



## **ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR SMJFL INTERLEAGUE PROGRAM**

The philosophy behind these rules is to enable clubs to retain their better players at all levels of competition, enabling players to remain with their local club, whilst at the same time those players can be provided with the opportunity to train and play at an elite level through the Interleague program.

To be eligible for SMJFL underage interleague selection, the player:

1. Must be a registered player of an SMJFL Club;
2. Unless otherwise determined by the General Manager – Football & Operations, must not be reported and subsequently found guilty of an offence during the current or previous season;
3. Must have played exclusively with his/her SMJFL current club for the current and previous season;
4. If the player has not exclusively played with his/her current SMJFL club for the current and previous season but has returned to an SMJFL club with which he/she has previously played then the preliminary position of the SMJFL is that no exemption will be granted. However, that player or his/her club may apply to the SMJFL General Manager for special dispensation to allow the player to be considered for selection;
5. Points 2 and 3 need not apply where the player has transferred into the SMJFL from another league within the current and/or previous season;
6. Previous interleague involvement will not be considered for any player who has transferred from one SMJFL club to another SMJFL Club within the current or previous season.
7. 'Season' shall be defined as the home and away and finals series and shall not include any unofficial matches.
8. The SMJFL shall retain, in its absolute discretion, the ability to allow a player to compete in the interleague program where the SMJFL is satisfied that the player's exceptional personal circumstance should allow an exemption to be granted.
9. There will be an opportunity for affected players to appeal SMJFL decisions before a Grievance Tribunal.

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<sup>i</sup>Note: Taking into consideration all the circumstances, the GM – F&O will determine a player's eligibility. The GM – F&O will consider such things as the seriousness of the offence (including whether it was deemed intentional or careless) and the player's previous behavioural record. However, the GM – F&O will have no power in such situations where a suspension occurs in line with scheduled interleague matches.