



AFL Queensland Player Points System Policy

FINAL

August 31, 2018

For implementation for the 2019 QAFL season

AFL QUEENSLAND PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM (PPS) POLICY

1. Objective of the Player Points System Policy

AFL Queensland believes that equalisation of community football competitions is vital for the ongoing success of community football.

Even and fair competitions lead to interest, which leads to bigger crowds, which leads to stronger clubs and competitions. Even competitions allow supporters and club volunteers the chance to turn up on any given match day with the knowledge that the outcome of the game is uncertain and that their team is a chance of winning. This mindset motivates people to become and remain engaged with their community club and provides rewards and recognition to all those that assist in putting a team out on the field.

The philosophy of competition equalisation is accepted in sports all around the world. Professional sporting bodies have accepted practices such as drafts, salary caps, FIFA Fair Play and the like in order to help competitions ensure competitiveness and club sustainability.

The objectives of the state PPS Policy are as follows, to:

1. support equalization of community football Competitions;
2. ensure teams fielded in the Competitions are strong and as equally matched as possible;
3. provide the best opportunities for players to develop and display their skills;
4. provide opportunities to compete at a community level within an orderly and fair system;
5. enable team spirit and public support;
6. encourage community and corporate sponsorships of Community Clubs;
7. reduce the inflationary nature of player payments to assist clubs survive financially and reduce financial burden/stress on Clubs;
8. promote player loyalty and junior development;
9. support the role volunteers undertake in managing their Clubs by;
 - minimising the need to fundraise for player payments
 - providing a more competitive environment on field, that encourages more volunteers to support at Club level
 - providing incentive to spend more time and effort in the development of football, a welcoming Club environment and growing the game within the local community.

This PPS Policy sets out a framework of rules and guiding principles in relation to a player points system which will be implemented in order to achieve the above objectives.

2. Definitions

- 2.1.** AFL – Australian Football League.
- 2.2.** AFL Queensland - means Australian Football League (Queensland) Limited ABN 66 090 629 342
- 2.3.** Category – means the player points category which determines the base allocation of the Player Points Allocation for a player.
- 2.4.** Community Club or 'Club' – means an Australian football club which participates within a community football competition that does not include State Leagues (i.e. the NEAFL or VFL).
- 2.5.** Competition – means an Australian football competition in which the Community Clubs participate in official fixtured matches.
- 2.6.** Competitive Football – means any formally organised football competition conducted within Australia excluding AFL 9s and school football.
- 2.7.** First Home and Away Match – means the first official competition match for the home and away season of a Competition.
- 2.8.** Footyweb System – means the online competition management system implemented by football competitions across Queensland.
- 2.9.** National Player Transfer Regulations – means the AFL's national policy for player transfers as updated by the AFL from time to time.
- 2.10.** NEAFL – means North East Australian Football League.
- 2.11.** Player membership details – means a player's individual details provided for on the Footyweb System.
- 2.12.** Player Points Allocation – means the total number of points allocated to an individual player in a Senior Team taking into consideration the Player Points Category that applies to each player and any additional points or deducted points in accordance with this PPS Policy.
- 2.13.** PPS Policy - means this community club player point's policy as amended by AFL Queensland from time to time.
- 2.14.** Premium Competition - means the Competitions outlined in clause 5.3 of this PPS Policy.
- 2.15.** Reserves Competition – means the Reserves, Club XVIII, Thirds and Masters competitions within any league or division of a competition.
- 2.16.** SANFL – means the South Australian National Football League.
- 2.17.** Season – means Community Football season between 1 April and 30 September each year (or such other agreed dates).
- 2.18.** Season of Service – means a Season where a player has played a minimum of five (5) senior or reserves games in one Season for a particular Community Club. A player who has completed a Season of Service is eligible for a reduction of one point should they play for the same Community Club in the following season(s) in accordance with this PPS Policy.
- 2.19.** Senior Competition – means the senior or 1st grade Competition within any league or division of a Competition.
- 2.20.** Senior Team – means the team of players that participate within a Community Club's senior or 1st grade football team.
- 2.21.** TSL – means the Tasmanian State League.
- 2.22.** Total Team Points – means the total amount of points allocated to a specific Senior Team by AFL Queensland for each Season in accordance with this PPS Policy.
- 2.23.** VFL – means the Victorian Football League.
- 2.24.** WAAFL – means the Western Australian Amateur Football League.
- 2.25.** WAFL – means the Western Australian Football League.

Interpretation:

A reference to:

“Aligned Junior Club” is where seniors and juniors exist under the same constitution, or where there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place between standalone senior and junior clubs that is approved by AFL Queensland. Senior clubs can have multiple MOU’s with junior clubs and junior clubs can have multiple MOU’s with senior clubs. To be considered an ‘Aligned Junior Club’ an MOU must be approved by AFL Queensland to ensure appropriate player pathways exist.

“Transferred” refers to the formal transfer authorised under the National Player Transfer Regulations.

“Unique local conditions” refers to the conditions, environment or circumstances which are unique to a Community Club or a region of Community Clubs which may give grounds for a reassessment of a Club’s Total Team Points as determined by AFL Queensland.

Queensland affiliated Community Club means a Community Club affiliated to a AFL Queensland by way of an authorised licence or affiliation agreement.

3. AFL Queensland Responsibilities

AFL Queensland:

Total Team Points

- 3.1.** will consider all applications from Community Clubs for the allocation of additional Total Team Points in accordance with this PPS Policy.
- 3.2.** may allocate additional points or apply deductions to Total Team Points to specific Community Clubs in accordance with this PPS Policy to manage unique local conditions and meet the needs of local Community Clubs and the relevant senior Competitions.
- 3.3.** will allocate and communicate the final figure for Total Team Points to each Senior Team for each Club affiliate (i.e. not reserves or underage Competitions) for the following Season and in accordance with PPS Policy by 30th September each calendar year.

Player Points Allocation

- 3.4.** will liaise with Community Club’s to ensure Player Point Allocations are entered via the Footyweb System prior to any player’s first Senior Home and Away Match of each Season.
- 3.5.** as part of the Player Point Allocation process, AFL Queensland may provide the opportunity for Clubs to seek a reassessment of any player’s Player Point Allocation. Any reassessment against a Player Point Allocation should be made to AFL Queensland no later than 5 days before the player’s first Senior Home and Away Match of each Season.
- 3.6.** once the points allocation process has been undertaken, any player’s Player Point Allocation will be fixed for that Season unless AFL Queensland is of the view that there are exceptional circumstances relevant to a player that warrant an amendment of the Player Point Allocation during the Season.

4. Affiliated Club Responsibilities

Each affiliate Community Club:

- 4.1. will determine each player's Player Points Allocation for its Senior Team. This determination may include any additions or deductions applicable to each player in accordance with this PPS Policy. See clauses 5 and 6 and appendices 11.1 & 11.2 for applicable PPS table and flow chart to assist in this process.
- 4.2. will provide a list of no more than 60 players who are likely to play senior football in the upcoming season, at least three (3) weeks prior to the club's first scheduled Home & Away match.
- 4.3. acknowledges that if a Community Club does not follow this procedure and decides to play a player in a match in a Senior Competition, who has not had their Player Points Allocation approved and entered into the Footy Web System, that Club will bear the risk of any subsequent enforcement penalty as determined by AFL Queensland in accordance with this PPS Policy.
- 4.4. will ensure that on match days the Senior Team does not exceed that Club's Total Team Points. For the avoidance of doubt, Community Clubs may recruit above their allocated points in any given Season but must comply with the Total Team Points allocation on match days.
- 4.5. may make an application to AFL Queensland for the allocation of additional Total Team Points in accordance with this PPS Policy (i.e. for unique local circumstances).

5. Player Points Categories

- 5.1. A player's Category and the subsequent Player Points Allocation will be determined by that player's playing history and achievements and is structured in a way to promote player retention and loyalty.
- 5.2. Each player expected to play in the Senior Team of a Community Club will be allocated a Category and a Player Points Allocation as follows:
 - a) Category 1 – Home Player – 1 Point
 - i. Player who has played 40 or more games at the aligned junior club up to and including Under 17 Competition;
 - ii. A player who has played only at that Community Club or an aligned junior club, and for no other Community Club; or
 - iii. A player who has not played Competitive Football in the previous 36 months.

NOTE: Under the Category 1 definition, a player may be categorised as a 'home player' at more than one Community Club.

- 5.3. If a player does not meet the Category 1 'home player' eligibility above, their points Category will be assessed based on the highest playing level achieved prior to the player joining the current club in the following Categories:
 - a) AFL Player – 7 Points

Player who has played a minimum of one AFL game in any of the current or previous three (3) Seasons.
 - b) State League Tier One – 6 Points

Player who has played a minimum of 5 senior games of VFL, WAFL or SANFL in any of the current or previous three (3) seasons.

For example a player would not qualify in this category for the 2019 Season if that player has played as follows in the previous three (3) Seasons:

Season 2018 – 4 games

Season 2017 – 3 games

Season 2016 – 2 games

However, a player would qualify in this category for the 2019 Season if that player had played as follows in the previous three (3) Seasons:

Season 2018 – 0 games

Season 2017 – 6 games

Season 2016 – 2 games

NOTE: where a Category refers to “a minimum of 5 games in any of the previous 3 Seasons”, the above calculation example will apply.

c) State League Tier Two – 5 Points

Player who has played a minimum of 5 senior games of NEAFL, NTFL or TSL in any of the current or previous three (3) seasons.

d) Premium Community Player – 4 Points

Player who has played a minimum of 5 senior games in the current or previous three (3) seasons, in any Premium Competition in Australia.

Premium competitions are:

QUEENSLAND

- **Queensland Australian Football League (QAFL)**

VICTORIA

- AFL Victoria Development League
- AFL Yarra Valley - Division One
- Ballarat Football Netball League
- Bendigo Football Netball League
- Eastern Football League Division One
- Essendon District Football League Premier Division
- Geelong Football Netball League
- Gippsland Football League
- Goulburn Valley League
- Hampden Football Netball League
- Mornington Peninsula Football Netball League – Division One
- Murray Football League
- Northern Football Netball League Division One
- Ovens and Murray Football Netball League

- South East Football Netball League
- Southern Football Netball League Division One
- Victorian Amateur Football Association Premier Division
- AFL Victoria Development League
- Western Region Football League Division One

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- Adelaide Footy League – Division 1
- Southern Football League – Division 1

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- WAAFL A Grade Seniors

NEW SOUTH WALES/ACT

- AFL Sydney Premier Division
- AFL Canberra 1st Grade

*Plus any other competition as determined from time to time

- e) Senior Community Player – 3 Points
- Player who has played the same number or more senior games than reserves games in total, over the current and previous three (3) Seasons at community football level.
 - The player must have played at least 5 games in total, for either the Seniors or Reserves.
- f) Community Player and Transferred Junior Player – 2 Points
- Community player – A player who has played more reserves games than senior games in total, over the current and previous three (3) Seasons at community football level.
 - Transferred Junior – a player who was recruited from an U19's (or younger) Competition and who does not meet Category 1 eligibility.

- 5.4.** A Community Club that has a player that does not meet any of the above player Categories will need to apply to the AFL Queensland State Football Operations Manager to determine the appropriate Player Points Allocation. In determining the Player Points Allocation, AFL Queensland will have regard to all relevant factors so as not to unreasonably restrict the player's movement between Community Clubs or a player's opportunity to play football at a Club of their choice.
- 5.5.** For the avoidance of doubt, a player's Player Points Allocation does not get change each season, other than for Season of Service deductions, unless they transfer to another club.
- 5.6.** For the purposes of a Player Points Allocation, a playing coach or playing assistant coach is classified as a player and will be assessed under the above Categories.

- 5.7.** A player playing on an Interchange Agreement as detailed at clause 3.9 of the National Player Transfer Regulations (i.e. a permit player) will be assessed on the same basis as transferred players.
- 5.8.** A player who was previously registered with a club for at least one full season and played at least 5 matches, before transferring to a higher level competition will return with the same PPV as when they transferred out. A player may play for multiple clubs at higher levels, however should the player be registered with any other club in the same category or at a lower level, before transferring back, the player will be subject to the regular assessment criteria.

6. Additional player point allocations:

- 6.1.** If a player transfers to a Community Club and will be competing against their immediate former Community Club, (except Category 2 - Community Players) an additional two (2) point penalty will apply.
- 6.2.** Where a player has registered at three (3) or more different Community Clubs in three (3) seasons, one additional point will be applied to that player's Player Points Allocation. In determining the 3 season's timeframe, clubs shall assess the current or upcoming season as the first season along with the previous two (2) seasons.
- a) For the avoidance of doubt, player movements under a permit arrangement e.g. to a State League, NEAFL, NTFL club or under local interchange agreements, where their home club is classified as a Community Club, will not be penalised under this clause.
- 6.3.** A Community Club may make an application for a re-assessment under clause 7.3 to the AFL Queensland State Football Operations Manager in relation to a player's additional points allocation.

7. Deductions and Amendments to player points allocation:

- 7.1.** Beginning in the third season, once a player's Player Points Allocation has been determined, a reduction of one point will apply for each 'Season of Service' to that player's Community Club (minimum 5 senior or reserves games per Season), even if not in consecutive years, until the player reaches 1 point (this is the minimum number of points a player can have). For the avoidance of doubt, if a player is eligible for underage football at his Club, they must play 5 senior games to meet the criteria for a Season of Service point reduction.

For example:

2017 – Player recruited from a Premium Competition worth 4 points (plays 15 games)

2018 – 4 points (plays 10 games)

2019 – Reduces to 3 points (plays 4 games)

2020 – Remains 3 points (plays 6 games)

2021 – Reduces to 2 points

- a) To assist the recruitment of Queensland talent to the QAFL, any player who played youth football solely in Queensland in the three years prior to transferring

to a QAFL club will have their Season of Service deduction begin in their second season.

- b) NEAFL Primary listed players aligned to a QAFL club will be entitled to the same Season of Service discount for matches played in the QAFL, should they transfer directly to the QAFL club.

7.2. Where a player qualifies in more than one Category based on their playing history in the current Season or any of the previous 3 Seasons, the Category with the highest points will apply, hence the use of the flow chart in appendix 11.2. (Home Players are excluded).

7.3. AFL Queensland may, acting reasonably, reassess an individual player's Player Points Allocation where it is deemed inappropriate based on playing history and circumstances. Community Clubs may make an application detailing relevant evidence regarding the reassessment of a player to the AFL Queensland State Football Operations Manager. The application for reassessment may be based upon one or more of the following:

- a) The age of the player especially if the player is looking to play at a higher level
- b) The injury history of the player
- c) The recent playing history of the player
- d) The living, schooling and work arrangements of the player; or
- e) Any other relevant consideration.

7.4. A Club may also make an application to receive a points reduction to a player's Player Points Allocation in relation to a player transitioning into or out of a Club aligned with a school or tertiary institution. Such application should be approved by AFL Queensland.

8. Total Team Points

8.1. In order to assess applications to amend a Senior Competitions Total Team Points' cap, AFL Queensland will adopt the following guiding principles regarding the additional allocation or reduction of Total Team Points to a Community Club:

- a) Additional total team points may be allocated to a Community Club which is located in a region with a low population base.
- b) Additional total team points may be allocated if a Community Club did not qualify for finals in previous seasons or has been promoted from previous seasons.
- c) Reduction of total team points for multiple premierships and sustained success over previous seasons.
- d) Additional total team points may be allocated if a Community Club endures significant hardship, lack of success, is coming out of recess, or is a recently merged or restructured entity.
- e) Additional total team points may be allocated where a Community Club has no Colts or younger underage sides and is not capable of developing a junior program due to reasons outside of its control, or if a Community Club is aligned with a university and the team is based around players coming and going over a 3-4 year period.

8.2. For each match, a Club must ensure that the Total Team Points allocation is calculated based on the maximum number of players allowed to participate in a match for that Competition. For example, if the maximum number of players on match days for the Competition is 22 players, a Club cannot submit a team list of 21 players to meet the Total Team Points cap. For the avoidance of doubt, a Club must list the maximum number of players allowed on its team sheet in calculating its Total Team Points. For exceptional circumstances (i.e. not having enough players to field a full Senior Team) the matter should be referred to AFL Queensland for review and direction.

9. Enforcement

- 9.1.** Given Player Points Allocations will be managed via the Footyweb System, if correct procedure is applied, with Players Points Allocation entered into the system prior to the start of the Season, it is envisaged there will be minimal issues in the management of the Player Points Allocations.
- 9.2.** Should any Club knowingly make a false or incorrect declaration regarding Player Points Allocations, the Club may be penalised by AFL Queensland in line with the penalties set out in clause 9.3.
- 9.3.** Penalties may include (without limitation):
- a) Club fines
 - b) Relegation (when in a divisional competition)
 - c) Loss of premiership points – current season and in the future
 - d) Suspension from finals – current season and in the future
 - e) Player / Official suspensions – for those players/ officials that knowingly provide false information to the Club;
 - f) Any other penalty determined by AFL Queensland from time to time.

In applying any enforcements provisions in relation to any breach of the PPS Policy, AFL Queensland shall take into consideration whether the breach was assessed as:

- Unintentional - where a club had not been provided with accurate information.
- Interpretive - where a club had applied the policy in a manner than was the policy was not intended.
- Intentional - where a clear breach had occurred with little or no regard to the requirements of the policy.

10. Appeal and Review

- 10.1.** Where a Community Club is of the view that a player's Player Points Allocation is deemed inappropriate under this PPS Policy following a reassessment conducted under clause 7.3 of this policy, any appeal against that Player Points Allocation must be heard by AFL Queensland in accordance with the normal appeals process.
- 10.2.** Where a Club is of the view that its own Total Team Points is deemed inappropriate following a reassessment under Clause 8.2 of this Policy, any appeal against that Total Team Points allocation must be heard by AFL Queensland in accordance with the normal appeals process.
- 10.3.** An appeal against a decision to apply an enforcement provision under this PPS Policy should be made via the AFL Queensland State Football Operations Manager and will be reviewed in accordance with the normal appeals process.
- 10.4.** AFL Queensland will review the PPS Policy throughout each Season and amendments and variations may be made from time to time.

11. Appendices

Should any discrepancy occur with any appendices listed below, the rules set out in clauses 5 & 6 will prevail.

- 11.1.** Player Points Categories Tables

| Points | Category | Definition |
|---|---|--|
| 7 | AFL Player | Played at least one AFL game in any of the current or previous 3 seasons. |
| 6 | State League Tier 1 - VFL, WAFL, SANFL | Player who has played a minimum of 5 senior games of VFL, WAFL or SANFL in any of the current or previous three (3) seasons. |
| 5 | State League Tier 2 - NEAFL, NTFL, TSL | Player who has played a minimum of 5 senior games of NEAFL, NTFL or TSL in any of the current or previous three (3) seasons. |
| 4 | Premium Competition Player | Player who has played a minimum of 5 senior games in the current or previous three (3) seasons, in any Premium Competition* in Australia. NOTE: Premium Competitions are listed separately below. |
| 3 | Senior Community Player | Played the same or more Senior than Reserves games in total over the current and previous 3 seasons. Players must have played at least 5 senior or reserve grade games in total. |
| 2 | Transferred Junior | Player recruited from a Colts or younger competition and does not meet the Home Player definition. |
| | Community Player | Played more Reserves games than Senior games in total, over the current and previous three seasons at Community football level. |
| 1 | Home Player | Player who has played only at that club or aligned junior club. |
| | | Played 40 or more games at the aligned junior football club up to and including U17 competitions. |
| | | Player who hasn't played competitive football in the previous 36 months |
| | NEAFL Primary Listed | A current primary listed NEAFL player |
| Additional 2 Penalty Points^ | | If transferring from another club and will be competing against their immediate former club (does not include Community Player). |
| Additional 1 Penalty Point^ | | If registered at three (3) or more different Community Clubs in the current or previous two (2) seasons. Does not include players moving on permit (e.g. NEAFL, NTFL or Local Interchange Agreement) |
| *Loyalty of Service* Deduction of 1 Point | | A player who is valued at 2 points or more and remains at the club, will reduce by one point for each season (minimum 5 Senior or Reserves games per season), beginning in their third season at the club. |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>NOTE: If the player is eligible for underage football (including Colts) at the club, they must play 5 Seniors/Reserves games to meet the criteria for a year of service.</p> <p>NOTE: NEAFL Primary listed players aligned to a QAFL club will be entitled to the same Season of Service discount for matches played in the QAFL, should they transfer directly to the QAFL club.</p> <p>NOTE: Any player who played youth football solely in Queensland in the three years prior to transferring to a QAFL club will have their Season of Service deduction begin in their second season.</p> |
| <p>Note: Where a player qualifies in more than one category based on their playing history, the category with the highest points will apply. (Home players are excluded).</p> | |
| <p>* For any player that does not meet any of the above categories, the club will need to apply to AFL Queensland who will determine the appropriate categories and points.</p> | |

11.2 Player Points Flowchart

