



# Dispensation Guidelines

## Tauranga Blue Rovers Football Club

- From time-to-time parents/caregivers may want their child to play in a different team or grade to their age group. They may make a request to the Grade Coordinator in writing. The request should include the name of the player, the player's date of birth, rationale for the change and be dated and signed.
- The Tauranga Blue Rovers ("TBR", "Club") follow rules and regulations set by Waibop Football which can be found on their website, and which change from time to time.
- As much as possible, we encourage children to play in their age-based grade and the teams set by the Grade Coordinator. However, we recognise this is not always the 'best fit' for a child.
- Consideration can be given to a child playing in a different grade based on proximity of birthdate to age cut off point, physical size, ability, disability, peer groupings/friendships and safety.
- Consideration can be given to a child playing in a different team based on peer relations, logistics, and best fit. Ability will be considered for teams with a team selection process e.g., Federation Teams and their equivalents.
- The Grade Coordinator will consider the request, liaise with the other relevant Grade Coordinator and coaches that are impacted, and discuss the request with the Director of Football. If they agree the request is relevant and valid (and there is a space for the child in the requested grade and/or team that does not negatively impact other players), the change can be considered favourably.
- Playing up a grade and/or in a different team can be approved by the Grade Coordinator in cases where Waibop allows this without formally applying to them for dispensation, or the Grade Coordinator can apply to Waibop using their dispensation request form for permission to play down a grade, or play up a grade when Waibop rules state this needs to be done.
- The Grade Coordinator will inform the parents concerned of the decision in writing.
- Should a Grade Coordinator decline a request, the parents/caregivers may apply to the Director of Football in writing to have the decision-making process reviewed. In this case, the Director of Football will consider if the correct procedures and decision-making process has been used and will act accordingly.
- Children are not allowed to start playing in a different grade or team until approval is given.
- A coach of a higher grade or division may not 'poach' players from another team.
- Note that Waibop Football Playing Regulations stipulate that a child cannot drop back a grade or division once they have played four weeks in a higher grade or division. This would allow a child to play up on a couple of occasions for experience, or to fill a temporary shortage in a team. Playing up in these circumstances must be in agreement with the child's normal coach.