



MEMO TO : Secretaries - all Premier clubs

COPY TO : Womens Competition Sub-Committee

MEMO FROM : Sean Mantle – NSW Premier Cricket Manager

DATE : 1 August 2025

SUBJECT : PLAYING CONDITION 1.1.1 and 2.1.1 (QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS) (b)(ii)-
POLICY FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

The above Playing Condition allows for Womens Premier clubs to be able to apply to the Sydney Cricket Association, for approval for the participation of otherwise ineligible players due to the minimum age requirements for Premier Cricket competitions.

2. OBJECTIVE

This Playing Condition's major objective is to recognise any reasonable circumstances arising from which an ineligible player due to their age may participate in a Premier Cricket competition match in a specific grade, while also-

- a) maintaining the credibility and integrity of the competition, as a whole
- b) ensuring the development and safety of all players is not compromised

3. DISPENSATION CRITERIA

The Premier Cricket Manager will only consider an age dispensation application if it meets all of the following criteria:

3.1 **Age of Player**

An application from a club requesting an age dispensation will only be considered if the player is no more than 12 months younger than the minimum age requirements for that grade as defined in the competition playing conditions.

3.2 **Local Players (Brewer Shield Only)**

An application from a club requesting an age dispensation for Brewer Shield will only be considered if the player is classified as a local player. A player who is classified as a local player to a Premier Cricket club that does not currently compete in Women's Premier Cricket may be considered for approval.

Local players are classified as:

- *A player who is enrolled in a school within the boundaries of that clubs local Association*
- *A player who resides within the boundaries of that clubs local Association*
- *A player who plays for a junior club within the boundaries of that clubs local Association*

3.3 Previous Experience – Brewer Shield only

An application from a club requesting an age dispensation for Brewer Shield will only be considered if the player has previous playing experience playing Peden Shield in the NSW Youth Championships. Country players will need to have playing experience in the U15 Country Youth Championships to be considered.

3.4 Previous Experience – First & Second Grade only

An application from a club requesting an age dispensation for First or Second Grade will only be considered if the player has previously played a minimum of five (5) matches in the lower adjacent grade to the grade seeking approval for. For the purposes of this clause, Second Grade is the adjacent grade to First Grade and Brewer Shield/Third Grade are the adjacent grades to Second Grade.

Any application that does not meet all of the above criteria for its respective grade will not be considered for approval.

4. PROCESS - GENERAL

Clubs are requested to note as follows-

- a) clubs must submit such applications with required detail to the Premier Cricket Manager, no later than midnight on the Wednesday preceding such matches;
- b) the Premier Cricket Manager will consider such applications by clubs only upon provision of all necessary documentation, as set out on the appropriate application form;
- c) the Premier Cricket Manager may request that a club provide additional documentation;
- d) the Premier Cricket Manager will consider players' performances and previous experience during previous seasons;
- e) the Premier Cricket Manager may consult with Cricket NSW Female Talent Manager and other appropriate Coaching and Talent Specialists regarding a player's ability and capacity to participate in open age competitions;
- f) the Premier Cricket Manager may consult with the SCA's Womens Competitions Sub-Committee for any relevant information or guidance;
- g) the Premier Cricket Manager will advise clubs of the approval or non-approval of applications, as soon as practical following such determinations, in order to provide clubs whose applications are unsuccessful, with sufficient time to make alternative arrangements.

5. APPROVAL - GENERAL PRINCIPLES

In general, the Premier Cricket Manager will only approve the participation of an ineligible player if it first satisfies itself that-

- a) a player's age and experience will allow them to safely participate in proposed competitions;
or
- b) a player's development will not be negatively affected by competing in proposed grade; or
- c) a player has the ability to perform their dominant skill in proposed grade otherwise, they should remain in a competition where opportunities are available

5.1 Age of Player

In general, the Premier Cricket Manager is more likely to approve dispensation to ineligible older players who are aged just under the minimum requirement than to younger ineligible players without such experience.

5.2 Player Performance

The Premier Cricket Manager is more likely to approve dispensation to ineligible players who have demonstrated consistent performances (runs, wickets, catches) in lower grades and/or underage representative squads/academies. It is noted that for players ineligible for Brewer Shield that Peden Shield is to be considered the lower grade. Dispensation is more likely to be approved to ineligible Brewer Shield players who have demonstrated consistent performances in Peden Shield.

5.3 Previous Experience

In general, the Premier Cricket Manager is more likely to approve dispensation to ineligible players who have previous experience in the proposed grade. This may relate to players who participated in and were eligible for the proposed grade prior to changes to the minimum age requirements and/or a player who had received dispensation for the proposed grade in previous seasons.

5.4 Player Development

The Premier Cricket Manager is more likely to approve dispensation to ineligible players who will have the ability to perform their dominant skill in proposed grade. If clubs are unable to ensure this the player should remain in a competition where opportunities are available. In general, Clubs requesting dispensation for players to solely assist in fielding 11 players, “making up the numbers”, will not be viewed favourably.

5.5 Conditional Approval

The Premier Cricket Manager may conditionally approve an ineligible player’s participation-

- a) only in a specific grade;
- b) only for a specific round - for example, when it considers that a club’s shortage of eligible players is limited to that round;
- c) only instead of another, albeit eligible, player - for example, if a club proposes that a player is required to fulfil a specialist position within the team i.e. wicketkeeper;
- d) or as deemed fit

Should you have any queries or require any further information, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

SEAN MANTLE

NSW Premier Cricket Manager