

Genuine Shortage Amendment

Aim: To improve ability for teams with genuine shortage to utilise other players within their club whilst maintaining competition integrity. Changes should allow teams with genuine shortage to field teams, whilst avoiding the use of player movement for the purpose of winning games.

Key Considerations:

- Grading periods to define player allocation: The first team you play 5 games for is the team you are qualified to play finals for.
- Maintain flexibility in the early stages of the season- Any players can move between teams in their age group or up an age group until they have played 5 games without restriction.
- Once players have reached 5 games for a team, player movement will see players only play for another team when there is genuine shortage. No team can have a player who has played 5 games for another team in a team with 21 (boys/mixed) or 19 (girls)
- Should a team have 21 or more players in a game and feature a player qualified for another team (5 games) will be an automatic forfeit.

Add a Genuine Shortage rule (regular season)

- Where a team has a genuine shortage of eligible players, the Club may seek approval from the League for the utilisation of players from other teams other than the one claiming genuine shortage. The League must promptly determine an application made under this Rule and similarly notify the applicant Club of the determination.
- The intention of this By Law is to enable the team to field the minimum number of players and not to improve the performance of the team.
- League approval will only be given for players from a team in a lower division. If the clubs do not have a team in a lower division, it may nominate players from a lower age group. In exceptional circumstances variations to this rule may apply upon application to the League. The League will take into consideration whether nominated players have received votes in the League Best and Fairest in the lower division or lower age group competition.
- For the purpose of the By Law, a Mixed/Boys team has a “genuine shortage” when they have less than 20 players. For Girls teams a genuine shortage is less than 18 players.
- Players approved under this by law are not eligible to play finals with the team who sought the approval. Separate approval (under genuine shortage finals by-law 6.5.5) should be sought for finals.
- Teams with players approved under By Law, may play a game with eligible and approved players on the Team Sheet to a maximum on the Team Sheet of 20 players.

Player movement - Two or more teams in an age group

- **Remain unchanged:** Where multiple divisions are included in a grade, no more than four (4) Players may be rotated from a higher division to a lower division Team per round.
- **Remain unchanged:** Where a team has a bye, its players from the previous round cannot be rotated to a team in a lower division in the age group without approval from the CEO or their appointee.
- **Remain Unchanged:** Where a club has multiple teams in an age group and may be unable to field a team in a lower division due to injuries or other player absences, the Club may seek approval from the League to utilize players from a higher team. Such approval shall only be given by the CEO or their appointee, to enable up to the maximum numbers for that age group to take the field. Such application should include at least six players names.

Rule Reviewed: 6.4.4 *No Player may participate in two games in the same age group in the same round, even if the two games are in different divisions of that age group or are played on separate days. The teams in which the ineligible player participates may, at the discretion of the CEO or their appointee, forfeit premiership points and points scored, if applicable, and/or the Club shall be penalised in accordance with Schedule Q. The opposing team, where applicable, shall be awarded the premiership points and retain points scored.*

Changes effective immediately:

- When clubs have two or more teams in an age group, players can only play for one team per day until they reach 5 games qualification OR clubs nominate squads at the end of grading period. (Note: Rule 6.4.4 remains in place during grading period).
- Once teams have settled players qualified/nominated in a lower division team, players may play up a division (two games in one day in an age group) in cases of genuine shortage.
- A maximum of 4 players can play down a division during a bye round in the same age group. Should 5 or more players be required to play down to reach minimum team numbers, the game will be ruled a forfeit a practice match is to be played.
Note: Clubs who have a team/teams in the age group below should utilise these players where possible. Consideration of player availability in lower age groups will be considered by the league in applications to players down a division in any one age group.
- **Become its own rule, applicable to player movement in general:** *The teams in which the ineligible player participates may, at the discretion of the CEO or their appointee, forfeit premiership points and points scored, if applicable, and/or the Club shall be penalised in accordance with Schedule Q. The opposing team, where applicable, shall be awarded the premiership points and retain points scored.*

Player Movement- Player playing out of age group.

- Any player who has qualified (5 games or more) in a higher age group, is eligible to be used as a top up player at any point of the season in their age group of birth. (Genuine shortage rules apply)
- A player who has qualified for a higher age group, may apply to return to their own age group, where there is a genuine shortage in this age group. Players will not be granted permission where the lower age group has 20 or more registered players.
- Any player who has qualified (5 games or more) in a lower age group, is eligible to be used as a top up player at any point of the season in the age group above. (Genuine shortage rules apply)

Need to trust this rule more: Disputes relating to the Composition of Teams

Any team or club who is found to have Intentionally or maliciously manipulated the composition of teams (movement of players or restricting team numbers), contrary to by-laws 8.1.4, 8.2, 8.3.1, 8.5 may face the following sanctions:

- a. Fine
- b. Citation for head coach
- c. Loss of match points

Clubs who believe a breach has occurred in any game should provide a written submission to the CEO by 4pm Monday.

Should there be clear evidence of a breach, the League can sanction the offending club/coach at its discretion. Where an investigation is required, the club making the complaint shall pay for the cost of the investigation. If proven, the offending club will cover the cost of the investigation. Should the complaint be found to be frivolous the club lodging the complaint will forfeit part or all the investigation costs.