

OVERAGE PLAYER POLICY



BFNL clubs may apply to the BFNL Board for a maximum of up to 4 players each season to be considered as overage player in the Under 18 competition.

This overage exemption is to be implemented for the purpose of allowing overage players (players who meet the BFNL Overage Player criteria) to play in the Under 18 competition and allow their Club the opportunity to field a team.

The BFNL Overage Exemption Policy can only be used by clubs who have less than 20 registered players as of the 1st of April 2025. Only 2 overage players may take the field at the same time during any part of a match.

It is the discretion of the BFNL Board to reject nominations and/or exceptions to this policy.

Factors to be considered include:

1. Ability to influence a game and previous football credentials
2. General football skills and ability
3. Impact on others
 - Conduct - Plays in accordance with AFL Victoria, BFNL and Club Codes of Conduct
 - Behaviour - Does not display an aggressive nature towards other players.(Strict adherence to this behaviour Code of Conduct will be enforced)

Players must not exceed 19 years of age on January 1, 2025. Nominated players must have played with the club in the previous season. For players who do not fit this criteria, special application must be made to the BFNL Board for consideration to play.

Nominated player names and their football resume must be submitted to the BFNL 10 working days prior to the match they wish to participate in, allowing enough time for assessment and communication with member clubs.

All overage players' names will be forwarded to all other clubs prior to the match commencement and are ineligible for any league awards or representative opportunities.

Overage exempt players would be eligible to play finals providing that they meet the normal BFNL finals criteria and have been assessed and authorised for an exemption.

All eligible age registered players must be selected before an "overage" exempt player is permitted to participate in a match. All approved overage players must be highlighted on the team sheet with an (*).

All overage players **will** be assessed for ability by a person appointed by the BFNL Board and if there is any doubt as to their ability being of an adequate standard their exemption will be revoked.

Any approved overage player that is named as a player on a senior or reserves team sheet during the current season will have their approval to play in the Under 18 competition automatically and immediately revoked.

Club secretary and the player must sign the application form to acknowledge the requirements of an overage player prior to being granted permission to play as an overage player.

Under no circumstances are opposition clubs or members to approach any player or official of another club with complaints in any capacity in relation to overage players. Any complaints or requests for a player standard review are to be made in writing to the BFNL on an official club letterhead.

All reviews will be conducted by an independent assessment person/people appointed by the BFNL Board. Following the completion of the review, all relevant parties will be notified of the outcome in writing through the club secretaries. No review request will be considered after 30th June 2025 and any review finding must be completed and reported to clubs concerned by 31st July 2025.

OVERAGE PLAYER POLICY



OVERAGE PLAYER – APPLICATION FORM

BFNL clubs may apply to the BFNL Board for a maximum of up to 4 players to be considered as overage player in the Under 18 competition.

It is incumbent on all persons associated with this application to be aware of the conditions contained in the policy relating to the use of overage players in the BFNL Under 18 competition.

Some conditions include, but are not limited to:

The player must be under 19 years of age on January 1, 2025, the nominated player must have played with the club in season 2024. For players who do not fit this criteria, special application must be made to the BFNL Board for consideration to play.

Overage players cannot be used if at least 20 underage players are available for selection and only a maximum of 4 overage players may be used per team per game and only 2 overage players may take the field at the same time during any part of a match.

Note:

- Nominated player names and their football resume must be submitted to the BFNL 10 working days prior to the match they wish to participate in, allowing enough time for assessment and communication with member clubs.
- All overage players' names will be forwarded to all other clubs prior to the match commencement and are ineligible for any league awards or representative opportunities.
- All approved overage players must be highlighted on the team sheet with an (*).
- Any approved overage player that is named as a player on a senior or reserves team sheet during the current season will have their approval to play in the Under 18 competition automatically and immediately revoked.

The following player wishes to be considered for overage status to participate in the BFNL Under 18 competition for season 2025:

Player:

Club:

D.O.B. Age:years.....months (as at January 1st, 2025)

Height Weight

Reason for nomination for Overage Permission

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(If more space required, please use the back of this form)

We the undersigned acknowledge and agree that the nominated player will be monitored by an independent panel. If, at any stage, he is deemed to not qualify for overage status (i.e. too strong, too rough, of an average standard etc), the Bendigo Football Netball League may request that the player cease playing in the Underage competition immediately.

Signed: (Club Secretary)

Date: /..... /2025

Signed: (Player)

Date: /..... /2025

BFNL Assessment

Approved ☐

Signed

Not Approved ☐

Date /..... /2025