

- (i) the parties will be required to provide brief written submissions to the Permit Committee in respect of matter; and
 - (ii) 50% of the bond amount will be refunded to each Club (or such other amount determined by the Permit Committee) unless the Permit Committee considers that the appellant Club's appeal or the defendant Club's defence (as applicable) is vexatious or frivolous in which case the whole bond amount paid by the Club whose appeal or defence is considered vexatious or frivolous may be forfeited.
- (c) The Permit Committee may:
- (i) mediate disputes that arise between State Football Bodies in respect of the application and interpretation of this Section [3](#) and provide final judgment as appropriate;
 - (ii) consider and determine interstate Transfer Requests in relation to Underage Players under Section [3.9](#);
 - (iii) consider and determine matters raised under Sections [3.8](#), [3.9](#) and [3.10](#); or
 - (iv) deal with any other matters as determined by the AFL.
- (d) To refer a matter to the Permit Committee under Sections [3.11\(b\)](#) and [3.11\(c\)](#), the relevant party must provide written notice to the AFL (via the AFL Community Football Operations Manager).
- (e) The Permit Committee may:
- (i) exercise its powers under Section [3.11\(b\)](#) in any manner it reasonably determines; and
 - (ii) levy a fee for the administration of matters under Section [3.11\(b\)](#) (with the fee amount to be determined by the Permit Committee).

4. Age dispensation

4.1 Application process

- (a) A Player may apply for dispensation to play in a Competition age group below their applicable age group on the basis of a Disability or for Physical Size Considerations by submitting an application, via the Player's Club, to the relevant Controlling Body for assessment. Where the Player is an Underage Player, that Player's parent or guardian must consent to such application.
- (b) An application for dispensation under Section [4.1\(a\)](#) must be:
 - (i) in the form of the AFL National Dispensation Application Form or such other form prescribed by the relevant Controlling Body; and
 - (ii) supported by a Certificate from a Medical Specialist appropriately qualified in an area of practice directly related to the dispensation being sought. Such Certificate must state the reasons for supporting the application for dispensation which directly relate to the dispensation being sought and have regard to all relevant matters pertaining to the Player including:

- (A) the Player's Disability; and/or
 - (B) the Player's Physical Size Considerations; and
 - (C) the qualifications of the Medical Specialist providing the Certificate.
- (c) In relation to an application for dispensation on the basis of a Disability, a Medical Specialist may, in their supporting Certificate, recommend that dispensation be approved for two seasons.
- (d) Following its assessment of an application for dispensation, the Controlling Body may:
- (i) approve the application;
 - (ii) refuse the application; or
 - (iii) request additional information from the Player or Club and, following its assessment of such additional information, either approve or refuse the application.

4.2 Relevant factors in assessing application

In assessing an application for dispensation, a Controlling Body will have regard to the following factors:

- (a) the effect of the Player's Disability or Physical Size Considerations on their capacity to effectively participate in Australian Football, in particular, their capacity to participate against the oldest Players in their age group as prescribed under Section 3.1(b)(ii);
- (b) the supporting Certificate provided under Section 4.1(b) and any recommendation under Section 4.1(c);
- (c) how it is proposed that the grant of age dispensation will support the Player to overcome any barriers to their effective participation in Australian Football arising from their Disability or Physical Size Considerations;
- (d) the availability of other assistance to the Player to enable them to effectively participate in Australian Football;
- (e) the safety and welfare of the Player and those Players they will be participating with and against; and
- (f) any other relevant factors as determined by the Controlling Body.

4.3 Effect of approved application

- (a) A Player who has received dispensation approval (**Permitted Player**) will be allocated to a Competition age group below their applicable age group. Unless medical advice recommends otherwise or exceptional and compelling circumstances apply, a Permitted Player will be allocated to the next lowest Competition age group.

- (b) If, following receipt of dispensation approval, a Permitted Player plays in a Competition age group other than the Competition age group originally approved, the dispensation approval will be automatically withdrawn.
- (c) A dispensation approval applies for the season in which the dispensation approval is granted unless the Controlling Body endorses a recommendation under Section 4.1(c) in which case the dispensation approval will apply for the season in which the dispensation approval is granted and the following season (i.e. two seasons).
- (d) A Controlling Body may, acting reasonably, revoke a dispensation approval at any time provided that the reasons for such revocation are provided to the Permitted Player.

4.4 Appeal

A decision by a Controlling Body under Section [4.1\(c\)](#) may be appealed in accordance with Section [26](#).

5. Coach accreditation

5.1 General

- (a) A Person must be Accredited to coach Australian Football at a Club or Controlling Body.
- (b) A Club or Controlling Body may only appoint a Person as a Coach if that Person is Accredited.
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt, the AFL does not represent that a Person who has obtained Accreditation is a fit and proper person to be appointed as a Coach. Without limiting the foregoing:
 - (i) it is a matter for the Club or Controlling Body appointing a Coach to satisfy itself that a Person is a fit and proper person to be appointed as a Coach;
 - (ii) the function of the Accreditation process is primarily to ensure that all Coaches satisfactorily complete the required educational modules for their Accreditation level;
 - (iii) as part of the Accreditation process a Person may be required to submit a National Police Check to the AFL.

5.2 Accreditation process

(a) Process

- (i) To apply for Accreditation as a Coach, a Person (**Applicant**) must:
 - (A) register on Coach.AFL;
 - (B) accurately and honestly complete the relevant Accreditation application form(s) via Coach.AFL; and
 - (C) complete:

APPENDIX 9 – AFL National Age Dispensation Application Form

Part A – Player details			
Player First Name		Player Surname	
Player D.O.B.		Club Name	
Years playing AFL		Age Groups played in	

Part B – Dispensation requirements to be met		
<p>The Club is to read and acknowledge that it understands the following requirements which apply to an application for Age Dispensation to play down a Grade, as set out in Section 4 of the National Community Football Policy Handbook.</p>	<p>An application for dispensation to play down a Grade may only be made on the basis of a disability or physical size considerations.</p>	
	<p>Any application on the basis of a disability must be supported by a current medical certificate from a medical specialist appropriately qualified in the area of practice relevant to the disability. The certificate is to detail the nature of the Player's disability, describe how the disability impacts the Player's capacity to participate in an age group commensurate to their age and state any other reasons for supporting the application for dispensation which directly relate to the dispensation being sought.</p>	
	<p>An application on the basis of physical size considerations must be supported by a current medical certificate confirming that the player's Body Mass Index ('BMI') is below the 5th percentile for the player's age or the player's height is below the 5th percentile for the player's age.</p>	
	<p>The application under either ground must also detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The effect of the Player's disability or physical size considerations on their capacity to effectively participate in Australian Football, in particular, their capacity to participate against the oldest Players in their age group; (ii) How it is proposed that the approval of age dispensation will support the Player to overcome any barriers to their effective participation in Australian Football arising from their disability or physical size considerations; (iii) The availability of other assistance to the Player to enable them to effectively participate in Australian Football; (iv) How the participation of the Player in a lower age group will not adversely impact the safety and welfare of the Player and those Players in that lower age group. 	
Club Acknowledgement	We have read understand the above requirements and confirm that this application is made in accordance with these requirements.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part C – Dispensation Request			
Ground for Application (select one)	Application on the basis of a disability		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Application on the basis of physical size considerations (BMI below the 5 th percentile or height below the 5 th percentile)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Player's applicable age group (e.g. U13)		Age group requested (e.g. U12)	
<p>Club Submission in Support of the Application</p> <p>Provide any additional background information that is relevant to the application. Provide any information that helps address each of the</p>			

matters raised in the "Dispensation Requirements to be Met".			
Medical Certificate Attached	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medical Specialist name and speciality. If reports from more than one medical specialist attached, list each name and speciality.	
Other Supporting Documents Attached	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide a brief summary of any other supporting document attached (e.g. a letter from the Player's parents / guardian)	

Parent / Guardian 1 Name		Signature		Date	
Parent / Guardian 2 Name		Signature		Date	
Club Contact Name		Signature		Date	
Club Contact Email				Phone	

Controlling Body Determination	
Dispensation to play in the requested age group is approved, subject to any conditions specified below	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dispensation to play in the requested age group is not approved, for reasons specified	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conditions / Reasons	
Date of Decision	

APPENDIX 12 – Non-exhaustive list of examples of disabilities

To provide practical guidance to administrators, this Appendix includes is a non-exhaustive list of disabilities which may give rise to grounds for granting age dispensation to a Player.

1. Physical disabilities

(a) Amputee

Amputee refers to a person who has lost a limb, part of a limb or more than one limb.

(b) Cerebral Palsy

(i) Cerebral palsy is a non-progressive disability caused by damage to a part of the brain that controls physical movement so that normal, smooth muscle movement does not or may not always occur.

(ii) Cerebral palsy can vary in presentation from a mild to moderate form affecting one or two limbs, to severe forms affecting the whole body.

(c) Wheelchair Reliance

A person may need to use a wheelchair for various reasons including:

(i) spinal injury – injury to the spinal cord;

(ii) Spina Bifida – a neural tube defect which may be caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors;

(iii) Muscular Dystrophy – a group of hereditary and genetic muscle diseases which may create a disability relating to progressive muscle weakness;

(iv) Cerebral Palsy; and

(v) double leg amputations.

(d) Transplant

(i) A transplant occurs when a healthy human organ is used to replace a diseased or seriously affected organ in a recipient human being.

(ii) In the case of a transplant medical considerations and restrictions would dictate the safe level of sporting activity available to an affected Person within certain limitations.

(e) Acquired Brain Injury

An acquired brain injury (**ABI**) is caused during or after birth rather than as part of a genetic or congenital disorder. An ABI can result in cognitive, physical, emotional, or behavioural impairments that lead to temporary or permanent changes in brain functioning.

(f) Down Syndrome

Down syndrome is a chromosomal condition caused by the presence of all or part of an extra 21st chromosome.

(g) **Cystic Fibrosis**

Cystic fibrosis (also known as CF or mucoviscidosis) is an autosomal recessive genetic disorder affecting (amongst other things) the lungs.

2. Neurological disabilities

(a) **Epilepsy**

Epilepsy is a common and diverse set of chronic neurological disorders characterized by seizures. Epileptic seizures result from abnormal, excessive or hypersynchronous neuronal activity in the brain.

(b) **Autism spectrum disorders**

Autism spectrum disorders (including Asperger syndrome) are a group of related disorders of neural development which may be characterized by impaired social interaction and communication.

3. Intellectual disabilities

(a) Intellectual disability is a disability characterised by “significant” limitation both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills. This disability originates before the age of 18.

(b) “Significant” impairment in intellectual functioning is sometimes defined as being measured as 2 standard deviations below the mean in respect of certain conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills (as measured by a Medical Specialist).

4. Sensory disabilities

(a) **Deaf/hard of hearing**

The inability to hear can be partial or complete. Some degree of hearing loss is a common disability and can affect one in twenty adults.

(b) **Blind/vision impaired**

Light involves both visual acuity and visual field. People with visual acuity in both eyes of less than 6/60 which cannot be improved by glasses are considered legally blind in Australia.

5. Mental illness

ICD 10 or DSM5 classification of mental illness.