1. Background

Introduction

This document aims to outline the registration, eligibility, and management of Sydney Swans and GWS GIANTS Victorian Football League (**VFL**) players seeking to participate in AFL Sydney.

The Sydney Swans, GWS GIANTS and AFL Sydney agree to review the operation of this document at the end of each season.

Definitions

a) **"VFL Club"** means the Sydney Swans and GWS GIANTS Football Clubs and specifically their reserves teams that compete in the VFL.

b) **"AFL Club"** means the Sydney Swans and/or GWS GIANTS.

c) **"AFL Sydney Clubs"** means any of the following clubs:

1. East Coast Eagles Australian Football Club
2. Inner West Australian Football Club
3. Manly-Warringah Australian Football Club
4. North Shore Australian Football Club
5. Pennant Hills Australian Football Club
6. South West Sydney Australian Football Club
7. St George Australian Football Club
8. Sydney University Australian National Football Club
9. University of Technology Sydney Australian Football Club
10. University of New South Wales / Eastern Suburbs Australian Football Club

d) **"VFL Players"** means Primary Listed Players and Development List Players.

e) **"Primary List Players"** means all players on the Swans and GIANTS VFL Primary list players.

f) **"Development List Players"** means all players on the Swans and GIANTS VFL Development list players.

2. VFL List Submission and Amendments

2.1 The Swans and GIANTS are required to provided AFL Sydney with a VFL Primary and Development List by March 20, 2026.

2.2 Any additions to the Primary or Development player lists after this date must be submitted to AFL Sydney prior to the next fixtured round of AFL Sydney or VFL competition (whichever occurs first).

3. AFL Sydney Clubs and Registration Requirements

3.1 To participate in AFL Sydney VFL Primary or Development List players must register with an AFL Sydney Club.

3.2 All VFL Primary or Development List players can register with the AFL Sydney Club of their choice.

a. Any required transfers for VFL Primary or Development List players to AFL Sydney clubs must follow the National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations

3.3 Any VFL Primary or Development Player who does not have an AFL Sydney club of their choice can voluntarily enter the Mini Draft to be allocated an AFL Sydney Club. Process outlined In Section 4 below.

3.4 All VFL Primary or Development Players who participate in AFL Sydney will be assessed in line with the AFL Sydney Premier Division PPS policy. No deductions (excluding applicable Season of Service deductions) or requests for dispensation will be applied for any VFL players including those who nominate for the Mini Draft.

3.5 The AFL Sydney Competition Management Committee will have the final say in any dispute between VFL Club Primary or Development List Player and AFL Sydney Clubs.

3.6 The VFL Club must provide as a minimum a squad of 26 players (with the four (4) likely emergencies identified) to AFL Sydney Premier Division clubs who have aligned VFL listed players by 5pm of the Thursday prior to the upcoming weekend fixture.

3.7 VFL Development List players can play VFL football at any stage of the season regardless of list implications including, 'without being required to be on the Primary List'.

3.8 VFL Players who register with an AFL Sydney club will require the VFL Club to request a Type 2 - Local Interchange Permit from the AFL Sydney Club.

4. Mini Draft

4.1 The Mini Draft is a process for aligning VFL Players to AFL Sydney Premier Division Clubs.

4.2 The Mini Draft will be conducted prior to the start of the VFL and AFL Sydney Premier Division season, whichever comes first. The date of the Mini Draft will be determined by AFL Sydney in conjunction with the VFL Clubs.

4.3 VFL Players who do not have an AFL Sydney Club and wish to play in AFL Sydney when not selected for their VFL Club can join an AFL Sydney Club of their choice, or voluntarily enter the Mini Draft.

4.4 VFL Players who are aligned to an AFL Sydney club via the Mini Draft process may elect at their own discretion to re-enter the Mini Draft at the beginning of each subsequent season they are on a VFL list. The players previous AFL Sydney club would not be allowed to re-select the player with any Mini Draft selection(s).

4.5 AFL Sydney Premier Division clubs shall have the right to select a Mini Draft player, in turn, in the reverse order of the position in which they finished at the end of the previous Home & Away season ('the selection order').

4.6 The AFL Sydney Competition Management Committee in its discretion may provide a Premier Division club with one or more priority selections.

4.7 If an AFL Sydney Premier Division club passes on a 'live' draft selection in the Mini Draft that selection falls to the club with the next pick in the Mini Draft. The club who passed will not have the opportunity to further select a Mini Draft player until all other clubs have had the opportunity to select in accordance with the selection order.

5. Relegation of Player (other than injury or discipline)

5.1 Any VFL Primary or Development listed Player not selected to play in the VFL, for reasons other than injury, illness, or suspension (as advised by the VFL Club to AFL Sydney), who has an aligned AFL Sydney Club, is to play in the highest Senior Grade for their aligned AFL Sydney Club, subject to 5.2.

a. For clarity, this does not include AFL Sydney Under 19.5 Division One

5.2 Any variation to 5.1 (above) must be agreed in writing with the VFL club and submitted to the league for approval no later than 4pm Friday proceeding the AFL Sydney match.

6. Eligibility (AFL Sydney Home and Away Season)

6.1 If in a particular round a VFL team (or teams) is scheduled for a bye, or has their fixture cancelled or postponed for any reason, up to a maximum of four (4) VFL players who participated in the VFL in the previous round will be eligible to participate in AFL Sydney for their aligned club. For clarity should both VFL teams (Swans and GIANTS) have a Bye in the same round the four (4) player limit outlined in 6.1 is to include players from both VFL Club (does not increase to eight (8) players for example).

a. Players who have only played one (1) VFL match in the previous three (3) VFL rounds in which their VFL team has played are exempt from this clause and can exceed the limit outlined in 6.1.
b. Should the VFL team have a bye or has its fixture cancelled or postponed for any reason during AFL Sydney Finals, please refer to point 7 – Eligibility (AFL Sydney Finals)

6.2 Any VFL Primary or Development listed player who is selected and plays VFL is not eligible to play AFL Sydney on the same weekend. For clarity 'same weekend' refers to matches played on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.

a. Should a VFL match or AFL Sydney match occur mid-week (Monday-Thursday), the local release of any VFL Primary or Development listed player will be at the discretion of the VFL Club in line with 6.1.

6.3 Communication and Consultation must transpire between the VFL Clubs and their aligned AFL Sydney Clubs to duly consider and negotiate the field positioning, workload, and development of players prior to their selection by AFL Sydney clubs. The initial weekly communication will come from the VFL Senior Coach.

6.4 A VFL Player, who is ruled unfit by a VFL Club's medical officer to play in a round of VFL matches, will be ineligible for selection and must not be listed on the Official Team Sheet of any AFL Sydney Club in any match played in the concurrent round of AFL Sydney matches.

7. Eligibility (AFL Sydney Finals)

7.1 When a VFL Club is competing on the same weekend as the Player's AFL Sydney Club's finals match, if not selected in the VFL team, the player will be eligible to play in the AFL Sydney Premier Division finals match irrespective of qualification.

7.2 When the VFL Club is not participating in VFL finals (or VFL home and away matches as may be the case), any VFL Player must have met the following eligibility criteria to participate in an AFL Sydney final match;

a. Have played a minimum of six (6) home and away matches in the current season for his AFL Sydney Club to be eligible to participate in an AFL Sydney Finals matches, except as outlined in section 7.1.
b. Have not played eleven (11) or more VFL matches during the current AFL Sydney Men's Premier Division home and away season.
    i. For clarity, Only VFL matches played on a week where a round of the AFL Sydney Premier Division Home and Away season is being played will count towards ineligibility.

8. Injury

8.1 If a VFL Player is injured whilst playing a match (or training) with an AFL Sydney Club, the AFL Sydney Club will manage the injury, and deal with any administrative issues for the player.

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9. Inconsistency

9.1 Where there is any inconsistency between a VFL Player's contract signed by a player and any contract entered between the player and the aligned AFL Sydney Club, the provisions of the VFL player contract will prevail.

10. Suspension of Players

10.1 An AFL Sydney Club cannot suspend a contracted player of a VFL Club without the approval of the VFL Club.

10.2 Any VFL Player who is suspended for one (1) match or more in the VFL competition will be ineligible to win the AFL Sydney Best & Fairest Award in the season in which they committed the offence.

10.3 Unless exceptional circumstances apply, a VFL Player shall serve their suspension in the competition in which it was incurred. The AFL NSW/ACT Community Football Manager shall determine whether exceptional circumstances apply.

- AGREED UPON BY -

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Executive General Manager – Football
Jason McCartney



Sydney Swans
Executive General Manager – Football
Leon Cameron



AFL NSW/ACT
Community Football Manager – Greater Sydney & Northern NSW
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End Agreement