



APPLICANT COVER NOTE: THE FA'S DISPENSATION POLICY

FA Rules provide that children play football in groups according to their chronological age. However, for some children, this puts them at a disadvantage and can discourage them from playing football altogether. The FA's Dispensation Policy (the "**Policy**") enables children with **a disability, significant physical development delay**, or who are **schooled outside of their chronological age group**, to play football outside of that prescribed age group.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The Policy has been updated this year primarily to make it easier to understand for those seeking to apply for dispensation.

The key changes to the Policy can be summarised as follows:

- We have clarified that the Policy **does apply to children who are schooled no more than one year below their chronological age group**.
- We have clarified both the application process and the evidence required to successfully apply for dispensation. This is now clearly clarified in the revamped application pack.
- We have **restructured and simplified the application pack** such that it should now be easier for parents/carers to follow, removed any duplicative content, and included clarificatory points arising out of common issues and queries received by the Registration team processing applications for dispensation. By way of example:
 - **Different evidence is required depending on whether the child has a disability or is being schooled a year below** his/her prescribed age group. We have therefore structured the document to make **clear which evidence is required** for each type of application.
 - The application documents were previously separate to the Policy itself such that parents/carers had to locate them separately or, often, request them. **We have now included these at the back of the pack** to make it easier for those wishing to apply dispensation.