

## SCHEDULE 15

### **SOUTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE 2024 UNDER 19's OVER-AGE PLAYER POLICY**

The intention of the Under 19's Over-Age Player Policy is to give players who are born in the year 2004 the opportunity and experience to participate in Under 19 football for season 2024.

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 2024 is as follows:

1. In addition to the SFNL Football Competition Regulations 6.3.1 and with the 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 2004 and 30th June 2004 in the Under 19's competition.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Finals eligibility for an Under 19 Over-Age player in season 2024 is pursuant to 35.5 of the Competition Regulations.
5. 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.
6. 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 2024 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.
- B. Any player who has played more than three (3) Senior football matches prior to 2024 will not be granted a permit.
- C. Any player has previously played one (1) match in the COATES Talent League will not be granted a permit.
- D. The application for an Over-Age permit for a player must be made prior to the player playing their first match.