

# Scottish Women's Football Youth Player Dispensation Guidelines

## **Application Process:**

It is 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:

*Alan Martin – Chair (SWF)*  
*Shirley Martin – Scottish FA*  
*Corrie Campbell – Scottish FA*  
*Joanne Murphy – Scottish FA*  
*Fiona Dainty – Regional Representative (West/South West)*  
*Debbie Horn – Regional Representative (Central/South East)*  
*Alun Harries – Regional Representative (North/East)*

Any appeals will be reviewed by the Scottish Women's Football (SWF) Board. All appeals must be submitted on the standard appeal form and accompanied by an appeal fee of £25 which is payable to SWF by cheque of BACs transfer.

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

### **Application to play up 2 age groups –**

<https://scotwomensfootball.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Application-to-play-up-two-age-groups.doc>

### **Application to register overage player –**

<https://scotwomensfootball.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Application-to-play-overage-player.doc>

## **Application Criteria – Application to Play Up Two Age-Groups:**

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

## **Application Criteria – Application to Register an Over-age Player:**

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

- Players who are granted dispensation to register as an over-age player(s) must be no more than one year older than the eligible age to compete within that age group and can only play for the team they have received dispensation to represent for the duration of the season (i.e. 14 year old given dispensation to play U13's cannot move between U13 & U15 league)
- Clubs who are granted dispensation to register an over-age player(s) must ensure that their team(s) have a maximum of one over-age player on the pitch at any given time at U13 level and a maximum of two at U15 level. No over-age players will be sanctioned at Under 17 level
- The application must clearly outline appropriate rationale for player to remain at younger age group based on one or both of the following criteria:
  - o Physical development principles/medical reasons outlining the player's inability to compete at the higher age group and illustrating that it is in the best interest of the player's development. Please note that it is required that any applications submitted based on a 'medical/physical development' reason should provide independent medical or expert evidence of condition outlined in application

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- 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. Please note that for the purpose of calculating the '20 mile radius', the distance from the player's home address to the registered venue of the club will be calculated

Additional criteria incorporated for the 2020 season are as follows:

- SWF can give dispensation to goalkeepers within the Youth National Performance League (one year too old for an identified age group) to play at the age level immediately below their age for a period of one season at the Under 15 age-group. The application must clearly illustrate the rationale for the application and outline why this is in the best interests of the player's development. For the avoidance of doubt, no such dispensations will be granted at the Under 19 age-group.
- Please note that if dispensation is granted then this applies to the 2020 season only and any future requests will require a new application to be submitted prior to the new season
- A full list of over-age players who have been granted dispensation to play as an over-age player will be circulated to all league administrators prior to the start of the season
- In exceptional circumstances, the SWF Board may consider applications for players more than one year older.

### Timeline – 2020:

The following timeline for over/underage dispensation applications will be strictly adhered to for the 2020 season unless a unique case is presented by the applicant to evidence that a prior application was not possible:

**24<sup>th</sup> January:** Deadline for clubs to submit applications to register over/under-age players for 2020 season

**Wc 3<sup>rd</sup> February:** SQG Meeting to review dispensation applications.

**7<sup>th</sup> February:** Clubs advised of outcome of dispensation applications  
*Clubs will have one week following receipt of decision to appeal to SWF Board (£25 fee)*

**Wc 17<sup>th</sup> February:** SWF to review dispensation appeals & Outcome of appeals communicated to clubs

**26<sup>th</sup> June – 10<sup>th</sup> July:** Mid-season window for clubs to submit applications to register over/under-age players for 2020 season. Communicate reminder to clubs (SQG)

**Wc 13<sup>th</sup> July:** SQG Meeting

**Wc 20<sup>th</sup> July:** Clubs advised of outcome of dispensation applications (SQG)  
*Clubs will have one week following receipt of decision to appeal to SWF Board (£25 fee)*

**Wc 27<sup>th</sup> July:** Outcome of appeals communicated to clubs