



BL&GFA JUNIOR FOOTBALL EXEMPTION PERMIT POLICY



Junior football grades within the BL&GFA are separated by age group. A junior footballer must play in the team grade that is appropriate for their age, however there are occasional circumstances with individual players where it is appropriate for them to play in a different age group. Players who are capable of playing in a higher grade are permitted to do so along with individual Club policy. Players who are requesting to play in a lower age group, must apply for an exemption prior to being permitted to do so.

An age group exemption permit is only considered where a player is unable to play in their allocated age group based on physical disability, medical condition, significant size difference or other exceptional circumstance.

Exemption permits will not be granted for Clubs to 'balance numbers' in teams or to simplify travel arrangements of parents.

BL&GFA Exemption Permit application process:

- All applications are to be made in writing on a BL&GFA Form 8.
- Applications are to be tabled by the Club delegate and discussed at the BL&GFA Junior Management Committee (JMC) Meeting.
- Following an assessment of the data provided, club delegates would then vote whether the application would be accepted or refused. If accepted, the player will be permitted to play in the lower grade.
- If any Club has concerns regarding the validity of the permit, the Club JMC delegate will raise these concerns at the next JMC delegates meeting and seek a resolution. (E.g. revoking a player's permit)

General Rules

- The JMC shall be responsible for all exemption permit applications for eligible Under 15 players and below. **(No exemption permits are available for any player qualified by age to play Senior Colts (U17½) or above)**
- If a club is seeking an exemption permit for a player and no Junior Delegate Meeting is scheduled within the next four (4) weeks, the Form 8 may be submitted to Junior Development Officer (JDO) - in the case where the player is qualified to play Under 15's, or the Junior Football Officer (JFO) in the case where the player should be playing Under 13's or below. The JDO/JFO will have the discretion to grant a temporary permit. The JDO/JFO will contact the clubs that the player will be competing against and seek feedback on that permitted player. The JDO/JFO has the ability to accept the permit or reject it until the next scheduled Junior Delegates meeting, where it will then go to the Delegates for a vote.
- Where a team sheet is required to be submitted (U15 and U13 games), players granted an exemption shall have the words PERMIT PLAYER written alongside their name on the team sheet each time they play.
- Where a team sheet is not required to be submitted, the team managers of all players playing under an exemption permit are responsible for advising the team manager of the opposition team the name and jumper number of the permit player. The opposition coach will then have an opportunity to assess the abilities of the permit player.
- All active exemption permits will be individually reviewed at each Junior Management Meeting.
- Permit players can only play one game per weekend.
- No permits will be granted after 30th June of each season.