017 season onwards, it will be the responsibility of the Strong Quality Growth (SQG) Committee to review all applications for over/underage player dispensation. The SQG Committee is comprised of the following representatives:

Fiona Cardwell - Chair (SWF)
Shirley Martin – Scottish FA
Corrie Campbell – Scottish FA
Karen McConnell – Scottish FA
Fiona Dainty – Regional Representative (West/South West)
Davy Reynolds - Regional Representative (Central/South East)
Andrew McCafferty - Regional Representative (North/East)

Any appeals will be reviewed by Scottish Women's Football (SWF) Board and all appeals must be accompanied by an appeal fee of £25 which is payable to SWF. This change takes into account feedback from clubs who felt that previously they were appealing to the same body who had made the original decision.

Please note that all clubs must fully complete the current dispensation application form which can be found on the SWF website downloads section:

Application to play up 2 age groups - <http://scotwomensfootball.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Application-to-play-up-two-age-groups.pdf>

Application to register overage player – <http://scotwomensfootball.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Player-Dispensation-Application.doc>

Application Criteria:

A player should be at National/Performance level for application to play up 2 age-groups to be considered.

As per youth review (2015), the following criteria apply to applications to register an over-age player:

- *Players must be no more than one year older than the eligible age to compete within that age group and can only play for that team for the duration of the season (i.e 14 year old given dispensation to play U13's cannot move between U13 & U15 league).*
- *The application must clearly outline appropriate rationale for player to remain at younger age group based on one or both of the following criteria:*
 - *physical development principles/medical reasons outlining the players inability to compete at the higher age group and illustrating that it is in the best interest of the player's development*
 - *where a full pathway (U13-U15-U17) isn't in place at a club, applications will be considered based on the rural location of club meaning there is no alternative club for the player to register for at the correct age group within a 20 mile radius*
- *All applications must be endorsed by the local Regional Club Development Officer and a full list of over-age players will be circulated to all regions and clubs prior to the start of the season*
- *Clubs who are granted dispensation to register an over-age player(s) may only have one over-age player on the pitch at any given time at U13 level and a maximum of two at U15 (North – U16) level. No over-age players will be sanctioned at Under 17 level*

In exceptional circumstances, the SWF Board may consider applications for players more than one year older.

Timeline:

The following timeline for over/underage dispensation applications will be strictly adhered to for the 2017 season:

27th January: Deadline for clubs to submit applications to register over/under-age players for 2017 season

Wc 13th February: Clubs advised of outcome of dispensation applications

Wc 13th February: Clubs will have one week following receipt of decision to appeal to SWF Board (£25 fee)

Wc 20th February: Outcome of appeals communicated to clubs

26th June – 9th July: Mid-season window for clubs to submit applications to register over/under-age players for 2017 season. Communicate reminder to clubs (SQG)

Wc 24th July: Clubs advised of outcome of dispensation applications (SQG)

Wc 24th July: Clubs will have one week following receipt of decision to appeal to SWF Board (£25 fee)

Wc 31st July: Outcome of appeals communicated to clubs