



## **ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR SMJFL INTERLEAGUE PROGRAM**

### **Background**

In the interest of a more balanced and fair competition, the philosophy behind these rules is to enable clubs to retain their better players at all levels of competition, enabling players to remain with their local club, whilst at the same time those players can be provided with the opportunity to train and play at a talent pathway level through the program.

To be eligible for program selection, the player:

1. Must be a registered player of an SMJFL Club;
2. Unless otherwise determined by the SMJFL, must not have been reported and subsequently found guilty of an offence during the current or previous season<sup>i</sup>;
3. Must have played exclusively with his/her SMJFL current club for the current and previous season;
4. If the player has not exclusively played with his/her current SMJFL club for the current and previous season, then the preliminary position of the SMJFL is that no exemption will be granted. However, that player or his/her club may apply to the Interleague Eligibility Panel (The Panel) for special dispensation to allow the player to be considered for selection. Decisions made by The Panel will be at their absolute discretion and will be final and binding.
5. Points 3 and 4 do not apply where the player has transferred into the SMJFL from another league within the current and/or previous season;
6. 'Season' shall be defined as the home and away and finals series and shall not include any unofficial matches.
7. The Panel shall retain, in its absolute discretion, the ability to allow a player to compete in the interleague program where they are satisfied that the player's exceptional personal circumstance should allow an exemption to be granted.

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<sup>i</sup>Note: Taking into consideration all the circumstances, the SMJFL will determine a player's eligibility. The SMJFL will consider such things as the seriousness of the offence (including whether it was deemed intentional or careless) and the player's previous behavioural record. However, the SMJFL will have no veto power in situations where an ongoing suspension occurs covering the period of scheduled interleague or SMJFL club matches.