

LGFA Age Dispensation Policy

As an integral element of our approach to inclusiveness and diversity age dispensation is applicable to age groups up to and including under 12 only.

All units of the LGFA are required to consider any applications for age dispensation taking into account the following whenever an application for dispensation is received:

- Our desire to promote an inclusive environment for all players.
- no one is gaining an unfair advantage
- the safety of all players is of paramount importance
- increasing safety risks unduly for other players is avoided

Age dispensations shall be approved on an annual basis. A dispensation may include conditions.

What is the Dispensation Policy?

The policy enables players, with a disability, to participate in one age group lower, other than the age group prescribed by their date of birth and in line with LGFA Official Guide, Rule 265.

Age dispensation policy applies to age groups up to and including under 12.

Who is covered by the policy?

Any player who has a disability

What is a disability?

A person has a disability if:

- she has a physical or mental impairment, and
- the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

How can you apply for Age Dispensation?

For non-competitive Go-Games age groups, a player can apply directly to their club executive for permission to play at a lower age group.

For competitive U-12 Go-Games, any club receiving a request for dispensation for a player with a disability to play in one age group lower, outside of her prescribed age group should notify the LGFA National Children's Officer immediately via nationalchildrensofficer@lgfa.ie

The parent/carer will then be contacted by the National Children's Officer and will be required to submit detailed written evidence from a medical practitioner on the required form which must (as a minimum):

- identify the player's disability and the reasons age dispensation should be considered
- identify any particular characteristics of the disability which are relevant for consideration
- explain how the particular characteristics of the disability would place the player at a substantial disadvantage compared to her non-disabled peers if she were required to play in her prescribed age group
- explain how playing in an age group other than her prescribed age group would neutralise or reduce the disadvantage caused by the player's disability
- identify any increased or reduced risk to the player and/or her peers by allowing the child to play outside her prescribed age group
- explain why allowing the player to play outside her prescribed age group will not endanger the health and safety of the player or any other person

This evidence must clearly address these points. Any application which does not provide clear evidence in relation to these points will be returned.

The parent/carer will also be required to consent to the sharing of this information as required to process the request and, if successful, to ensure that the relevant units affected are aware of the dispensation and the reason for it e.g. club, County Board, etc

Once all the relevant evidence has been submitted and reviewed, the National Children's Officer will then notify the parent/carer of the player and the relevant units of the outcome of the assessment which confirm in writing either the granting or refusal of the application and may include conditions.

If the Club or County Board receive any queries regarding the granting of a particular dispensation they should direct them to the National Children's Officer.