

## PLAYERS INTRODUCED MID SEASON POLICY

### Purpose

This paper supports and gives interpretation to the Competitions by-laws relating to Player Eligibility for players introduced part way through the season (referred to as the **Introduced Player** from this point on). Additional consideration for Introduced Players outside of these circumstances is covered under the Trialling, Development Player and Promotion / Relegation by-laws and policies, for the leagues the player is looking to join.

### Intent

This policy will allow for players to join teams through a competition period, making their inclusion subject to approval by the competition committee. The Competitions Operations Group (COG) will take into account the players impact on the team, the competition and the overall health of the competition they are joining. The committee may allow for their inclusion subject to any or all of the following:

- competition points penalty,
- finals qualification and / or
- game disqualification.

### Circumstances where player will be accepted for consideration

To qualify as player subject to consideration, the Introduced Player must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- The Introduced Player has moved to the area since the beginning of the competition, and has not played in ACT competitions in the last 12 months. They or their parents may need to demonstrate the intention to remain a resident in the area for the period of the competition (eg. Rental agreement, Utilities contract) if requested by the COG
- The Introduced Player was not nominated in the team list at the beginning of the season but was previously a playing member of the same team, in the last 12 months. (eg. the player was unavailable for selection due to financial hardship, injury, or temporary absence). They or their parents may need to justify their absence (eg. Letter outlining financial situation, medical certificates, correspondence detailing absence) if requested by the COG

### Notification to the Competition Operations Group

Teams must notify COG before allowing the Introduced Player to play. Subject to the conditions surrounding elite and restricted players, COG will approve their involvement. Elite or Restricted players will be subject to impact analysis by the COG. The group will look at the following factors in considering their approval:

- Timing in the season. How many games remain, against whom, what teams may be impacted that are or may potentially be involved in the finals.
- Performance of the team that the Introduced Player is joining. Will the addition of the Introduced Player result in this team becoming overly dominant, thus considered unhealthy for the competition.
- Improvement to the standard of the competition by the inclusion of the player. Will this player add to the competition by being a “draw card” or role model for this competition.

The following will occur as a result of the Group review:

### **1. Introduced Player is allowed to play**

In most circumstances the Introduced Player will be allowed to play without ongoing points penalty being applied to their teams results. In these circumstances the group will outline their approach to the team either reducing or completely nullifying the win amounts for that team. This will only be applied after COG has notified the team, and will not affect the team's initial game involving the Introduced Player. These circumstances would be seen as rare and would only effect elite players playing for teams, late in the season, and that may affect the competitions outcome and finals make-up. The points penalty would not result in a fine even though the effect may be the same as the circumstances for a disqualification

### **2. Introduced Player is allowed to play, subject to competitions point penalty**

In certain circumstances COG may allow the Introduced Player to play subject to a points penalty being applied to their teams results. In these circumstances the committee will outline their approach to the team either reducing or completely nullifying the win amounts for that team. This will only be applied after COG has notified the team, and will not affect the team's initial game involving the Introduced Player. These circumstances would be seen as rare and would only effect elite players playing for teams, late in the season, and that may affect the competitions outcome and finals make-up. The points penalty would not result in a fine even though the effect may be the same as the circumstances for a disqualification

### **3. Non-acceptance of Introduced Player**

Where in COG's opinion the inclusion of this player will result in an unhealthy competition or is not in the fair spirit of the sport; the team will be informed the player will not be accepted and should not play that season.

### **Finals Eligibility**

All Introduced Players, so long as they have qualified under the final's eligibility by-law and supporting policy, can be qualified for the final series. The policy states "A player joining a team through the year will need to play the minimum number of games to meet the threshold for eligibility. For this reason a player cannot request an exemption based on their availability". *Refer to the finals eligibility policy for the games played thresholds.*

### **Disqualification of Introduced Player**

If the Introduced Player plays without notification to BACT or has had their Introduced Player status rejected and continues to play, then these games will be considered played with a disqualified player, with the result that the team will have a loss recorded against them. In the case of no notification, Teams may inform the Competitions Committee after this event however the disqualification will stand and the process for approval will then commence.