

## **SOUTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE 2021 UNDER 19's OVER-AGE PLAYER POLICY**

The intention of the Under 19's Over-Age Player Policy for season 2021 is to give players who are born in the year 2001 and who were eligible to play Under 19's football in season 2020 (which was subsequently cancelled due to COVID-19), the opportunity and experience to participate in Under 19 football in 2021.

Primarily, the SFNL believes that the participation and enjoyment that players experience in Under 19's football is important in developing social networks as well as improving physical and mental health. A positive experience in Under 19's football is also seen as vital for Member Club's to continue to provide a pathway for the players and help retain those players in future years.

Furthermore, the intention of the Under 19's Over-Age Player Policy is to assist a Member Club facing difficulties fielding an Under 19's side each week still applies.

The Under 19's Over-Age Player Policy for season 2021 is as follows:

1. In addition to the SFNL Football Competition Regulations 6.3.1 and 6.3.2 and with approval from the League, a Member Club may select and play an additional registered player or players in a Home & Away or Finals match who are born on or between the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2001 and 30th June 2001 in the Under 19's competition.
2. A Member Club must submit an Over-Age permit request via the prescribed Form to be considered by the League prior to the 28 March 2021.
3. Any Over-Age player who plays in an Under 19 match without the SFNL's express prior approval will be treated as a non-permitted player and shall be dealt with by the League as per SFNL By-Law 28.
4. The SFNL reserves the right to refuse permission to any proposed Under 19 Over-Age player as it considers appropriate to protect the integrity of the Under 19 competitions and to ensure the intent of this Over-Age Player Policy is observed. There is no right of appeal against any refusal.
5. Finals eligibility for an Under 19 Over-Age player in season 2021 is pursuant to 35.5 of the Competition Regulations.
6. The League will monitor the implementation of this Under 19 Over-Age Player Policy throughout the season and reserves the right to change the Under 19 Over-Age Player Policy for any reason and at any time as it considers fit.
7. For the avoidance of doubt, any Member Club which is found to have breached this Over-Age Player Policy will be subject to the penalties pursuant to section 28 of the SFNL By-Laws.

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

Whilst the League may approve an Over-Age player in line with the 2021 Under 19's Over-Age Player Policy, the permit will be assessed subject to the below conditions -

- A. A Member Club can demonstrate a shortage of players for their Under 19's team.

## **SCHEDULE 19**

- B. Any player who has played any Senior (Open Age) football prior to 2021 will not be granted a permit.
- C. Any player who has previously played in six (6) or more Reserve (Open Age) matches in any single season will not be granted a permit.
- D. Any player has previously played one (1) match in the NAB League will not be granted a permit.
- E. Previous representative players (either with the SFNL or another league) will not be granted a permit.