



## **Central North Junior Rugby Union** **Dispensation Process Policy**

Player qualification for each age group, U6 through U18, both male and female, will be bound by conditions outlined in the ARU Age Guidelines.

The ARU Age Grade Two Year Window Policy allows for players outside of their competition age group to make an application to play up or down. This will only be possible under extreme, extenuating circumstances. ARU age groups enforced by CNJRU for the 2024 competitions are as follows:

- U6s 2018,2019 born.
- U8s 2016/2017 born.
- U10s 2014/2015 born.
- U12s 2012/2013 born.
- U14s 2010/2011 born.
- U16s 2008/2009 born.
- U18s 2006/2007 born.

***THERE IS A POOR UNDERSTANDING OF AGE GRADE DISPENSATION*** (*usually referred to as “playing up” or “playing down”*).

**DISPENSATION IS FOR SAFETY ONLY.**

***IT IS NOT A TOOL TO BE USED TO BOLSTER TEAM NUMBERS. NOR IS IT FOR PLAYERS WHO IN THE OPINION OF INDIVIDUALS ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO, “PLAY UP WITH THOSE OLDER KIDS” OR “HE/SHE IS ONLY NEW TO RUGBY SO WE’LL PLAY THEM DOWN AN AGE GROUP.***

For any person requesting a dispensation, the first step is to send an application for assessment to the CNJRU Dispensation Officer for consideration. This will then be discussed by the appointed CNJRU assessing coaches who will discuss the applicant and make the decision as to the applicant's suitability for the proposed dispensation.

If successful, an appointed CNJRU independent Level 2 assessing coach will be appointed for further assessment, and the player/club/school will be notified of this assessment and its outcome. This is not an assessor from your Club or Community, this person is independent. **IT IS A CNJRU RULE THAT ONLY DISPENSATIONS FROM CNJRU APPOINTED ASSESSING COACHES WILL BE ACCEPTED. DISPENSATION FORMS FROM OUTSIDE COACHES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**Each assessment will require a fee of \$50 BEFORE the assessment is conducted.** (This money will be invested entirely into the Referee Academy.)

**It is likely those who are to be assessed will be required to travel to the assessing coach.**

This decision will be not made lightly, and feedback will be provided to the applicant as to how the final decision was formed, and any other conditions which CNJRU and the assessing coach(es) may attach to the dispensation **IF** successful.

**Players can only play in one (1) team. Players cannot move about between age groups (e.g., dispensed “up” from 16s to 18s and play in either team. Once “up” they stay up).**

**Please note CNJRU will not accept assessments before completing the first step of notification nor game day requests. 2 week's notice must be given for any consideration to be made at step one prior to the scheduled game.**

**SIZE FOR AGE ASSESMENTS - (There is NO CHARGE for these assessments.)**

Voluntary assessment notices are encouraged to be assessed despite not being compulsory.

Mandatory assessment notices must be directed immediately to the CNJRU Dispensation Officer. Players, parents/guardians, coaches, managers, clubs and anyone else who breach or choose to disregard rules regarding age requirements, playing in the correct age group competition and dispensations will be subject to sanctions which may include Code of Conduct report, suspension, removal of competition points, ineligibility for representative teams and any other measures the CNJRU sees fit.

**MANDATORY ASSESMENTS –** For any player that triggers a mandatory assessment, it is the responsibility of the club to verify & confirm the height & weight of the data input into Rugby Xplorer.

A dispensation process may take up to 2 weeks so it is strongly advised that clubs are pro-active in monitoring any assessments required within their registrations...

If a player requires an assessment (mandatory or requested) they are not eligible to play in Gala Days or Youth Comp Games until it has been completed by the Assessment Committee. This is the responsibility of the Club to uphold this for insurance purposes & ensure all coaches & parents are aware of the rules in regards to any assessments.

**ALL DISPENSATION APPLICATIONS MUST BE LODGED ONLINE. NO PAPER FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION USE THE FOLLOWING LINK:**

**<https://help.xplorer.rugby/s/article/Age-Grade-dispensation>**

For further details contact:

**CNJRU DISPENSATION OFFICER – MICK COFFEY – [vicepresident2.cnjru@gmail.com](mailto:vicepresident2.cnjru@gmail.com)**