

## 2021 AFL Canberra Player Eligibility in Finals

### Finals (Seniors and Juniors)

- 1.1 During finals series matches, non-competing clubs may be required (as determined by the Administration Committee) to provide personnel to assist with ground management tasks such as gatekeepers, timekeepers, interchange steward and scoreboard attendants etc.
- 1.2 A player reported and suspended in any division cannot serve their suspension in another division if the division they were reported in is not playing that weekend.
- 1.3 On application by a player's club, the Administration Committee may vary the number of qualifying games required where Services personnel are posted a significant distance away during the home and away matches; or where a player misses a significant number of matches due to serious injury; or under other exceptional circumstances.

### Senior Finals

- 1.1 Players must be named on the official team sheet and play in a minimum of four home and away games for a particular team in a particular division to be eligible to play in finals for that particular team in a that particular division.  
  
For example, a player that has played four 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 division for their actual Club in finals.  
  
For example, a player that has played four home and away games in Second Grade is eligible to play First Grade finals.
- 1.3 Any Senior player who has played in a total of nine or more home and away matches of a higher division shall not be eligible to play final matches in a lower division. The list of grades from highest to lowest is as follows:
  - \* VFL
  - \* First Grade
  - \* Second Grade
  - \* Third Grade
  - \* Fourth Grade
- 1.4 A player who has played nine or more games in a higher grade(s) – can represent his/her club in the immediate lower division final only if the team/s is playing on the same weekend.
- 1.5 In this case, should the higher division team be knocked out and the lower division team continue, this player will be eligible to play the remaining finals games for the lower division side as long as they are qualified as per Rule 1.1 (minimum 4 games in the lower division).
- 1.6 In Seniors, there may be instances where a player has played a number of games across multiple teams in different division without reaching four home and away games for one particular team in a division.  
  
For example, a player that has played three home and away games in First Grade and three home and away games in Second Grade.

In this instance, the player would be eligible to participate in the finals of the highest division that their Club is playing in. They may also be able to participate in lower divisions based on the rules above.

- 1.7 A player can only participate in one senior final 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 Saturday) will be allowed to take his/her 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 a Second Grade player (who played on Saturday) will be allowed to take his/her place the following day.

### **VFL Player Finals Eligibility**

- 1.1 Any VFL listed player must play 4 AFL Canberra First Grade games to qualify to play in the AFL Canberra Finals.

- 1.2 If any VFL player plays 9 or more games in the VFL competition, that player will be deemed not eligible to play in the AFL Canberra Finals regardless if playing the same weekend as AFL Canberra senior competitions.

### **Junior Finals**

- 1.1 Players must be named on the official team sheet and play in a minimum of four home and away games for a particular team in a particular division to be eligible to play in finals for that particular team in a that particular division.

- 1.2 Junior players cannot play up a division for their actual Club in finals unless they have met 1.1

For example, a player that has played four home and away games only in the Under 11's is not eligible to play in the Under 12's finals.

- 1.3 Any Junior player who plays five or more games in a higher division must have played at least fifty percent of the home and away games in the lower division in order to be eligible for finals in both divisions. The list of divisions from highest to lowest is as follows:

#### Male

- \* Rising Stars Men's
- \* Under 17's
- \* Under 16's
- \* Under 15's
- \* Under 14's
- \* Under 13's
- \* Under 12's
- \* Under 11's

#### Female

- \* Rising Star Women's
- \* Under 16's \* Under 14's \* Under 12's

Senior divisions are not considered a higher division. Senior players can play finals if they are age eligible and qualify to do so.

For example, if a player participates in six Under 12's games and nine Under 13's games, the player will only be able to participate in the Under 13's finals.

If a player participates in nine Under 12's games and six Under 13's games, the player will be able to participate in the both the Under 12's and Under 13's finals.

- 1.4 There is no restriction on the number of finals game a player can participate in on any given weekend, however they player must be eligible for each team they play for. Player welfare should be taken into consideration when selecting a player to play more than one game on any given weekend.

For example, a player may play in two junior finals on the same weekend. A player may play one junior and one senior final on the same weekend.

### **Attachment G – Specific Competitions**

- 1.1 If a player plays for the NSW/ACT Under 18 Representative Team, Under 19's GWS Giants Academy, Under 18's Allies or any VFL club as a top up player those games will be considered equivalent to AFL Canberra First Grade Men's matches and therefore games played, excluding trial games, by a player in that team will count towards finals eligibility with the player's club.
- 1.2 Further to rule 1.1, if a registered Marist player is used as a top up player for any VFL club the game(s) played as a top up will count as a Rising Stars Men's match.
- 2.0 AFL Canberra First Grade**
- 2.1 When not selected for their respective VFL Squads, listed players will return to their allocated Club. Final details on allocations will be communicated with Senior Clubs prior to the start of the season.