

TO: All Clubs

FROM: Matthew Annells | GM Football Operations

DATE: 28 February 2017

SUBJECT: Dual Registration

Dear Clubs,

FFV and the remaining Member Federations have been in discussions with FFA with respect to the issue of Dual Registration. Specifically, we have provided feedback to FFA as part of its review of the National Registration Regulations (**NRRs**) in relation to the operation of Article 4.9 of the NRRs in Victorian (and Australian) football.

As Clubs may be aware, Article 4.9 of the NRRs prohibits Dual Registration (i.e. registration by a player with more than one club at any given time) but provides, in certain limited circumstances (including "exceptional circumstances") for a player to be allowed to play for a club other than the club to which he or she is registered.

To date, there has been no real clarity around what constitutes "exceptional circumstances" for the purposes of a request under this provision of the NRRs. This has made it difficult for a player or club to make such an application, notwithstanding support from FFV. Ultimately any application to permit a player to play for a second club (whilst registered with another) must be approved by FFA.

Accordingly, FFV has provided FFA with feedback and examples of what it considers "exceptional circumstances" for the purposes of the NRRs. Those examples generally relate to players located in regional or remote locations who find it difficult to travel to regional or metro centres to play and train on a regular basis and seek dispensation to play (on alternate or select weekends) in community or local competitions.

Application Under Article 4.9 of NRR

FFV has set out below some information to assist with the application process under Article 4.9 of the NRRs and to assist players and clubs who wish to make such an application. An application by a player to be allowed to play for a second club (**Additional Playing Club**) while registered with a current club (**Player's Registered Club**) must be made to FFV in accordance with the information and process set out below:

1. Dual Registration is prohibited under the NRR's in accordance with FIFA regulations.
2. Article 4.9 of the NRRs set's out limited exceptions which allow a player to play for an Additional Playing Club in certain circumstances. One of those circumstances is where there exists "*exceptional circumstances*".
3. FFV is responsible, in the first instance, for considering an application by a player to play with an Additional Playing Club based on exceptional circumstances (**Application**). If FFV believes that exceptional circumstances exist under an Application, it will submit the Application together with its recommendation to FFA for consideration and approval. FFA retains absolute discretion as to whether exceptional circumstances exist and, therefore, an Application should be accepted or denied.

4. An Application must be made in writing to FFV (addressed to FFV Registrations Department (**myfootballclub@ffv.org.au**)):
 - a. Stating the reason(s) for the Application;
 - b. Listing the exceptional circumstances on which the club/player relies in making the Application (including any supporting documentation);
 - c. Attaching a completed Acknowledgement Form from both the Player's Registered Club and the Additional Playing Club; and
 - d. Including, where relevant, the consent of any local or regional association to the request.

An information checklist to assist with Applications is attached to this memo as an Annexure.

5. FFV will consider each Application and, within 7 days, will inform the applicant if it considers that exceptional circumstances exist:
 - a. In circumstances where FFV determines that exceptional circumstances do not exist, the Application will be denied. Any decision made by FFV in this regard is final and is not subject to appeal or review.
 - b. In circumstances where FFV determines that exceptional circumstances do exist, it will refer the Application to FFA together with a recommendation that the Application be approved.
6. The following factors, amongst others, will be taken into consideration by FFV in determining whether or not exceptional circumstances exist and the Application should, or should not, be referred to FFA for consideration and approval:
 - a. The age of the player.
 - b. Geographical considerations such as the home address of the player and the location of both the Player's Registered Club and the Additional Playing Club.
 - c. The impact approval to play for an Additional Playing Club will have on local competition(s) and local competition rules.
 - d. For the avoidance of doubt, providing junior players who are not selected to play for a Player's Registered Club on any given weekend an opportunity to play for an Additional Playing Club in order to gain game time, will not ordinarily be considered exceptional circumstances for the purposes of an Application under Article 4.9 of the NRRs.
7. Where an Application is successful, the player in questions will be permitted to play for their Additional Playing Club. They will not be required, nor are they permitted, to register with the Additional Playing Club.
8. A player who is granted permission to play for an Additional Playing Club will not be required to pay any additional registration fees to FFA or FFV. Whether or not any registration or other fees are payable to the Additional Playing Club or any local or regional association will be at the discretion of the Additional Playing Club and/or the local or regional association in question.
9. All clubs and players must comply with any and all regulations promulgated from time to time by FFA and FFV with respect to suspensions received by a player playing for the Player's Registered Club and/or the player's Additional Playing Club.
10. Where an application to play for an Additional Playing Club is approved, that approval applies for one season only. Should a player wish to seek to play for an Additional Playing Club for any future season, a separate further Application must be submitted.
11. NPL club junior rosters must comply with FFV player number rules and regulations as promulgated by FFV from time to time (including any player which has been granted approval to play for an NPL club as an Additional Playing Club).

12. Westfield FFA Cup Competition Regulations remain in place and provide that:

- a. To be eligible to play in Westfield FFA Cup Competition a player must be registered to their club; and
- b. Other than in relation to goalkeepers, a player can only play for one club in each season of the Westfield FFA Cup.

Next Steps

Should a club or player wish to submit an Application for approval to play for a club (Additional Playing Club) other than the club for which they are currently registered (Player's Registered Club), please submit that Application in line with paragraph 4 above (*see also attached Information Checklist*). Prior to doing so, please familiarise yourself with the information and process outlined above.

Any questions should be directed to FFV Registrations Department (**myfootballclub@ffv.org.au** or phone **(03) 9474 1800 (ext 2)**).

Regards,



Mathew Annells
GM Football Operations
FFV

ANNEXURE

**Football Federation Victoria
Application Under Article 4.9 of the National Registration Regulations
Information Checklist**

| Categories: | Sufficient Information: | Received by FFV? |
|---|---|------------------|
| Playing Details | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Name • FFA ID number • Date of Birth | |
| List the exceptional circumstances on which the player relies in making the application | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stating the exceptional circumstances on which the player relies in order to play for both the Player's Registered Club and the Additional Playing Club | |
| Consent forms from both clubs in question (Additional Playing Club and the Players Registered Club) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent form signed by Registered Club (Form 1) • Consent form signed by Additional Club (Form 2) | |
| Consent of any local or regional association (where applicable) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written letter of approval from local or regional association | |