



AFL NSW/ACT

Player Points System Policy

AFL Sydney Women's Premier Division

November 2019

AFL SYDNEY WOMEN'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 limiting player movement;
- (c) Promote player loyalty and junior development; and
- (d) Support the role that volunteers undertake in managing their clubs by:
 - i. Providing a more competitive environment on field, that encourages more volunteers to support at club level; and
 - ii. 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 Sydney Women's Premier division competition to achieve the above objectives.

2. DEFINITIONS

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

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

Administration Committee means and shall consist of any two (2) of the following positions, the AFL Sydney Football Operations Manager, the State Football Operations Manager, the Community Football Manager, the Football Operations Coordinator or their nominees.

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 AFL NSW/ACT with a team participating in the Women's Premier Division Competition.

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

Current AFLW Player means a player who was contracted to an AFLW Club in the AFLW season held immediately prior to the relevant AFL Sydney season.

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

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 17 as at 1 January in the year of the relevant season.

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

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.

Player means a Player registered with a Club.

Player Membership Details means a Players 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's 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 a Season where a Player has played a minimum of five (5) senior or reserves games in one Season for a particular 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.

Women's Premier Division Team means the team representing a Club in the AFL Sydney Women's Premier Division Competition.

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

Women's Premier Division Competition means the Women's top division competition in AFL Sydney.

3. TOTAL TEAM POINTS

3.1. The allocation of Total Team Points caps for each Women's Premier Division team will be assessed and determined by the Administration Committee, in its ultimate discretion.

3.2. The Administration Committee:

- (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 Women's Premiership team, the following may be considered by the Administration Committee:

- (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 Women's Premier Division team has achieved (e.g. multiple premierships or last place finish) including their ability to retain players with players attracting a one point deduction each Season with the Club.

- (c) A Women's Premier Division team's lack of competitiveness over a sustained period a (e.g. low ladder finish over multiple seasons).
- (d) AFL Sydney 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 AFL Sydney Women's Premier Division teams is outlined in Appendix B.

3.5. AFL Sydney 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 Match for the Women's Premier Division 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 Women's Premier Division team on its team sheet in calculating its Total Team Points for each Match.

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

4. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

Each Club:

- 4.1. Must determine each individual Player's Player Points Allocation for its Women's Premier Division 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 AFL Sydney the Player Points Allocations for each Player by the deadline of 1 March, and in the form prescribed by AFL Sydney. Any subsequent Player Point Allocation must in all cases 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 Women's Premier Division team in a Match in AFL Sydney Women's Premier Division Competition, 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 Sydney in accordance with this PPS Policy;
- 4.4. Must ensure that for each Match the Women's Premier Division 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 Administration Committee 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.

5. PLAYER POINTS CATEGORIES AND ALLOCATION

- 5.1. AFL Sydney 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, AFL Sydney may provide the opportunity for Clubs to seek a reassessment of any Player's Player Point Allocation by the Administration Committee. Any reassessment against a Player Point Allocation should be made to the AFL Sydney 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 the AFL Sydney Women's Premier Division Competition 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 AFL Sydney for determination by the Administration Committee, of the appropriate Player Points Allocation. In determining the Player Points Allocation, the Administration Committee 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 AFL Sydney for a reassessment by the Administration Committee 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.

6. 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 games 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's primary registration is with a Junior Club, any prior games for a Senior Club will not be considered a year of service.
- 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. AFL Sydney 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 Administration Committee. The determination of an application for reassessment will be at the discretion of the Administration Committee.

7. ENFORCEMENT

- 7.1. Clubs are required to submit to the AFL Sydney Football Operations Manager as prescribed by AFL Sydney, the individual Player Points Allocations in accordance with this PPS Policy. AFL Sydney 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 Women's Premier Division team into an electronic team sheet that has a combined Total Team Points allocation of more than that Women's Premiership 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 AFL Sydney in accordance with this 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 AFL Sydney.
- 7.5. AFL NSW/ACT or AFL Sydney 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, AFL Sydney shall take into consideration whether the breach was assessed as:
- (a) Unintentional – where a Club had not been provided with accurate information;
 - (b) Interpretive – 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 Administration Committee and will be final and binding.
- 7.8. AFL NSW/ACT and AFL Sydney 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 6	6 points	AFLW Player	Player who has played a minimum of one AFLW competition match in any of the current or previous three (3) Seasons. Includes interstate players.
Category 5	5 points	VFL Women’s and/or AFL/AIS Academy Players	Minimum five (5) VFL Women’s games in the current season or any of the previous 3 seasons. AFL/AIS Academy Player in any of the current or previous three (3) Seasons.
Category 4	4 points	WAWFL/QWAFL/SANFLW State League Players	Minimum five (5) State League games in the current season or any of the previous three (3) seasons.
		GWS Giants AFLW squad, VFLW squad and/or AFLW train on squad members	Player who has been selected in the GWS Giants AFLW/VFLW squad and/or AFLW train on squad in the current or previous three (3) seasons.
Category 3	3 points	NTWFL/TWL State League Players	Played the same or more senior (i.e. highest division) than reserves (i.e. non-highest division) games in in any of the current or previous three (3) seasons
		Senior Community Player	Played the same or more senior (i.e. highest division) than reserves (i.e. non-highest division) games in a community league in any of the current or previous three (3) seasons.
		U16s and/or U18s Nationals Players	Player who has been selected in an U16 state team squad and/or an U18 Nationals squad in any of the current or previous three (3) seasons (includes interstate Youth Girls Nationals players).
Category 2	2 points	Development Community Player	Played more reserves (i.e. non-highest division) than senior (i.e. highest division) games in a community league in the previous season.

		NSW/ACT Youth Girls Academy Players	Player selected in an U18 Youth Girls Academy Program and/or selected in the Swans or GIANTS U16 state squad trial teams in any of the current or previous three (3) seasons. Includes interstate Youth Girls Academy Players (includes Interstate Youth Girls Academy Programs).
		Talent ID Player	Player selected in a State or National Team in an alternate sport in the current or previous three (3) seasons.
Category 1	1 point	Home Player	A player who has only played football at their current AFL Sydney club and for no other club or a player with no prior playing experience (unless defined as a Talent ID Player).
		Junior Player	A transferred junior player who does not fit into categories 2 – 6.

2. PLAYER POINTS ALLOCATIONS

ADDITIONS	Add 1 point	If the player is transferring from another community club and will be competing against their former club, only if the player played five (5) or more games for the senior team of their previous Club in the current or previous three (3) years (does not include Category 2 Development Community Players).
		If the player transferred to three (3) or more community clubs in past 36 months. Does not include players moving on permit.
		If the player has played two (2) or more games in AFL Sydney Women's Premier Division as a registered junior player in any of the previous two (2) seasons, but then registers as a senior player with a different AFL Sydney Women's Premier Division club.

DEDUCTIONS	Deduct 1 point	For each season of service with the club (minimum 5 senior or reserves games per season), until the player reaches one (1) point.
	Revert to 1 point	Where player is returning to their home club.
		Where player has not played football in the previous 36 months.

3. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT

<p>1) The Administration Committee may reassess an individual player's points classification where the Administration Committee determines in its ultimate discretion that the prescribed points allocation is inappropriate based on the player's playing history or exceptional circumstances.</p>
<p>2) Where a player qualifies in more than one category based on their playing history over the previous three (3) seasons, the category with the highest points will apply (refer to the flow chart). Note: Home players are excluded.</p>
<p>3) Any player that does not meet any of the prescribed point categories must apply to the Administration Committee who will determine the appropriate points allocation in its ultimate discretion.</p>
<p>4) The Administration Committee may take into account the following in determining whether or not to vary the standard points allocation in the circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature and location of the player's employment; • The principle place of residence of player's family members; • The principle place of residence of the player's partner or spouse; • The player's previous history and/ or relationship with the Club; and • Any other factors deemed appropriate by the assessment panel in its absolute discretion (e.g. Serious injury, pregnancy)

APPENDIX “B”

The Total Team Points allocations for the 2020 AFL Sydney Women’s Premier Division competition are set out below.

- Base Total Team Points Cap – 40 points
- UNSW/ES Bulldogs and Macquarie University Total Team Points Cap – 38 points
- Manly Warringah Wolves, North Shore Bombers and Pennant Hills Demons Total Points Cap – 44 points

The following local variations to the Player Point System Policy will apply:

1. Current AFLW players who have a points value of 2 points or less will have their points value increased to 3. This weighting will be removed when the player is no longer a Current AFLW player.