8.6.1 Players in Youth Competition (Under 13-17.5) must play a minimum of **four (4)** finals eligible games in the current season, with a **TEAM** to be eligible to play in **that team’s** finals series.

1. In a season with fewer than 12 rounds they must play 3 \*games to qualify for finals.
2. Finals eligible games will be first game played in any one weekend if a player participates in more than one game in the same competition grade.
3. A player must have played the minimum finals eligible games as standalone games in the lower competition / grade if they have participated in a higher competition / grade.
4. Finals eligible games will be the higher competition / grade played in that weekend (Thur-Mon) if more than one game played in or outside of STJFL competitions such as (TSL, SFL, SFLW, OSFA, ODFA, NTJFA etc.)

8.6.2 Players in Youth Competition (Under 18) must play a minimum of three (3) finals eligible games in the current season, with their **TEAM** to be eligible to play in the finals series irrespective of number of games played in higher competition.

8.6.3 Players in Youth Competition (Under 16.5 Boys & Under 17.5 Girls) must play a minimum of four (4) finals eligible games in the current season, with their **TEAM** to be eligible to play in the finals series irrespective of number of games played in higher competition / grade.

8.6.4 Application for exemptions to finals eligibility rules must be lodged with the STJFL using form SJ8.6

Applications will only be considered for the following:

1. A player has had a long-term injury where they have missed a minimum of 4 matches and
2. a doctor’s certificate is supplied.
3. Religious reasons prevented a player playing on certain days of the week.
4. A player’s commitment to State Underage programs makes them available for fewer than 4 matches during the season.

8.6.5 \*Subject to 8.6.1, for any player who has played in more than one division/age group during the season, finals eligibility is as below.

1. If a player participates in more than 2/3 of roster games with team(s) in a higher STJFL

competition / grade (U13-U15) then that player is ineligible to return to lower competition finals.

1. A player may play up a competition / grade in the STJFL Finals Series, providing the higher

competition / grade group has fewer than 22 players available and they have played the minimum finals eligible games.

1. The player(s) will not take the place of a qualified and available player in the higher competition / grade team. (Medical evidence will be required for any variation to this rule).
2. Players of correct age may move to a lower competition / grade for a finals game provided they have played the minimum finals eligible games in roster games with that lower competition / grade team and not more than 2/3 of roster games with competition / grade team.

***A player is not to displace others who are available to play and have played equal to or more games in the season in the lower*** competition / grade ***team.***

1. Players may only participate in one STJFL Finals Series match on the weekend during the finals series. (Thur-Mon)
2. Any player having participated in a grand final is regarded as having completed the season and may not participate in another STJFL finals game that season.

8.7         Teams competing in Finals are to field full complement of players if available. Failure to observe the

 above negates the requirement for mandatory bench as specified for the home and away games.

**During Finals**

NB:

Because the operation of these rules can cause selection difficulties for a club that is committed to playing competition matches or finals for all teams above on the same day, consecutive days, or weekend, that situation is treated as a special case and that assuming every player who is to participate is properly registered and eligible to play for finals, the club may select any of those players for teams as it thinks best.

  Should all club teams above that team not be playing in the week(s) following, a player who has moved up a competition / grade may either:

* return to the lower gradeteam for which they were originally nominated (provided they have played 2/3 or more rostered games with that team)

**OR**

* For players playing up they may remain with the team with which they played the last finals game providing they do not displace others who are available to play and have played equal to or more games in the season in the higher division team.

No movement between teams may take place after this.

***NB:***All permissions for player movement between teams must be sought from Competition Manager prior to Friday in the week preceding the match for eligibility to be verified which shall be at the discretion of the Competition Manager.

***Movement between two teams playing in the same competition/grade: (Example U13A1)***

Eight **(8)** Boys & (6) Girls team players from each team are “quarantined” by clubs in lists provided to the league before Round 4. Those players may only then play with that team for both roster games and finals.

For non-quarantined players if 2/3 of games for the season are played with one side then that team will be regarded as the team for finals.

A player (other than those quarantined) who plays fewer than 2/3 of games in the season in either team will have the first team played for after round four will be regarded as that player’s team for finals.

Players participating in two roster games on the one weekend will only have the first game played on that round counted for eligibility for finals.

*Special consideration may be given to teams unable to match equal team numbers with opposition in finals upon application to the League. Player movement is not to come from the quarantined player lists.*

***A player is not to displace others who are available to play and have played equal to or more finals eligible games in the season in another team.***

***Movement between two teams playing in different competition/grade in same age division:***

***(2022 Example) U13A1 & U13A2; U15A1 & U15A2***

Players participating in two roster games within the same age division on the one weekend will only have the higher-grade game played counted as eligibility for finals.

3.3.       If a club has teams in more than one division within an age group for finals, then the club is required to select two squads. Once the squads are selected, the players must stay with that team for the entire duration of the finals.

(See NB above)

3.4.       If only one team is in the finals the following applies:

3.4.a.    For the higher division the club must select 25 players only before the start of the first final.

3.4.b.   For the lower division the coach must select the 25 available players who have played the most games in the lower division roster throughout the season.

***Movement between two teams playing in different competition/grades: (Example U13 & U14)***

If a player participates in more than 2/3 of roster games with one team, then that team will be regarded as the player’s team for finals.

Players who have participated in two roster games on the one weekend will only have the

higher- competition / grade game played counted as eligibility for finals.

Players may move to a higher age group for a finals game but can only return to original team if they have played 2/3 or more roster games with that team.

***A player is not to displace others who are available to play and have played equal to or more games in the season in the higher age group team.***

\*Updated 2022