



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
CP FOOTBALL

IFCPF Age Dispensation Policy

International Federation of CP Football (IFCPF) Dispensation Policy for Underage Players

1. Introduction

The International Federation of CP Football (IFCPF) is committed to providing inclusive, competitive opportunities for athletes with cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, or other neurological conditions. In line with this commitment, IFCPF recognises that there may be exceptional circumstances where underage players (below the minimum age requirement for a given competition) demonstrate the physical, technical, and emotional readiness to compete at an international level. This policy outlines the criteria and process by which member nations can apply for dispensation to allow an underage player to participate in IFCPF sanctioned competitions.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure that decisions regarding underage players are made in a transparent, fair, and consistent manner.
 - Protect the safety and well-being of all players participating in IFCPF competitions.
 - Provide clear guidelines for member nations to apply for dispensation for underage players.
 - Ensure that underage players only compete when they meet the physical, technical, and emotional level required at an international level.
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3. Eligibility for Dispensation

Member nations may apply for dispensation for players who are younger than the minimum age for a specific competition, under the following conditions:

- The player must be no more than **one (1) year younger** than the minimum age required by the competition.
- The player must demonstrate physical and technical ability, as well as the emotional and psychological maturity to compete at the international level.

- The player's participation must not compromise their own safety or the safety of others.
 - The application must be supported by detailed documentation, including medical and technical assessments, along with parental consent.
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4. Application Process

Member nations wishing to apply for dispensation must follow the process outlined below:

Step 1: Submission of Application

The member nation's governing body must submit a written application to the IFCPF at least **12 weeks** before the competition in which the underage player is expected to participate. The application must include the following:

- **Player Information:** Full name, date of birth, and classification status.
- **Medical Documentation:** A medical report from a certified doctor or sports medicine professional confirming that the player is physically capable of competing at the specified level of competition.
- **Technical Report:** A detailed technical assessment from a national team coach or technical director, outlining the player's abilities, experience, and readiness to compete.
- **Parent/Guardian Consent:** Signed consent from the player's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), acknowledging that they understand the potential risks involved and that they support the application for dispensation.

Step 2: IFCPF Review

Once the application is submitted, it will be reviewed by the **IFCPF Technical Committee** and **Management Team**. These bodies will review:

- The player's physical and technical suitability for the competition.
- The medical and psychological readiness of the player.
- The potential impact on the safety and integrity of the competition.

Step 3: Decision

The IFCPF will provide a written response within **4 weeks** of receiving the completed application. The decision will be based on the player's ability to safely and competitively participate in the tournament and will fall into one of the following categories:

- **Approval:** The player is granted permission to compete in the competition.
 - **Conditional Approval:** The player may compete under certain conditions, such as limited game time or additional medical oversight.
 - **Not approved:** The player is not granted dispensation to participate.
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5. Safety Considerations

The safety and well-being of all athletes are paramount. To ensure underage players can compete without undue risk:

- **Medical Monitoring:** Players granted dispensation must undergo additional medical assessments before and during the competition to ensure they remain fit for participation.
 - **Technical Supervision:** Coaches and staff must closely monitor the player's physical and emotional condition during training and matches, adjusting their role or playtime as necessary.
 - **Limitations:** IFCPF may impose restrictions on the player's participation, including limiting their minutes per game or reducing their participation in multiple games on the same day.
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6. Responsibility of Member Nations

Member nations are responsible for ensuring that all dispensation requests are made in good faith and are in line with the best interests of the player. This includes:

- Conducting a thorough internal assessment of the player's readiness before applying.
 - Providing the necessary support to underage players both during training and competition.
 - Ensuring compliance with any conditions or limitations imposed by the IFCPF.
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7. Compliance and Review

The IFCPF will review this policy on an annual basis to ensure that it continues to reflect best practices in player welfare, safety, and competition integrity. Any changes to the policy will be communicated to all member nations and will take effect immediately unless otherwise stated.

8. Conclusion

This dispensation policy is designed to balance the desire for inclusivity in CP football with the need to ensure player safety and fair competition. By providing a clear process for applying for underage player dispensation, the IFCPF supports the development of young, talented players while maintaining the highest standards of competition.

For more information or to submit an application, please contact info@ifcpf.com