

AFL CANBERRA FINALS SERIES ELIGIBILITY - 2020

Please find below information regarding Finals Eligibility for all AFL Canberra Competitions, inclusive of the relevant guiding clauses, as per the [AFL Canberra By Laws](#). The purpose of this document is to help clubs better understand the different considerations linked to participation in the 2020 AFL Canberra Finals Series. Clubs will naturally have unique circumstances specific to them, which may not be covered below. In the event a club is unable to ascertain the Finals Eligibility of a player using the information below and the AFL Canberra By Laws, they are encouraged to contact AFL Canberra with specific details of the player's circumstances.

1. FINALS ELIGIBILITY – SENIORS

- 1.1 Players must be named on the official team sheet and play in a minimum of **THREE (3)** home and away games for a particular team in a particular grade to be eligible to play in finals for that particular team in a that particular grade. For example, a player that has played **THREE (3)** home and away games only in Second Grade is eligible to play Second Grade finals.
- 1.2 As long as 1.1 is met, Senior players can play up a grade for their actual Club in finals. For example: a player that has played **THREE (3)** home and away games in Second Grade is eligible to play First Grade finals. Please note, the Rising Stars – Men's and Women's are exempt from this allowance.
- 1.3 Any Senior player who has played in a total of **SIX (6) or more** home and away matches of a higher grade shall not be eligible to play final matches in a lower grade. The list of grades from highest to lowest is as follows: **First Grade >> Second Grade >> Third Grade >> Fourth Grade**
- 1.4 A player who has played **SIX (6) or more** games in a higher grade(s) – can represent their club in the immediate lower grade final ONLY if both teams are playing on the same weekend
- 1.5 In this case, should the higher grade team be knocked out and the lower grade team continue, this player will be eligible to play the remaining finals games for the lower grade side as long as they are qualified as per Rule 1.1 (minimum **THREE (3)** home and away matches in the lower grades).
- 1.6 In Seniors, there may be an instance where a player has played a number of games across multiple teams in different grades without reaching **THREE (3)** home and away games for one particular team in a grade

For example: a player that has played two home and away games In First Grade and two home and away games in Second Grade. In this instance, the player would be eligible to participate in the Finals of the Highest Grade that their club is playing in. They may also be able to participate in Lower Grades based on the 1.4, in the event both teams are playing on the same weekend
- 1.7 A player can ONLY participate in ONE (1) Senior Finals Match on any given weekend

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- 1.8 If a player plays the Lower Grade on a Saturday and a player in the higher grade pulls out on the Saturday Night due to illness or injury, a Lower Grade Player (who played on the Saturday) will be allowed to take his place in the Higher Grade Team the following day

For example: if a Second-Grade player plays on a Saturday and a First Grade player pulls out of the First Grade side on the Saturday night due to illness or injury, the Second Grade player (who played on the Saturday) will be allowed to take his place the Sunday. Similarly, if a First Grade is ill or injured on the morning of the game, a Second Grade Player will be allowed to play, in these unique circumstances.

2. FINALS ELIGIBILITY – JUNIORS

- 2.1 Players must be named on the official team sheet and play in a minimum of **THREE (3)** home and away games for a particular team in a particular Age Group to be eligible to play in finals for that particular team in a that particular grade.

- 2.2 Junior players cannot play up an Age Group for their Club in finals unless they have met 2.1 For example, a player that has played **THREE (3)** home and away games only in the Under 11's, is not eligible to play in the Under 12's finals.
- 2.3 Any Junior player who plays **FOUR (4) or more** games in a higher age group, exclusive of Senior Competitions, must have played at least **fifty (50) percent** of the home and away games in the lower age group in order to be eligible for finals in both age groups

The list of age groups/competitions from highest to lowest is as follows:

| Male/Mixed | Female |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| * Rising Stars Men's | * Rising Star Women's |
| * Under 17's Boy's | * Under 16's Girls |
| * Under 15's Boy's | * Under 14's Girls |
| * Under 14's Mixed | * Under 12's Girls |
| * Under 13's Mixed | |
| * Under 12's Mixed | |
| * Under 11's Mixed | |

Players can play finals if they are age eligible and qualify to do so. For example. if a player participates in six (6) Under 12's games and eight (8) Under 13's games, the player will only be able to participate in the Under 13's finals.

If a player participates in eight (8) Under 12's games and six (6) Under 13's games, the player will be able to participate in the both the Under 12's and Under 13's finals.

- 2.4 There is no restriction on the number of finals game a player can participate in on any given weekend, however a strong recommendation of no more than two games on any given weekend, noting the player must be eligible for each team they play for as per the above.

Player welfare should be taken into consideration when selecting a player to play more than one game on any given weekend. For example, a junior player may play in two finals on the same weekend, they may play one junior and one senior final on the same weekend.

3. REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS

- 3.1 If a player plays Representative Games in an AFL managed competition (excludes school based competitions), such as the NSW/ACT Under 18 Rams, Under 18's GWS Giants Academy Series, Under 18's Allies, those games will be considered equivalent to AFL Canberra First Grade Men's matches and therefore games played, excluding trial games, will count towards finals eligibility with the player's AFL Canberra Club.

Representative Games in an AFL managed competition (excludes school based competitions) for other age groups, such as Under 16's Nationals, will be considered games played in their relevant Junior Age Group for their AFL Canberra Club.

4. PERMIT PLAYERS – LOCAL INTERCHANGE/MATCH DAY PERMIT

- 4.1 Permit Players are not eligible to play during the Finals Series. Games played on Permit (Local Interchange or Match Day) do not contribute to Finals Qualification. The only exceptions to this are as below, as long as they meet the associated qualification criteria.
- players who are playing on Permit to their aligned Senior Club, for example players permitted from the Rising Stars – Women's to First or Second Grade Women's, or;
 - players who play on Permit to pursue a higher competition, when their club does not offer this age group, for example: plays Under 14's Mixed at Weston Creek Wildcats and Under 15's Boys Tuggeranong Valley AFC, in the pursuit of higher competition.

5. PERMIT PLAYERS – COVID ALLOWANCE

- 5.1 Games played on permit by players who are on a Local Interchange COVID Permit (players whose club or league is not in competition in 2020 due to the COVID Pandemic) are permitted to play in the 2020 Finals Series. Games played on permit for these affected players will contribute towards Finals Qualification.

6. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES (AFL NSW REGULATION 4.12.G)

- 6.1 On application by a Player's Club, the League may vary the number of qualifying Matches required for Player eligibility in finals:
- i. where services personnel are posted a significant distance away during the home and away Matches;
 - ii. where a Player misses a significant number of Matches due to serious injury or pregnancy (more than six (6) consecutive Matches);
 - iii. the Player was unavailable due to a transfer of employment which was for a continuous period of three (3) months; and
 - iv. any other exceptional circumstances as determined by the League.