

# Junior & Youth - Community Football Dispensations 2020



## Background

After feedback from clubs during the 2019 season, and following discussions with NZ Football, Aktive and Sport NZ, Northern Region Football has amended its approach to the application of dispensations in junior and youth community competitions for 2020.

These changes ensure closer alignment to the Keep Up with The Play campaign involving five major sporting codes in New Zealand, including NZ Football. Football currently loses half of its members in the transition from Junior to Youth play and then half again at the transition from Youth to Senior football.

The KUWTP campaign aims to raise awareness of the need to make changes to the delivery system of junior and youth sport in order provide a better experience for our participants – something which will ultimately see players stay in the game longer. As we draw closer to the start of the 2020 season you will begin to see marketing and media elements of the campaign begin.

In line with the above, the changes have been made in order to attempt to address the following:

- To encourage appropriate participation to keep players involved in the sport
- Player safety
- Finding the right challenge point for the individual
- Avoid players being pushed beyond their challenge point which impacts youth drop-off
- Reduce unnecessary administrative burden to club personnel

## When are dispensations not required in 2020?

Dispensations will not be required for any junior player to:

- Play up one age group within the junior and youth community football frameworks (U9-U12, U-13 Non NRFL Youth, Metro, Conference and Premier Girls competitions)
- Boys' players wishing to play down one age group if born from October onwards
- Junior and Youth Girls players can play down one age group (regardless of date of birth)

Examples:

- U9s can play in U10 competitions without dispensation
- U10 boys player can play in U11 competitions without dispensation or in U-9s if born October-December

## When are dispensations required in 2020?

- Any player wishing to play up or down by more than one age group will require dispensation from the Federation
- Any boys' player born September or earlier wishing to play down one age group

## How do I apply for dispensation where needed?

By completing the Junior & Youth Community Competition Dispensation form attached and/or downloaded from NRF website. Once completed send all dispensation requests to your relevant NRF Area Manager:

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| - Far North: James Coleman   | - Central/West: Liam Hunt       |
| - Northland: Dave Alabaster  | - Central/East: Hannah Kraakman |
| - Upper Harbour: Shane Verma | - South: Kieran Nevey           |
| - Waitakere: Steve Trim      |                                 |

Please note the following important elements:

- Dispensation requests for entire teams will not be granted
- U12s cannot play up into community youth competitions
- U8s cannot play up into the U9 Junior Framework
- It is important that all Directors of Football, Coaches, and Parents should be aware and cautious that any player no matter how long they have been playing up will not make the transition to competition youth football any earlier than their appropriate playing age at this time unless due to the exceptional circumstances outlined below.

## Exceptional Circumstances

Clubs can apply for dispensations only if there is a genuine lack of players to make a team and/or a player or a team will not be fielded as a result

## NRF Competition Manager contacts

If you have any questions regarding any element of the above, contact the relevant Competitions Manager below.

- Junior Competitions – Mark Atkins E: [mark.atkins@aucklandfootball.org.nz](mailto:mark.atkins@aucklandfootball.org.nz) M: 0211950857
- Youth Competitions – Stephanie Brown E: [stephanie@aucklandfootball.org.nz](mailto:stephanie@aucklandfootball.org.nz) M: 0272680161