

2025 AFL Mid-Season Rookie Draft Information and Frequently Asked Questions

Nomination Process

Nominations will open on **9am (AEST) Thursday May 8 and close at 5pm (AEST) Friday May 23.**

Nominations are to be completed via <https://www.play.afl/draftnominations>

The AFL will notify AFL Clubs and State Bodies of players who have nominated for the MSRD.

Player Eligibility

A player is eligible for the Mid-Season Rookie Draft (MSRD) under either of the following:

- A Player must have nominated for the most recent National Draft.
 - A Player who nominated for, and was not selected, during the Draft and who committed for a further year as a 19-year-old Northern or NGA Academy Player is available to all Clubs should they nominate for the MSRD.
- Players must have previously been on the list of a Club (not required to nominate for the most recent Draft) refers to the following situations:
 - A Delisted Player

Note: A Player delisted by a Club cannot be reselected in the MSRD by the same Club in the period immediately following their delisting unless they nominated for the most recent Draft
 - A Retired Player and/or a Player who has delisted himself and has not been on an AFL List for one year or more. For example, Ben Brown retired in 2024 and as such he is **not able** to be selected in the 2025 MSRD.
- A Player who was eligible to, but did not nominate for the 2024 AFL National Draft, but is currently registered in one of the WAFL, SANFL or VFL **and** who has played a minimum of three (3) senior State League matches in 2025 by Monday 26th May, 2025.
 - For the avoidance of doubt, the required minimum of three (3) State League matches refers to 'senior' matches in 2025 only (not U18 or Reserves), as outlined below for the relevant competitions:
 - o WAFL League matches
 - o SANFL League matches
 - o VFL matches
- Please note, the following will contribute towards the three (3) game eligibility:
 - o Selection for the VFL Young Guns
 - o Selection for WA U21 (against WA U18)

- Selection for SA U20 (against SA U18)

Contract Terms

Eligible players can nominate the following:

- A short-term contract ending on 31 October, 2025 (\$55,000), with \$20,000 paid to the player if they are not re-signed by their current Club, picked up as a delisted free agent, selected in the next National or Rookie Draft or selected in the next SSP (with the \$20,000 to be paid after the SSP closes, noting it will not be included in the TPP)
- A contract ending on 31 October in the following year, with the player treated as per any other player at the end of that contract. **NOTE:** Any player who nominates this contract length cannot be offered a shorter contract.

For any previously listed players selected in the MSRD where their base payment is \$112,000 or higher in 2025 (or \$117,000 or higher in 2026 if contracted for 2026), and they were previously listed for a minimum of two years on an AFL list/s, the CBA Games incentives are not required to be included in their contract, however the Club may choose to do so if they wish. All other players selected in the MSRD must have the CBA games incentives included in their contract.

Nomination of Contract Terms (previously listed players only)

A player who was previously on the list of an AFL Club greater than three (3) seasons may nominate their terms (if different than the above) by selecting 'Yes' under Category Selection and then choosing 'Category 1' when completing the nomination form.

NOTES:

1. Any player who nominates their contract terms must be paid these terms, which are unable to be varied for the term of this contract (notwithstanding that the Club and Player are bound by the minimum terms as set out in the CBA, including games played incentives).
2. If a Player nominates his terms, he must do so for minimum period ending 31 October, 2026.

First Year Player Relocation Benefits 2025

The following benefits and entitlements, as set out in the CBA, for First Year relocated players are to be paid on a pro-rated basis at 50% as follows:

- **Player/Family Flights and Accommodation** - 5 Flights (for use of Player and/or Family) and 4 nights accommodation (for use of family).
- **Living Allowance** - \$8,250 (plus FBT where applicable)

The following benefits and entitlements are at 100% for MSRD players, being:

- **Relocation** (100% of relocation costs of relocating the player and their belongings)

Should the player be recontracted any remaining benefit from the above allowances will be rolled over to the second year (2026 season) and the player will be entitled to the remaining 50% of the Player/Family Flights and Accommodation and Living Allowance benefits.

Non-First Year Player Relocation Benefits 2025

Previously listed players may be provided the AFL Non-First Year Player Relocation Allowance if they are an Interstate Relocated Player or Regional Relocated Player.

- The AFL Non-First Year Player Relocation Allowance comprises the reasonable costs of relocating the Player and their belongings (based on actual costs).
- The AFL Non-First Year Player Relocation Allowance must be agreed between the Player and the relevant Club and specified in the Player's Standard Playing Contract.

State League Participation

Players who are selected in the MSRD that remain in their original State will not be permitted to play against their original Club unless otherwise agreed by all parties.

Any player selected in the 2025 MSRD has the right to return to their original Club to participate in finals if their service is no longer required at their AFL Club (subject to State League approval).

Medicals / Player Interviews

It is up to Clubs to determine whether they need to interview a player and/or conduct a medical assessment.

If a nominated player was medically screened as a part of the 2024 draft combine, their medical information can be available for AFL medical staff on request.

Frequently Asked Questions:

When is the AFL Mid-Season Rookie Draft?

The evening of Wednesday, 28 May, in the week following round 11. Nominations for eligible players open at 9am AEST on Thursday, 8 May and close at 5pm AEST on Friday, 23 May.

Who is eligible for this draft?

Clubs are able to recruit any footballer who **nominated for the 2024 AFL National Draft**, who was previously on an AFL list, or who meets the other eligibility criteria.

Any player who was delisted at the end of 2024 cannot be re-selected by the club that delisted them, unless they nominated for the most recent AFL Draft.

What about players part of an AFL Academy?

If an eligible 19 yr old AFL Academy member – either through the **Northern Academies** or through **Next Generation Academies** – opts to nominate for the mid-season rookie draft, they can be selected by any club. However, if they elect against doing so – or if they're not picked up – they keep their eligibility for their respective Academy sides ahead of the end-of-season AFL Draft.

How many picks can clubs have?

Clubs have the option of leaving list spots available after the previous season's trade and draft period, as well as after the Pre-Season Supplemental Selection Period. They can also open further list spots throughout the first half of the season, should they suffer a long-term injury or have a player prematurely retire from the game before the end of their contract who is then made inactive for the remainder of the season.