

Te Atatu Football Dispensation Policy



Rationale

Te Atatu Football club acknowledges the important role it has to support players who are playing outside their age group, with approved dispensation.

Factors to consider prior to dispensation request:

- Is there a more appropriate team / level for the player to compete without dispensation?
- Is the player beyond the level of play available at their current age level ?
- Does the player have the required skill set for the level of play they would be competing in with dispensation?
- Has the level of play been discussed with the players parents?
- Are the parents on board with supporting the player at this level of play?
- Will the managing and coaching staff of the considered level of play align with the players needs?
- Will the considered level of play benefit the players progression

Dispensation Application process:

- All dispensation requests are to be reviewed by the Committee and/or executive committee and are required to be submitted to the federation by the secretary.
- Dispensation forms are required to be completed by the player's parents.
- A discussion is to be completed with the parents regarding the request for dispensation to ensure they understand the player will be playing outside the suggested level of play and to ensure the player will be supported by both the parents and the club.
- Dispensation applications to be submitted to NRF with supporting information on how we will support the player playing outside age level for review.

Club support for players with dispensation

The club is committed to ensuring players playing outside their suggested level are sufficiently supported and have put the following procedures in place:

- Junior delegate and women's or men's delegate (dependent on what whether the player is competing in womens or mens league) to meet with the player on a regular basis and complete a check in.
- Suggested check in time frame is every 2 weeks for the first 2 check ins following the first game played at dispensation level then checks in can be moved to monthly if there are no concerns.
- The purpose of the checks in is to complete the following:
 - A general well-being check in with the player.
 - De-brief on recent game
 - Discuss if the player is enjoying the level or play at both training and games.
 - Ensure the player is feeling supported by all involved e.g Coaching staff, team members
 - If the player has any feedback or needs that they are not comfortable discussing direct with the coaching staff / players etc.

- Any questions or concerns from the player
- If the player is feeling sufficiently supported and is enjoying their football, we will continue to check in monthly while they are competing with dispensation.
- If concerns are raised from the player (e.g they are not enjoying the level of play, they are feeling overwhelmed, they are not getting along with a senior player in the group) then these concerns will need to be raised to the committee and addressed in the appropriate manner. If the concerns cannot be resolved (e.g the player is not enjoying the level of play) then the dispensation will need to be reviewed and other options sought for the player.
- Any concerns raised will also need to be fed back to the parents, where applicable, to ensure they are always up to date with the situation.

Other considerations for players with dispensation:

- Junior players playing at a senior level need to have playing minutes taken into account

Review

This policy will be closely monitored by the Te Atatu Football Club Committee. The Te Atatu Football Club Committee will take responsibility for reviewing and updating this policy as needed in consultation with New Zealand Football and Northern Football Federation Policies.