



VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

2021 UNDER 19 OVER-AGE PLAYER POLICY

The intention of the Under 19 Over-Age Player Policy for season 2021 is to give all players who are born in the year 2001 and who were eligible to play Under 19 football in season 2020 (which was subsequently cancelled due to COVID-19), the opportunity to still experience and participate in Under 19 football in 2021. Primarily, the VAF A believes that the fun, enjoyment and development that players experience in Under 19 football is important in developing social networks as well as improving physical and mental health.

A positive experience in Under 19 football is also seen as vital for clubs to continue to provide a pathway for their Under 19 players and help retain those players in future years.

Furthermore, the original intention of the Under 19 Over-Age Player Policy to assist clubs facing difficulties fielding an Under 19 side each week still applies.

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

1. In addition to Rule 51 of the VAF A Rules, the VAF A Board permits clubs to select and play Under 19 Over-Age registered players in home and away matches and finals who are born on or between the 1st January 2001 and 30th June 2001 inclusive in all sections of the Under 19 competition.
2. Prior to the commencement of the home and away season clubs are required to submit via the VAF A Portal a list of proposed Under 19 Over-Age registered players for approval by VAF A Football Operations.
3. Any Under 19 Over-Age player who plays in an Under 19 premiership match (including finals) without the VAF A's express prior approval will be treated as an ineligible player with the sanctions under Rule 50 to be applied (fines, loss of points).
4. The VAF A 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. A refusal may be made generally or in relation to a specific match. There is no right of appeal against any refusal.

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Review Date: Annually

5. This Under 19 Over-Age Player Policy does not prevent a player from playing more than one (1) match on a weekend, but clubs are reminded that only the highest ranked match will count for finals eligibility purposes, the order of ranking being Senior, Under 19, Reserve, Under 23 and Third XVIII.
6. Finals eligibility for an Under 19 Over-Age player in season 2021 is pursuant to Rules 55A – 55D of the VAFA Rules.
7. VAFA Football Operations will monitor the implementation of this Under 19 Over-Age Player Policy throughout the season and make recommendations to the Football, Growth and Integrity Sub-Committee who reserves the right to change the Under 19 Over-Age Player Policy for any reason and at any time as it considers fit.
8. For the avoidance of doubt, any club which is found to have breached this Under 19 Over-Age Player Policy will be subject to sanction pursuant to Rules 50 and 51 of the VAFA Rules, which may include the loss of premiership points.