



PLAY



CLUB OF THE YEAR CRITERIA

FEBRUARY 2026



Introduction

This document is produced as a guide for the annual selection of the Community Club of the year for AFL Sydney senior and junior clubs. This award is additional to the current “Champion Club of the year” which is based upon onfield performance. This award is targeted at off field performance.

Historically there have been a number of criteria used for the selection. It is time for a standardised criteria for AFL NSW/ACT and the clubs. The intent is to provide a guide to clubs and the AFL upon which an objective measure can be made for the award of senior and junior club of the year in the AFL Sydney leagues. Clubs can use this guide to steer their operations towards achievement of club of the year. AFL NSW/ACT can use the guide as a “marking” template for the selection of the club of the year.

The criteria will aid in steering clubs towards the compliance requirements of the Incorporations Associations Act and the League. Further criteria will be targetted at rewarding best practice initiatives that will aid retention and growth. Weighting of criteria will place emphasis on the more critical aspects of running a complaint and successful club.

Clubs may elect to be a part of the club of the year award consideration. AFL NSW/ACT may elect to put a club up for nomination based upon observation. Rating will be based upon a yes/ nor or sliding scale, dependant on criteria.

Criteria

The following table provides the criteria, a rating and a weighting. When a rating is given it is multiplied by the weighting to arrive at a score against each criteria. These are then tallied for a club total score. These are then ranked and the club with the highest score is awarded the Club of The Year award. If there is a tie, the AFL may revisit and draw on subjective assessment to arrive at the winner.

For example, with criteria 6, if only half the clubs coaches are registered on PlayHQ prior to round 1 the score would be:

5 (out of a possible 10) multiply this by the rating of 10 = a score of 50 (out of a possible 100) . All scores are added for a final Club score.

Some criteria is only applicable to either a senior or a junior club. Junior clubs will be rated against other junior clubs and senior clubs against senior clubs.

Club:					
Serial	Criteria	Rating	Weighting	Score	Comment
Preseason					
1	Participation Agreement received by cut off date	0 1	10		
1.a	Upcoming season budget received with Participation Agreement	0 1	10		
1.b	Copy of A12- submission to DFT received with Participation Agreement	0 1	10		
1.c	Copy of Not-For-Profit Self review submission to ATO received with Participation Agreement	0 1	10		
1.d	Copy of previous FY Profit and Loss Statement received with Participation Agreement	0 1	10		
1.e	Copy of previous FY Balance Sheet received with Participation Agreement	0 1	10		
1.f	Copy of Club constitution received with Participation Agreement	0 1	10		
2	Club constitution received reviewed within last 3 years and compliant with current IA Act	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	5		
3	Club has a current strategic plan	0 1	10		
4	Club debt to league \$0 prior to Round 1	0 1	20		
5	Final Team nominations received by cut off date	0 1	10		
6	Coaches qualified as per league requirements and registered in PlayHQ prior to Rd 1	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	10		
7	Team Managers registered in PlayHQ prior to Rd1	0 1	1		
8	Club Auskick coordinator nominated and registered by closing date (Non AFL appointed AK Coordinator)	0 1	10		
9	Committee representatives at pre season expo/workshops	0 1	5		
10	Player Points Allocation finalised prior to RD 1 team selections	0 1	10		SENIORS
11	RPL submission to league completed by cut off date	0 1	10		U19 DIV2 JUNIORS
12	Game day timings submission by cut off date	0 1	10		
In season					
13	Match paperwork all submitted in PlayHQ by home club inline with Rules Document requirements	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	10		
14	Team sheets for premier division men and women in PlayHQ by 10am Friday pre game	0 1	10		SENIORS

15	Club found in breach of codes of conduct. (Club Representative Breach)	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	-10		
16	Club has an Umpire Ambassador / Umpire Welfare Officer appointed	0 1	1		
17	Club provides an umpire to the league for each team they have submitted in the competition	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	10		JUNIORS
18	Club Umpires registered on OFFICIALS HQ by cut off date	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	5		SENIORS
19	Club umpires appointed to each game as required	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	5		SENIORS
20	Club umpires submit match reports and votes post game (by 9AM Monday)	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	10		SENIORS
21	Umpire escorts provided on game day	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	10		
22	Responses to player/club reports provided by cut off date/time	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	10		
23	Player represented by advocate at tribunal	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	5		
24	Failure to attend tribunal at appointed time	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	-5		
25	Club Forfeits three or more games in the season.	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	-10		
Post Season					
26	Post season Club Health Survey completed and submitted by cut off date	0 1	10		
27	End of season feedback completed and submitted by cutoff date	0 1	10		
28	Proposed Rules Change Feedback completed and submitted by cutoff date	0 1	10		
29	AGM date and time notified to the league by 31 st October	0 1	5		
30	AGM held within 6 Months of Club end of FY	0 1	10		
31	A12- Submitted to DFT within 7 months of Club end of FY	0 1	10		
32	ATO Not For Profit self review submitted to ATO by 31 st October	0 1	10		
33	Registration opened on PlayHQ by opening date	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	5		
34	Initial team nominations received by cut off date	0 1	10		
All season					
35	Representative in attendance at league meetings	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	10		
36	Club submits a grant application during season.	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	5		
37	Club works with local participation coordinator on transition and recruitment opportunities	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	5		

38	Senior Clubs actively supports align junior clubs with recruitment and transition	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	5		
39	Club held a Women and Girls workshop throughout the season (Women and Girls Charter / Women and Girls Action Plan	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	3		
40	Club held a coach your way session throughout the season.(Local night sessions in region)	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	3		
41	Club nominated individuals for National Volunteer of the Year Awards	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	5		
42	Club nominated individuals for volunteer of the year recognition with AFL NSW/ACT	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	5		
43	Club hosted AFL/AFLW Player visit during the season	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	10		JUNIORS
44	Club has a current Child Safe (WWCC) register	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	10		
45	Committee is fully populated without need for personal to take on more than one role	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	5		
46	Committee has female representation	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	5		

Process

Post season the Club Development Leads, Competition Managers, Coordinators and Administrators will meet to grade the clubs.

Serials with 0 or 1 rating option are a Yes (1) or No (0) rating, selection of which is then multiplied by the weighting to give the serial score.

Others serials are scored along a scale of 0 (not close) to 10 (totally achieved/best practice), the rating multiplied by the weighting gives the serial score. Those serials that have a negative impact on the competition are given a negative bias.

After rating and weighting all the serials they are tallied for a total score. The higher the score the better. Clubs are ranked from best(highest score) to least (lowest score).



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