



**2016  
Fact Sheet**

# **Player Registration, Transfer and Finals' Eligibility**

## PLAYER ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS 2016

### 1. Permits

There is only **one way** of obtaining a **permit** for season 2016.

An applicant who complies with the following definition of an Amateur and who completes wholly the requirements of the VAFA Permit Application Process will be considered eligible to receive a permit to play in the VAFA.

**The definition of an Amateur** is as follows:

*An amateur is one who does not receive or promise to receive, either directly or indirectly, any remuneration or reward whatsoever (whether by match payments or expenses or otherwise) in respect to their participation in the Victorian Amateur Football Association (see player eligibility guidelines)..*

Permit Application Forms (PAF) are available from [vafa.com.au](http://vafa.com.au). Information supplied on this form must be processed through the VAFA database (“Footyweb”) before the PAF is lodged. PAF’s must be lodged with VAFA reception in person or via post. Faxed or scanned copies will not be accepted. Once the PAF is lodged with the VAFA, the player’s registration will be approved on the database by the VAFA **unless** an interview is required, or the club has been notified that an investigation is taking place into their application.

All PAFs submitted must be completed in full detail. Once the PAF is submitted, the permit will be automatically granted **unless** notification is given to the Club Secretary that the permit is pending. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure all information supplied on these forms is true and correct, otherwise strict penalties will be enforced for non-compliance. Also, strict penalties apply if information supplied on the PAF differs from that entered into the VAFA database. Permit forms should be filled in using ink and submitted in alphabetical order.

Clubs are advised they can only submit relevant paperwork once and once only.

No amendment to forms will be permitted, so clubs must ensure all details are correct when the paperwork is submitted.

If a player applying for a permit with the VAFA has a Tribunal record (in any League, Association and age group) of 3 or more guilty verdicts and/or 6 weeks in total suspensions, an interview with the VAFA must be arranged before the PAF can be



lodged. Clubs can request an interview through the General Manager of Football Operations.

Clubs must register with the VAFA, the names of club officials, other than the club Secretary, authorised to sign permits, transfers forms and VAFA clearances.

**Senior, Reserve, Thirds and Club XVIII** permits will be issued up to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016. A player **can** obtain a permit after June 30<sup>th</sup> if they are returning to the VAFA club for whom they last played. Permits will not be granted after June 30<sup>th</sup> for players transferring from other clubs (whether they are within the VAFA or not), no matter the length of time since the player last played.

**Under-19** and **Under-18** permits will be issued up to July 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. To obtain an Under-19 permit, players must be born on or after July 1<sup>st</sup> 1996. Birth Certificate, Drivers License or Passport numbers must be supplied on the PAF. For Under-18 Sections, players must be born on or after July 1<sup>st</sup> 1997.

Players issued with an Under-19 or Under-18 permit **after** June 30<sup>th</sup> can play **only** in their club's Under-19 or Under-18 team for the remainder of the season. They are ineligible to play Senior, Reserve, Thirds or Club XVIII football. Under-19 or Under-18 players requiring a clearance **cannot** be registered after June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Overage Players – Under-19** teams may play up to 4 players who are born on or after the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1995. **Under-18** teams may play up to 4 players who are born on or after the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1996. These players will need approval from the General Manager of Football Operations before being permitted to play in the Under-18 or Under-19 competition. Approval must be sought prior to the commencement of the match otherwise these players will be deemed as ineligible.

**Where a club has two or more Club XVIII/Thirds teams** in the same section, a player cannot alternate between teams after June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Senior, Reserve, Under-19, Under-18 and Club XVIII permit applications must be processed through the VAFA database and the associated PAF must be lodged with VAFA reception by 1pm on the Friday prior to a match.

In exceptional circumstances, Under-19 and Under-18 permits can be issued outside of these times. These requests must be done through the General Manager of Football Operations.

## 2. Transfers

The VAFA will assess every internal, inward and outward club transfer individually and make a decision whether or not to approve the transfer based on this assessment and its effect on the competition.

*(Rule 35 of the Articles of the Association – The VAFA Permit Committee shall be responsible to grant or refuse all applications for registration with the Association and permits to represent clubs in matches under the control of the Association)*

### 1. Internal Transfers (VAFA to VAFA club transfers)

Players must fully complete the PAF, paying particular attention to the “Previous Registration” section. All VAFA to VAFA club transfers are to be completed using the online transfer system contained in the membership database (“Footyweb”). Clubs have 6 business days to respond if they have any objection to the transfer. Objections can be based on the following criteria:

- (a) The player is financially indebted to the club or is in possession of club property.
- (b) The player wishes to withdraw their transfer application

Objections **cannot** be lodged if the player has not played for his former club for more than 3 seasons (i.e. clubs cannot object to a transfer in 2016 if he last played for that club in 2012 or prior). The player’s PAF **must** be approved by the former club.

Clubs will be able to view the permit status of players via the VAFA membership database incorporated within the “Footyweb” program.

The VAFA will automatically cancel a player’s permit if he plays in another competition outside the VAFA, except as provided under Rule 44 (iii).

### 2. Inward Transfers (Players coming into the VAFA)

Players must fully complete the PAF, paying particular attention to the “Previous Registration” section. The most recent senior club the player has represented **must** be recorded. The player will receive an automatic transfer if the player falls into any of the following categories:



- (a) A period of not less than 24 months has elapsed since a player last played with a club of any AFL Victoria (or equivalent) member.
- (b) A player is a permanent member of the armed forces and is transferred in his duties to an area not less than 50 kilometres from his previous place of residence.
- (c) A player becomes ineligible by reason of age to play with any team of such club.
- (d) A player is registered with a club which ceases to continue to field teams for which the player is eligible to play and provided that the former League confirms to AFL Victoria that such club has ceased to continue.

Transfers must be processed in the following manner:

- (a) Process the player's transfer via the "Request a Clearance" procedure on the membership database (see instructional sheet on VAFA website under "Publications & Media Guide").
- (b) If the player or the player's former League, Association or Club does not appear in the search fields in the membership database (i.e. interstate leagues), enter the players name into the database, circle "NO" under "PROCESSED ONLINE" on the VAFA PAF and submit to the VAFA within the required timelines. The VAFA will process the transfer in these cases.
- (c) The former League/Association will have 6 business days to respond from the day the transfer notification is processed. If the former League/Association does not respond within 6 days, the said League/Association shall have waived its right to refuse the transfer.
- (d) If a transfer is refused, it is up to the player or club to resolve to issue with the player's former club. The player will not be eligible to play until the matter is resolved. If the matter cannot be resolved within a reasonable time frame, the matter shall be referred to the VAFA for further action.

### 3. **Outward Transfers (Players leaving the VAFA)**

Clubs will be notified via email when a transfer notification is processed by another club using Footyweb. Clubs have 6 business days to respond if they have any objection to the transfer. For transfers to Leagues/Associations not



using Footyweb, the VAFA will notify clubs via email or fax when they are received. Objections can be based on the following criteria:

- (a) The player is financially indebted to the club or is in possession of club property.
- (b) The player wishes to withdraw their transfer application.

If a VAFA club has an objection to a transfer the player will not be eligible to play for the new club until the matter is resolved. Clubs must be able to verify their reason for the rejection on request. If a club is unable to verify their objection then the player's transfer request may be approved. If you feel that the matter has not been sufficiently resolved and the player has been accepted by the new League/Association, please notify the General Manager of Football of Operations with your concerns.

**4. VAFA, Western Region Football League, Riddell District Football League and Southern Football League Interchange.** Should a VAFA team have an affiliate Under-18 side competing in the WRJFL, RDJFL or be part of a hybrid arrangement with a SFL club, players may hold dual registrations in both bodies and interchange between the two if required. Players can only interchange under the following conditions:

- (a) The player seeking permission to interchange must have fully completed, signed and lodged an Interchange Form annually in addition to the regular registration procedures. It is the club's / player's responsibility to ensure they are fully registered with both bodies before taking the field.
- (b) The Interchange Form must be lodged prior to the VAFA closing date for registrations (June 30<sup>th</sup>) for senior football eligibility.
- (c) The player cannot play for the Junior and Senior Club on the same weekend. Players who do play in both competitions on the same weekend will be classed as an ineligible player in both competitions and ineligibility sanctions will apply.
- (d) To be eligible for finals in either competition, the player must meet the qualification criteria of that competition.
- (e) A player cannot interchange whilst under suspension.



- (f) If an interchange player is reported in the VAFA, the VAFA Tribunal will hear that charge. Any penalties received in either competition shall be served before the player can continue interchanging.
- (g) Players incurring injuries requiring an insurance claim will be required to claim from the relevant insurer of the competition they were playing at the time of the injury only. Players who play in both competitions on the same weekend will not be covered by insurance.

### **5. VCFL Student Interchange**

A player who transfers to a club affiliated with the VAFA from a club affiliated to the VCFL (or vice-versa) to attend an educational institution on a full-time basis may, during official semester vacations / school holidays, receive a permit to play with his immediate former club, subject to the Student Interchange Form being fully completed and the processes outlined on the form adhered to. The player cannot play for both the VCFL and the VAFA club on the same weekend.

Permit applications must be received by June 30<sup>th</sup> in the year of competition and forms are available from the VAFA. The permit period last for the duration of the players commitments at the educational institution and is subject to any relevant regulations of any of the parties, including participation in finals.

### **3. General Information**

Should the Permit Committee not be satisfied with information provided on the permit application, it may decide to interview the player. Where this is the case, the club will be notified that the player is ineligible to play and the club will receive written advice from the VAFA advising of the interview appointment time. Should clubs not be able to make the allotted appointment they should contact the General Manager of Football Operations to arrange otherwise.

The Permit Committee reserves the right to refuse any application for a permit should it be satisfied the applicant cannot demonstrate he possesses a satisfactory playing record or is of good character.

Any Club Secretary or Registration Secretary in doubt about the amateur status of any player is urged to discuss the matter with the General Manager of Football Operations. To initiate any discussion relating to the amateur status of players or a



permit matter, a club or Registration Secretary is asked to email the General Manager of Football Operations all information relating to the matter plus the query.

The onus is on clubs for information provided on permit forms. Particular attention is directed to the rules regarding permits. Each club secretary should be absolutely sure that no unregistered player is included in his team in any match, as the penalties for doing so are severe and irrevocable.

All clubs must be aware that the granting of a playing permit is conditional upon the applicant and the club with which he is seeking to play disclosing the applicant's complete playing history. Both the applicant and the club are as one on any permit application. The omission of any information on the application (be it deliberate or otherwise), that would have seen the application denied, shall affect both the applicant and the club in regards to any penalties imposed as a result of that omission.

**4. Contracted players.**

Any applicant contracted to a professional league club and who is in dispute with that club will not be considered for a permit until such time as the dispute has been resolved and the applicant has been released from his contractual obligations.

- 5. VFL listed players** can be released to play on a weekend for the VAFA interchange club nominated when contracted to a VFL club. The VAFA is advised of the names of players released (and approved by the VFL) during the Friday morning before the match. Clubs are then advised by the VAFA by a link on [vafa.com.au](http://vafa.com.au) whether a player has been made available by his VFL club. If a VFL player represents his VAFA club without formal approval he will be declared an ineligible player. Players may move between their VAFA club and their VFL club throughout the year; however players in this circumstance need to qualify in order to be eligible for VAFA finals.

- 6. TAC Under-18 players** can alternate between the TAC competition and the VAFA up to and including Round 18 of the VAFA season. Players in this situation need to qualify in order to be eligible for VAFA finals. A player can play with his VAFA club and his VFL or TAC Under-18 club on the one weekend; however the VAFA match played on such a weekend does not count towards the player's finals eligibility total.





## 7. Finals Eligibility

To be eligible for finals (and subject to the operation of **Rule 55D**) a player must be eligible and registered to represent the club; meet any applicable age requirement; and meet the games qualification stated below:

- (a) Senior – no games qualification.
- (b) Under 18 – a minimum of 2 games for the club in any grade PROVIDED THAT:
  - (i) a player who has played in 6 or more Open-age games must have played a minimum of 6 Under 18 games; and
  - (ii) a player must not have played more than 10 Under 19 games.
- (c) Under 19 – a minimum of 2 games for the Club in any Grade PROVIDED THAT a player who has played in 6 or more Open-age games must have played a minimum of 6 Under 19 games.
- (d) Reserve – a minimum of 4 Reserve or Third Grade games and a maximum of 10 higher ranked games.
- (e) Third – a minimum of 4 Third Grade games and a maximum of 10 higher ranked games.
- (f) Club XVIII – a minimum of 4 Club XVIII games and a maximum of 8 higher ranked games.

### Under-age hybrid teams

The finals qualification for a hybrid team comprising a combination of players from more than one Club (including a Club from another competition as referred to in Rule 44(b)) is a minimum of 5 games for that team.

### Playing more than one game on a weekend

- (a) If a player plays in more than one VAFA game on the same weekend, only the highest ranked game counts for finals eligibility purposes.
- (b) If a player plays in an AFL/VFL/TAC game and a VAFA game on the same weekend, the VAFA game does not count for finals eligibility purposes.

### Clubs fielding more than one team in a Grade

- (a) Open-age:
  - (i) If the teams are in different Sections – to be eligible to play finals for the lower-ranked team a player must not have played more than 10 games in the higher-ranked team.
  - (ii) If the teams are in the same Section –
    - A. a player cannot interchange between teams after 30 June;
    - B. a player can only play finals for his post-30 June team; and
    - C. the games qualification is a minimum of 4 games for the finals team, and more games for the finals team than the other team.
- (b) Under-age:

To be eligible to play finals for the lower-ranked team a player must not have played more than 10 games in the higher-ranked team, unless both such teams are playing on the same weekend (in which case this special Rule does not apply).



### **More than one team playing finals on the same weekend**

Where a club has more than one team playing finals on the same calendar weekend the following special games qualifications apply:

- (a) [Senior and Reserve playing] – the qualification for Reserve is a minimum of 2 games in the Senior or Reserve or Third Grade.
- (b) [Reserve and Third playing] - the qualification for Third is a minimum of 4 games in the Reserve or Third Grade, and a maximum of 10 higher ranked games.
- (c) [Senior and Under-age team playing] – the qualification for the Under-age team does not include the 6 game provision in Rule 55C(b)(i) or 55C(c).
- (d) [Reserve or Third and Under-age team playing] – the qualification for the Under-age team does not include the 6 game provision in Rule 55C(b)(i) or 55C(c) provided the player has otherwise met the games qualification for the Reserve or Third Grade, as the case may be.

### **Over-age players in Under-age Grades**

An over-age player permitted by the Board in accordance with Rule 51 or 53 to play home and away games in an Under-age Grade is subject to a finals qualification of a minimum of 8 games for the team he wishes to represent in finals.

### **AFL, VFL or TAC listed players**

The qualification is a minimum of 5 games for the team a player wishes to represent in finals, 2 of which must be after 30 June or in the alternative, a minimum of 8 games in total during the season without any temporal limitation PROVIDED THAT an Under-age player may combine Senior and Under-age games in order to meet the 5 or 8 game qualification for Senior finals.