



## **Borrowing and Midseason Player Movement Policy**

This policy outlines the rules and processes governing temporary player movement between Sydney Rangers FC squads. It aims to ensure fairness, transparency, and consistency while protecting the authority of all coaches and the integrity of each squad's season

### ***Introduction***

Coaches are encouraged to avoid selecting “backup” players as permanent members of their main squads and instead utilise borrowing rules to support club-wide flexibility. It is recognised that in seasons where higher-division teams choose to carry larger squads, squad depth and skill in lower divisions may be reduced, which can limit borrowing opportunities.

This policy aims to balance squad autonomy with the club's broader need for fair and sustainable player movement to maintain competitiveness of all squads.

Any disputes in the implementation of this policy shall be referred to the Sydney Rangers Committee.

### ***Association Rules***

Football Canterbury rules allow teams in higher divisions to borrow players from teams in lower divisions. Borrowing players from higher divisions or teams in the same division is not permitted

A team may borrow up to four (4) players per match.

A player may play a maximum of five (5) matches for any team other than the one they are registered in.

Suspended players can't be borrowed. Cards and suspensions received while playing as a borrowed player accrue toward their season total in their registered team.

### ***Club Process***

A player may be borrowed if:

- They are available for the higher division match, and
- Borrowing them does not compromise their own squad's ability to field a competitive team.

### ***Additional Considerations***

When identifying suitable players to borrow, coaches should also consider:

- Preferring to borrow from the team immediately below in the divisional structure where practical. This helps preserve borrowing depth for lower-division squads (e.g., if B borrows from D, it reduces the number of play-up allocations available to C) and supports players playing at a level appropriate to their development.
- Whether cascading borrowing (e.g., B → C, C → D) would allow players to play at an appropriate skill level and maintain competitive balance across squads.
- Minimising disruption to other squads by prioritising players who will not miss their own match when playing up.
- Avoiding unnecessary cascading borrowing, as this uses limited “play-up” allocations and can impact multiple squads more than required on a given match day.



### ***Authority & Decision-Making***

No coach or manager has automatic access to players from another squad.  
All player movement must follow the request process outlined below.

### ***Releasing Coach Authority***

The releasing coach has the right to:

- Approve or decline the request.
- Prioritise their own squad's match requirements.
- Consider player welfare, workload, and development.

### ***Player Consent***

A player must personally agree to play up.

No player may be pressured, coerced or made to feel obliged to accept or decline a request.

### ***Request Process***

1. Requesting coach identifies a need for additional players.
2. The requesting coach contacts the coach of the squad they wish to borrow from.
  - Borrowing coaches must not contact players directly, unless permission is given by the releasing coach.
3. The releasing coach considers:
  - Player availability
  - Impact on their own squad
  - Player welfare
4. The releasing coach shall not unreasonably withhold approval to release a player
  - Approval may be withheld if releasing a particular player would leave the squad with fewer than 13 available players, leave a specific position uncovered without reasonable alternatives, or otherwise materially weaken the squad's ability to compete.
5. The releasing coach asks the player if they are willing to play up.
6. If both coach and player agree, the movement is approved.
7. The requesting coach confirms match details with the player (kick-off, location, kit, arrival time).
8. The releasing coach updates their squad list to ensure accurate tracking.
9. Any player movement is advised in the club's official coaches and manager chat for compliance tracking

### ***Communication Standards***

- All requests must be made respectfully and without assumption.
- Coaches must avoid language implying entitlement or obligation.
- The tone of the request should reflect that borrowing is a favour, not a right.



### ***Player Experience***

Playing up is encouraged and should be:

- A positive development opportunity
- Appropriate to the player's skill level
- Managed to avoid burnout or overuse – Football Canterbury Rules of Association 2026 Clause 1.9.8 relating to scheduling allows a maximum 2 games per 5-day period, no consecutive weekends with double headers for teams which can be used as a general guide, however each player should consider their own fitness levels when playing up to avoid injuries

### ***Avoiding Over-Reliance***

Borrowing should not be used to treat a lower division player as a quasi-squad member of the borrowing team or undermine lower-division squads.

### ***Match Count Tracking***

The releasing coach is responsible for tracking:

- How many times each player has played up
- Ensuring no player exceeds the five-match limit

Any borrowed players shall be communicated in the Club's coach and manager communication channel to allow the club to maintain a central borrowing register.

### ***Reporting***

Any disputes or irregularities must be reported to the Club Committee.

### ***Permanent player regrading including for finals***

Players may only be regraded for if they fulfil association eligibility criteria, are not required by the releasing squad and by agreement of player and releasing coach.

Regrading must not be used to circumvent borrowing limits or to stack squads for competitive advantage.

The application for regrading will be submitted to the Association following Sydney Rangers Committee approval. It is noted that the ultimate authority to approve or reject regrading is within the authority of the Association.

### ***Exceptional Circumstances***

The Club Committee may, as long as these comply with the Association's rules, approve exceptions to this policy in cases such as:

- Severe injury crises
- Multiple squads affected by external factors
- Finals eligibility considerations
- Club-wide events or representative commitments

### ***Review***

This policy will be reviewed as required to ensure fairness, clarity, and alignment with Football NSW regulations and in cases where Football Canterbury materially amends its Rules of Association