

To: SMJFL Club Presidents, Secretaries & Football Operations Coordinators

From: Bree Vallance, General Manager – Football Operations
Matthew Brown, Chief Executive Officer

Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2023

Re: **IMPORTANT – Amendment to SMJFL Bylaw Clause 44 – Appendix 4 – Player Movement and Finals Qualification**

At its meeting of 26April 2023 the SMJFL Board approved the following amendments to the SMJFL 2023 Bylaws. Please note:

1. That this memo is sent as a word document so you can see the approved amendments – highlighted in red; and
2. That a brief supporting explanation is included at the end of this memo.

Appendix 4 – Player Movement and Finals Qualification Policy

1. Under 8 to Under 10 Mixed and Girls Under 10 and Under 11 Division 2 and Below

- 1.1. Where a Member Club has multiple teams in the Under 8 to Under 10 Mixed and Under 10 and U11 Div 2 and below Girl's age groups, free movement of Players across teams within each age group shall be permitted throughout the season.
- 1.2. Save with the approval of the CEO (which approval is at the absolute discretion of the CEO), a Player may only play in one game per Round in a particular age group.
- 1.3. When a Lightning Carnival is played, a Player shall only be permitted to play in the team in which they played the majority of games throughout the season.

2. All Other Competitions including Girls U11 Division 1

- 2.1. The following Player movement restrictions apply:
 - (i) Once a Player has played a total of six matches in any higher ranked competitions (including U19 and/or Seniors), they are unable to play in a lower ranked competition for the remainder of the season (including Finals).

- (ii) When a higher ranked team has a bye or a forfeit, no Player who has played in that team in the previous Round will be permitted to play in a lower ranked competition unless that Player has played more games in the lower ranked competition.
- (iii) Subject to these By-laws, a Player may play in no more than two games per Round.

2.2. Save with the approval of the CEO (which approval is at the absolute discretion of the CEO), a Player may only play in one game per Round in a particular age group.

2.2.2.3. All Member Clubs are required to adhere to the spirit of this policy by bearing in mind the purposes detailed in Clause 2.1 and not using the policy as a means of “stacking” teams in order to win matches. If the CEO is not satisfied that a Member Club has adhered to the spirit of this policy he or she may, at their absolute discretion, award a forfeit to the opposition team.

2.3.2.4. Where a Member Club has more than one team in the same division at the start of the season, the team that is higher on the ladder after Round 4 will be deemed to be the higher ranked team for the remainder of the season.

2.4.2.5. To qualify for Finals in a particular team a Player must:

- a) Play in at least five (5) home and away matches with that particular team; or
- b) Play in at least five (5) home and away matches with a lower ranked team to be eligible for the higher ranked team whilst satisfying clause 2.6 of this policy; and
- c) Satisfy clause ~~2.32~~ of this policy.

By way of clarification, if a Player, plays a total of three home and away matches in the higher ranked team and two home and away matches in the lower ranked team, this Player is not eligible to participate in either team’s Finals series.

2.5.2.6. In the case of a Player qualifying in a lower ranked team (not having played five games for the higher ranked team), they may only play in Finals if that (higher ranked) team has no more than the following number of Players on the Team Sheet:

Age Group	Number of Players
U11 Div 1 and U12 Girls	18
U13, U14, U15 and U16 Girls	19
U11 to U13 Mixed	20
U14 Mixed, U15 Boys	21
U16 to U17 ½ Boys and U18 Girls	19

2.6-2.7. A Player may only play in one Finals match per competition (Girl's competitions are considered to be separate from the Mixed/Boys), per Round.

2.7-2.8. A Player is ineligible for a particular team once they play a Finals match in a higher ranked team.

2.8-2.9. By way of clarification, a Player's record in terms of the Player movement policy, is moved with any team that has been re-graded. i.e. if a Player has played four games in U13 Division 1 but the team has moved to U13 Division 2 their record (for Player movement purposes) is four games in U13 Division 2.

2.9-2.10. The CEO (at their absolute discretion) may provide an exemption for any of the clauses in this policy. Exemption requests must be submitted via the prescribed form no later than 12:00pm ~~two~~ on the business days prior to the match. Late requests may be considered and will be subject to a ~~two~~ 2.5-penalty unit administration fee. For late requests Member Clubs must contact the General Manager Football Operations.

2.10-2.11. For the purposes of this policy, Girl's competitions are considered to be separate from the Mixed/Boys. Competitions/teams are ranked by AFL Victoria as follows:

Ranking	Age & Division
-1	Senior Men's Football
-2	Under 19 Football
-3	Under 17 ½ Boys Division 1
-4	Under 17 ½ Boys Division 2
-5	Under 16 Boys Division 1
-6	Under 17 ½ Boys Division 3
-7	Under 16 Boys Division 2
-8	Under 17 ½ Boys Division 4
-9	Under 15 Boys Division 1
-10	Under 16 Boys Division 3
-11	Under 15 Boys Division 2
-12	Under 16 Boys Division 4
-13	Under 15 Boys Division 3
-14	Under 14 Mixed Division 1
-15	Under 15 Boys Division 4
-16	Under 14 Mixed Division 2
-17	Under 15 Boys Division 5
-18	Under 14 Mixed Division 3
-19	Under 13 Mixed Division 1
-20	Under 14 Mixed Division 4
-21	Under 13 Mixed Division 2
-22	Under 14 Mixed Division 5
-23	Under 13 Mixed Division 3
-24	Under 13 Mixed Division 4
-25	Under 12 Mixed Division 1
-26	Under 13 Mixed Division 5
-27	Under 12 Mixed Division 2
-28	Under 13 Mixed Division 6
-29	Under 12 Mixed Division 3
-30	Under 12 Mixed Division 4
-31	Under 11 Mixed Division 1
-32	Under 12 Mixed Division 5
-33	Under 11 Mixed Division 2
-34	Under 12 Mixed Division 6
-35	Under 11 Mixed Division 3
-36	Under 12 Mixed Division 7
-37	Under 11 Mixed Division 4
-38	Under 11 Mixed Division 5
-39	Under 11 Mixed Division 6
-40	Under 11 Mixed Division 7

	Ranking	Age & Division
	-1	Senior Women's Football
	-2	Under 18 Girls Division 1
	-3	Under 18 Girls Division 2
	-4	Under 16 Girls Division 1
	-5	Under 18 Girls Division 3
	-6	Under 16 Girls Division 2
	-7	Under 16 Girls Division 3
	-8	Under 16 Girls Division 4
	-9	Under 14 Girls Division 1
	-10	Under 16 Girls Division 5
	-11	Under 14 Girls Division 2
	-12	Under 14 Girls Division 3
	-13	Under 14 Girls Division 4
	-14	Under 12 Girls Division 1
	-15	Under 14 Girls Division 5
	-16	Under 12 Girls Division 2
	-17	Under 12 Girls Division 3
	-18	Under 12 Girls Division 4
	-19	Under 12 Girls Division 5
	-20	Under 11 Girls Division 1

*Note, U19 and Senior competitions refers to any U19 and Senior competition run by an AFL Victoria affiliated League.

Any changes / additions made to the above table as communicated by AFL Victoria, will be communicated to clubs and updated in these By-laws as soon as practically possible.

EXPLANATION:

The purpose of this By-law Amendment is:

- a) To provide Member Clubs which field multiple teams in a particular age group with flexibility in Player selection, particularly in Rounds where a number of players from a particular team are unavailable; and
- b) To provide Players in lower ranked competitions the opportunity and incentive to strive to play in a higher ranked competition.

A Player Movement Exemption shall only be granted where:

- The competition / team the Player is filling in for is ranked higher than their current competition / team
- If a Player is required to play two matches within the same age group in the U8 – U10 Mixed Competitions & U11 Division 2 and Below Girls Competitions.
- In all other competitions –where a Member Club with multiple teams within an age group is unable to achieve the minimum numbers to field a team, a Member Club may request a Player Movement Exemption via the prescribed form as per Clause 2.10 (in the amended By-Law above).

Things to be aware of:

- If a player has played a total of 6 matches in a higher ranked competition (including u19 / senior football), they will not be permitted to play in a lower ranked competition. E.g. A player has played 7 matches in a senior competition; they are not permitted to play within the SMJFL for the remainder of the season.
- All clubs must only utilise these player movement By-Laws within the spirit of the game, therefore exemptions won't be provided to teams who will gain a numerical advantage over the opposition team.

END