

## Schedule 15

### SOUTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

#### 2026 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 2006 the opportunity and experience to participate in Under 19s football for season 2026.

A positive experience in Under 19's football is seen as vital for Member Clubs to provide a pathway for their players and help retain these players in future years.

*Furthermore, the intention of the Under 19's Over-Age Player Policy in assisting 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 2026 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 2006 and 30th June 2006 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 26.
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 2026 is pursuant to 36.5 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 SFNL By-Law 26.
7. All Over-Age permits will be reviewed after Round 3 & Round 9. The league has the right to revoke any permits as deemed necessary.

#### **CONSIDERATIONS**

Whilst the League may approve an Over-Age player in line with the 2026 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 via the League registration system.
- B. Any player who has played more than three (3) Senior football matches prior to 2026 will not be granted a permit.
- C. Any player who has previously played one (1) match in the Under-18 State 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.
- E. Any player who has played 30 or more Under 19s games prior to 2026 will not be granted a permit.
- F. Any Over-Age permit player found guilty of a reportable offence shall have their permit revoked.