



VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

2026 UNDER 19 MEN'S OVER-AGE PLAYER POLICY

Rule 51 of the VAFA Rules states: “The home and away matches of the Under 19 Men’s Section shall be open to all eligible and registered players who are aged 19 years or under as at the 1st day of July in each year or where in the opinion of the VAFA special circumstances exist, such other age and/or qualifying criteria as the VAFA determines from time to time.”

VAFA’s intention for season 2026 is to re-align age categories with junior pathways to ensure that Clubs can develop a sustainable model of players graduating into senior football to secure their Clubs’ future.

It is noted that the original intention of the Under 19 Men’s Over-Age Player Policy to assist clubs facing difficulties fielding an Under 19 Men’s side each week still applies.

Therefore, in order to avoid forfeits, the Under 19 Men’s Over-Age Player Policy for season 2026 is as follows:

1. The Over-Age Policy is not available to Clubs to use with their Premier U19 teams.
2. For Clubs with one (1) U19 Men’s team **excluding** Premier U19 Men’s team: The VAFA Board permits clubs to select and play up to four (4) Over-Age registered players in their U19 Men’s team in home and away matches and finals, who are born on or between the 1st January 2006 and 30th June 2006 inclusive.
3. For Clubs with multiple U19 teams **excluding** Premier U19 Men’s team: The VAFA Board permits clubs to select and play up to four (4) Over-Age registered players across all their U19 Men’s teams (maximum two per team in any match) in home and away matches and finals, who are born on or between the 1st January 2006 and 30th June 2006 inclusive. For clarity, a Club with two U19 teams **excluding** Premier U19 Men’s team can select and play a combination of the following:
 - 2,2
 - 2,1
 - 2,0
 - 1,2
 - 1,1
 - 1,0

- 0,2
- 0,1

4. VAFA reserves the right to refuse permission to any proposed Under 19 Men's Over-Age player as it considers appropriate to protect the integrity of the Under 19 Men's 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.

5. This Under 19 Men's 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 MPC, MDC, U19, MRC, MTC.

6. Finals eligibility for an Under 19 Men's Over-Age player in season 2026 is pursuant to Rules 55A – 55D of the VAFA Rules.

7. VAFA Football Operations will monitor the implementation of this Under 19 Men's Over-Age Player Policy throughout the season and make recommendations to the Football Sub-Committee who reserves the right to change the Under 19 Men's Over-Age Player Policy for any reason and at any time as it considers fit.

8. Any Under 19 Men's Over-Age player who breaches the age eligibility criteria of the Under 19 Men's Over-Age Player Policy will be treated as an ineligible player with the sanctions under Rule 50 to be applied.

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