



In recent seasons, some clubs have experienced a shortage of available player numbers at times, across both the Under 18 and Reserves Football competitions. The BFNL worked closely with all clubs to successfully implement framework should any Reserves or Under 18 team was short of available players on a weekly basis that would ensure all matches proceed and forfeits were avoided.

We thank all clubs for their involvement and efforts in using the adopted guidelines through the recent seasons. The framework was utilised successfully across the competition and implemented on several occasions to ensure forfeits have been avoided, therefore will remain in place for the current season.

Weekly Football player shortages (Under 18/Reserves Competitions):

Various recent challenges have at times impacted the pool of available and committed players, resulting in teams unable to meet the BFNL criteria weekly of 18 on-field and 4 bench players at the commencement of each game. Consequently, the BFNL have again decided to implement the following procedures and methods to ensure all games proceed.

At weekly team selection, should any club be unable to name a minimum of 18 available on-field Under 18 or Reserves players, the coach/team manager of the respective team should contact the opposition coach/team manager by 12.00pm the day prior to the match to consider using one of the approved BFNL methods of ensuring a match will take place (in order of preference):

- 1. Investigate a player Day Permit/s (player sharing), should the opposition have a surplus of players that would result in a match of 18 per side as agreed by both clubs and impacted players, including a suitable, agreed number of starting bench players for rotation.**
- 2. Investigate implementing a 16 per-side match (removing the on-field Wing positions from both teams) including a suitable, agreed number of starting bench players for rotation.**
- 3. A combination of methods 1 and 2, resulting in a 16 per-side match, involving opposition players on a Day Permit/s and a suitable, agreed number of starting bench players.**

BFNL Football player equalisation rule 30.1 as below will **not** apply should clubs reach an agreement using any combination of the above methods to ensure a game proceeds:

- 30.1 In the Under 18 competitions, during the Home and Away season only, should a club have less than 18 players at the commencement of the game, then the opposing team shall only field one more than the same number of players respectively.

The BFNL will work towards providing all clubs with a current and accurate contact list for all current season BFNL Under 18 and Reserves coaches and/or team managers as a reference point to assist in the process of making alternate game day arrangements where necessary.



Additional information for Day Permit players (Player Sharing)

Any Day Permit **must** be completed prior to a player participating in any such match and the permit form must be lodged in writing and included with the relevant BFNL match day envelope to cover any insurance requirements.

Approved BFNL Day Permit forms will be available for download via the BFNL website, following the Forms and Docs tab:

<http://www.bendigofnl.com.au/league/forms-docs>

Any player that plays for their opposition on a Day Permit will be credited as having played for his registered club in relation to finals eligibility. Day Permit player(s) will be subject to the same rules and conditions and any infringement will be dealt with and any penalty incurred will be served as if they had played with their own Club.

BFNL-BJFL Area Agreement – Under 16 Day Permits

All clubs should also be aware that where you have a BJFL affiliated junior club, you also hold the ability to investigate playing Under 16 BJFL players on a day permit in the BFNL Under 18 competition, although consideration must be given to “overloading” junior players with any increase to match workload requirements.

We suggest this method is considered as the last alternative to filling teams weekly, but it is another avenue to explore.

As per the current BFNL-BJFL Area Agreement:

3. NUMBER OF PERMITS:

- 3.1 BFNL registered players will NOT be granted match day permits to play in the BJFL during the current BJFL season.**
- 3.2 A BJFL player may be granted a maximum of **five (5)** area permits by their club to play in the BFNL under 18 competition during the BFNL home and away season.**
- 3.3 Permits can be issued if there are no more than **20 players listed (including permit players) on the BFNL under 18 team sheets.****
- 3.4 BJFL registered players may play TWO games per weekend but only ONE per day.**

4. NUMBER OF PERMIT PLAYERS

Each BFNL team is only permitted to play a maximum of **SIX** permit players in any one match.

Should any club/s wish to seek an exemption to deviate from these requirements, you will need to seek the approval of the specific opposition, then approach the BFNL for final approval of any proposed changes.