



VFL & QAFL

Free Agency and Player Interchange Agreement

2024

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VFL & QAFL Free Agency and Player Interchange Agreement 2024

The following rules have been established for the management of VFL-listed players competing in the QAFL competition on a local interchange agreement.

These rules should be read in conjunction with the AFL Queensland Community Football Competition Rules and Procedures and in the event of conflict or ambiguity, the rules in this VFL-QAFL Agreement shall prevail.

1. Introduction

- (a) VFL Competition:
 - (i) The Victorian Football League (“VFL”) is a second tier State League competition, encompassing 21 clubs across the eastern states of Australia.
 - (ii) Queensland Representation:
 - (A) AFL Clubs Reserves teams: Brisbane Lions & Gold Coast Suns
 - (B) Standalone VFL Clubs: Southport Sharks
 - (iii) List Size (maximum):
 - (A) AFL Standalone Clubs (32 Players):
 - (I) Primary List (open age): 15 Players
 - (II) Development List (22 years of age and under): 17 Players (max. 15 Category A Players)
 - (B) VFL Standalone Clubs (44 players):
 - (I) Primary List (open age): 30 Players
 - (II) Development List (22 years of age and under): 14 Players
 - (iv) Team Selection:
 - (A) AFL aligned clubs will be required to select a minimum of 7 Under 22 players and Standalone VFL clubs will be required to select a minimum of 3 Under 22 players for each game.
 - (v) Season Information:
 - (A) Round 1: 23rd / 24th March 2024
 - (B) Season: 21 Rounds, 18 Matches & 3 Bys
 - (C) Wild Card Round: 24/25 August: 7 v 10, 8 v 9 with winners confirming positions 7 & 8 on the final ladder.
 - (D) Finals: Top 8, with a Grand Final on 22 September 2024.
- (b) QAFL Competition:
 - (i) The Queensland Australian Football League (“QAFL”) is the premier men’s Australian Football competition based in Queensland.
 - (ii) The QAFL will retain both a Total Player Payments and Player Points system, and all teams and players participating in the competition are subject to these Policies.
 - (iii) Teams: Aspley Hornets, Broadbeach Cats, Labrador Tigers, Maroochydore Roos, Morningside Panthers, Mt Gravatt Vultures, Noosa Tigers, Palm Beach Currumbin Lions, Redland-Victoria Point Sharks, Sherwood Magpies, Surfers Paradise Demons, Wilston Grange Gorillas.
 - (iv) Season Information:
 - (A) Round 1: April 6, 2024
 - (B) Season: 19 Rounds, 18 matches & 2 Bys
 - (C) Finals: Top 6 teams over 4 weeks with Grand Final on Saturday 14 September, 2024.

2. Free Agency Process

The following section relates to Standalone VFL Club (Southport) Primary Listed Players. Whilst AFL Clubs (Brisbane Lions & Gold Coast Suns) Primary Listed Players do not require an QAFL Alignment, most are aligned with a QAFL Club also:

- (a) VFL Club Primary Listed players:
 - (i) All Standalone VFL Primary Listed Players will require an alignment with a QAFL club for the 2024 QAFL season.
 - (A) All VFL Primary Listed Players will be available for recruitment by any QAFL club as a 'free agent' and will not be bound by any pre-existing alignments that may have occurred under pre-existing VFL/QAFL Interchange Agreements or home club arrangements.
 - (B) All VFL Primary Listed players are to enter into a formal Standard Player Declaration (Contract establishing the "Alignment") with a QAFL club for the 2024 QAFL season.
 - (C) All Standard Player Declarations ("Contract") must be submitted to the AFLQ State Leagues Competition Manager within seven (7) days following the first QAFL game a VFL Primary Listed player participates in.

The following section relates to both AFL Club and Standalone VFL Club Development Listed Players:

- (b) VFL Development Listed players:
 - (i) All VFL Development Listed Players will require an alignment either with a QAFL club for the 2024 QAFL season, or a formalised alignment with their former Junior/Youth Club in the QFA competitions:
 - (A) If a VFL Development Listed player aligns with a QAFL Club, that player must enter into a formal Standard Player Declaration (Contract establishing the "Alignment") with that QAFL club for the 2024 QAFL season.
 - (B) All Standard Player Declarations ("Contract") must be submitted to the AFLQ State Leagues Competition Manager within seven (7) days following the first QAFL game a VFL Development Listed Player participates in.
 - (C) If a VFL Development Listed player wishes to align with a QFA Community Club, the following criteria must be met:
 - (I) The VFL Development Listed player must have played forty (40) or more Junior/Youth games for their former Junior/Youth Club to be classified as a Home Club Player.
 - (II) The VFL Development Listed player cannot have played five (5) or more Senior Grade games in a Category 4 or higher competition in the previous three (3) seasons.
 - (III) The Junior/Youth Home Club that the VFL Development Listed player aligns with must have an aligned Senior Club competing in either the QFA Division 1, QFA Division 2 North or QFA Division 2 South Competitions.
 - (IV) Where there is a documented pre-existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed prior to the 2024 QFA season that formalises an alignment between a Junior/Youth Club with a separate Senior Club, such alignment will be recognised for the purposes of the player being a Home Club player if the player meets the criteria set out in 2(C)(I).
 - (V) If a VFL Development Listed player aligns with a QFA Club, that player must enter into a formal Standard Player Declaration (contract establishing the "Alignment") with that QFA club for the 2024 QFA season.
 - (VI) All Standard Player Declarations ("Contract") must be submitted to the relevant AFLQ Competition Manager within seven (7) days following the first QFA game a VFL Development Listed Player participates in.

3. Player Payments

- (a) VFL Listed Players can be contracted to and paid by a QAFL/QFA Club for the 2024 season, but any payments made by a QAFL/QFA Club to a VFL Listed Player will be declarable under and subject to the QAFL/QFA Total Player Payments Policy. QAFL/QFA clubs are not obligated to pay VFL Listed Players.
- (b) VFL clubs will not be required to pay match payments for VFL Listed Players that are selected in the QAFL/QFA competitions.

4. Player Movement

- (a) Any player listed with a VFL side, whether they be of primary or development status, will be regarded as a VFL-listed player for the purpose of this policy.
- (b) VFL Listed Players that are not selected to play in any given home and away round with their VFL club will be available for selection by their aligned QAFL/QFA club in either the Senior or Reserve grade side.
 - (i) VFL Listed Players are not permitted to play QAFL Colts.
- (c) VFL Listed Players will be assessed under the AFLQ Player Points Policy in advance of being selected to play in a QAFL/QFA Senior club game. They will be fully assessed based on their relevant playing history however, will receive a discount of 50% to a minimum of 2 points.
- (d) Any VFL Listed Player who qualifies as a Category 1 'Home Club Player' at their aligned QAFL or QFA club will be given a Player Points rating of 1 point as per the Player Points System Policy.
- (e) All VFL Listed Players will have a Season Permit request approved between the VFL club and their aligned QAFL/QFA club for the duration of the QAFL/QFA seasons.
- (f) The following limits apply to VFL Listed Players per QAFL/QFA team for a match:
 - (A) A maximum of four (4) VFL 'Primary' Listed players can be listed on an official QAFL Senior grade team sheet.
 - (B) A maximum of four (4) VFL 'Primary' Listed players can be listed on an official QAFL Reserve grade team sheet.
 - (C) Any VFL Listed Players who are rated as a 1pt 'Home Club Player' will be excluded from the maximum of four (4) player cap at their respective aligned QAFL/QFA club.
- (g) A VFL Listed Player contracted to a QAFL/QFA club can request a release from that QAFL/QFA club at any time prior to 30 June. A new agreement must be reached by 30 June for the player to be permitted to play for a different QAFL/QFA club in the same season.
 - (i) No points penalties will apply to this player if they change QAFL/QFA clubs mid-season.
- (h) VFL Club Bye round
 - (i) When a VFL club has a competition bye, there will be no limit on the number of players from the squad of VFL Listed Players (Primary and Development) who played in the game immediately prior to the bye, that will be eligible to play for their aligned QAFL/QFA club in the bye week, provided restrictions in rule 4(f) are not exceeded by each QAFL/QFA club.

5. AFL Queensland Finals Eligibility

- (a) VFL Listed Players must meet the AFL Queensland finals eligibility requirements to play in QAFL or QFA finals games for their aligned club:
 - (i) A VFL Listed Player must play a minimum of four (4) QAFL/QFA home and away games to be eligible for their aligned club's finals campaign.
 - (ii) Where a Standalone VFL Club (Southport) Listed Player is not selected by their VFL club and plays for an AFL club on the same weekend, this game will count towards finals eligibility for their aligned QAFL/QFA club in the Senior grade (not Reserves).

- (iii) Where a VFL Listed Player plays in either the National U19 Championships and/or in U19 Academy games that fall on the same weekend as a scheduled QAFL/QFA fixture, these games will count towards the finals eligibility for a VFL Listed Player's aligned QAFL/QFA club (Seniors only).
- (b) At the completion of a VFL club's last regular season or finals game, only VFL Listed Players that have played four (4) or more games for their aligned QAFL/QFA club will be permitted to play in the QAFL/QFA for the remainder of the season. All other players will be prohibited from playing for their aligned QAFL/QFA club or in any other AFL Queensland governed competition.

6. Contracts

- (a) Where there is any inconsistency between a VFL Listed Player's signed contract and any contract entered into between the player and the aligned QAFL/QFA club, the provisions of the VFL contract will prevail.

7. Suspension of Players

- (a) A VFL Listed Player that is suspended in the VFL competition, cannot compete in the QAFL/QFA competition until the suspension has been served in the VFL competition where the suspension was imposed.
- (b) A QAFL/QFA club cannot internally suspend a VFL Listed Player without the approval of the VFL club, the AFLQ Talent Manager – QLD and the AFLQ Competitions Manager – QLD.
- (c) Any player who is suspended in the VFL competition will be ineligible to win the QAFL/QFA competition Best & Fairest in the season in which they serve the suspension.