



# **AFL Queensland Player Points System Policy**

**21 February 2020**

*For implementation for the 2020 QAFL & QFA Division 1 and 2  
Senior Men's Competitions*

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## AFL Queensland Player Points System Policy – 2020 and Beyond

AFL Queensland believes that equalisation of community football competitions is vital for the ongoing success of community football. Following the first year of this Player Points System application in 2019 for the QAFL, AFL Queensland has seen a stronger balance in the competitiveness of the QAFL Competition, with 7 of the 9 teams vying for a spot in the 2019 Finals in the final round of the home and away season.

2020 will see significant changes come into the Community Football landscape with the introduction of the Maroochydore Roos into the QAFL, providing a high-performance pathway for footballers on the Sunshine Coast, as well as the competition restructure for the former QFA Division 1-3 into the revised QFA Division 1 HART Sport Cup and the QFA Division 2 North and South competitions.

Due to the strength of the senior men's competitions in South-East Queensland, AFL Queensland will now apply the Player Points System (PPS) Policy in the following Senior competitions for 2020 and beyond:

1. QAFL
2. QFA Division 1 HART Sport Cup
3. QFA Division 2 North
4. QFA Division 2 South

Following the 2019 QAFL Season, all clubs were requested by AFL Queensland to submit feedback on the existing Player Points System Policy and Player Point Allocation (PPA) matrix. This feedback has been reviewed, and certain amendments to the PPS and PPA matrix have been applied for the 2020 season and beyond.

The objectives of the PPS Policy remain, to:

1. Support equalization of community football Competitions;
2. Ensure teams fielded in the Competitions are strong and as equally matched as possible;
3. Provide the best opportunities for players to develop and display their skills;
4. Provide opportunities to compete at a community level within an orderly and fair system;  
and
5. Promote player loyalty and junior development.

This PPS Policy sets out a framework of rules and guiding principles in relation to a player points system which will be implemented in order to achieve the above objectives.

## 1. Team Player Points Allocation Cap

*For the 2020 Season, the following Team PPA Caps will apply:*

- a) QAFL
  - i. 45 Points
  
- b) QFA Division 1 HART Sport Cup
  - i. 45 Points
  
- c) QFA Division 2 North & South
  - ii. 45 Points

Note: Some team's Team Player Points Allocation Cap may vary due to circumstances relating to Rule 7 of this Policy.

## 2. AFL Queensland Responsibilities

AFL Queensland:

### *Total Team Points*

- a) Will consider all applications from Community 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 Community Clubs in accordance with this PPS Policy to manage unique local conditions and meet the needs of local Community Clubs and the relevant senior Competitions.
- c) Will allocate and communicate the final figure for Total Team Points to each Senior Team for each Club affiliate (i.e. not reserves or underage Competitions) for the following Season and in accordance with this PPS Policy by 30th September each calendar year.

### *Player Points Allocation*

- a) Will assess players submitted on a club's pre-season team list to determine individual PPAs. This determination may include any additions or deductions applicable to each player in accordance with this PPS Policy. See Clauses 4-6 and appendices 11 (a) & 11 (b) for applicable PPS table and flow chart to assist in this process.
- b) As part of the Player Point Allocation process, Clubs may seek a reassessment of any player's Player Point Allocation by the Player Points Review Committee (PPRC). Any reassessment request should be made to the relevant Competition Manager no later than 14 days before the player's first Senior Home and Away Match of each Season.
- c) Will confirm and enter all PPAs into the FootyWeb system which will be set for the entire season for each player. Once the points allocation process has been undertaken, any player's PPA will be fixed for that Season unless AFL Queensland is of the view that there are exceptional circumstances relevant to a player that warrant an amendment of the Player Point Allocation during the Season.

### 3. Affiliated Club Responsibilities

Each affiliate Community Club:

- a) Will provide a list of no more than 60 players who are likely to play senior football in the upcoming season, at least six (6) weeks prior to the club's first scheduled Home & Away match.
- b) Acknowledges that if a Community Club does not follow this procedure and decides to play a player in a match in a Senior Competition, who has not had their Player Points Allocation approved and entered into SportsTG, that Club will bear the risk of any subsequent enforcement penalty as determined by AFL Queensland in accordance with this PPS Policy.
- c) Will ensure that on match days the Senior Team does not exceed that Club's Total Team Points. For the avoidance of doubt, Community Clubs may recruit above their allocated points in any given Season but must comply with the Total Team Points allocation on match days.
- d) May make an application to the relevant Competition Manager for review by the PPRC for the allocation of additional Total Team Points in accordance with this PPS Policy (i.e. for unique local circumstances), by no later than four (4) weeks prior to the first Home and Away match in their respective Competition.

### 4. Player Points Categories

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 retention and loyalty.

Each player expected to play in the Senior Team of a Community Club will be allocated a Category and a Player Points Allocation as follows:

- a) **Category 1: Home Player – 1 Point**
  - i. Player who has played 40 or more games at the aligned junior club up to and including Under 17 Competition. State Representative matches played whilst a club junior will also be added to a club tally for each player, provided they are listed in SportsTG;
  - ii. A player who has played only at that Community Club or an aligned junior club, and for no other Community Club; or
  - iii. A player who has not played Competitive Football in the previous 36 months.
  - iv. NOTE: Under the Category 1 definition, a player may be categorised as a 'home player' at more than one Community Club.
  - v. If a player does not meet the Category 1 'home player' eligibility above, their points Category will be assessed based on the highest playing level achieved within the 3 previous years prior to the player joining the current club in the following Categories (i.e. If a player is recruited in the 2020 season, the assessment will be carried out based on the 2019, 2018 & 2017 seasons):

b) **Category 1: NEAFL List – 1 Point**

- i. Any player that plays for their aligned QAFL/QFA Club whilst on a NEAFL List (either Primary or Development) will be allocated 1 point whilst playing for their aligned QAFL/QFA Club.

c) **Category 2: Community Player – 2 Points**

- i. A player who has played more reserves games than senior games in total, over the current and/or previous three (3) Seasons at community football level or has played in competitions that do not meet the Category 3 - Senior Community Player criteria.

d) **Category 2: Youth and Rising Star Eligible player - 2 Points**

- i. Player recruited that is under twenty (20) years of age prior to 1 January of the competition year.

e) **Category 3: Senior Community Player – 3 Points**

- i. Player who has played the same or more senior games than reserves games in total, over the current and or previous three (3) Seasons in QFA Div 1 or AFL Cairns or any interstate Senior competition (that does not meet the Category 4 threshold).
- ii. The player must have played at least 5 games in total, for either the Seniors or Reserves teams (not accumulated across both).

f) **Category 4: Premium Competition Player – 4 Points**

- i. Player who has played a minimum of 5 senior games in any one (1) season in the current or previous three (3) seasons, in any Premium Competition in Australia.

Premium competitions include:

**QUEENSLAND**

- Queensland Australian Football League (QAFL)

**VICTORIA**

- AFL Victoria Development League
- AFL Yarra Valley - Division One
- Ballarat Football Netball League
- Bendigo Football Netball League
- Eastern Football League Premier Division
- Essendon District Football League Premier Division
- Geelong Football Netball League
- Gippsland Football League
- Goulburn Valley Football League
- Hampden Football Netball League
- Mornington Peninsula Football Netball League – Division One
- Murray Football League
- Northern Football Netball League Division One
- Ovens and Murray Football Netball League
- South East Football Netball League

- Southern Football Netball League Division One
- Victorian Amateur Football Association Premier Division
- AFL Victoria Development League
- Western Region Football League Division One

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

- Adelaide Footy League – Division 1
- Southern Football League – Division 1

#### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

- WAAFL A Grade Seniors

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES/ACT**

- AFL Sydney Premier Division
- AFL Canberra 1st Grade

#### **TASMANIA**

- Tasmanian State League

#### **NORTHERN TERRITORY**

- Northern Territory Football League Premier Division

#### **g) Category 5: State League – 5 Points**

- i. Player who has played a minimum of 5 senior games in any one (1) season of VFL, WAFL, NEAFL or SANFL in any of the current or previous three (3) seasons.
  - a. A player who has played 5+ NEAFL games in a single season as a top up player for either the Brisbane Lions or Gold Coast SUNS NEAFL sides whilst their primary club of origin in SportsTG is a QAFL or QFA club, will not be subject to the Category 5 Classification if returning to their primary club of origin in the QAFL or QFA competition. Should a player transfer out to a new club, they will be subject to a full re-assessment.

#### **h) Category 6: AFL Player – 6 Points**

- i. Player who has played a minimum of one (1) AFL game in any of the current or previous three (3) Seasons.

#### **Other Supporting Information:**

- i) Returning Player Considerations:
  - a) A player who was previously registered with a club for at least one full season and played at least 5 matches in any season, before transferring to a higher-level competition (for a maximum of 24 months) will return with the same PPA as when they transferred out. A player may play for multiple clubs at higher levels.
  - b) Should a player be registered with any other club in the same category or at a lower level, before transferring back, the player will be subject to a full reassessment using

the PPV criteria. Prior Seasons of Service (at the club they are returning to) will not be considered once a player clears out of their club to play at an equal or lower level competition, unless that player is a "Home Club" player (i.e. has played 40 or more games at the aligned junior club?).

- j) A Community Club that has a player that does not meet any of the above player Categories will need to apply to the relevant Competition Manager for review by the PPRC to determine the appropriate Player Points Allocation. In determining the Player Points Allocation, AFL Queensland will have regard to all relevant factors so as not to unreasonably restrict the player's movement between Community Clubs or a player's opportunity to play football at a Club of their choice.
- k) For the avoidance of doubt, a player's Player Points Allocation does not get changed each season, other than for Season of Service deductions, unless they transfer to another club.
- l) For the purposes of a Player Points Allocation, a playing coach or playing assistant coach is classified as a player and will be assessed under the above Categories.
- m) A player playing on an Interchange Agreement as detailed at clause 3.1 and 3.7 of the National Player Transfer Regulations (i.e. a permit player) will be assessed on the same basis as transferred players.
- n) Match Day Permits – Any player playing on a match day permit in a team playing in a Senior Competition will be subject to a full Player Points Allocation assessment.

## 5. Additional player point allocations:

- a) If a player transfers to a Community Club and will be competing against their immediate former Community Club, an **additional two (2) point** penalty will apply.
  - i. Exemption Example - A player is playing for a QFA Division 1 Club in 2019, and that club transitions into the QAFL Competition in 2020; the player chooses to remain in the QFA Division 1 competition for 2020 and transfers to a new QFA Division 1 club, this player will not attract penalty, but will be subject to the normal reassessment for transferring to a new club.
  - ii. Non-exempt Example - A player is playing for a QFA Division 1 Club in 2019, and that club transitions into QFA Division 2 in 2020; the player chooses to transfer to a new QFA Division 2 club and will be directly competing against their immediate former club, this player will attract penalty and will be subject to the normal reassessment for transferring to a new club.
- b) Where a player has registered at three (3) or more different Community Clubs in three (3) seasons, (except Category 2 – Youth and Rising Star Eligible Player) an **additional point (1)** will be applied to that player's Player Points Allocation. In determining the 3 season's timeframe, clubs shall assess the current or upcoming season as the first season along with the previous two (2) seasons. Applicable to transfers processed following National Transfer Window opening on 1 November 2019.
  - i. For the avoidance of doubt, player movements under a permit arrangement e.g. to a State League, NEAFL, NTFLL club or under local interchange agreements, where their home club is classified as a Community Club, will not be penalised under this clause.
- c) A Community Club may make an application for a re-assessment under clause 6.d) or 7.a) to the Competition Manager to be considered by the PPRC in relation to a player's additional points allocation.



## 6. Deductions and Amendments to player points allocation:

- a) For any player that is recruited to a club that is playing in a higher division from where the player has been recruited from, the player will receive a **'Promotion Reduction' of 1 point** (only applicable to Category 3 players that have played their football solely in Queensland).
  - i. In 2020, this will be applied retrospectively for players transferred in 2019 or prior.
- b) **Seasons of Service** - Beginning in the third season, once a player's PPA has been determined, a reduction of one point will apply for each 'Season of Service' to that player's Community Club (minimum of 5 club games accumulated across Colts, Reserves or Seniors in any one season) even if not in consecutive years provided the player has not cleared out at any time during that period to an equal or lower level competition, until the player reaches 1 point. For the avoidance of doubt, if a player is eligible for underage football at their Club, they must play 5 Senior Club football matches to meet the criteria for a Season of Service point reduction (includes colts).
  - i. NEAFL Listed players (Primary & Development) aligned to a QAFL/QFA club will be entitled to the same Season of Service discount for matches played in the QAFL/QFA, should they transfer directly to the aligned QAFL/QFA club following their delisting from a NEAFL club.
- b) **University clubs** can apply for a PPV deduction for players that are studying full time at the aligned Tertiary Institution. This reassessment will only be applicable to players who have transferred into the club from a community club outside of the SEQ Competitions (i.e. not QAFL/QFA). A maximum 2 point deduction can be applied to reduce the players PPV to a minimum of 2 points (a player can't be reduced to less than 2 points unless they meet the 'Home Club' criteria). University Clubs must provide evidence that supports the players full-time university studies each year. When players are no longer studying full time, the 2 point allocation will be placed back onto the PPV, unless the player has reached 1 point already.
- c) Where a player qualifies in more than one Category based on their playing history in the current Season or any of the previous 3 Seasons, the Category with the highest points will apply, hence the use of the flow chart in appendix 11.b). Home Players and Rising Star Eligible players are excluded.
- d) AFL Queensland may, acting reasonably, reassess an individual player's Player Points Allocation where it is deemed inappropriate based on playing history and circumstances. Clubs may make an application detailing relevant evidence regarding the reassessment of a player to the relevant Competition Manager in conjunction with the PPRC. The application for reassessment may be based upon one or more of the following:
  - i. The injury history of the player
  - ii. The recent playing history of the player
  - iii. The living, schooling and work arrangements of the player;
  - iv. Extended time out of the game; or
  - v. Any other relevant consideration.

## 7. Total Team Points

- a) In order to assess applications to amend a Senior Competitions Total Team Points' cap, AFL Queensland will adopt the following guiding principles regarding the additional allocation or reduction of Total Team Points to a Community Club:
  - i. Additional total team points may be allocated to a Community Club which is located in a region with a low population base.

- ii. Additional total team points may be allocated if a Community Club did not qualify for finals in previous seasons or has been promoted from previous seasons.
  - iii. Reduction of total team points for multiple premierships and sustained success over previous seasons.
  - iv. Additional total team points may be allocated if a Community Club endures significant hardship, lack of success, is coming out of recess, or is a recently merged or restructured entity.
  - v. Additional total team points may be allocated where a Community Club has no Colts or younger underage sides and is not capable of developing a junior program due to reasons outside of its control, or if a Community Club is aligned with a university and the team is based around players coming and going over a 3-4 year period.
- b) 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 that Competition. For example, if the maximum number of players on match days for the Competition is 22 players, a Club cannot submit a team list of 21 players to meet the Total Team Points cap. For the avoidance of doubt, a Club must list the maximum number of players allowed on its team sheet in calculating its Total Team Points. For exceptional circumstances (i.e. not having enough players to field a full Senior Team) the matter should be referred to the relevant Competition Manager for review and direction by the PPRC.

## 8. Enforcement

- a) Given that PPAs will be managed via the SportsTG System, if correct procedure is applied, with Players Points Allocation entered into the system prior to the start of the Season, it is envisaged there will be minimal issues in the management of the Player Points Allocations.
- b) Should any Club knowingly make a false or incorrect declaration regarding Player Points Allocations, the Club may be penalised by AFL Queensland in line with the penalties set out in clause 8.c).
- c) Penalties may include (without limitation):
  - i. Club fines
  - ii. Relegation (when in a divisional competition)
  - iii. Loss of premiership points – current season and in the future
  - iv. Suspension from finals – current season and in the future
  - v. Player / Official suspensions – for those players/ officials that knowingly provide false information to the Club;
  - vi. Any other penalty determined by AFL Queensland from time to time.
- d) In applying any enforcement provisions in relation to any breach of the PPS Policy, AFL Queensland shall take into consideration whether the breach was deemed to be, but not exclusive to:
  - i. Unintentional - where a club has breached this policy without intended malice or has acted on inaccurate information.
  - ii. Interpretive - where a club had applied the policy in a manner other than what the policy was intended for.
  - iii. Intentional - where a clear breach had occurred with little or no regard to the requirements of the policy.

## 9. Appeal and Review

- a) Where a Community Club is of the view that a player's PPA or the Clubs Total Team Cap allocation is deemed inappropriate under this PPS Policy following a reassessment conducted under clause 6.d) or 7.a) of this policy, any appeal against that PPA must be heard by AFL Queensland in accordance with the normal appeals process.
- b) An appeal against a decision to apply an enforcement provision under this PPS Policy should be made via the AFL Queensland State Football Operations Manager and will be reviewed in accordance with the normal appeals process.
- c) AFL Queensland will review the PPS Policy throughout each Season and amendments and variations may be made from time to time.

## 10. Definitions

- a) AFL – Australian Football League.
- b) AFL Queensland - means Australian Football League (Queensland) Limited ABN 66 090 629 342
- c) Category – means the player points category which determines the base allocation of the Player Points Allocation for a player.
- d) Community Club or 'Club' – means an Australian football club which participates within a community football competition that does not include State Leagues (i.e. the NEAFL or VFL).
- e) Competition – means an Australian football competition in which the Community Clubs participate in official fixtured matches.
- f) Competitive Football – means any formally organised football competition conducted within Australia excluding AFL 9s and school football.
- g) First Home and Away Match – means the first official competition match for the home and away season of a Competition.
- h) FootyWeb System – means the online competition management system implemented by football competitions across Queensland.
- i) National Player Transfer Regulations – means the AFL's national policy for player transfers as updated by the AFL from time to time.
- j) NEAFL – means North East Australian Football League.
- k) Player membership details – means a player's individual details provided on the FootyWeb System.
- l) Player Points Allocation (PPA) – 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 Player Points System (PPS) Policy.
- m) PPRC – means Player Points Review Committee, consisting of no less than three (3) persons and no greater than five (5) persons as appointed by the AFLQ State Manager Senior Football operations annually.
- n) Player Points System (PPS) Policy - means this community club player point's policy as amended by AFL Queensland from time to time.
- o) Premium Competition - means the Competitions outlined in clause 4.f) of this PPS Policy.
- p) Reserves Competition - means the Reserve Grade side of a Club that has a Senior Grade Side in the same competition or league.
- q) SANFL – means the South Australian National Football League.
- r) Season – means Community Football season between 1 April and 30 September each year (or such other agreed dates).

- s) Season of Service – means a Season where a player has played a minimum of five (5) games in either the senior, reserves or colts teams in one Season for a particular Community 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.
- t) Senior Competition – means the senior or 1st grade Competition within any league or division of a Competition.
- u) Senior Team – means the team of players that participate within a Community Club’s senior or 1st grade football team.
- v) TSL – means the Tasmanian State League.
- w) Total Team Points – means the total amount of points allocated to a specific Senior Team by AFL Queensland for each Season in accordance with this PPS Policy.
- x) VFL – means the Victorian Football League.
- y) WAAFL – means the Western Australian Amateur Football League.
- z) WAFL – means the Western Australian Football League.

**Interpretation:**

A reference to:

**“Aligned Junior Club”** is where seniors and juniors exist under the same constitution, or where there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place between standalone senior and junior clubs that is approved by AFL Queensland. Senior clubs can have multiple MOU’s with junior clubs and junior clubs can have multiple MOU’s with senior clubs. To be considered an ‘Aligned Junior Club’ an MOU must be approved by AFL Queensland to ensure appropriate player pathways exist.

**“Transferred”** refers to the formal transfer authorised under the National Player Transfer Regulations.

**“Unique local conditions”** refers to the conditions, environment or circumstances which are unique to a Community Club or a region of Community Clubs which may give grounds for a reassessment of a Club’s Total Team Points as determined by AFL Queensland.

**Queensland affiliated Community Club** means a Community Club affiliated to an AFL Queensland by way of an authorised licence or affiliation agreement.

**11. Appendices**

Should any discrepancy occur with any appendices listed below, the rules set out in clauses 4-6 will prevail.

*a) Player Points Categories Tables*

<b>Points</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>6</b>	AFL Player	Played at least one AFL game in any of the current or previous 3 seasons.
<b>5</b>	State League Tier 1 - VFL, WAFL, NEAFL, SANFL	Player who has played a minimum of 5 senior games of VFL, WAFL or NEAFL, SANFL

		in any of the current or previous three (3) seasons.
<b>4</b>	Premium Competition Player	Player who has played a minimum of 5 senior games in the current or previous three (3) seasons, in any Premium Competition* in Australia.  NOTE: Premium Competitions are listed separately below.
<b>3</b>	Senior Community Player	Played the same or more Senior than Reserves games in total over the current and previous 3 seasons in QFA Div 1 or AFL Cairns or any interstate Senior competition. Players must have played at least 5 matches in total.
<b>2</b>	Community Player	Played more Reserves games than Senior games in total, over the current and previous three seasons at Community football level.
	Youth and Rising Star Eligible Player	Player recruited that is under twenty (20) years of age prior to 1 January of the competition year.
<b>1</b>	Home Player	Player who has played only at that club or aligned junior club.
		Played 40 or more games at the aligned junior football club up to and including U17 competitions.
		Player who hasn't played competitive football in the previous 36 months
	NEAFL List	A current NEAFL Listed player (either Primary or Development) that plays for their aligned QAFL/QFA club.
Additional 2 Penalty Points^		If transferring from another club and will be competing against their immediate former club (does not include Community Player).
Additional 1 Penalty Point^		If registered at three (3) or more different Community Clubs in the current or previous two (2) seasons. Does not include players moving on permit (e.g. NEAFL, NTFL or Local Interchange Agreement)
Promotion Reduction 1 Point*		For any player that is recruited to a club that is playing in a higher division from where the player is being recruited from. NOTE: This rule will only apply to players who have played their football solely in Queensland and/or the Northern Rivers competitions. Only applicable to Category 3 Players.
<b>*Seasons of Service*</b>		A player who is valued at 2 points or more and remains at the club, will reduce by one

Deduction of 1 Point	<p>point for each season of service (minimum of 5 club games per season), beginning in their third season of service at the club.</p> <p>NOTE: If the player is eligible for underage football (including Colts) at the club, they must play 5 Seniors/Reserves games to meet the criteria for a year of service.</p> <p>NOTE: NEAFL Listed (Primary and Development) listed players aligned to a QAFL/QFA club will be entitled to the same Season of Service discount for matches played in the QAFL/QFA, should they transfer directly to the QAFL/QFA club.</p>
<p><b>Note:</b> Where a player qualifies in more than one category based on their playing history, the category with the highest points will apply. (Home players and Rising Star Eligible Categories are excluded).</p>	
<p>* For any player that does not meet any of the above categories, the club will need to apply to AFL Queensland who will determine the appropriate categories and points.</p>	

b) Player Points Flowchart

