



CRICKET NSW

WOMEN'S METRO COMPETITION AGE DISPENSATION POLICY

Season 2026/27 (Updated on 21st October 2026)

1. PURPOSE

This policy sets out how clubs ask for approval to list a player who does not meet the age requirements of the Women's Metropolitan Competition. It gives clubs a clear process and a clear deadline, and keeps the competition safe and fair.

Competition Management may grant dispensations under Playing Conditions 1.1.3(c) and 1.1.4(f), at its absolute discretion.

2. AGE RULES AT A GLANCE

A player's age is fixed on the season cut-off date: midnight on 31 August for Spring and 31 December for Summer. A player who turns 16 after that date stays an Underage Player for the rest of the season.

Age on the cut-off date	Status
16 or older	Eligible
15	Eligible as an Underage Player, up to four per match
Under 15	Not eligible without a dispensation

3. WHEN A DISPENSATION IS NEEDED

A club must apply for a dispensation before listing:

- any player under 15 on the cut-off date, or
- more than four Underage Players in a match.

4. DEADLINE

Applications must be submitted by **midnight on the Wednesday before the Sunday round**. This applies to every round, including finals.

- Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Clubs must not list a player until the dispensation has been approved.

5. HOW TO APPLY

Clubs apply using the online application form [Women's Metro Age Dispensation Application 2026/27](#). The form asks for:

- club and team, and the contact person
- the player's full name and date of birth
- confirmation the player is registered with the club in PlayHQ
- where the player has played, including competitions, clubs and grades
- whether the player has been selected in Premier Cricket

- the round or rounds the dispensation is for, and how many Underage Players the team already has
- confirmation that the parent or guardian has given written consent, and their full name

6. WHAT COMPETITION MANAGEMENT CONSIDERS

The competition exists to get more women playing cricket, so dispensations are considered on the player's circumstances rather than a club's need for numbers. Competition Management looks at whether:

- there is no other suitable competition available to the player
- the player has not been selected in Premier Cricket
- the club would otherwise be unable to field a team
- the player's age, experience and skill mean they can take part safely
- the parent or guardian has given consent

Dispensations for players under 15 are considered only in exceptional circumstances, and are not routine.

7. DECISIONS

Competition Management will tell the club its decision by **5:00pm on the Friday before the round**.

- It may ask for more information, or approve with conditions, such as for a particular round or player.
- An approval applies only to the player and round or rounds stated.
- Decisions are made at Competition Management's absolute discretion.
- **Approval is conditional on the club emailing the opposition club for each round within 24 hours of receiving the approval**, naming the player and her date of birth and copying Competition Management (zara.shipp@cricketnsw.com.au). The player must not be listed until that email has been sent.

8. LISTING A PLAYER WITHOUT APPROVAL

A team that lists more than four Underage Players is deducted one ladder point (Playing Condition 1.1.4(c)). A team that uses an ineligible player may also lose the match and any points gained, and may face further action (Playing Condition 1.16.8).

9. START DATE AND EXISTING APPROVALS

This policy applies from Round 2 (Sunday 25 October 2026). Approvals already given stay in place for the period they were given for.

10. CONTACT

Zara Shipp, Competition Coordinator, Cricket NSW, zara.shipp@cricketnsw.com.au