

VFL & QAFL/QFA Free Agency and Player Interchange Agreement 2026



AFL Queensland

Ltd ACN 090 629 342

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The following rules have been established for the management of VFL-listed players competing in the QAFL or QFA Competition on a local interchange agreement.

These rules should be read in conjunction with the AFL Queensland 2026 Community Competitions Rules and Procedures and in the event of conflict or ambiguity, the rules in this VFL-QAFL Agreement shall prevail.

1. Introduction

(a) VFL Competition:

(i) The Victorian Football League ("VFL") is a second tier State League competition, encompassing 22 clubs within the eastern states of Australia.

(ii) Queensland Representation:
- (A) AFL Clubs Reserves teams: Brisbane Lions & Gold Coast Suns
- (B) VFL Standalone Club: Southport Sharks

(iii) List Size (maximum):
- (A) AFL Clubs (32 Players)
  - i. VFL Primary List (open age): 15 Players
  - ii. VFL Development List (22 years of age or under): 17 Players (max. 15 Category A Players)
- (B) VFL Standalone Clubs (44 players)
  - i. VFL Primary List (open age): 30 Players
  - ii. VFL Development List (22 years of age or under): 14 Players

(iv) Team Selection:
- (A) Requirement to select players 22 years of age or under, for each match:
  - i. AFL Clubs – minimum of seven (7) including AFL Listed players
  - ii. VFL Standalone Clubs – minimum of three (3)

(v) Season Information:
- (A) Round 1: 21/22 March
- (B) Season length: 21 Rounds, 18 Matches & 3 Byes
- (C) Wild Card Finals: 22/23 August: 7 v 10, 8 v 9 with winners confirming positions 7 & 8 on the final ladder.
- (D) Finals: Top 8 with Grand Final on Sunday 20 September.

(b) QAFL Competition:

(i) The Queensland Australian Football League ("QAFL") is the premier men's Australian Football competition comprised of 13 clubs based in Southeast Queensland.

(ii) The QAFL implements both a Total Player Payments Policy and a Player Points System Policy.

(iii) Season Information:
  (A) Round 1: 28 March
  (B) Season length: 20 Rounds, 18 Matches & 4 Byes (for each Club)
  (C) Finals: Top 8 with Grand Final on weekend of 19/20 September.

2. Free Agency Process

To be eligible to play within the QAFL Competition, all VFL-listed players must have a noted alignment with a QAFL Club as submitted to Competition Management. The season permit system within the PlayHQ competition management platform is utilised to ensure smooth administrative transition between the VFL and QAFL Competitions.

(a) VFL Primary Listed Players:

  (i) VFL Primary Listed Players will be available for alignment with a QAFL Club as a 'Free Agent' and will not be bound by any pre-existing alignments that may have occurred under pre-existing VFL/QAFL Interchange Agreements or Home Club arrangements.

  (ii) If receiving match payments or anything else of value, VFL Primary Listed Players are to enter into a formal Standard Player Declaration ("Contract" establishing the alignment) with a QAFL Club for the 2026 season.

  (iii) Standard Player Declarations ("Contracts") must be submitted to the Competition Manager one (1) week prior to the start of the Season or within seven (7) days after the first QAFL match a VFL Primary Listed Player has participated in.

(b) VFL Development Listed Players:

  (i) VFL Development Listed Players will require an alignment with either a QAFL Club or an alignment with their former Junior/Youth Club within the QFA Competitions.

  (ii) If receiving match payments or anything else of value, VFL Development Listed Players are to enter into a formal Standard Player Declaration ("Contract" establishing the alignment) with a QAFL Club for the 2026 season.

  (iii) Standard Player Declarations ("Contracts") must be submitted to the Competition Manager one (1) week prior to the start of the Season or within seven (7) days after the first QAFL match a VFL Development Listed Player has participated in.

  (iv) If a VFL Development Listed Player chooses to align with a QFA Community Club, the following criteria must be met:

    (A) The VFL Development Listed Player must have played forty (40) or more Junior/Youth Club games for their former Junior/Youth Club to be classified as a Home Club Player.

    (B) The VFL Development Listed Player cannot have played five (5) or more Senior Grade games in a Category 4 or higher competition in the previous three (3) seasons.

    (C) The Junior/Youth Home Club that the VFL Development Listed Player aligns with must have an aligned Senior Club competing in either the

QFA Division 1, QFA Division 2 North or QFA Division 2 South Competitions.

(D) Where there is a documented pre-existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed prior to the 2026 QFA season that formalises an alignment between a Junior/Youth Club with a separate Senior Club, such alignment will be recognised for the purposes of the player being a Home Club Player if the player meets the criteria set out in 2(b)(iv)(A).

(E) If receiving match payments or anything else of value, a VFL Development Listed Player that aligns with a QFA Club must enter into a formal Standard Player Declaration ("Contract" establishing the alignment) with that QFA club for the 2026 season.

(F) All Standard Player Declarations ("Contracts") must be submitted to the Competition Manager within seven (7) days after the first QFA match a VFL Development Listed Player has participated in.

3. Player Payments

(a) VFL Listed Players can be contracted to and paid by a QAFL/QFA Club for the 2026 season, but any payments made by a QAFL/QFA Club to a VFL Listed Player MUST be declared under and subject to the QAFL/QFA Total Player Payments Policy. QAFL/QFA clubs are not obligated to pay VFL Listed Players.

(b) VFL Clubs will not be required to pay match payments for VFL Listed Players that are selected to play in the QAFL/QFA competitions.

4. Player Movement

(a) Any player listed with a VFL club, whether they are on the Primary or Development List, will be regarded as a VFL-listed player for the purpose of this Agreement.

(b) When not required for VFL duties, VFL Listed Players may be available for selection by their aligned QAFL/QFA club in either the Senior, Reserve or Colts (if applicable) Grade teams.

(c) VFL Listed Players will be assessed under the AFLQ Player Points System Policy in advance of being selected to play in a QAFL/QFA Senior match. Players will be fully assessed based on their relevant playing history and, will then receive a deduction if applicable. *Refer to the Points Deduction section of the PPSP for further information.*

(d) Any VFL Listed Player who qualifies as a 'Category 1 Player' at their aligned QAFL or QFA club will have a Player Points Allocation (PPA) of 1 point as per the Player Points System Policy.

(e) To be eligible to play in the QAFL/QFA, VFL Listed Players must have a Season Permit approved between the VFL club and their aligned QAFL/QFA club, ideally for the duration of the season.

(f) The following limits apply to the number of VFL Listed Players (Primary & Development) allowed to be selected to play for a QAFL/QFA team in each match:

(i) Excluding any players with a PPA of 1pt, a maximum of four (4) VFL Primary & Development Listed Players can be selected on an official QAFL/QFA Senior Grade team sheet.

(ii) Excluding any players with a PPA of 1pt, a maximum of four (4) VFL Primary & Development Listed Players can be selected on an official QAFL/QFA Reserve Grade team sheet.

(g) A VFL Listed Player contracted to a QAFL/QFA club can request a release from that QAFL/QFA club at any time prior to 30 June. A new agreement must be reached by 30 June for the player to be permitted to play for a different QAFL/QFA club in the same season.

(h) Whilst players can be added to or removed from a VFL Club list in line with VFL rules, the way a player is 'classified' by AFLQ to play in the QAFL/QFA Competition will not change after **30 June**. That means, a player's Player Points Allocation and status as a VFL-listed player (or not), will not be changed post this date each Season.

(i) When a VFL Club has a competition bye, there is no limit on the number of VFL Listed Players that played in the game immediately prior to the bye, that will be eligible to play for their aligned QAFL/QFA club during the bye week. However, the limits outlined in section 4(f) must apply.

5. AFL Queensland Finals Eligibility

(a) VFL Listed Players must meet the AFL Queensland finals eligibility requirements as outlined in section 14.1 of the AFLQ Community Competition Rules and Procedures, to play in QAFL or QFA finals games for their aligned Club.

(b) At the completion of a VFL club's last regular season or finals game, only VFL Listed Players that have played four (4) or more regular season games for their aligned QAFL/QFA Club will be permitted to play in the QAFL/QFA Competition for the remainder of the season. All other players will be prohibited from playing for their aligned QAFL/QFA Club or in any other AFL Queensland governed competition.

6. Contracts

(a) Where there is any inconsistency between a VFL Listed Player's signed contract and any contract entered into between the player and the aligned QAFL/QFA Club, the provisions of the VFL contract will prevail.

7. Suspension of Players

(a) A VFL Listed Player that is suspended in the VFL competition, cannot be selected to play in the QAFL/QFA Competition until the suspension has been served in the VFL competition. Similarly, a suspension in the QAFL/QFA Competition must be served in that Competition before the player is eligible to play in the VFL Competition.

(b) A QAFL/QFA club cannot internally suspend a VFL Listed Player without the involvement and approval of the VFL Club and the AFLQ Competitions Manager – QLD.