

AFL Queensland Player Points System Policy

Revised - September 2022



**Applicable for the 2023 QAFL & QFA Division 1 and
Division 2 Senior Men's Competitions.**

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AFL Queensland Player Points System Policy (PPS) – September 2022

1) Definitions

AFL – Australian Football League.

AFLQ - means Australian Football League Queensland

Aligned Junior Club – where seniors and juniors exist under the same entity, or where there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place between standalone senior and junior Clubs. 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 registered and approved by AFL Queensland.

Category – means the category that determines the base allocation of the points for a player.

Community Club or Club – means an Australian football club which participates within a community football competition that does not include AFL or State Leagues (i.e., the VFL).

Competition – means an Australian football competition in which the Community Clubs participate in official fixtured matches.

Competitive Football – means any formally organised football competition conducted within Australia excluding AFL 9s and school football.

First Home and Away Match – means the first official competition match for the home and away season of a Competition (not the team's first match).

PlayHQ – means the online competition management platform used by AFLQ.

National Transfer Regulations – means the registration and transfer of Players within Australian Football as outlined in Section 3 of the National Community Football Policy Handbook.

NTFL – means the premier summer competition of the Northern Territory Football League.

Player Membership Details – means a player's individual details listed in the PlayHQ System.

PPA – means the individual Player Points Allocation in any given season and in accordance with the Policy.

PPRC – means Player Points Review Committee, consisting of no less than three (3) persons and no greater than five (5) persons and as appointed annually by the Community Football Manager QLD.

PPS - means the Player Points System as outlined within the Policy that manages player and team point allocations.

Policy – means this policy document and the supporting sections that outlines the effective management and regulation of the PPS, and which is reviewed annually.

Premium Competition - means the Competitions outlined in section 6)e) of the Policy.

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

Reserves - means a reserve grade team which competes in a competition or league that has both senior and reserve grades.

SANFL – means the South Australian National Football League.

Season – means a winter Community Football season between 1 March and 30 September of each year (or such other dates as determined by AFLQ).

Season of Service – means a Season where a player has played a minimum of five (5) games in either the Senior, Reserves or Colts teams in one Season for a particular Community Club. A player who has completed a Season of Service is eligible for a reduction of one (1) point should they play for the same Community Club in the following season(s) in accordance with this Policy.

Senior Competition – means a Senior grade team which competes in a competition or league that has both senior and reserve grades.

Senior Team – means the players that participate within a Community Club’s Senior or First grade football team.

TTP Cap – means the Total Team Points allocated to a specific Senior Team by AFL Queensland for each Season in accordance with the Policy.

TSL – means the Tasmanian State League.

Transferred – refers to the formal transfer of a player under the National Player Transfer Regulations.

VFL – means the Victorian Football League.

VFL Player – means any player that is contracted to play for a VFL team regardless of their primary registration in PlayHQ or whether they are classified as a listed or development player.

WAFL – means the Western Australian Football League.

2) Policy Objective

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- Support the equalization of community football competitions.
- Provide a measure to assist Clubs in establishing a competitive playing list.
- Reward player loyalty and Club junior development; and
- Attract and retain the best talent in Queensland.

This Policy sets out a framework of rules and guiding principles in relation to a PPS that achieves the Policy objectives.

3) Team Player Points Cap

- a) For the 2023 Season, the following TPP Caps will apply:
 - i) QAFL - 50 Points
 - ii) QFA Division 1 - 45 Points
 - iii) QFA Division 2 North & South - 45 Points
- b) Provisions exist in sections 4, 5 and 9 of this policy that allow for a Club to have a TPP Cap variation.

4) AFL Queensland Responsibilities

a) Team Player Points

- i) Prior to the 30th of September of each year, AFLQ will determine and communicate the TPP Cap for each applicable competition.
- ii) In any given season, should a Club meet one of the required criteria as outlined in Section 9, they can apply for an increase to their TPP Cap for the following season only. Meeting the criteria does not in any way imply that additional points will be granted.
- iii) In support of equalisation, AFL Queensland can at its discretion increase a Clubs' TPP Cap up to a maximum of 5 points per season.

b) Individual Player Points Allocation (PPA)

- i) AFLQ will assess all players submitted on a Club's pre-season team list to determine individual PPAs. This determination may include any additions or deductions applicable to each player in accordance with sections 7 & 8 of this Policy.
- ii) For any player not on a Club's preseason list, a request for that player to be assessed for a PPA must occur by no later than 10am on the Friday preceding the match the player participating in requires a PPA for.
- iii) As part of the PPA process, Clubs may seek a reassessment of any player's PPA by the PPRC. Any reassessment request should be made in writing to the relevant Competition Manager within seven (7) days from when the Club was furnished with its preseason list of PPA's , or within 72 hours of a game's commencement time for any player that was not on the Club's preseason list
- iv) AFLQ will confirm and enter all PPAs into the PlayHQ system and such values shall remain in place for the entire season. AFLQ reserves the right to review a player's PPA during the season if there are exceptional and compelling circumstances relevant to a player that warrant an amendment of the Player Point Allocation during the Season.

5) Club Responsibilities

- a) Thirty (30) days prior the competition's first Home & Away game, each Club must provide the Competition Manager with a list of no more than 40 players who may play senior football in the upcoming season.
- b) Each Club acknowledges that if they play a player without an AFLQ provided PPA they will be subject to sanction by AFLQ in accordance with Section 10 c) of this Policy.
- c) Each Club must ensure that the Senior team does not exceed that Club's TPP Cap in any game. If a Club is found to be in breach of the TPP Cap they will be subject to sanction by AFLQ in accordance with Section 10 c) of the Policy.

- d) Any Club's seeking additional points to their Club's TPP cap for the coming season, must submit such application no later than ninety (90) days before the competition's first Home & Away game.
- e) For each match, a Club must ensure that the TTP Cap is calculated 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 TPP cap.
 - i) For the avoidance of doubt, a Club must list the maximum number of players allowed on its team sheet in calculating its TTP Cap. For exceptional circumstances (i.e., not having enough players to field a full Senior Team) the matter should be referred to the relevant Competition Manager for review and direction by the PPRC.

6) Player Points Categories

When a player is being assessed for a PPA, the player's participation history will be considered in accordance with the following categories:

- **Category 6 = AFL player**
- **Category 5 = VFL, WAFL & SANFL player**
- **Category 4 = Premium Competition player (TSL, NTFL & QAFL)**
- **Category 3 = Senior Community player** (equal or more senior games than reserves)
- **Category 2 = Community & Rising Star Eligible player** (i.e., more reserves than seniors)
- **Category 1 = Home player**

Excluding Home Club and Rising Star Eligible players, if a player meets the criteria for multiple categories, the higher point value shall always be applied.

Each player expected to play at some stage during a season 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) Junior Home Club - Player who has played 40 or more games at their Club or with a junior Club that has a formalised senior Club alignment. State Representative or sanctioned Academy matches played whilst a registered Club junior will be counted as Club matches for the purpose of a player's individual games tally such games are listed in PlayHQ and are played on the same weekend when the registered player's Club is scheduled to play.
- ii) Any player that transfers directly from a SEQ Junior Club to a Senior Club, where their aligned Senior Club isn't in a competing competition.
- iii) Senior Home Club – Player who has played a combined total of 75 or more games for the Club's in Seniors, Reserves or Colts.
- iv) A player who has not played 40 games but has only played at one Community Club or one aligned junior Club.
- v) A player who has not played Competitive Football in the previous 36 months.
- vi) If a player does not meet the Category 1 'home player' eligibility above, their points Category will be assessed based on the highest level of competitive football played in

the 3 previous years prior to the player joining the current Club (i.e. If a player is recruited in the 2022 season, the assessment will be carried out based on the 2021, 2020 & 2019 seasons).

- vii) Any Home Club player at a regional competition Club (Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Capricornia, Wide Bay, Mt Isa & Darling Downs) who transfers to a QAFL Club and is under twenty (20) years of age prior to 1 January of the competition year in which they transfer.

b) Category 2: Community Player – 2 Points

- i) A player who has played more reserves games than senior games in total in a Category 3 competition or less over the current and/or previous three (3) Seasons.
- ii) A transferring player from their junior Club to their aligned senior Club that has not met the junior Home Club eligibility.

c) Category 2: Rising Star Eligible player - 2 Points

- i) A player transferring to a Club in a higher level of competition that is under twenty (20) years of age prior to 1 January of the competition year. (*may be applied retrospectively*).
- ii) A player that has played more reserves games than senior games in a Category 3 competition or less.
 - (1) For example: A player has played 5+ senior grade games in a Category 4 competition and transfers to a new Club; the Youth and Rising Star qualification will take priority in the players points assessment.

d) Category 3: Senior Community Player – 3 Points

- i) Player who has played the same or more senior games than reserves games in total over the current and or previous three (3) Seasons.
- ii) Player who has played more reserves games than senior games in a Category 4 competition.

e) Category 4: Premium Competition Player – 4 Points

- i) Player who has played a minimum of 5 senior grade games in any one (1) season in the current or previous three (3) seasons, in the QAFL, TSL or NTFLL

f) Category 5: State League – 5 Points

- i) Player who has played a minimum of 5 senior games in any one (1) season of VFL, WAFL or SANFL in any of the current or previous three (3) seasons.

g) Category 6: AFL Player – 6 Points

- i) Player who has played five (5) or more AFL games in total across the current or previous three (3) Seasons.

h) VFL Interchange Agreement

- i) All VFL Players that play for an aligned QAFL Senior club will be fully assessed under this Policy, and any player rated 3 points or more shall receive a 50%-point reduction down to a minimum rating of 2 points. A 5-point player shall be reassessed as a 2-point player.

- ii) There are no point reductions for any players fully assessed and rated 2 points or less.
- iii) QAFL clubs cannot select more than four (4) VFL Players (includes development players) that have a PPA of 2 or more on a team sheet in any given game. Note: any VFL Player with a PPA of 1 will not be counted as one (1) of the four (4). *(for more details refer to the VFL Interchange Agreement)*
- iv) All VFL Players that play for a QFA Senior club will be fully reassessed whilst playing for their QFA aligned club.

i) Returning Player Assessments

- i) A player who was previously registered with a Club for at least one (1) full season and played at least five (5) Club games in any season before transferring to a higher-level competition will return with the same PPA as when they transferred out. A player may play for multiple clubs at higher levels during this time.
- ii) Any player registered with a Club affiliated to AFLQ who transfers interstate can return to the AFLQ Club they transferred from on the same PPA they left on.

j) Other Supporting Information

- iii) A Community Club that has a player that does not meet any of the PPA Categories will need to apply to the relevant Competition Manager for review by the PPRC to determine the appropriate PPA. In determining the PPA, AFLQ will have regard to all relevant factors so as not to unreasonably restrict the player's movement between Community Clubs.
- iv) For the avoidance of doubt, other than for Season of Service deductions a player's PPA does not get changed each season, unless they transfer to another club.
- v) If during a season a player reaches a games threshold that would make them eligible to be a Home Club player, no variation to their points shall occur until the following season.
- vi) For the purposes of a PPA, a playing coach or playing assistant coach is classified as a player and will be assessed the same as any other player.
- vii) Excluding a VFL Player as listed in Section 6 i) of this policy, a player playing on a Season Permit will be assessed on the same basis as transferred players.

7) Additional Player Point Allocations

- a) Excluding Category 6 players, any player who transfers to a Community Club that is competing against their immediate former Community Club, will have an **additional two (2) point penalty added to their PPA.**
 - i) Exemption: AFLQ at their discretion may exempt certain penalties for the following situations:
 - (1) player leaving a club that no longer plays in the competition where the player was originally registered to play in.
 - (2) player who has relocated from one SEQ region to another due to their full-time permanent employment or education. For clarity, regions are defined as Gold Coast, Greater Brisbane and Sunshine Coast.
 - (3) player whose position at the Club they are seeking to transfer from is untenable.

- ii) Exemption: Any QFA Division 2 player who has played more reserves games than senior games in the current or prior season to requesting a transfer, can transfer without any additional points being added to their PPA.
- b) Any player who has a PPA of 6 who transfers to a Community Club that is competing against their immediate former Community Club shall have an additional one-point (1) point added to their PPA.
- c) Where a player has registered at three (3) or more different Queensland licensed Community Clubs in three (3) seasons (except Rising Star Eligible Players), an **additional point (1)** will be applied to that player's PPA. In determining the three (3) season's time frame, Clubs shall assess the current or upcoming season as the first season along with the previous two (2) seasons.
 - i) Note: For the avoidance of doubt, player movements under a permit arrangement e.g. to a State League, VFL, NTFL club or under local interchange agreements, where their Home Club is classified as a Community Club, will not be penalised under this clause.
- d) A Community Club may make an application for a re-assessment to their respective Competition Manager to be considered by the PPRC in relation to a player's additional points allocation.

8) Deductions and Amendments to Player Points Allocation

- a) Any player that is recruited to a Club that is playing in a higher division from where the player has been recruited from, the player will receive a **'Promotion Reduction' of 1 point** (only applicable to Category 3 players that have played their football solely in Queensland).
- b) **Seasons of Service** - Beginning in the third season, once a player's PPA has been determined, a reduction of one (1) point will apply for each 'Season of Service' for that player's Community Club (minimum of 5 club games played in either a Senior, Reserves or Colts competition in any one season) even if not in consecutive years provided the player has not cleared out at any time during that period to an equal or lower level competition, until the player reaches one (1) point.
 - i) VFL Players aligned to a QAFL/QFA club will be entitled to the same Season of Service discount for matches played in the VFL/QAFL/QFA, should they transfer directly to the newly merged or aligned QAFL/QFA club following their delisting from a VFL club or a club merger taking place.
- c) **University clubs** can apply for a PPA deduction for players that are studying full time at the aligned Tertiary Institution. This reassessment will only be applicable to players who have transferred into the Club from a Community Club outside of the SEQ Competitions (i.e. not QAFL/QFA). A maximum 2-point deduction can be applied to reduce the players PPA to a minimum of 2 points (a player can't be reduced to less than 2 points unless they meet the 'Home Club' criteria). University Clubs must provide evidence that supports the players full-time university studies each year. When players are no longer studying full time, the 2 point allocation will be placed back onto the PPA, unless the player has reached 1 point already.
- e) 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. Home Players and Rising Star Eligible players are excluded.

- f) AFL Queensland may, acting reasonably, reassess an individual player's PPA where it is deemed inappropriate based on playing history and circumstances. Clubs may make an application detailing relevant evidence regarding the reassessment of a player to the relevant Competition Manager in conjunction with the PPRC. The application for reassessment may be based upon one or more of the following:
 - i) The injury history of the player;
 - ii) The recent playing history of the player;
 - iii) The living, schooling and work arrangements of the player;
 - iv) Extended time out of the game; or
 - v) Any other relevant consideration.

9) Additional Total Team Points Request

- a) A team may make application to their relevant Competition Manager for additional points (up to a maximum of 5) to be added to their TTP Cap for the forthcoming season. Such application will only be considered if one of the following criteria are met:
 - i) The Club does not have a junior Club or formal junior Club alignment and is not capable of developing a junior program or alignment due to reasons outside of its control or have only recently established a junior Club and doesn't yet have an under 17 team.
 - ii) The Club has not won more than three (3) games per season across two (2) successive seasons in the competition they are competing in.
 - iii) The Community Club has endured significant hardship through forces beyond its control, e.g., floods, is coming out of recess or is a recently merged or restructured entity.
 - iv) Where a team has been elevated from a lower division.
 - v) The Community Club is aligned with a University and the team is subject to players coming in and out over a 3 to 4 year period.

10) Enforcement

- a) When a Club selects a player on the team sheet their PPA will appear along with the team's total points for that game. It's up to Clubs to ensure they do not exceed the TPP Cap.
- b) Should any Club knowingly make a false or incorrect declaration regarding PPA's, the Club may be sanctioned by AFLQ in line Section 10) c) of this policy.
- c) Sanctions may include (without limitation):
 - i) The reversal of a match result in which a TPP Cap breach occurred;
 - ii) Financial or other Sanctions as determined by AFLQ ;
 - iii) Relegation (when in a divisional competition);
 - iv) Loss of premiership points – current season and in the future;
 - v) Suspension from finals – current season and in the future;
 - vi) Player / Official suspensions – for those players/ officials that knowingly provide false information to the Club; or
 - vii) Any other penalty determined by AFLQ from time to time.
- d) In applying any enforcement provisions in relation to any breach of this Policy, AFLQ shall take into consideration whether the breach was deemed to be, but not exclusive to:
 - i) Unintentional - where a club has breached this policy without intended malice or has acted on inaccurate information.

- ii) Interpretive - where a club had applied the policy in a manner other than what the policy was intended for.
- iii) Intentional - where a clear breach had occurred with little or no regard to the requirements of the policy.

11) Appeal and Review

- a) Where a Community Club is of the view that a player's PPA or the TPP Cap allocation is deemed inappropriate under this PPS Policy following a request for reassessment by the PPRC, any appeal against that PPA must be heard by AFLQ in accordance with the normal appeals process.
- b) An appeal against a decision to apply an enforcement provision under this PPS Policy should be made to Community Football Manager QLD and will be reviewed in accordance with the normal appeals process.
- c) AFLQ will review the PPS Policy annually and any amendments or variations will be communicated no later than the 30th of September of each calendar year.
Notwithstanding proof of false or misleading information, there is no provision for a Club to request the review of a PPA value assigned to a player registered with another Club.