



AFL NSW/ACT Player Points System Policy

AFL South Coast Men's Premier Division - 2021

March 2021

AFL South Coast Men's Premier Division

PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM POLICY

1. OBJECTIVES

- 1.1. AFL NSW/ACT believes that ensuring competitions are competitively balanced is critical to safeguarding the ongoing viability and sustainability of competitions and clubs. Even and fair competitions lead to increased interest and provide a better experience for stakeholders, which leads to stronger competitions and clubs.
- 1.2. The objectives of this Player Points System Policy (**PPS Policy**) are to:
- (a) Assist the equalisation of competitions and enhance competitive balance;
 - (b) Improve the sustainability of community clubs by curbing the inflationary nature of player payments as a result of player movement;
 - (c) Promote player loyalty and junior development; and
 - (d) Support the role that volunteers undertake in managing their clubs by:
 - i. Capping the need to fundraise money for player payments;
 - ii. Providing a more competitive environment on field, that encourages more volunteers to support at club level; and
 - iii. Providing resources and education.
- 1.3. This PPS Policy sets out the rules and principles in relation to a Player Points System which applies to specified AFL NSW/ACT Competition/s in order to achieve the above objectives.

2. DEFINITIONS

Administration Committee means and shall consist of any two (2) of the following positions, the Competition & Development Coordinator, Competition Co-ordinator, Community Football & Competition Manager, Regional Manager or State Community Football Manager, or their nominees.

AFL means the Australian Football League (ACN 004 155 211).

AFL South Coast means the Australian Football League currently known as 'AFL South Coast' comprising of senior men's and women's competitions conducted by AFL NSW/ACT in the Illawarra and South Coast regions including Home and Away Matches and Finals Series matches.

AFL NSW/ACT means AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Limited (ABN 53 086 839 385).

Category means the Player Points category which determines the base allocation of the Player Points Allocation for a Player.

Club means a Club affiliated to the League with teams participating in a Competition.

Competition means any Australian Football Competition conducted and organised within New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory.

First Home and Away Match means the first official Competition Match for the home and away Season of a Competition.

Football Operations Manager means the League's Football Operations Manager or Football Operations Coordinator responsible for administering the League's Competitions as the case may be.

Footyweb means the AFL Competition Management System & Membership Database implemented for Competitions within New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory.

Junior means Players up to and under the age of 18 as at 1 January in the year of the relevant season.

Juniors or Junior Competition means Competitions up to and including Junior Players.

League (or Leagues) means AFL South Coast which is governed by or affiliated to AFL NSW/ACT.

League Equalisation Panel means the Administration Committee or the independent equalisation panel established by the relevant League or Leagues to administer the PPS Policy prescribed for a Competition.

Match means any football match played between or directly or indirectly involving any club or Independent School, including without limitation any practice match, competition match, representative match or exhibition match.

National Player Transfer Regulations means the AFL's rules and regulations, as issued from time to time, regulating the transfer of players between clubs.

NEAFL means the North East Australian Football League competition run by the AFL consisting of teams from Queensland, New South Wales, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

Player means a Player registered with a Club.

Player Membership Details means a Player's individual details provided for on the Footyweb system.

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.

PPS Policy means this Player Point System as amended by AFL NSW/ACT from time to time.

Season means the community football season between first competitive Match until Grand Final of a Competition.

Season of Service means when a Player has played a minimum of five (5) senior or reserves matches in one (1) Season for a particular Club in the relevant League (excluding service for a Club's team when participating in a higher tier of competition such as the NEAFL). 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 PPS Policy.

Senior Competition means the men's open age senior competition of a League.

Senior Team means the men's open age team representing a Club in a Senior Competition.

Tier 1 Community Leagues means AFL Sydney Premier Division, AFL Canberra 1st Grade, Farrer FNL Seniors, Riverina FNL Seniors, Hume FNL Seniors, Black Diamond Cup, QAFL, QFA Division 1, NTFLL and any senior community competition affiliated to AFL Victoria, the SANFL or the WAFC.

Total Team Points means the total amount of points allocated to a specific Senior Team for each Season in accordance with this PPS Policy.

3. TOTAL TEAM POINTS

3.1. The allocation of Total Team Points caps for each Senior Team is subject to the assessment of the relevant League Equalisation Panel, in its ultimate discretion, subject to clause 3.2 below.

3.2. The relevant League Equalisation Panel:

- (a) Will consider all applications from Clubs for the allocation of additional Total Team Points in accordance with this PPS Policy;
- (b) May allocate additional points or apply deductions to Total Team Points to specific Clubs in accordance with this PPS Policy, and in consideration of existing unique local conditions to meet the objectives of this PPS Policy.
- (c) Will allocate the final figure for Total Team Points to each Senior Team for each Club for the following Season in accordance with this PPS Policy.

3.3. In considering the Total Team Points allocation for each Senior Team, the following may be considered by the relevant League Equalisation Panel:

- (a) The location of a Club and the size of the population within its region vis a vis other Clubs (which may impact a Clubs ability to be competitive against other Clubs).
- (b) The level of success a Senior Team has achieved (e.g. multiple premierships) including their ability to retain players with players attracting a one point deduction each Season with the Club.
- (c) A Senior Team's lack of competitiveness over a sustained period a (e.g. low ladder finish over multiple seasons).
- (d) Additional points may be added to teams where a Club is unable to field a competitive U18 or U19 side due to geographic and demographic factors, or does not have aligned junior youth teams (such as University Clubs).
- (e) Each League will implement a process in relation to assessment of Club's submissions regarding a Team Total Points cap and an individual Player's Points Allocation.

3.4. The base Total Team Points allocation for all Senior Teams is outlined in Appendix B.

3.5. Leagues and Clubs acknowledge that:

- (a) 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 Senior Competition and this should be consistent for each Match within a Season.
- (b) A Club must list the maximum number of Players allowed for its Senior Team on its team sheet in calculating its Total Team Points for each Match.

3.6. Leagues will make every attempt to communicate the allocation of each Club's Total Team Points for the following Season in accordance with this PPS Policy by 1 December in each Calendar year (or such other date as determined by the relevant League).

CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

Each Club:

- 4.1. Must determine each individual Player's Player Points Allocation for its Senior Team in accordance with this PPS Policy, including any additions or deductions applicable to each Player in accordance with this PPS Policy;
- 4.2. Must submit to the League the Player Points Allocations for each Player by the deadline of 1 March and in the form prescribed by the League. Any subsequent Player Point Allocation must be prior to the Player's first Match of the Season;
- 4.3. Acknowledges that if the Club does not follow this procedure and plays a Player for a Senior Team in a Match in any League, who has not had their Player Points Allocation approved and entered into Footyweb, that Club will be subject to a subsequent enforcement penalty or disciplinary sanction (including loss of Competition Points) as determined by AFL NSW/ACT or the League in accordance with this PPS Policy;
- 4.4. Must ensure that for each Match the Senior Team does not exceed the Club's Total Team Points, noting however that Clubs may recruit above their allocated Total Team Points in any given Season but must comply with the Total Team Points allocation for each Match;
- 4.5. May make an application to the League for the allocation of additional Total Team Points in accordance with this PPS Policy (i.e. for unique local circumstances). The application is to be in writing via the Football Operations Manager.

4. PLAYER POINTS CATEGORIES AND ALLOCATION

- 5.1. Each League will liaise with its Clubs to ensure that Total Team Points and Player Point Allocations are entered into the Footyweb System prior to any Player's first Senior Home and Away Match of each Season.
- 5.2. As part of the Player Point Allocation process, the League may provide the opportunity for Clubs to seek a reassessment of any Player's Player Point Allocation by the League Equalisation Panel. Any reassessment against a Player Point Allocation should be made to the League's Football Operations Manager no later than five (5) days before the Player's first Senior Home and Away Match of the Season.
- 5.3. 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 development, loyalty, and retention.
- 5.4. Each Player expected to play in a League will be allocated a Category and a Player Points Allocation as detailed in Appendix A.
- 5.5. A Club that has a Player that does not meet any of the Player Categories will need to apply to the League for determination by the League Equalisation Panel of the appropriate Player Points Allocation. In determining the Player Points Allocation, the League Equalisation Panel will have regard to all relevant factors so as not to unreasonably restrict the Player's movement.
- 5.6. For the purpose of a Player Points Allocation, a playing coach or playing assistant coach is classified as a Player and will be assessed in accordance with this PPS Policy and Appendix A.

- 5.7. A Player playing in a Match under 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 a transferred Player.
- 5.8. A Club may make an application to the League for a reassessment by the League Equalisation Panel in accordance with clauses 6.3 and 7.
- 5.9 A player should be assessed to determine their point allocation only when they first move to a new club, with standard deductions occurring for each year of service from that point on, rather than annual reassessment.

5. DEDUCTIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO PLAYER POINTS ALLOCATIONS

- 6.1. Once a Player's Player Points Allocation has been determined, a reduction of one (1) point will apply for each 'Season of Service' with that Player's Club (minimum five (5) senior matches per Season), even if not in consecutive years, until the Player reaches no less than one (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 their Club, they must play five (5) senior matches to meet the criteria for a Season of Service point reduction.
- 6.2. Where a Player qualifies in more than one Category based on their playing history in the current Season or any of the previous three (3) Seasons, the Category with the highest points will apply (Category 1 – Home Players excluded).
- 6.3. The League may, acting reasonably, reassess an individual Player's Player Points Allocation where it is deemed inappropriate based on playing history or circumstances. Clubs may make an application detailing relevant evidence regarding the reassessment of a Player to the League Equalisation Panel. The determination of an application for reassessment will be at the discretion of the League Equalisation Panel.

6. ENFORCEMENT

- 7.1 Clubs are required to submit to the League's Football Operations Manager as prescribed by the League the individual Player Points Allocations in accordance with this PPS Policy. The League will review and enter the final individual Player Points Allocations into Footyweb.
- 7.2 Player Points Allocations will be managed via Footyweb. Footyweb will not permit a Club to enter a Senior Team into an electronic team sheet that has a combined Total Team Points allocation of more than that Senior Team's permitted Total Team Points cap for a Match.
- 7.3 Should any Club knowingly make a false or incorrect declaration regarding Player Points Allocations, the Club may be penalised by AFL NSW/ACT or the League in accordance with clause 8.
- 7.4 The potential penalties or sanctions may include (without limitation):
 - (a) Fines;
 - (b) Termination or suspension of a Club's licence or affiliation;
 - (c) Loss of premiership points (current Season and/ or in future Seasons);
 - (d) Suspension from a Senior Team's participation in the finals (current Season and/ or in future Seasons);
 - (e) Player/Official suspensions – for those Players/Officials that knowingly provide false information to the Club;
 - (f) Suspension or ban on registration of players;

- (g) Any other sanction or penalty considered appropriate by the League.
- 7.5 AFL NSW/ ACT or the relevant League may enforce the terms of this PPS Policy and invoke the sanctions only if it has given the Club alleged to have infringed this PPS Policy:
- (a) reasonable details of the alleged infringement;
 - (b) notice of possible sanctions; and
 - (c) the opportunity to be heard in relation to the issues of infringement and sanction.
- 7.6 In applying any enforcement provisions in relation to any breach of the PPS Policy, the League shall take into consideration whether the breach was assessed as:
- (a) Unintentional – where a Club had not been provided with accurate information;
 - (b) Interpretative – where a Club had reasonably applied the PPS Policy;
 - (c) Intentional – where a breach had occurred with little or no regard to the relevant requirements.
- 7.7 All appeals against a decision to apply a provision under this PPS Policy will be heard by the League Equalisation Panel and will be final and binding.
- 7.8 AFL NSW/ACT and the League will review this PPS Policy annually and amendments and variations may be made from time to time.

APPENDIX "A"

1. PLAYER CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS

Category 7	7 points	AFL Player	Minimum one (1) AFL match in any of the previous three (3) Seasons.
Category 6	6 points	State League Tier 1 - VFL, WAFL, SANFL	Minimum five (5) senior matches in any of the current or previous three (3) Seasons.
Category 5	5 points	TAC Cup	Minimum five (5) matches in any of the current or previous three (3) Seasons.
		State League Tier 2 - NEAFL, TASFL	Minimum five (5) senior matches in any of the current or previous three (3) Seasons.
Category 4	4 points	Premium Community Player	Minimum five (5) senior matches in any of the current or previous 3 seasons in a Tier 1 Community League.
Category 3	3 points	Senior Community Player	Played the same or more senior (or highest division) than reserves (or non-highest division) matches in any of the current or previous three (3) Seasons (excluding Tier 1 Community Leagues) For clarity, this includes any players from the AFL Sydney Platinum Seniors (formerly Division One) competition.
			Played more reserves than seniors matches in a Tier 1 Community League (excluding matches for a Club's third or subsequent teams).
		Transferred Junior	Player recruited from an U19's or younger competition and does not meet the Home Player definition.
Category 2	2 points	Development Community Player	Played more reserves (or non-highest division) than senior (or highest division) matches in the previous Season (excluding Tier 1 Community Leagues).
Category 1	1 point	Home Player	Played forty (40) or more matches at the aligned junior club up to and including U18 competition or younger.
			Player who has only played at that Club.

2. PLAYER POINTS ALLOCATIONS

ADDITIONS & DEDUCTIONS – POINTS ALLOCATION		
ADDITIONAL PENALTY PLAYER POINTS	Additional 1 point	If Player transferring from another community club and will be competing against their former club (does not include Category 2 Development Community Player)
		If Player transferred to three or more community clubs in past thirty-six (36) months. <i>Note: Does not include Players moving on permit (e.g.: VFL, TAC Cup NTFL or Local Interchange).</i>
DEDUCTIONS FOR PLAYER POINTS	Deduct 1 point	For each Season of Service to the Club (minimum five (5) senior or reserves matches per Season), even if not in consecutive years, until the Player reaches one (1) point. <i>#Note: if the Player is eligible for underage football at that club, it must be five (5) senior matches to meet the criteria for a year of service.</i>
	Revert to 1 point	Where Player is returning to their home Club.
		Where Player has not played football in the previous thirty-six (36) months.
Maximum of 3 points	Players at a university aligned Club who are currently enrolled at that university (and have not previously played senior football with another Club within the League).	

3. LEAGUE EQUALISATION PANEL ASSESSMENT

ADDITIONS & DEDUCTIONS – LEAGUE EQUALISATION PANEL ASSESSMENT	
1)	League Equalisation Panels may reassess an individual Player’s points classification where the Panel deems in its ultimate discretion that the prescribed points allocation is inappropriate based on the Player’s playing history or exceptional circumstances.
2)	Where a Player qualifies in more than one category based on their playing history in the previous three (3) seasons, the category with the highest points will apply (Note: Home Players are excluded).
3)	Any Player that does not meet any of the prescribed point categories will need to apply to the League Equalisation Panel who will determine the appropriate points allocation in its ultimate discretion.
4)	The League Equalisation Panel may take into account the following in determining whether or not the imposition of the additional point is appropriate in the circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The nature and location of the Player's employment; b) The principle place of residence of Player's family members; c) The principle place of residence of the Player's partner or spouse; d) The Player's previous history and/ or relationship with the Club; and e) Any other factors deemed appropriate by the assessment panel in its absolute discretion (e.g. serious injury).

4. TOTAL TEAMS POINTS ALLOCATIONS

TOTAL TEAM POINTS ALLOWANCES / REDUCTIONS #	Small Population Base	Additional points to team allocation where the club is located in a region with low population base.
	Ladder Position	Additional points to team allocation if team did not qualify for finals in previous Season or has been promoted from previous Season.
		Reduction in points to team allocation for multiple premierships in defined number of Seasons.
		Additional points to team allocation if finished in bottom three of competition and not relegated.
	Junior Pathway	Additional points to team allocation where a club has no U18/19 or younger underage sides aligned (MOU in place) to it, and not capable of developing a junior program due to reasons outside of its control, or if a club is aligned with a university and the team is based around Players coming and going over a 3-4 year period.

APPENDIX "B"

The base Total Team Points allocation for Senior Teams in the AFL South Coast Men's Premier Division Competition will be capped as follows for the 2021 Season:

Club	Total Team Points
Bomaderry Tigers	38
Figtree Kangaroos	34
Kiama Power	34
Northern Districts Tigers	38
Shellharbour City Suns	38
Wollongong Bulldogs	37
Wollongong Lions	34

APPENDIX "C"

Senior / Junior Club Alignment

Senior Club	Aligned Junior Clubs
Albion Park Crows	Albion Park Crows J AFC
Bomaderry Tigers	Bomaderry Tigers J AFC, Shoalhaven GIANTS J AFC, Bay & Basin Bombers J AFC
Dapto City Stallions	Albion Park Crows J AFC
Figtree Kangaroos	Figtree Kangaroos J AFC
Kiama Power	Kiama Power J AFC
Northern Districts Tigers	Northern Districts Tigers J AFC
Nowra Albatross Vikings	Shoalhaven GIANTS J AFC, Bay & Basin Bombers J AFC
Port Kembla Blacks	Port Kembla Eagles J AFC
Shellharbour City Suns	Shellharbour Swans J AFC, Albion Park Crows J AFC
Ulladulla Dockers	Ulladulla Dockers J AFC, Bay & Basin Bombers J AFC
Wollongong Bulldogs	Nil
Wollongong Lions	Wollongong Lions J AFC