

Team Selection

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the team selection process for all teams representing the Boronia Hawks Football Netball Club (BHFNC) and to support our coaches in any reasonable decisions they make. The Club requires coaches to adhere to the following EFNL by-laws and club policy as far as practicable.

EFNL By Laws (<https://efnl.org.au/by-laws/>)

Registration

No person may play in any matches authorised or conducted by the ENFL, other than practice matches, unless that person has:

- Lodged an application for registration with the ENFL for an Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club; and received from the Chief Executive Officer notice that the player is permitted to play for the nominated Affiliated Senior Club or Affiliated Junior Club.
- Attained the age of seven years by 30 April during that persons first year of registration with the EFNL. Age groups commence on the first of January of the current year. The date of birth of the player will determine the age group the player shall play in.
- Prior to playing an official game each season, activated their EFNL registration by updating personal details in the database (GameDay) and paying the EFNL registration fee, as set by the EFNL Board from time to time.
- Females are permitted to play in matches authorised or conducted by the EFNL however, females who reach the age of 14 years as at 1st January in the year of play are specifically excluded from playing in any competition that is not a female competition.
- The League CEO in his or her absolute discretion may allow a player to play in a lower age group where the CEO is satisfied that special circumstances exist such as a serious medical condition (supported by relevant documents) that warrants a permit to be granted.
- Males over the age of 35 as of 1st January in any year are permitted to play in a veteran's grade team provided they do not play in any senior grade match in the same season.
- Females must be 16 years of age as of 1st January in any year and have parental consent to be permitted to play in Senior grade women's football.
- Any player that plays a senior grade game in the AFL/AFLW is ineligible to play an EFNL Senior game in that season.

Eligibility to participate in finals matches

- Players must play at least 3 matches with their Affiliated Senior (incl. veterans) or Junior Club in home and away matches to qualify to play in the finals series for their senior or junior club
- To be eligible to play in the second 18 or under 19 team finals matches a player must have played in three home and away matches for that particular team during the current season. Provided that such exception shall be presumed where any club fields a first 18, second 18 or under 19 team in a finals series match on the same day, or the same weekend.
- Any player playing 10 or more matches with a club's first 18 team in the home and away matches is ineligible to play with that club's second 18 team or under 19 team in the finals series. Provided that such exception shall be presumed where the player has played 6 or more games for the second 18 team or under 19 team during the home and away season, or when any club fields a first 18, a second 18 or under 19 team in a finals series match on the same day, or the same weekend.
- Any player drafted by an AFL club, placed on an AFL or rookie list or included on an official VFL/W list can, provided they have qualified under the rules, return to play with the EFNL in the finals in the seniors and reserve grades only.

- Any player that plays 12 or more home and away games in any season in the VFL and/or NAB League boy's competitions is ineligible to play EFNL Senior finals in that season.
- Any player that plays nine or more games in any season in the VFL and/or NAB League competitions is ineligible to play EFNL boys junior finals in that season.
- Any player that plays one or more games in any season in the VFLW competition is ineligible to play EFNL girls junior finals in that season.
- Any player that plays a senior grade game in the VFL/VFLW competitions is ineligible to play EFNL reserves unless that player has played 3 games for that specific team or has played a minimum of 5 games for the club during the particular season.
- Where a player participates in more than one senior club match (seniors, reserves, under 19s) on any weekend, only one match shall count towards finals eligibility qualification. The game that counts shall be the highest grade or age group played unless the player is an U19 player filling in for a Reserves team which is short of numbers.
- Where a player participates in more than one match (Senior Women's) on any weekend, only one match shall count towards finals eligibility qualification. The game that counts shall be the highest grade or age group played.
- Any Senior Women's player playing seven or more matches with the club's first team (higher division) in the home and away season is ineligible to play with that club's second team (lower division) in the final's series.

Over-age players (Refer to Season 2021 EFNL By Laws Addendum)

- Each team shall be permitted to apply to include up to ten players under 20 years of age on their under 19 list, of which a maximum of six can be selected in any game. This is intended for use of "development" type players who may be unsuitable for the move to senior football at this stage of their career. Application to include these players must be received by the EFNL General Manager – Football Operations at least 48 hours prior to the first game played by the player. Conditions apply (refer to EFNL GM FO). This permit to play can be revoked at any time.

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Open Age Teams and Under 19 Teams

- The Club aspires to provide players the opportunity to play in the highest level within the EFNL. The Club's divisional allocation is determined by the performance of the senior team in the previous season and / or the number of divisions within the league.
- No member shall be eligible for selection for any team representing the Club in any organised competition unless his or her Membership Fee for the season has been paid by the due date, as determined by the BHFNC Board. An extension period may be granted by the Club's Director of Finance if the player commits to an instalment payment plan, including deductions from match payments if applicable.
- The selection of each team is the responsibility of the appointed coaching panel. This is to be based on the panel's judgment and perception of the individual player's abilities, potential, development, attitude, commitment and the need for team balance. The Football Operations Manager will advise and assist the coaches select the teams if and when required. The Club appreciates that there may be extenuating circumstances, and that some players may wish to be in a particular team. Such requests should be made through the coaches and team managers of the respective teams.
- A player may voluntarily withdraw from the Club up to and including the completion of Round 3 of competition for their designated team. The player may be granted either a full or

partial refund of their Club Membership Fee at the discretion of the Senior or Junior President.

- A partial refund of Membership Fees will be applied if the player has participated in any competitive matches prior to withdrawal; owes the Club any money relating to the current or previous seasons; or has not returned any Club property, including playing uniforms. In these circumstances, the Club will deduct the amount owed to the Club and may apply a deduction of \$20 per competitive game played.
- After the completion of Round 3 of competition for a team fielded by the Club, the Membership Fee for any player who voluntarily withdraws is non-refundable. An exception to this rule is if the team itself is withdrawn from competition due to insufficient player numbers, or if the Board approves an individual exception on compassionate grounds.
- Players who suffer major or season-ending injuries prior to the completion of Round 3 of competition for their designated team may be eligible for a full or partial refund of their Membership Fee at the discretion of the Senior or Junior President. A partial refund will be applied if the player has: participated in any competitive matches prior to injury for which they have received match payments; owes the Club any money relating to the current or previous seasons; or has not returned any Club property, including playing uniforms. A full or partial refund may be approved if an injured player continues rehabilitation and training in consultation with the Club for a planned return to play, but is deemed to be unable to resume playing in competitive matches prior to the end of the season.

Junior Teams from Under 8 to Under 17

- No player will be able to play more than two age groups higher than their current age group.
- For all age groups up to and including Under 17, a limit of twenty-six players will apply, with any subsequent players put on a waiting list for a second team.
- Players within teams should be rotated on a fair and equitable basis during the home and away season, subject to a reasonable training attitude.
- Teams playing in finals will field the best team and club loyalty will be considered.
- Any player playing in a 50, 100 or 150 games match must be given the opportunity to play a full game subject to reasonable training attitude; unless in finals, where the best team will be selected.

This policy has been endorsed by the BHFNC Board

Date for review: February 2022