

NATIONAL RUGBY POLICY

DISPENSATIONS



POLICY 04 DISPENSATIONS

BACKGROUND

When focussed on ensuring rugby is available to as many players as possible, organising bodies have traditionally offered dispensations to players who may not meet grade criteria on either weight or age grounds. Not allowing a dispensation may prevent those players from playing and could impact an organisation's ability to field a team in a competition thereby affecting the meaningfulness of that competition.

Allowing dispensation of players may pose a risk to safety and enjoyment of the grade eligible players. This still has to be the first consideration deciding whether to allow a dispensation or not.

Dispensations may also allow "win" motivated adults to have players play down and influence results.

POLICY

Dispensations in rugby below Under 19 are permissible, subject to the following:

- Safety of all grade eligible players is paramount and must be considered by the competition organisers
- Provincial Unions are to determine the dispensation criteria, processes and procedures. These must be submitted to NZ Rugby for approval/sign off
- For any weight grade dispensation an upper age must be nominated
- For any age grade an upper weight limit must be stated (these are to be determined by the Provincial Union taking into consideration player safety and local demographics).
- Dispensated players must be viewed playing by a Provincial Union official or nominee in a preseason game to ensure they are suitable for the grade
- All parents of participants in grades where dispensations are allowed must be notified

RESPONSIBILITIES

New Zealand Rugby will approve or authorise Provincial Unions' criteria

Provincial Unions will:

- Formulate dispensations criteria
- Supply grading letter to parents
- View players who have received dispensations



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SANCTION(S)

Coaches, Managers and Administrators knowingly playing or allowing players to play outside dispensation policies and procedures will face Provincial Union disciplinary procedures.

