



TO: ALL MEN'S STATE LEAGUE 1 CLUBS
FROM: FV COMPETITIONS & FV REGISTRATIONS
DATE: 23 NOVEMBER 2018
SUBJECT: VISA PLAYER RESTRICTION 2019

Dear Clubs,

In conjunction with FV Men's and Boy's Football Competition Review, State League 1 NW & SE will have a player Visa restriction placed on the competition in season 2019:

This restriction will be that FV Men's State League 1 (MSL 1) clubs will **only be permitted to list four (4) Visa players on their Senior match day record from season 2019 and beyond.**

A club will be entitled to sign more than four (4) Visa players should they choose to however the Senior match day record can only list 4 Visa players.

Any clubs who lists more than four (4) Visa players on their Senior team match day team sheet will be in breach of the above regulations for fielding an ineligible player(s).

FFA & FV Definition of an Australian Player:

An Australian Player is any player who is:

- (a) a Citizen of Australia;
- (b) a Permanent Resident of Australia (where Permanent Resident means a person residing in Australia on a "permanent" visa class issued by the Australian Government, evidence by either the person's Visa Grant Notice or as listed entitlement on the person's online Visa Entitlements Verification); or
- (c) the holder of a refugee visa, humanitarian visa or protection visa issued by the Australian government.

FFA & FV Definition of a Visa Player

A Player that is not a citizen or resident of Australia and who requires a valid visa or work permit to enter or be in Australia, whether to Play football as an Amateur or Professional will be classed as a Visa Player.

For Clarification purposes, a New Zealand Citizen is classified as a Visa Player unless he satisfies the definition of an Australian Player.

- The Visa Restriction will apply for Match Days rather than a restriction for the season. For example, Clubs may have six (6) VISA Players registered at the club and will be able to rotate the number of Visa players that are named on the Match Record, as long as no more than four (4) Visa Players are listed on the Senior Match record.
- Clubs will not be restricted to the number of Visa Players Registered at the Club; the Restriction will only apply for the number of Visa players listed on a MSL 1 Senior Squad. For example, a Club will be permitted to field 6 VISA players in a Metropolitan Men's Team.

FV will continue to have the discretion to conduct Random Audits to determine whether a player is deemed a Visa Player or not.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q) *As a Visa restriction will be implemented to MSL 1, Does that mean Visa players are required to sign a Professional Contract?***
- A) No. As MSL 1 is still classed as an Amateur Competition. Players aren't required to sign a professional Contract.
- Q) *Are New Zealand Residents exempt from the Visa Restriction?***
- A) New Zealand based players are not exempt from the regulation as they are not an Australian Resident or Permanent Resident. Therefore, they will be classed as a Visa Player.
- Q) *We have an Australian Citizen that is returning to the Club after playing in Europe. Will the player require an ITC? Does this mean the player is now a Visa Player?***
- A) The player will require an ITC, however will not be classed as a Visa player as he is an Australian Citizen.
- Q) *We have five (5) Visa players that we want to start on the Bench for the senior team in the upcoming Fixture, is this permitted?***
- A) No, even though a maximum of three (3) substitutions can be made, clubs can only name a maximum of four (4) on the Senior Match Record.
- Q) *We have a Visa player wanting to register at the Club, does that mean he needs an ITC?***
- A) If the players last club was overseas then yes, they will require an ITC. If in doubt of a player requiring an ITC, clubs are advised to contact MyFootballClub department to clarify a players status.
- Q) *Will the AFC 3+1 Visa restriction Apply for 2019?***
- A) For 2019, FV will not implement the AFC+1 Visa restriction. Instead, Clubs will have the opportunity to name Four (4) visa players on the senior Match Record regardless of the Confederation they reside from.
- Q) *A player has applied for a Permanent Visa. Is this player now exemption from the Visa regulation?***
- A) No. Until the player and club provides evidence to FV that a "permanent" visa class has been granted and issued by the Australian Government. Evidence to FV must be by either the person's Visa Grant Notice or as listed entitlement on the person's online Visa Entitlements Verification.

Clubs are encouraged to refer to the following website for further clarification regarding visas:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

If you have any questions in relation to this memo, please contact the FV Competitions Team via email on Competitions@footballvictoria.com.au or FV Registration team via email on MyFootballClub@footballvictoria.com.au at your convenience.

Regards,

David Bartlett
Registration Manager

David Zucchet
Community Competitions Manager