



AFL NSW/ACT Player Points System Policy

AFL Canberra Women's First Grade

Season 2022

Updated: March 2022

AFL CANBERRA WOMEN'S FIRST GRADE 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 Canberra Women's First Grade competition to achieve the above objectives.

2. DEFINITIONS

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

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

AFL Canberra means the Australian Football League currently known as 'AFL Canberra' comprising of senior men's and women's competitions conducted by AFL NSW/ACT in the greater Canberra region 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 AFL NSW/ACT with a team participating in the Women's First Grade 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 Canberra season.

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

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

Home Player means any Player who has played twenty (20) or more Matches at the aligned Junior Club or has only played for one Club.

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 Canberra which are governed by or affiliated to AFL NSW/ACT.

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 Player's individual details provided for on the PlayHQ 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.

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

Women's First Grade Competition means the Women's top division competition in AFL Canberra.

Women's First Grade Team means the team representing a Club in the AFL Canberra Women's First Grade 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.

3. TOTAL TEAM POINTS

3.1. The allocation of Total Team Points caps for each Women's First Grade 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 First Grade 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 First Grade 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 First Grade team's lack of competitiveness over a sustained period a (e.g. low ladder finish over multiple seasons).
 - (d) AFL Canberra 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 Canberra Women's First Grade teams is outlined in Appendix B.

3.5. AFL Canberra 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 First Grade 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 First Grade team on its team sheet in calculating its Total Team Points for each Match.

3.6. AFL Canberra 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 Canberra).

4. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

Each Club:

- 4.1. Must determine each individual Player's Player Points Allocation for its Women's First Grade 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 Canberra the Player Points Allocations for each Player by the deadline of 1 March, and in the form prescribed by AFL Canberra. 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 First Grade team in a Match in AFL Canberra Women's First Grade Competition, who has not had their Player Points Allocation approved and entered into PlayHQ, that Club will be subject to a subsequent enforcement penalty or disciplinary sanction (including loss of competition points) as determined by AFL Canberra in accordance with this PPS Policy;
- 4.4. Must ensure that for each Match the Women's First Grade 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 Canberra will liaise with its Clubs to ensure that Total Team Points and Player Point Allocations are entered into PlayHQ 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 Canberra 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 Canberra 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 Canberra Women's First Grade 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 Canberra 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 Canberra for a reassessment by the Administration Committee in accordance with clauses 6.3 and 7.
- 5.9. A Player's Player Points Allocation will only be determined when that Player transfers and registers to a Club, with only standard deductions occurring for each Season of Service thereafter. For the avoidance of doubt, annual reassessment will not occur unless in accordance with clause 5.2 and 6.3.

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 Canberra 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.
- 6.4. If a Home Player registers with another AFL Canberra Club where they are not a Home Player for that Club, that player will be allocated an additional penalty point for the duration of the time that they are registered with that club. For the avoidance of doubt, that Player's Player Points Allocation cannot reduce below 2 points even factoring in Season of Service. For example, if a player has played 40 Junior Matches at Tuggeranong Valley AFC, and has been recruited to play for Belconnen Magpies, this Player's Points Allocation cannot get below 2, regardless of the number of Seasons of Service at the club.

7. ENFORCEMENT

- 7.1. Clubs are required to submit to the AFL Canberra Football Operations Manager as prescribed by AFL Canberra, the individual Player Points Allocations in accordance with this PPS Policy. AFL Canberra will review and enter the final individual PPA into PlayHQ.

- 7.2. Player Points Allocations will be managed via PlayHQ. PlayHQ will not permit a Club to enter a Women's First Grade team into an electronic team sheet that has a combined Total Team Points allocation of more than that Women's First Grade 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 Canberra 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 Canberra.
- 7.5. AFL NSW/ACT or AFL Canberra 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 Canberra 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 Canberra will review this PPS Policy annually and amendments and variations may be made from time to time.

APPENDIX “A”

1. PLAYER CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS

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| Category 6 | 6 Points | AFLW Player | Player who has played a minimum of one (1) 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 | Player who has played a minimum five (5) VFL Women’s games in the current season or any of the previous 3 seasons. AFL Academy Player in any of the current or previous three (3) seasons |
| Category 4 | 4 Points | WAWFL/QWAFL/SANFLW | 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. |
| | | Under 16s and/or Under 18s 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 alternative sport in the current or previous three (3) seasons. |

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| Category 1 | 1 Point | Home Player | A player who has only played football at their current AFL Canberra club |
| | | Home Player | A player who has played twenty (20) or more games at the aligned junior club up to and including U18 competition or younger. Or, any former junior player who does not fit into Categories 2 – 6. |
| | | Junior Player | A player who has only played football at their current AFL Canberra club and for no other club, or a player with no prior playing experience (unless defined as a Talent ID Player). Senior players who are drafted to AFLW will be reassessed when they return to their AFL Canberra club. In this instance, the season of service will be taken into account and they will not revert to a Home Player. |

2. PLAYER POINTS ALLOCATIONS

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| ADDITIONS | Add 1 Point | If the player is transferring from another community club and will be competing against their former club (does not include Category 2 Development Community Players, unless the player has come from a club that has a Women's First Grade side). |
| | | 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 Canberra Women's First Grade, on Permit, as a registered junior player in any of the previous two (2) seasons, but then registers as a senior player with a different AFL Canberra Women's First Grade club. |
| DEDUCTIONS | Deduct 1 Point | For each season of service with the club (minimum five (5) senior or reserves games per season), even if not in consecutive years, until the player reaches one (1) point. 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. Rising Stars Women's is considered as Junior Football, and does not contribute to years of service, but does contribute to a players Home Club Qualification. |
| | Revert to 1 Point | Where player is returning to an AFL Canberra club, if qualified as a Home Player (20 Junior Games). Note: Players who change First Grade clubs and then return to their original AFL Canberra club, who have not qualified as a Home Player will be assessed based on the categories to determine their points value. However, these players will not incur an additional penalty point for competing against a former AFL Canberra club. |
| | | Where player has not played football in the previous 36 months. |

Note: in the event a player has progressed to Category 4,5 or 6 levels of competition (AFLW etc.), they will return to their most current AFL Canberra club at the points level they left this club, based on the Player Categories and Definitions, considerate of Years of Service. Their points will not increase due to opportunities at higher levels of football, as an acknowledgement of these clubs contribution to that players development.

Examples: 1) Qualified Home Player returns as 1 Point Player. 2) Senior Community Player, playing against former AFL Canberra club, with one (1) year of service, returns as a 3 Point Player.

Category 4,5 or 6 players returning to Canberra, but for another AFL Canberra club, will be assessed based on the Player Categories and Definitions, as well as the additional one (1) point, if applicable.

3. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT

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.

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.

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.

4) The Administration Committee may take into account the following in determining whether or not to vary the standard points allocation in the circumstances:

- 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 2022 AFL Canberra Women's First Grade competition are set out below.

- Gungahlin Jets & Tuggeranong Valley AFC – **40 points**
- Ainslie Tricolours, Belconnen Magpies, Eastlake Demons, Queanbeyan Tigers – **30 points**

The following local variations to the Player Point System policy and Team Points Caps will apply for each League are as follows:

- (a) Participation in the Rising Stars U18s competition does not constitute service for the purposes of a season of service.
- (b) Rising Stars U18s competition constitutes a junior competition for the purposes of Home Player status.