



Borrowing Players – Key Guidelines

Borrowing rules are detailed in **Section 5.2 of the [Football Canterbury Rules of Association](#)**. Managers and Coaches must ensure they are familiar with these rules before borrowing players.

1. Small Sided Football (SSF) – Non-Competitive (U8–U12)

- Players may be borrowed from:
 - A **younger age group** (excluding Division 1), or
 - The **same age group in a lower division**
- Division 1 players may **only play up into another Division 1 team**
- **Mixed and Girls SSF teams** may borrow girls from both Mixed and Girls SSF teams
- Players **cannot be borrowed from U6 or U7**
- If an SSF player plays up into **U13 or U14**, Youth borrowing rules apply

2. Youth Premiership Teams (U13–U18)

- Players may be borrowed from:
 - A **younger age group**, or
 - The **same age group in a lower division**
 - Players may play up a **maximum of two age groups**
 - Borrowed players **must be added to the match sheet**
 - Division restrictions apply when playing up two age groups
 - A maximum of **two players from the lowest graded team** may play up into the lowest team of the next age group
 - Players cannot be borrowed between different competitions (e.g. Girls to Mixed)
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3. Senior Teams

- Players may be borrowed from a **lower division only**, except:
 - **U21 and AA Women's** teams may borrow from the age group below if the player is turning **18 during the calendar year**
 - All Age Men teams may borrow from **U21 only** (not U18, except BBPL under specific circumstances)
 - O35, O45 and O55 Men can **only play within their own age group**
 - Special rules apply for **AAW and O35W** player movement between those competitions
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4. Important Borrowing Limits

- Borrowing rules are **strictly enforced**
- A player may be borrowed a **maximum of five (5) times per season**
- After five games, the player must remain in their original team
- Permanent transfers require:
 - Agreement from both teams
 - Notification to the Registrar (registrar@piratesfc.com.au)
 - Transfers must be completed by **31 May**
- Maximum borrowed players per match:
 - U8–U9: **2**
 - U10–U12: **3**
 - All others: **4** (or **2** in specific lowest-team scenarios)

Breaches may result in **forfeits, suspensions and significant fines**.

Forfeiting Matches

A forfeit should always be the **last resort**.

If your team is struggling for numbers:

- Email **info@piratesfc.com.au** as early as possible so borrowing options can be explored
- If you can meet minimum numbers (or are only one or two short), we strongly encourage teams to **play the match where possible**

Avoiding Forfeit Fines

- All forfeits must be lodged via **DRIBL at least 48 hours before kick-off**
- Deadlines are strictly enforced by Football Canterbury

- If you cannot lodge the forfeit yourself, notify the club **at least two hours before the deadline**
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How to Lodge a Forfeit

1. Submit the forfeit via [DRIBL](#) before the 48-hour deadline
 - If not possible, contact the **President and Registrar** with sufficient notice
 2. Notify:
 - **APFC** (info@piratesfc.com.au)
 3. Include:
 - Team code, age group and division
 - Opposition team
 - Date, time and venue of the match
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Penalties for Forfeits

Competition Points (U13+):

- 1st forfeit: no penalty
- 2nd and subsequent forfeits: **1 point deducted per forfeit**

Fines for late notification:

- U8–U12: **\$60**
- U13+: **\$120 plus full match official fees**

All fines are passed directly on to the responsible team.