



NEAFL & AFL CANBERRA

PLAYER INTERCHANGE AGREEMENT

Season 2019

1. Background

Introduction

This document aims to outline the agreement regarding the movement and alignment of players between the North East Australian Football League (“**NEAFL**”) and the AFL Canberra Football League (“**AFL Canberra**”).

The NEAFL and AFL Canberra agree to review the operation of this document at the end of each season.

Definitions

- a) “**NEAFL Club**” means the Canberra Demons Football Club.
- b) “**AFL Canberra Clubs**” means any of the following clubs:
 - 1. Ainslie Tricolours Football Club
 - 2. Belconnen Magpies Football Club
 - 3. Eastlake Demons Football Club
 - 4. Gungahlin Jets Australian Football Club
 - 5. Queanbeyan Tigers Football Club
 - 6. Tuggeranong Hawks Football Club
- c) “**NEAFL Players**” means Primary List Players and Rookie List Players.
- d) “**Primary List Players**” means all players on the Canberra Demons NEAFL Primary List of thirty five (35) players.
- e) “**Rookie List Players**” means all the players on the Canberra Demons NEAFL Rookie List of up to seven (7) players who must:
 - i. be under the age of 21 as at January 1 of the relevant season;
 - ii. have played less than twenty (20) NEAFL (or equivalent) games prior to the start of the upcoming season (NEAFL games played as a top-up player for an AFL Club are not included towards eligibility); and
 - iii. registered with an AFL Canberra or other community club.
- f) “**Home Club**” means an AFL Canberra Club where a NEAFL Player has played forty (40) or more junior football matches (under 18’s and below).

2. Player Allocation process

- 2.1 1st and 2nd year NEAFL Primary Listed players to remain aligned to their AFL Canberra Home Club.
- 2.2 All remaining NEAFL Primary Listed players will first be allocated to Gungahlin (capped at five (5) players per match), followed by Tuggeranong (capped at five (5) players per match) and then their AFL Canberra Home Club in accordance with this clause 2.
 - i. If there are more than five (5) NEAFL Primary Listed players not selected to play for a NEAFL Club on a weekend:

- a. the Gungahlin Head Coach in consultation with the Head Coach of the NEAFL Club will firstly select up to five (5) NEAFL Players.
 - b. the NEAFL players not selected by Gungahlin will then be allocated to Tuggeranong (capped at five (5) players per match).
 - ii. If there are more than ten (10) NEAFL Primary Listed players not selected to play NEAFL on a weekend, Gungahlin and Tuggeranong must firstly select NEAFL Players that do not have an AFL Canberra Home Club on a rotating selection basis, and any remaining NEAFL Players with an AFL Canberra Home Club will be allocated to their AFL Canberra Home Club.
- 2.3 Eastlake FC will have the ability to nominate three (3) NEAFL Primary Listed players who meet the Home Club definition for Eastlake FC which will be exempt from the allocation process outlined in clause 2.2 above. This nomination must occur within two (2) weeks after the NEAFL List lodgment deadline.
- 2.4 NEAFL players with an AFL Canberra Home Club allocated to Gungahlin and/ or Tuggeranong will not play against their AFL Canberra Home Club when playing against Gungahlin or Tuggeranong and will be eligible to be selected to play first grade for their AFL Canberra Home Club if not selected to play with a NEAFL Club.
- 2.5 If a NEAFL Primary List Player isn't selected to play First Grade with their AFL Canberra Home Club under clause 2.4 above, that player will be offered to Gungahlin in accordance with 2.2 to play in their First Grade team.
- 2.6 All Rookie List Players will remain aligned to their AFL Canberra Home Club and are allocated preferably for 1st Grade selection, but no less than Rising Stars (in consultation with the NEAFL and Club coach). If a Rookie List Player does not have an AFL Canberra Home Club, they will be allocated to Gungahlin .

3. Players

- 3.1 No officer, agent or servant of an AFL Canberra Club shall contact or interview a registered player of an NEAFL Club for the purpose of gaining the services of that player as a footballer without first seeking written permission from the NEAFL Club with which the player is registered.
- 3.2 The AFL NSW/ACT's State Manager – Football, Policy & Major Projects will have the final say in any dispute between NEAFL and AFL Canberra Clubs in consultation with AFL Canberra and the NEAFL.
- 3.3 NEAFL lists of 23 plus 2 emergencies will be submitted to NEAFL and AFL Canberra Operations Managers by midday of the Wednesday prior to the weekend fixture. All remaining players resume training with their allocated AFL Canberra Clubs prior to the weekend fixture (generally, Thursday evenings).
- 3.4 All AFL Canberra first grade individual achievements, regardless of which AFL Canberra Club the NEAFL Player was playing for, will be counted towards individual AFL Canberra awards including the Mulrooney Medal and Leading Goal kicker.

4. Relegation of Player – other than injury or discipline

- 4.1 Any player removed from the NEAFL Club's Primary list via list amendment will be replaced by the NEAFL Club to maintain the same number of Primary Listed players prior to that list adjustment.

5. Eligibility of players from NEAFL Clubs to play for AFL Canberra clubs

- 5.1 Communication and consultation must transpire between the NEAFL Club and the aligned AFL Canberra Clubs regarding the positioning and development of players prior to their selection by AFL Canberra clubs. The intent of this clause is that the initial weekly communication should be sent from the NEAFL Club's Head Coach.
- 5.2 A NEAFL player, whom is ruled unfit by a NEAFL Club medical officer to play in a NEAFL match or matches, will be ineligible for selection and must not be listed on the Official Team Sheet of any AFL Canberra Club in any match played in the concurrent round of AFL Canberra matches.

6. Finals Eligibility

- 6.1 Any NEAFL Player, who is primary listed with or contracted to a NEAFL Club, must play a total of not less than four (4) matches for premiership points in the Home & Away season in a team or teams of a AFL Canberra competition, before being eligible to compete in the AFL Canberra finals in that season.
- 6.2 The eligibility of a NEAFL Player to participate in the AFL Canberra finals in any season will otherwise be determined in accordance with the AFL Canberra By-Laws. If a NEAFL Player is delisted and registers with an AFL Canberra Club which was not his previously aligned AFL Canberra Club post 30 June of that season, the Player will only be available to play AFL Canberra finals matches for their current AFL Canberra Club subject to meeting the other eligibility criteria in the AFL Canberra By-Laws.
- 6.3 Where a NEAFL Primary Listed player is not selected by their NEAFL Club, and plays for an AFL Canberra Club on the same weekend, this match will count towards finals eligibility for their aligned AFL Canberra Club.
- 6.4 Matches played by NEAFL Players in the NSW/ACT State Under 18 TAC Cup & National Championships will count towards finals eligibility for the AFL Canberra first grade competition.
- 6.5 When a NEAFL Club is competing in a NEAFL finals match on the same weekend as an AFL Canberra finals match, a NEAFL Primary Listed Player not selected by their NEAFL Club will be eligible to play in the AFL Canberra finals match provided they satisfy clause 6.1.

7. Injury

- 7.1 If a NEAFL Player is injured whilst playing a match with an AFL Canberra Club, the NEAFL Club will manage the injury, and deal with any administrative issues for the NEAFL Player, as it would have had the NEAFL Player been injured playing or training for the NEAFL Club.

8. Inconsistency

- 8.1 Where there is any inconsistency between an NEAFL player contract signed by a NEAFL Player and any contract or declaration entered into between the NEAFL Player and the aligned AFL Canberra Club, the provisions of the NEAFL player contract will prevail.

9. Suspension of Players

- 9.1 An AFL Canberra Club cannot suspend a contracted NEAFL Player without the prior written approval of the NEAFL Club and the NEAFL Operations Manager.
- 9.2 Any NEAFL Player who is suspended in the NEAFL competition will be ineligible to win the AFL Canberra Mulrooney Medal (Best & Fairest) in the season in which they committed the offence.

10. Exceptional Circumstances

- 10.1 On application by a NEAFL Player's aligned AFL Canberra Club, the AFL Canberra Administration Committee or AFL Canberra Operations Manager may vary the qualification requirement for finals eligibility for that player in exceptional circumstances, including where the player has missed a significant number of matches due to serious injury.