AFL NSW / ACT

&

AFL Hunter Central Coast

2026 Player Points System Policy

Version 1.1

Version	Date	Rule	Update
1.1	29/01/2026	3.3	WORDING IN RULE 3.3

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1 GENERAL

1.1 Introduction

(A) This Policy is established in accordance with Rule 12.3.1 of the Rules and sets out the rules, process and principles of a Player Points System which applies to specified AFL NSW/ACT Competitions in order to achieve the stated Objectives.

1.2 Objectives

(A) 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.

(B) The objectives of this Player Points System Policy (PPS Policy) are to:

1. Support equalisation of community football Competitions;
2. Ensure Teams fielded in the Competition are strong and as equally matched as possible;
3. Provide opportunities to compete at a community level within an orderly and fair system;
4. Improve the sustainability of community Clubs by curbing the inflationary nature of Player payments as a result of Player movement;
5. Promote Player loyalty and junior development;
6. Provide a consistent approach to the assessment of Player Points across all Leagues affiliated to, or governed by, AFL NSW/ACT; and
7. Support the role that volunteers undertake in managing their clubs by:
   (a) Capping the need to fundraise money for player payments; and
   (b) Providing a more competitive environment on field, that encourages more volunteers to support at club level.

1.3 Application

(A) This policy applies:

1. to the 2025 Season; and
2. to the Leagues and Competitions detailed in Table 1.

Table 1 – Leagues & Competitions to Which This Policy Applies

League Name	Competition(s)
AFL Canberra	Men's Premier First Grade
AFL Hunter Central Coast	Men's Black Diamond Cup
AFL South Coast	Men's Premier Division
AFL Sydney	Men's Premier Division
Farrer Football & Netball League	Men's Seniors
Hume Football & Netball League	Men's Seniors
Riverina Football & Netball League	Men's Seniors

1.4 Definitions

(A) Unless otherwise defined in Table 2, or elsewhere in this Policy, terms used in this Policy have the same meaning as defined in the Rules:

Table 2 – Player Points System Policy Definitions

Term	Means
Aligned Junior Club	Where seniors and juniors exist under the same Constitution, or where a League approved pathway exists between separate senior and junior Clubs (as listed in Appendix Six) that establishes a clear pathway for junior players to transition to senior grades.
Aligned Junior Competition	*AFL Hunter Central Coast Juniors*
Base Value	The base value assigned to each Category in accordance with Table 3.
Club	Means a club fielding a team in a Competition
Competition	Refers to any Australian Rules Community Football competition in which Clubs participate in a Season, and for clarity, excludes any non-League affiliated Masters AFL9's and Superkick competitions.
Competition Year	The year in which the Current Season is being conducted.
Consecutive Seasons	*Seasons registered with the same club with no transfers recorded in a players PlayHQ record.*
Controlling Body	The League or AFL NSW/ACT.
Current Club	The Club at which a player is currently registered.
Current Season	The football season in which this Player Points System Policy is being applied
Existing Player	A Player who has had their Player Category & Base Value determined under a previous Player Points System Policy and who has not registered at a different Club since that determination was made.
First Home and Away Match	The first official Competition Match for the home and away Season of a Competition
Former Club	Any Club that a player has previously been registered with and played at least one Competition Match for.
Junior	Players up to and under the age of 18 as at 1 January in the year of the relevant season.
Junior Competition	*AFL Hunter Central Coast Junior Competitions – U9s, U10s, U11s, U12, U13s, U14s, U16s & U18s.*
Handbook	The *National Community Football Policy Handbook*, as amended or varied from time to time.
International Matches	Any match played outside Australia (or as part of the AFL International Cup) with an affiliated AFL international league (such as USA, Canada, Middle East, Asia and/or Europe).
League	An AFL NSW/ACT managed or affiliated League which operates or conducts a Competition within NSW and/or the ACT.
LEP	The League Equalisation Panel established by the League under Clause 2.2.
New Player	A Player who has never registered to play Australian Football for a Club or does not require a Transfer to register with a new Club under the Handbook and the Rules.
Permit	A Player permit from one Club to another Club in accordance with the Handbook or as allowed for under the Rules.

Permitted Player	A Player who has been granted a Season Permit or a Student Permit in accordance with the Handbook and the Rules.
Player Category	The category assigned to a Player in accordance with Clause 4.2.
Player Points Value	The points value of an individual Player determined in accordance with Clause 4.
Policy	This Player Points System Policy as amended or varied from time to time
Premium Competition League	Any league listed under this category in Table 4.
Previous Season	*The season immediately preceding the competition year for which this policy applies*
Registered	Includes registration as a New Player, a Transferred Player or a Permitted Player in accordance with the Handbook or as allowed for under the Rules.
Reserve Grade	Any grade below Senior Grade.
Rules	The AFL NSW/ACT Rules, as varied by each League, that are in place for the Season to which this Policy applies.
Season	A football season commencing from the First Home and Away Match until, and including, the Grand Final of a Competition
Season of Service	As defined under Season of Service Criteria in Table 5.
Senior Competition	The open age senior Competition of a League
Senior Grade	The highest available senior grade in the competition (e.g. if a competition had Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3 Grades, the *Senior Grade* would be Division 1).
STEP	State & Territory Equalisation Panel established in accordance with Clause 6.3.
Team	The team representing a Club in a Senior Competition
Tier 1 State League	Any league listed under this category in Table 4.
Total Team Points	The total amount of points allocated to a Team for each Season in accordance with Clause 3 of this Policy
Transfer	A Player transfer from one Club to another Club in accordance with the Handbook
Transferred Player	A Player who has been granted a Transfer in accordance with the Handbook.

1.5 Interpretation

(A) In the interpretation of this Policy:

1. Words importing the singular will be deemed to include the plural and vice versa;
2. Words importing a gender will be deemed to include all other genders;
3. Headings are included for convenience only and will not affect the interpretation of this Policy;
4. "Including" and similar words are not words of limitation;
5. Words, terms and phrases not otherwise defined in this Policy will be given their ordinary meaning;
6. A reference to a business day means a day, other than a Saturday or Sunday, that is not a designated Public Holiday in the relevant location and if something is to be done on a day

which is not a business day then that thing must be done on the next or following business day.

1.6 Amendments & Variations to Policy

(A) AFL NSW/ACT will review this Policy annually and may make amendments and variations to the Policy from time to time in order to meet the stated objectives.

(B) A League may make variations to this Policy limited to the following:

1. Inclusion of additional Player Type categories in Table 3 that are relevant to the League and to achieving the Objectives of this Policy;

> ***Guidance Note**: Any such inclusion must still be within the current six tier category structure, i.e. a League cannot introduce a new Tier.*

2. Variation or inclusion of Additions or Deductions in Table 5;
3. Such other variation approved by AFL NSW/ACT.

(C) Any variations made by a League in accordance with Clause 1.6(B) must be:

1. Identified within the document as a League variation;

> ***Guidance Note**: Any League variation can be identified by highlighting similar to this]*

2. Approved by AFL NSW/ACT prior to the variation having effect; and
3. Notified to Clubs by the League prior to the date specified in Clause 3.1(B)(ii).

2 LEAGUE EQUALISATION PANEL ('LEP')

2.1 Role of the LEP

(A) The role of a LEP is to determine:

1. Total Team Points in accordance with Clause 3.1 and Clause 3.3;
2. An appeal made by a Club in accordance with Clause 6.1;
3. Any matters not provided for within this Policy in accordance with Clause 7.1.

(B) AFL NSW/ACT may also seek feedback from a League's LEP as part of its annual review under Clause 1.6(A).

2.2 Establishment of the LEP

(A) Each League that oversees a Competition to which this Policy applies (see Table 1) is to establish a LEP in accordance with this Clause.

(B) A LEP is to be made up of a minimum of three suitably qualified persons ('LEP Members') with one of those persons acting as a Chairperson.

(C) A suitably qualified person is one, who in the opinion of the League, possesses sufficient knowledge of Australian Rules Football and is sufficiently qualified to competently perform the role of a LEP Member.

(D) A person cannot be a LEP Member if that person is a current Player in a Competition listed in Table 1, or is a current employee of a Club, or presently holds an Office with a Club, or presently acts in any officiating role as part of Club including as a Coach or assistant Coach.

(E) The League is to provide the Community Football Operations Manager, NSW/ACT with a listing of all LEP members for that League by no later than 1 March of the Competition Year.

3 TOTAL TEAM POINTS

3.1 Allocation of Total Team Points

(A) Each Team that is participating in a Competition to which this Policy applies, is to be allocated a capped amount of player points, known as 'Total Team Points', which cannot be exceeded by that Team in any Competition Match during the Season.

(B) The allocation of Total Team Points for each Team is to be:

1. Determined by the LEP, in its ultimate discretion, subject to Clause 3.3; and
2. Notified by the League to its Clubs by **31 October** of the calendar year that immediately precedes the Season to which this Policy applies, or by such other date as determined by the League and communicated to its Clubs; and
3. Published by the League in Appendix One of this Policy.

3.2 Club Submission on Total Team Points

(A) A Club may make a submission to the LEP in relation to Total Team Points to be allocated to any of its Teams for the Season to which this Policy applies.

(B) Any submission made by a Club under Clause 3.2(A) must be:

1. In the prescribed form (as per Appendix Two); and
2. Be submitted to the LEP, via the League, by no later than 28 calendar days prior to the date specified in Clause 3.1(B)(ii), or other date as determined by the League.

3.3 Determination of a Team's Total Team Points

(A) In determining a Team's Total Team Points, the LEP;

1. Will consider any submission from a Club made in accordance with Clause 3.2;
2. May consider factors detailed in Clause 3.3(B);
3. May follow any process it considers relevant to a proper determination, including interviewing a club or seeking further information from a club;
4. May allocate additional points or apply deductions to Total Team Points to specific Teams in accordance with this Policy, and in consideration of existing unique local conditions meet the Objective of this Policy.

(B) In its determination under Clause 3.3(A), the LEP may give consideration to the following:

1. The geographic location of a Club and the size, density and characteristics of the population within its region relative to other Clubs, including any structural or demographic factors that may impact its ability to attract and retain Players
2. The level of success achieved by a Team over a sustained period, including premierships, finals appearances, ladder position and on-field performance;
3. A Team's lack of competitiveness over a sustained period, including extended periods of low ladder finishes, high losing margins or inability to field competitive squads;
4. The existence, strength, stability and effectiveness of a Club's junior, youth and development pathways, including the Club's demonstrated ability to produce, retain and transition Players to senior football;
5. Any material changes in the strength, structure or sustainability of a Club's junior or player development pathways;
6. Player recruitment, retention, turnover and list stability, including reliance on externally recruited Players;

7. Any relevant changes in a Club's operating environment, including facilities, funding, alliances, demographic shifts or competitive balance within the League;
8. The need to promote competition-wide equalisation, integrity and sustainability, including avoiding the concentration of playing talent within a small number of Clubs; and
9. Where a Club, due to geographic, demographic or structural factors, is unable to consistently field a competitive Team in the highest junior age Grade for the Competition or Under 19s (if applicable), including where the Club does not have an aligned or effective junior pathway.
10. Any other matter the LEP considers relevant to achieving a fair and competitively balanced competition.

(C) The LEP is not required to give equal weight to any factor listed above and may place such weight on any factor or factors it considers appropriate in the circumstances.

(D) The LEP may also determine that one or more factors outweigh others in order to protect the overall integrity, balance and sustainability of the competition.

3.4 Matchday Application of Total Team Points

(A) For any Team participating in a Competition Match to which this Policy applies, a Club must ensure that:

1. the Total Team Points for the Team is calculated on the maximum number of Players allowed to participate in the Team for the relevant Competition as defined in the Rules;

> ***Guidance Note**: For example, if the Rules specify that the maximum number of players for Team in a competition Match is 22, there must be 22 players listed on the team sheet for the purpose of calculating the Team's points for the Match.*

2. the Total Team Points does not exceed the number of points allocated under Clause 3.1 and Appendix One; and
3. a Team Sheet is completed in accordance with the Rules, and that Team Sheet details:
   (a) the maximum number of players allowed for the Team;
   (b) the Player Point Value for each Player selected on the Team Sheet.

(B) their Black Diamond Cup Senior Team includes the required minimum Home Players on the team sheet as indicated in appendix 1.

1. A Home Player is defined as a player who satisfies of the following criteria in table 3.

(C) Any Club that fails to comply with Clause 3.4(A) will be subject of the compliance process in

> ***Guidance Note**: Player Points Values and Total Team Points will be managed via PlayHQ. PlayHQ will not permit a Club to enter and submit a Team Sheet that has an allocation of more than that Team's permitted Total Team Points for a Match.*

accordance with Clause 5 this Policy

4 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER POINTS VALUE

4.1 Determining Player Points Value

(A) Any Player who participates in a Competition to which this Policy applies (see Table 1) must be assigned a Player Points Value in accordance with this Policy.

(B) The determination of a Player Points Value takes into account that Player's playing history, including matches played on Permit, and achievements and is structured in a way to promote Player development, loyalty, and retention.

> ***Guidance Note**: While matches played on Permit are taken into account when determining a Player's Player Points Value, they **do not** count towards a Player's Season of Service deduction eligibility.*

(C) The key steps to determining a Player Points Value are:

1. determine the Player Category and associated Base Value (Clause 4.2 and Table 3);
2. determine if any Additions apply (Clause 4.3 and Table 5); and
3. determine if any Deductions apply (Clause 4.3 and Table 5)

(D) The Player Points Value for any Player playing under a Permit in a competition Match to which this policy applies, is to be assessed as if the Player is a Transferred Player.

(E) A playing coach or playing assistant coach is, for the purpose of this Policy, classified as a Player.

4.2 Player Category and Base Value

(A) Except for an Existing Player, a Player Category and Base Value is to be:

1. determined by assessing the Player under Table 3; and
2. based on the date the Player most recently Registered at their Current Club.

(B) For an Existing Player:

(C) the Player Category (and Base Value) determined under the relevant former Policy continues to apply; and

(D) a Club may not request a reassessment of the Player Category already determined under the relevant former Policy.

> **Guidance Note 1** [Example]: If an **Existing Player** was assessed under a previous PPS Policy as a Senior Community (3 point) Player but would be considered a Premium Competition (4 point) Player under this Policy, the Player will remain categorised as a Senior Community Player with a base value of 3 points. However, If the player transfers to a new club during the period covered by this Policy, their Player Category and Base Value would then be assessed under this Policy.
>
> **Guidance Note 2**: Any applicable additions and deductions under Table 5 of this Policy will still apply to an Existing Player.

(E) Where a Player qualifies in more than one Player Category in Table 3, the Player Category with the highest points will apply, except where a Player is assessed as a Category 1 Player.

(F) Where a Player does not meet any of the Player Categories in Table 3, the League will make a determination on the appropriate Player Points Value.

(G) In determining a Player's Category under Clause 4.2(D), the League will have regard to all relevant factors so as not to unreasonably restrict the Player's movement.

Table 3 – Player Category Table

Player Category (& Base Value)	Player Type	Definition	Examples

Category 6 **(6 Points)**	**AFL Player**	Played one (1) or more AFL matches in any of the current or previous three (3) Seasons	**Yes**	Played (AFL matches): 0 in 2024, 1 in 2023 and 0 in 2022
			No	Played (AFL matches): 3 in 2021 & none since
Category 5 **(5 Points)**	**Tier 1 State League Player**	Played five (5) or more Senior Grade matches in any **one (1) season** of the current or previous 3 seasons in a **Tier 1 State League** (see Table 4 for League Categories).	**Yes**	Played (eg VFL matches): 0 in 2024, 6 in 2023 and 0 in 2022
			No	Played (eg VFL matches): 4 in 2024, 2 in 2023 and 1 in 2022
	Coates Talent League Player (Swans or GIANTS)	Played three (3) or more matches in any **one (1) season** of the current or previous 3 seasons in the **Coates Talent League** (formerly NAB League)	**Yes**	Played (Coates Talent League matches): 0 in 2024, 6 in 2023 and 0 in 2022.
			No	Played (Coates Talent League matches): 4 in 2024, 2 in 2023 and 0 in 2022.
	Coates Talent League Player (non-Swans or GIANTS)	Played five (5) or more matches in any **one (1) season** of the current or previous 3 seasons in the **Coates Talent League** (formerly NAB League)	**Yes**	Played (Coates Talent League matches): 0 in 2024, 6 in 2023 and 0 in 2022.
			No	Played (Coates Talent League matches): 4 in 2024, 2 in 2023 and 0 in 2022.
Category 4 **(4 Points)**	**Premium Competition Player**	Played five (5) or more Senior Grade matches in any **one** (1) **season** of the current or previous 3 seasons in a **Premium Competition League** (see Table 4 for League Categories).	**Yes**	Played (Senior Grade matches in a Premium Competition League): 0 in 2024, 6 in 2023 and 0 in 2022
			No	Played (Senior Grade matches in a Premium Competition League): 4 in 2024, 4 in 2023 and 1 in 2022
		Played one (1) to four (4) Senior Grade matches in any **one (1) season** of the current or previous 3 seasons in a **Tier 1 State League**	**Yes**	Played (eg Senior Grade SANFL matches): 2 in 2022
			No	Played (eg Senior Grade SANFL matches): 6 in 2022 [Category 5 player]
		Played five (5) or more Reserve Grade matches in any **one (1) season** of the current or previous 3 seasons in a **Tier 1 State League**	**Yes**	Played (eg Reserve Grade SANFL matches): 0 in 2024, 6 in 2023 and 0 in 2022
			No	Played (eg Reserve Grade SANFL matches): 4 in 2024, 2 in 2023 and 1 in 2021
Category 3 **(3 Points)**	**Senior Community Player**	Played the same, or more, Senior Grade than Reserve Grade matches **in total** over the period of the current and previous three (3) Seasons (excluding Premium Competition Leagues - see Table 4 for League Categories).	**Yes**	Played (non-Premium Competition League matches): 18 senior grade matches and 15 reserve grade matches in period 2022 to 2024.
			No	Played (non-Premium Competition League matches): 15 senior grade matches and 18 reserve grade matches in period 2022 to 2024.
		Played more Reserve Grade than Senior Grade Matches in a	**Yes**	Played (Premium Competition League matches): 10 reserve grade matches and 8 senior

		Premium Community League in the previous season.		grade matches in the previous season.
			No	Played (Premium Competition League matches): 8 reserve grade matches and 10 senior grade matches in the previous season.
	Transferred Junior	Player recruited from a Junior Competition and does not meet the Home Player definition.		
Category 2 **(2 Points)**	**Development Community Player**	Played more Reserve Grade than Senior Grade matches **in total** over the period of the current and previous three (3) seasons at a community football level.	**Yes**	Played (eg non-Premium Competition League matches): 12 senior grade matches and 19 reserve grade matches in period 2022 to 2024 NOTE: may still be a Category 4 player if also meets that definition
			No	Played (eg non-Premium Competition League matches): 18 senior grade matches and 15 reserve grade matches in period 2022 to 2024
		Played only International Matches within the current and previous three (3) seasons.		
Category 1 **(1 Points)**	**Home Player**	Played forty (40) or more Matches at an Aligned Junior Club up to and including the highest available Junior or Youth Grade the Club has participated in.		
		*Any player who has achieved seven (7) consecutive senior seasons **or** have played a combined total of 150 senior grade matches at that club.* *For clarity: Home Player status shall be applied in the 8th consecutive season.* *For clarity Home player status shall be applied in the season directly following the player achieving 150 games at that club. Ie. Player plays 150 games in season 2026, home player status will be applied in season 2027.*		
		Player who has only played at that Club or an Aligned Junior Club.		
	Inactive Player	Player who has not played a competition Match in the current or previous three (3) Seasons. For the purposes of this provision, a 'competition		

		Match' is one in a League that is covered by any of the Categories in this Table 3.	

Guidance Note 1: *As an example of determining the "previous three seasons" in Table 3, for a player who registers with a club at the beginning of, or part way through, the 2025 season, the previous three seasons would be 2024, 2023 and 2022.*

Table 4 – League Categories

Type	State / Territory	League
Tier 1 State League	SA	South Australian National Football League *('SANFL')*
	VIC / NSW / QLD	Victorian Football League *('VFL')*
	WA	Western Australian Football League *('WAFL')*
Premium Competition Leagues *(Senior Grade Name)*	ACT	AFL Canberra *('First Grade Men')*
	NSW	AFL Sydney *('Men's Premier Division')*
		Riverina Football Netball League *('Riverina FNL Seniors')*
	NT	Northern Territory Football League *('NTFL')*
	QLD	Queensland Australian Football League *('QAFL')*
		Queensland Football Association *('QFA Division 1 Seniors')*
	SA	Adelaide Football League *('Men's Division 1')*
		Adelaide Hills Football League *('Division 1 A Grade')*
		Southern Football League *('A Grade Men')*
	TAS	Southern Football League *(SFL Premier League)* Northern Tasmanian Football Association *(NTFA Premier League)* North West Football League *(NWFL Premier League)*
	VIC	Ballarat Football Netball League *('Seniors')*
		Bendigo Football Netball League *('Seniors')*
		Eastern Football Netball League *('Premier – Senior Men')*
		Essendon District Football League *('Premier Division')*
		Geelong Football Netball League *('Seniors')*
		Gippsland Football League *('Seniors')*
		Goulburn Valley League ('Seniors')
		Hampden Football Netball League ('Seniors')

		Mornington Peninsula Football Netball League *('Division One Seniors')*
		Murray Football League *('Seniors')*
		Northern Football Netball League *('Division 1 Seniors')*
		Outer East Football Netball League *('Premier Division Seniors')*
		Ovens & Murray Football League *('Seniors')*
		Southern Football Netball League *('Division 1 Senior')*
		Victorian Amateur Football Association *('Premier Men's')*
		Western Region Football League *('Division 1 Seniors Men')*
	WA	Perth Football League *('WAAFL')*

4.3 Additions and Deductions

(A) In calculating a Player Points Value, any Additions and Deductions are to be determined by reference to Table 5.

(B) Additions and Deductions do not apply to a player who is classified as a Home Player or an Inactive Player.

Table 5 – Additions & Deductions for Player Points Value

<table>
<tr><th>Type</th><th>Value</th><th colspan="2">Applies To</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Addition</td><td rowspan="2">1 Point</td><td colspan="2">A Transferred Player who:
(a) will be competing against a Former Club in a competition Grade to which this Policy applies; and
(b) was registered with that Former Club in the current or any of the past five (5) seasons.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Exclusion</td><td>This addition does not apply to a Category 2 Development Community Player</td></tr>
<tr><td>2 Points</td><td colspan="2">Where a player who has played forty (40) or more Matches at a Junior Club (up to and including the highest available Junior or Youth Grade the Club has participated), transfers to a Senior club that is outside the League Approved pathway for that Junior Club as per Appendix 6 of this Policy.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Addition – Not being applied in 2026</td><td rowspan="3">1 Point</td><td colspan="2">If Player is granted three (3) or more Transfers in the period covering the current and past three (3) seasons.
A transfer will count even if the player:
(i) did not play a game at the Destination Club following the Transfer; or
(ii) is transferring back to a Former Club.
NOTE: if the player is deemed to be a Home Player this addition will not be applicable.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Exclusions (Automatic)</td><td>Player movement via a Permit is not counted as a Transfer for the purpose of this provision.</td></tr>
<tr><td>A Transfer is not counted where it is required for a Player to transition to a senior club from an Aligned Junior Club where that player is no longer age-eligible to play as a Junior.</td></tr>
</table>

		Potential Exclusions (Application)	A club may apply in writing to the League for the exclusion of a Transfer where it provides evidence that the Transfer was necessary due to: (i) a Defence Force placement; or (ii) a Player's Former Club no longer operating or participating in a competition; or (iii) a Player moving out of the AFL (Category 6).
Deduction	1 Point	For each Season of Service to the Club, even if not in consecutive years, until the Player reaches one (1) point.	
		Season of Service Criteria	A senior Player must have played **five (5) or more Senior Grade or Reserve Grade** matches per Season (for the Club) for the deduction to apply.
			Any match played by a Player, while that Player is still age eligible for Junior football in the League's Aligned Junior Competition is not to be included in the five (5) game threshold.
			Any match played by a Player on a Permit is not to be included in the five (5) game threshold.
			Any Senior Player who has met the Home Player definition at another Club for which this policy applies must have played eight (8) or more matches (for the Club) in Black Diamond Cup Competition for the deduction to apply.
			Any match played by a player in the AFL, or in a Tier 1 State League or Coates Talent League competition, is not to be included in the five (5) game threshold.
		Where a player has transferred from any other league outside (excluding AFL Hunter Central Coast Juniors) and has not played junior or senior football at another AFL Hunter Central Coast Club.	
Deduction	3 points	**Promotional Player**	A Club may nominate an AFL Player (Category 6) they have signed to play in a one-off match for promotional purposes as a Promotional Player. This player will receive a three (3) point deduction from their Base Value. At the request of the League, a Club must provide evidence of a Player's promotional status and attached initiatives.
Deduction	3 points	**Marquee Player**	A Club may nominate a Player they have recruited in the last 24 months to be classed as a Marquee Player for the season. The nominated Marquee player will receive a three (3) point deduction from their base Player Points Value. **Marquee Player Conditions:** 1. A Club may nominate only one (1) Marquee Player in the course of the Season and once nominated, cannot change the nomination for the duration of the Season. 2. The three (3) points are to be deducted from the player's base value, in addition to any other applicable deductions under this Policy.

			3. The nominated Player must have been recruited from a Club outside the League in which the Club participates. 4. *The player must meet the definition of a Category 4, 5 or 6 Player to be eligible as a Marquee Player*

4.4 Process and Responsibilities

(A) The process detailed in Table 6 applies to the assessment of Player Points Values by Leagues and Clubs.

(B) Should any Club fail to comply with Table 6, and/or knowingly make a false or incorrect declaration regarding a Player Points Value, the Club may be penalised by the Controlling Body in accordance with this Policy.

(C) Where a Player is due to play in a Competition Match to which this Policy applies, and has not already been allocated a Player Points Value in accordance with Clause 4.1(A):

1. the Player's Club is, as soon as it becomes aware the Player will be playing in a Match (but no later than 9.00am on the day prior to the Match), to advise the League in writing of the Player's details, together with the Club's assessment of the Player Points Value; and
2. the Player is not eligible to participate in the Match until the League has confirmed or redetermined the Player Points Value and entered this in PlayHQ.

(D) The League may, acting reasonably, reassess and redetermine a Player Points Value at any time where it is deemed inappropriate based on a Player's playing history or other relevant information or circumstances.

Table 6 – Process for Assessing & Determining Player Points Values

Action	By	No Later Than
Listing of Existing Players Prepare a list (see Appendix Three) for each Club of all Players from the previous season who had a Player Points Value allocated. Populate the Player Name, PlayHQ ID and Last Season PPV, then send to each Club.	League	1 February
Club Assessment of Player Points Value 1. Flag any Existing Player on the list who will no longer be playing in a senior competition at the Club (e.g retired, transferred). No further assessment of these is required. 2. Any Existing Player who was assessed last season as having a PPV of 1 point can be recorded again with a PPV of 1 point. 3. Assess any remaining Existing Player to determine if a Season of Service Deduction applies, and recalculate the final Player Points Value accordingly; 4. Add any new Players to the list who are expected to play senior grade football (transitioning Juniors, Transferring Players, new registrations), and assess each Player Points Value in accordance with this Policy. 5. Complete the declaration and return the competed list to the League.	Club	14 days prior to the first scheduled home and away match of the season.
League review of Player Points Value 1. Review the completed list and determine if any amendments to a Player Points Value are to be made. 2. Advise the Club of any amendments made to a Player Points Value, together with the reasons for this. 3. Provide the Club with a copy of the final list.	League	7 days prior to the first scheduled home and away match of the season

4. Enter all Player Points Values in PlayHQ.		

5 ENFORCEMENT

5.1 Compliance & Penalties

(A) A Club, its Officials and its Players are required to comply with this Policy.

(B) A Club, its Officials and its Players must co-operate with any investigation by the Controlling Body into a potential breach of this Policy.

(C) The potential penalties or sanctions for any Club, Official or Player found to be in breach of this Policy may include (without limitation):

1. Imposing a fine on a Club of up to $1,000 for a first offence;
2. Imposing a fine on a Club of up to $2,000 for a subsequent offence;
3. Termination or suspension of a Club's licence or affiliation;
4. Loss of premiership points (current Season and/ or in future Seasons);
5. Suspension of a Team's participation in the finals (current Season and/ or in future Seasons);
6. Suspension of a Player or Official suspensions where a Player or Officials has provided false information to the Club;
7. Suspension or ban on registration, transfer and/or permit of players;
8. Any other sanction or penalty considered appropriate by AFL NSW/ACT or the relevant League.

(D) The Controlling Body may enforce the terms of this Policy and invoke sanctions only if it has given the Club alleged to have infringed this Policy:

1. reasonable details of the alleged infringement;
2. notice of possible sanctions; and
3. the opportunity to be heard in relation to the issues of infringement and sanction.

(E) In applying any enforcement provisions in relation to any breach of the Policy, the Controlling Body shall take into consideration whether the breach is assessed as:

1. Unintentional – where a Club or Official had not been provided with accurate information;
2. Interpretative – where a Club or Official is considered to have reasonably misinterpreted the PPS Policy;
3. Intentional – where a breach by a Club, Player or Official had occurred with little or no regard to the relevant Policy requirements, and/or is considered to be deliberate.

6 APPEALS

6.1 Appeal of Player Points Value

(A) A Club may appeal a reassessment of a Player Points Value, made by the League under Clause 4.2(D), Clause 4.4 and Table 6, by applying to the LEP.

(B) Any appeal application by a Club under Clause 6.1(A) must:

1. be submitted on the *Application to LEP for Reassessment of a PPV* form (see Appendix Four);

2. provide details of all grounds, together with any supporting evidence, that the club wishes to be considered by the LEP; and

3. be submitted to the LEP, via the League, by no later than 14 calendar days after the League decision under Clause 4.4 was notified to the Club.

(C) Any appeal application by a Club, made in accordance with Clause 6.1(B), is to be determined by the LEP within 14 days of receipt by the League unless it is not practicable to do so.

(D) A LEP is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to a court of law and may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it determines.

(E) Any person who was involved in the determination by the League which is now subject of appeal cannot sit on the LEP in relation to an appeal under Clause 6.1.

(F) Any determination made by the LEP in accordance with Clause 6.1(C) may be subject of further appeal in accordance with Clause 6.2.

6.2 Appeal of an LEP Decision

(A) A Club may appeal a decision of an LEP that was made under the following Clauses:

1. Clause 3.1(B)(i) – Determination of Total Team Points; and

2. Clause 6.1(A) – Appeal an LEP Determination of a Player Points Value;

(B) An appeal application by a Club under Clause 6.2(A) must:

1. be submitted on the *Application for Appeal of LEP Decision* form (see Appendix Five);

2. be submitted to the Community Football Operations Manager, AFL NSW/ACT by no later than 14 calendar days after the LEP decision was notified to the Club.

(C) For each appeal lodged under Clause 6.2(A), a fee of one thousand (1,000) dollars is payable by the Club to AFL NSW/ACT in accordance with the following:

1. the fee must be paid in full at the time of lodgement of the appeal;

2. evidence of payment of this fee must be attached to the *Application for Appeal of LEP Decision* when lodged;

3. fifty (50) percent of this fee is not refundable;

4. fifty (50) percent of this fee is to be refunded to the Club by the League only where the appeal is successful, or where the Club discontinues the appeal prior to it being determined.

(D) An appeal by a Club under Clause 6.2 will be referred to the STEP for determination.

(E) In any appeal made under clause 6.2(A), a Club must not seek to introduce and/or rely upon evidence that was not made available to the LEP.

(F) Any appeal application by a Club, made in accordance with Clause 6.2(A), is to be determined by the STEP within 14 days of receipt unless it is not practicable to do so.

(G) A STEP is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to a court of law and, in determining an appeal, may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it determines.

(H) Any determination made by the STEP in accordance with Clause 6.2(F) is final and is not subject of further appeal rights under this Policy, the Rules or the Handbook.

6.3 State & Territory Equalisation Panel ('STEP')

(A) The role of a STEP is to determine any appeal lodged in accordance with Clause 6.2.

(B) A STEP will be convened by AFL NSW/ACT in relation to each appeal lodged by a Club under Clause 6.2 and must comprise a panel of a minimum three suitably qualified persons with one of those persons acting as a Chairperson.

(C) A *suitably qualified person* is one whom, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, possesses the appropriate experience and knowledge to competently perform the role of a STEP panel member and may be selected from the following:

1. Community Football Operations Manager, AFL NSW/ACT;
2. Manager – ACT & Southern NSW;
3. Manager – Greater Sydney & Northern NSW;
4. Regional Manager Community Football – Greater Sydney & Northern NSW;
5. Community Football & Competition Manager (from any competition covered by this Policy);
6. Other persons as determined by the Executive Officer.

(D) A person cannot be appointed to a STEP in relation to an appeal if that person:

1. was involved in the decision that is now subject of appeal; or
2. is directly associated with the League or Competition relevant to the appeal, including as a player, team official, Club official, League official, League Board Member or AFL staff member directly servicing that League or Competition.

7 MISCELLANEOUS

7.1 Matters Not Provided For

(A) AFL NSW/ACT may regulate any matters not provided for in this Policy in its sole and absolute discretion.

Appendix 1 PPS Policy Competition Total Team Points Allocation

This form is established under Clause 3.1 of the Player Points System Policy. It lists the Total Team Points allocation, as determined by the LEP, for each Club in a Competition for the season the Policy applies to.

PART A Season & League Details

Season	2026
League(s) to Which This Applies	AFL Hunter Central Coast

PART B Total Team Points and Required Home Players (as per Clause 3.1 of PPS Policy)

Competition(s) Name / Grade	Team (or "All" if same points)	Total Team Points (Required Home Players)
AFL Hunter Central Coast Black Diamond Men's Cup	*Newcastle City Blues*	*28 (11)*
	Terrigal Avoca Panthers	*28 (11)*
	Warners Bay Bulldogs	*44 (10)*
	Killarney Vale Bombers	*44 (10)*
	Cardiff Hawks	*44 (10)*
	Singleton Roosters	*50 (8)*
	Maitland Saints	*50 (8)*
	The Entrance Bateau Bay Blues	*50 (8)*
	Nelson Bay Marlins	*50 (8)*
	Wyong Lakes Magpies	*50 (8)*
	Lake Macquarie Dockers	*50 (8)*

Appendix 2 PPS Policy Application for Increase in Total Team Points

This form is established under Clause 3.2 of the Player Points System Policy. The form is to be completed and lodged by a Club in the manner and within the timeframe specified in that Clause

PART A Competition & Club Details

League			
Competition / Grade			
Club			
Person Submitting Form		**Position**	

PART B Most Recent Season Points Details

Most Recent Season	e.g. 2024
Current Total Team Points Allocation	
Average Total Team Points Used Over Season	
Highest Total Team Points used in any Round, and which Round(s)	
Lowest Total Team Points used in any Round, and which Round(s)	
Number of wins by Team in the Season & percentage	

PART C Club Submission

Total Team Points Sought	
Detail the Club's submission, including the grounds relied upon, for applying for additional Total Team Points (refer to Clause 3.3(B) of the PPS Policy)	
Detail any known Player movement (incoming or outgoing) which may impact the Club's playing list for the next season. For any Player known to be leaving the Club, please provide the reason for this.	

Detail how the Club considers this Points variation will be to the benefit of the competition as a whole.	
Detail other initiatives the Club is undertaking to ensure its competitiveness, sustainability and growth	
Attach any Evidence to support the Club's submission and list the attachments here	

PART D LEP Assessment (not for Club use)

LEP Determination and Reasons			
Determination Date		**League Notified Date**	

Appendix 3 PPS Policy

Player Points Value Assessment (Club Player Listing)

This form is established under Clause 4.4 of the Player Points System Policy. The form is to be used by Leagues and Clubs to calculate and record individual Player Points Values for the season to which the Policy applies.

Club Name | **Competition** | **Season**

PART A Player Points Values - Existing Players

Player Name	PlayHQ ID	Last Season PPV	Playing This Season (if 'no', leave in list, but don't allocate PPV)	Eligible for Season of Service? (see Table 5)	Club PPV	League PPV	League Comments

PART B Player Points Values - New Players

Player Name	D.O.B.	Player Category	Base Value	Additions	Deductions	Club PPV	League PPV	League Comments

PART C Club Declaration

In completing and submitting this form on behalf of the Club, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, all the information contained herein is true and accurate. I am aware that penalties may apply to the Club, an Official and/or a Player if any of the information contained herein is found to be false or is in breach of the Player Points System Policy.

Person Submitting Form | **Position** | **Date**

Appendix 4 PPS Policy | Application to LEP for Reassessment of a PPV

This form is established under Clause 6.1 of the Player Points System Policy and is to be used by a Club seeking reassessment by an LEP of a League determined Player Points Value. It is to be lodged in the manner and timeframe specified in the Policy.

PART A Club Details

Club			
Person Submitting Form		**Position**	

PART B Submission Details

Player Name				
League Player Points Value		**Club Player Points Value**		
Select the ground(s) under which the club is seeking reassessment of the PPV	**Player Category** ☐		**Deduction(s)** ☐	
	Addition(s) ☐		**Other** ☐	
Set out the details of the Club's submission in relation to each of the grounds selected above				
Attach any Evidence to support the Club's submission and list the attachments here				

PART C LEP Determination (not for Club use)

LEP Determination and Reasons			
Determination Date		**League Notified Date**	

Appendix 5 PPS Policy | Application for Appeal of LEP Decision

This form is established under Clause 6.2(B) of the Player Points System Policy and is to be used by a Club seeking to appeal a decision by an LEP to the State & Territory Equalisation Panel ('STEP'). It is to be lodged in the manner and timeframe specified in the Policy.

PART A Club Details

Club			
Person Submitting Form		**Position**	

PART B Submission Details

Select the ground under which the club is seeking to Appeal	**3.1(B)(i)**	☐	Determination of Total Team Points
	4.2(D)	☐	Determination of a Player Points Value where a Player does not meet any of the Player Categories under Table 3
	6.1	☐	Appeal an LEP Determination of a Player Points Value

Date of LEP Decision		**Date LEP Decision Notified to Club**	

Set out the details of the Club's submission in relation to the ground selected above **(NOTE: This is where the Club is to set out its argument as to why it considers the LEP decision to be incorrect)**	
Attach all evidence that was submitted by the Club to the LEP and list that evidence here **(NOTE: The Club must not seek to introduce and/or rely upon evidence that was not made available to the LEP**	

PART C STEP Determination (not for Club use)

STEP Determination and Reasons			
Determination Date		**League Notified Date**	

Appendix 6 PPS Policy — Aligned Junior Clubs

This Appendix is to be used to document the League Approved pathway agreements between Junior and Senior football Clubs that apply to the Player Points System Policy.

PART A League Details

League to Which This Appendix Applies	AFL Hunter Central Coast

PART B Aligned Clubs

Senior Club	**Aligned Junior Club(s)**	**Independent Schools** (if applicable)
Terrigal Avoca Panthers	Terrigal Avoca Panthers, Saratoga Hawks & Woy Woy Peninsula Swans	
Newcastle City Blues	Newcastle City Blues	
Cardiff Hawks	Cardiff Hawks	
Killarney Vale Bombers	Killarney Vale Bombers & Niagara Park Ourimbah Dockers	
Singleton Roosters	Singleton Roosters & Muswellbrook Cats	
Warners Bay Bulldogs	Warners Bay Bulldogs	
Maitland Saints	Maitland Saints	
The Entrance Bateau Bay Blues	The Entrance Bateau Bay Blues	
Nelson Bay Marlins	Nelson Bay Marlins & Port Stephens Power	
Lake Macquarie Dockers	Lake Macquarie Dockers	
Wyong Lakes Magpies	Wyong Lakes Magpies & Northern Giants	