INTRODUCTION

The 2026 Telstra AFLW Draft will bring an exciting fresh wave of talent into the competition, as on December 14, Clubs across the country will select the best young players from across Australia.

Draft night will be a time when dreams come true. Future stars of the competition will hear their names called and take their first steps into the AFLW – ready to take the competition by storm and make their mark on the game they love.

For years, the AFLW Draft has been the starting point for remarkable careers. From Mon Ham to Mon Conti – the stars of our competition's careers have all kicked-off by having their named read out on Draft night.

Olivia Wolmarans, last year's number one selection drafted to Richmond, was named the Telstra AFLW Rising Start nominee in round six of the 2026 AFLW season. Chloe Bown, the standout performer for Adelaide this year, was taken with the fifth pick, while Gold Coast star Ava Usher was taken with the seventh pick in the 2025 AFLW National Draft.

The 2017 draft saw Chloe Molloy and Mon Conti drafted and make an immediate impact in their first season – Chloe won the Rising Star award and Mon the Grand Final Best on Ground medal.

We can't wait to see the impact our 2026 Draft class have on our competition. Best of luck to all the draftees and clubs preparing for this event. The 2026 Telstra AFLW Draft marks the beginning of a new chapter, and we can't wait to see this year's players take to the field in 2026.

Laura Kane, Executive General Manager AFLW, Football Operations and Healthcare

ABOUT THE 2026 TELSTRA AFLW NATIONAL DRAFT

- The 2026 Telstra AFLW National Draft will be held on 14 December 2026.
- All players wishing to be considered for selection are required to nominate for the draft by going to https://www.play.afl/draftnominations between 9am (AEDT) Wednesday 4 November and 5pm (AEDT) Wednesday 25 November 2026.
- Players are eligible to be selected by any Club.
- The 2026 Telstra AFLW Draft order is based on reverse finishing order positions from the previous season as well as any compensation draft picks allocated by the AFL.
- Each Club must make at least two selections in the 2026 Telstra AFLW Draft.

- AFLW Clubs will be provided with a full list of draft nominees after nominations have closed, including any players nominated as potential Father-Daughter, Northern Academy or Next Generation Academy selections (see below).

AFLW PRE-SEASON DRAFT

- Clubs are permitted to keep up to two (2) spots open at the end of the 2026 Telstra AFLW Draft to be used in the AFLW Pre-Season Draft.
- The date of the AFLW Pre-Season Draft will be determined in due course.
- At the AFLW Pre-Season Draft, Clubs will be permitted to select and advise the AFL of their final Primary Listed player(s).
- Only Players who nominated for the 2026 Telstra AFLW Draft and were not selected by any Club in that AFLW Draft will be eligible to be selected in the AFLW Pre-Season Draft in 2027, subject to any other eligibility requirements to be advised in due course.
- Relocation costs as agreed by AFL and AFLPA in the 2023-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement applicable to AFLW players shall be payable by each Club where a player meets the criteria agreed between AFL and AFLPA in the CBA applicable to AFLW players.

FATHER DAUGHTER RULE

- A player may be nominated by an AFLW Club based on the Father-Daughter rule if their father played at least one (1) AFL game for that Club.
- Where relevant, an AFLW Club must submit a Father-Daughter nomination form to the AFL by Friday 11 December 2026 (note the player must have separately nominated for the 2026 Telstra AFLW Draft). The Father – Daughter bidding process will take place during the 2026 Telstra AFLW Draft.

NORTHERN ACADEMY CONCESSIONS

- A player may be nominated by the Brisbane Lions, Gold Coast Suns, Greater Western Sydney Giants or Sydney Swans under the Northern Academy concessions if the Player is a current member of the respective Club academy program and meets the Draft eligibility criteria.
- Where relevant, an AFLW Club must submit a Northern Academy nomination form to the AFL by Friday 11 December 2026 (note the player must have separately nominated for the 2026 Telstra AFLW Draft). The Northern Academy bidding process will take place during the 2026 Telstra AFLW Draft.

NEXT GENERATION ACADEMY CONCESSIONS

- A player may be nominated by a Club under the Next Generation Academy concessions if the Player is a current member of the respective Club academy program and meets the relevant eligibility criteria.
- Where relevant, an AFLW Club must submit a Next Generation Academy nomination form to the AFL by Friday 11 December 2026 (note the player must have separately nominated for the 2026 Telstra AFLW Draft). The Next Generation Academy bidding process will take place during the 2026 Telstra AFLW Draft.

KEY DATES

November 4, 2026 - AFLW Draft Nominations open 9am (AEDST)

November 25, 2026 - AFLW Draft Nominations close 5pm (AEDST)

December 14, 2026 - 2026 Telstra AFLW Draft

KEY QUESTIONS/INFORMATION

HOW DO I NOMINATE FOR THE NATIONAL DRAFT?

You must nominate online via https://www.play.afl/draftnominations.
Once you have completed your form online, you will receive an email to alert you the nomination has been approved by the AFL.

OTHER BENEFITS OF NOMINATION

By nominating for the 2026 Telstra AFLW Draft, nominees will unlock eligibility for selection in the AFLW Pre-Season Draft and as an Inactive Replacement Player, Train On Player and Top Up Player next year.

PLAYERS ELIGIBLE TO BE DRAFTED

A player who has nominated is eligible to be drafted in the 2026 Telstra AFLW Draft if they have satisfied the following requirements:

1. The player must have attained, or will attain the age of 18 years, on or before 31 December 2026;
2. The player must not be bound to an AFLW Club; and
3. The player must have been:

a. registered to play in 2026 in any recognised Club or school football competition in Australia; or

b. a bona fide resident for a continuous period of three years preceding the 2026 Telstra AFLW Draft in a country other than Australia, unless the AFL General Counsel considers that there is a reasonable explanation for the player not having satisfied this item 3 and should nonetheless be eligible to be drafted.

WHAT ARE THE DRAFT REGIONS?

- National (all Clubs)
- International (all Clubs – only available to Players who normally reside outside of Australia)

IF I AM SELECTED AT THE AFLW DRAFT, AM I BOUND TO THE CLUB THAT SELECTS ME?

Yes.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I'M DRAFTED?

The Club that selects you will be in contact to congratulate you and communicate the next steps, including your induction and training details. The Draft will also be broadcast via Fox Footy.

WHAT IS THE PRE-SEASON DRAFT?

Each Club will have the option to retain up to two (2) spots on its list that can be filled at the AFLW Pre-Season Draft. This will allow Clubs to consider interstate players that may be willing to move (on their own accord) after not being selected in the Draft.

RELOCATION

Any first-year Players who are required to relocate once being drafted will be eligible for relocation allowance support. Player relocation is classified in four ways:

- International relocation: a Player is from outside Australia
- Interstate relocation: a Player is drafted by a Club in another state and the total distance travelled is greater than 150km from the Club's training facility
- Regional relocation: a Player lives greater than 150km from the Club's training facility
- Outer metropolitan relocation: a Player lives greater than 80km but less than 150km from the Club's training facility

A Player will not be eligible for relocation if the Club is within 80km of their home address (as per their Draft nomination).

Where the player is eligible, the player will receive the following relocation benefits in their first year:

- Reasonable costs of transporting the player and their belongings (based on actual costs) to the location of the Club they are drafted by.
- Living allowance of up to $16,500 (plus FBT, where applicable) for the reimbursement of allowable Costs attributed to the purchase or rent of

household items, rent, living expenses or any other reasonable relocation-related expenses

- An Interstate Relocated Player will be permitted 6 return economy flights and 4 nights accommodation at the Player's new location.
- A Regional Relocated Player will be permitted petrol reimbursement for 6 return trips, valued according to the ATO's cents per km reimbursement guidelines, or 6 return economy flights and 4 nights accommodation at the Player's new location.

Relocation costs as agreed by AFL and AFLPA in the CBA applicable to AFLW players shall be payable by each Club where a player meets the criteria set out above. The agreed relocation entitlement is included in Clause 5 of Schedule 4 to the CBA.

ABOUT THE NAB AFLW COMPETITION

WHEN AND WHERE WILL GAMES BE PLAYED?

The competition dates for 2027 are yet to be confirmed. The fixture, including format and schedule of games, will be released soon. For reference, the NAB 2026 AFLW Season commenced on 9 August 2026 with the AFLW Grand Final to be played on 27 November 2026.

Players will be required to travel throughout the course of the competition but all reasonable expenses in doing so will be covered by the AFL/AFLW Clubs.

WILL PLAYERS BE REQUIRED TO BE FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES?

No, you will be part time with access to your club's facilities, coaches and player development programs on offer. The training requirements will all be laid out for you in advance and every measure possible will be put in place to avoid any impact on your work or study.