



## JUNIOR PLAYING-DOWN NOTIFICATION / DISPENSATION APPLICATION

### Season 2026/27

**IMPORTANT: SUBMITTING THIS FORM IS NOT MCA APPROVAL. A player who requires formal approval must not play in the requested lower age group until written MCA Match Committee approval has been issued. No retrospective approval is permitted.**

### WHICH PATH APPLIES?

| PLAYER / REQUEST                                     | PROCESS                      | MCA APPROVAL?             | BEFORE PLAYING DOWN                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Female - no more than 2 years below normal age group | PATH A - Annual notification | No discretionary approval | Submit annual notification; no approval letter is required. |
| Male - any request to play below normal age group    | PATH B - Formal application  | YES                       | Wait for written MCA approval.                              |
| Female - more than 2 years below normal age group    | PATH B - Formal application  | YES                       | Wait for written MCA approval.                              |

### Rules that apply to every club:

- A maximum of three male players with approved playing-down dispensations may be named in one team in one match.
- A discretionary approval is player-specific, approved-age-group-specific and season-specific.
- Representative selection at the player's normal age group or above will ordinarily make a player ineligible for a discretionary playing-down dispensation; exceptional circumstances require Match Committee approval.
- Later representative selection, higher junior/senior participation or material development may trigger immediate review.
- A discretionary playing-down player is not eligible for MCA individual performance awards in the lower age group. Official statistics still count, and finals/team award eligibility remains subject to the normal rules.
- The standard female two-year provision is not subject to the individual-award restriction.
- The player's actual age continues to determine pace-bowling workload and other age-based safety requirements.

### 2026/27 AGE ELIGIBILITY GUIDE

MCA uses a 1 September age cut-off. The published eligibility thresholds are:

|                                                  |                                                  |                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>U11 - Stage 1</b><br>Born 2 Sep 2014 or later | <b>U12 - Stage 2</b><br>Born 2 Sep 2013 or later | <b>U13 - Stage 2</b><br>Born 2 Sep 2012 or later |
| <b>U14 - Stage 3</b><br>Born 2 Sep 2011 or later | <b>U15 - Stage 3</b><br>Born 2 Sep 2010 or later | <b>U17 - Stage 3</b><br>Born 2 Sep 2008 or later |

### SECTION 1 - COMMON PLAYER AND CLUB DETAILS

|                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Player First Name             |                          |
| Player Surname                |                          |
| PlayHQ Player ID              | If never registered: N/A |
| Date of Birth                 |                          |
| Club                          |                          |
| Player's Normal MCA Age Group |                          |
| Requested Lower Age Group     |                          |
| Team / Division (if known)    |                          |

### Select ONE submission path:

- ☐ PATH A - Female standard provision: no more than two years below normal age group (annual notification only).
- ☐ PATH B - Male playing down OR female more than two years below normal age group (formal MCA approval required).



## **PATH A - FEMALE STANDARD TWO-YEAR PROVISION**

**USE THIS PATH ONLY** where the female player will participate no more than two years below her normal MCA age group in a mixed junior competition. This is an annual **CLUB NOTIFICATION**. Discretionary Match Committee approval is not required.

### **Club notification details**

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Player Name                   |  |
| Date of Birth                 |  |
| Club                          |  |
| Normal MCA Age Group          |  |
| Lower Age Group / Competition |  |
| Team / Division (if known)    |  |

### **Required Club Declaration**

- ☐ The player is female and the requested lower age group is no more than two years below her normal MCA age group.
- ☐ The club is lodging this notification for the 2026/27 season for competition administration and record-keeping.
- ☐ The club understands this standard provision is not a discretionary dispensation and does not require a Match Committee approval letter.
- ☐ The club understands the player's actual age determines all age-based safety and pace-bowling workload requirements.
- ☐ The club will notify MCA if the player's participation circumstances materially change.

**PATH A - STOP HERE. Do not complete the formal application section. Submit this completed notification to MCA. The club should retain a copy with its junior records.**

|                       |                        |                    |                            |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Submitted by<br>_____ | Club position<br>_____ | Signature<br>_____ | Date<br>____ / ____ / 2026 |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|

### **MCA receipt / register use**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Date received            |  |
| Recorded by              |  |
| Register / reference no. |  |
| Notes                    |  |

Submission: [sportsops@harruppark.com.au](mailto:sportsops@harruppark.com.au) | 0419 920 104 | [mackaycricket.com.au](http://mackaycricket.com.au)



## **PATH B - FORMAL PLAYING-DOWN DISPENSATION APPLICATION**

**FORMAL APPROVAL IS REQUIRED** for every male player seeking to play below his normal MCA junior age group, and for any female player seeking to play more than two years below her normal age group. The player must wait for written MCA approval before playing down.

### **2. PLAYER HISTORY AND CURRENT PARTICIPATION**

|                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Organised cricket experience                                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> New / none <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 season <input type="checkbox"/> 1 season <input type="checkbox"/> 2 seasons <input type="checkbox"/> 3+ seasons |
| Predominant competition / age group last season                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Has the player participated in a higher junior age group or senior cricket this season? | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - details: _____                                                                                                                |
| Selected in a Mackay Whitsunday representative team this season?                        | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - team / age group: _____                                                                                                       |
| Selected in a higher-level representative team this season?                             | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - details: _____                                                                                                                |

**Representative-player rule:** Selection at the player's normal age group or above will ordinarily make the player ineligible for a discretionary playing-down dispensation. If the club relies on exceptional circumstances, those circumstances must be stated in the justification below.

### **3. REASON FOR APPLICATION**

- ☐ Beginner or new cricketer
- ☐ Player development / readiness
- ☐ Physical or medical circumstances
- ☐ Individual developmental or support needs
- ☐ Female player seeking to play more than two years below normal age group
- ☐ Exceptional circumstances
- ☐ Other - specify: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Club justification - REQUIRED**

Explain why the requested lower age group is appropriate. Address the player's previous experience, current skill/development, physical readiness, confidence/participation needs, safety, ability to participate meaningfully in the normal age group, and any exceptional circumstances relied upon.

|       |
|-------|
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |

**Supporting information (only where relevant):** ☐ None required   ☐ Included with submission   ☐ Sent separately to sportsops@harruppark.com.au

### **4. PARENT / GUARDIAN APPROVAL**

I support this application for the player named above to participate in the requested lower junior age group and confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the information supplied is accurate.

|                                 |                    |                            |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Parent / Guardian Name<br>_____ | Signature<br>_____ | Date<br>____ / ____ / 2026 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|

### **5. CLUB DECLARATION - ALL ITEMS MUST BE ACCEPTED**

- ☐ The club supports this application and believes the requested level is appropriate for the player's current development, participation and safety needs.
- ☐ The club understands that SUBMISSION IS NOT APPROVAL and the player must not play down until written MCA Match Committee approval is received.
- ☐ The club understands there is NO RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL; if a player requiring approval has already played down without written approval, that earlier participation remains an eligibility matter.
- ☐ The club understands an approval is limited to the named player, approved age group and 2026/27 season.
- ☐ The club will notify MCA immediately of representative selection, higher junior/senior participation, material development or another relevant change.
- ☐ The club understands a maximum of three approved male playing-down players may be named in one team in one match.
- ☐ The club understands the individual-performance-award restriction that applies to discretionary playing-down players.
- ☐ The information provided is complete and accurate.

|                       |                        |                    |                            |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Submitted by<br>_____ | Club position<br>_____ | Signature<br>_____ | Date<br>____ / ____ / 2026 |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|



**MACKAY  
CRICKET**  
EST. 1891

### MCA MATCH COMMITTEE - OFFICE USE ONLY

|                                  |                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Application / Reference No.      |                                                                                                                           |
| Date Received                    |                                                                                                                           |
| Decision                         | <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED |
| Approved Age Group               |                                                                                                                           |
| Effective From                   |                                                                                                                           |
| Review Date (if applicable)      |                                                                                                                           |
| Representative Status Considered | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable                                                      |
| Individual Award Restriction     | <input type="checkbox"/> Applies <input type="checkbox"/> Does not apply - standard female provision only                 |

#### Decision reasons / conditions

|  |
|--|
|  |
|  |
|  |

|                                 |          |           |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Match Committee decision - name | Position | Signature | Date<br>____ / ____ / 2026 |
|                                 |          |           |                            |
|                                 |          |           |                            |

### CONDITIONS OF DISPENSATION - 2026/27

1. A player requiring discretionary approval must not play in the requested lower age group until written MCA Match Committee approval has been issued.
2. No retrospective playing-down approval is permitted. A player who required approval but played before written approval was granted was ineligible for that match.
3. Each formal application is considered on its individual merits, including development, experience, physical readiness, safety and appropriateness of the requested competition level.
4. An approval applies only to the named player, approved age group and 2026/27 season, and expires at the end of the season unless MCA states otherwise in writing.
5. A maximum of three male players with approved playing-down dispensations may be named in one team in one match.
6. Female players may automatically play up to two years below their normal age group in MCA mixed junior competitions; clubs must notify MCA each season.
7. A female player seeking to play more than two years below her normal age group requires written Match Committee approval before participating.
8. Selection in a Mackay Whitsunday or higher representative team at the player's normal age group or above will ordinarily make the player ineligible for a discretionary playing-down dispensation. Exceptional circumstances may be approved by the Match Committee.
9. Later representative selection, higher junior or senior cricket participation, material development or another relevant change may trigger an immediate Match Committee review.
10. On review, the Match Committee may continue, amend, move the player to a different approved age group or revoke the approval. The club will be advised in writing before an amendment or revocation takes effect.
11. A player under a discretionary playing-down dispensation is not eligible for MCA individual performance awards in the lower age group. The standard female two-year provision is exempt from this restriction.
12. Official PlayHQ statistics achieved under a dispensation remain part of the match record and count toward match results. A player remains eligible for finals if otherwise qualified and for team premierships/team awards.
13. The player's actual age determines applicable pace-bowling workload and all other age-based player-safety requirements, regardless of the competition played.
14. Written MCA approval means a written Match Committee decision communicated by MCA. A verbal conversation, coach/club agreement or submission receipt is not approval.

**Submission: [sportsops@harruppark.com.au](mailto:sportsops@harruppark.com.au) | 0419 920 104 | [mackaycricket.com.au](http://mackaycricket.com.au)**

*Aligned to MCA Junior Rules, Regulations & Playing Conditions 2026/27 - Version 1.3 Operational Clarification Draft (Rules 1.13, 1.25 and 1.29).*