

QAFLW
Player Points System Policy - 2027

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1. DEFINITIONS

AFL means the Australian Football League ACN 004 155 211.

AFL Affiliate means any league, association or body responsible for the organisation and conduct of Australian Football matches and which is affiliated to the AFL (includes all State Football Bodies).

AFLQ means AFL Queensland Limited ACN 090 629 342.

AFLW Competition means the elite women's competition administered by the AFL.

Aligned Club Relationship means:

(a) where a Junior Club and Senior Club operate as separate legal entities but are objectively recognised as the one Club, the relationship between those two entities; or

(b) a relationship between:

i. a Club which only participates in Junior Competitions; and

ii. a Club which only participates in Senior Competitions;

established under a memorandum of understanding which has been registered and approved by AFLQ.

Australian Rules Football means the game played pursuant to the Laws of Australian Football.

Base PPA means the initial Player Points Allocation (PPA) prescribed to a player based on a Category, before taking into account any Penalty Points or Point Deductions.

Category/Categories means the defined group(s), that determine a player's Base PPA, pursuant to Appendix One, Step One.

Club means an Australian Football club that has entered into a Licence Agreement with an AFL Affiliate or the AFL.

Community Competition means any women's Senior Competition, that is not a State League Women's Competition or the AFLW Competition.

Competing Club means, with respect to any Club participating in a Competition, each other Club participating in that Competition at the time the transfer was initiated. This includes transferring from a Junior Club where the aligned Senior Clubs are participating in the same Competition.

Competition means any Australian Football competition administered by an AFL Affiliate or the AFL.

Competition Manager means the person appointed to manage the day-to-day operations of the QAFLW.

Competition Manager – QLD means the person appointed to oversee the Competition Manager and other competition managers within SEQ.

Home Club Player means a player that has achieved the Junior and/or Senior games thresholds for the Club, as set out at Appendix One, Step One.

Junior Club means any Club which fields a team in a Junior Competition.

Junior Competition means any Australian Football Competition for persons under eighteen years of age only, conducted by an AFL Affiliate or the AFL.

National Handbook means the *National Community Football Policy Handbook* published by the AFL. As at the date of this PPSP being published, it can be accessed via the following link: https://play.afl/clubhelp/resources/national-community-football-policy-handbook.

NTFLW means the women's Premier Competition administered by AFL Northern Territory Limited.

Penalty Points means points added to a player's Base PPA, pursuant to Appendix One, Step Two of this PPSP.

Player Points Allocation (PPA) means the points allocated to a player registered within the QAFLW in any given Season, in accordance with this PPSP.

Player Points Review Committee (PPRC) means a committee appointed annually by the Competitions Manager – QLD, consisting of no less than three (3) and no greater than five (5) persons for the purpose of reviewing a PPA following a request made pursuant to Section 6 of this PPSP.

Player Points System Policy (PPSP) means this document, as reviewed and amended by AFLQ annually.

PlayHQ refers to the online competition management platform used for Competitions administered by AFLQ.

Point Deductions means points deducted from a player's Base PPA, pursuant to Appendix One, Step Three of this PPSP.

QAFLW means the State League Women's Competition administered by AFLQ, known as the 'Bond University QAFLW Competition'.

QAFLW Clubs means Clubs with a registered team in the QAFLW.

Regional Queensland Competition means any Competition administered by AFLQ or AFL Cairns Limited within the Darling Downs, Wide Bay, Capricornia, Mackay, Townsville, Cairns or Mt. Isa regions.

Reserves Grade means the team a grade below the Senior Grade team within the same Competition.

SANFLW means the State League Women's Competition administered by the South Australian National Football League Incorporated.

Season means the period of any Competition within a year, as determined by the relevant AFL Affiliate. Note: The NTFLW summer season competition is included for the purpose of assessing a player's PPA.

Senior Club means any Club which fields a team in a Senior Competition.

Senior Competition means any Australian Football "open-aged" competition conducted by an AFL Affiliate or the AFL.

Senior Grade means the most senior team in a Competition.

SEQ means 'Southeast Queensland', which consists of the geographical area from the Northern Rivers, NSW to Gympie, Queensland.

State Football Body refers to any and all of the following entities:

(a) AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Limited;

(b) AFL Northern Territory Limited;

(c) AFLQ;

(d) AFL Football Tasmania Limited;

(e) Australian Football League (Victoria) Limited;

(f) SANFL; and

(g) WAFC.

State League Women's Competitions means the QAFLW, SANFLW, VFLW and WAFLW.

Team List means the selected players to participate in a match.

Team Total Points means the sum of each player's PPA within a team.

Team Total Points Cap means the maximum number of Team Total Points determined by AFLQ for each team and for each match within a Competition to which this PPSP applies.

Transfer or Transferred refers to the formal transfer of a player under the National Player Transfer Regulations provided at Section 3 of the National Handbook.

VFLW means the State League Women's Competition administered by the AFL.

WAFLW means the State League Women's Competition administered by the Western Australia Football Commission Inc.

2. PURPOSE

AFLQ supports the accepted premise of Australian Rules Football around the country, being that competitive balance is vital to the health & strength of its Competitions.

Balanced competitions lead to increased interest and engagement from communities and hence, assists Clubs in their efforts to maintain a healthy & viable club environment. This provides supporters, volunteers and all other stakeholders to present on match day with the knowledge that the outcome of the match is uncertain – this being a great motivator.

The objectives of this Player Points System Policy (**PPSP**) are to:

- primarily support the balance/equalisation of the QAFLW;
- provide a measure to assist Clubs in establishing a competitive playing list;
- maintain the integrity of the QAFLW within the SEQ football ecosystem;
- provide opportunity to attract & retain the best talent in Queensland; and
- reward club development programs & player loyalty.

This PPSP sets out:

- the framework for how the system works;
- the responsibilities of Clubs and AFLQ with respect to its implementation;
- the detail in relation to how a Player's Points Allocation (**PPA**) is calculated; and
- the directions for how reviews & appeals take place.

This PPSP is adopted by AFLQ and applied to the Senior Grade teams within the QAFLW only. It will be reviewed on an annual basis following discussions, feedback and recommendations internally and from Clubs. AFLQ will use its best endeavours to update and finalise the PPSP by 31 October each year, as it relates to the following QAFLW Season.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES (AFLQ/CLUB)

3.1 AFLQ Responsibilities

AFLQ, via the Competition Manager, will:

(a) Review, determine and communicate the Team Total Points (**TTP**) Cap for the QAFLW Competition by the 30 September preceding the next QAFLW Season.

(b) Consider all applications from Clubs for an increased TTP Cap, in accordance with the required process & criteria (see Section 4.2).

(c) Depending on the circumstances, allocate additional points or apply deductions to the TTP Cap for certain Clubs based on their specific situation and in accordance with this PPSP.

(d) Respond to any enquiries from Clubs in relation to the TTP Cap.

(e) Determine the PPA for every player on a Club's submitted list (see Section 3.2(c)), which is to be submitted to AFLQ at least thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of the QAFLW Season.

(f) Determine the PPA for any player not appointed a PPA pursuant to Section 3.1(e), following a Club request, noting that such request must be made by 9am on the Friday prior to the fixtured match that relevant player is playing.

(g) Respond to any enquiries from Clubs in relation to PPAs.

(h) Receive and process any requests for reassessment of a PPA and escalate through the Player Points Review Committee (**PPRC**) (see Section 6).

(i) Enter all PPAs into PlayHQ, which will remain valid for the QAFLW Season.

(j) Plan to review the TTPs for every Team List submitted in advance of every match to ensure the TTP Cap will not be exceeded for that match, however, strict responsibility remains with each QAFLW Club to ensure the TTP Cap is not exceeded.

(k) Review any PPA during the QAFLW Season and make any amendments based on circumstances or new information that is provided to AFLQ.

Note: The PPSP is a detailed document however, scenarios in relation to how a player is rated are raised each year that sometimes do not fit neatly into a predetermined category or situation. Under these circumstances, AFLQ will act and apply decisions under it's reasonable discretion.

3.2 QAFLW Club Responsibilities

Each QAFLW Club will:

(a) Acknowledge the TTP Cap for the QAFLW Season for the upcoming Season, as per Section 4.1 of this PPSP.

(b) Submit any request for an increased TTP Cap to the Competition Manager (see Section 4.2).

(c) Submit to the Competition Manager, no later than thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of the QAFLW Season, a list of up to forty-five (45) players that are expected to be selected for its QAFLW Senior Grade team during the Season.

(d) Prior to selecting any player on a QAFLW Senior Grade Team List, ensure that player:

i. has an accurately assigned PPA in line with this PPSP; and

ii. that the PPA has been entered into PlayHQ (if a player does not have a PPA noted within PlayHQ, the player cannot be selected on a Senior Grade Team List and the Club must follow the process outlined at Section 3.1(f)).

(e) For each match, submit a Team List consisting of twenty-one (21) players which does not exceed the TTP Cap.

Notes:

- *If a Club does not have enough players to field a full team, the matter should be urgently referred to the Competition Manager for review.*

- *If a Club is found to be in breach of any of the above responsibilities at any time, it will be subject to penalties as outlined at Section 8 of this PPSP.*

4. TEAM TOTAL POINTS CAP

4.1 Team Total Points Cap

(a) A team's TPP is determined by the sum of each player's PPA within that team.

(b) For the 2027 QAFLW Season, the TTP Cap which will apply for each match is 50 points.

4.2 Application to increase Team Total Points Cap

(a) Up to ninety (90) days before the commencement of the QAFLW Season, a Club may apply for the TTP Cap to be increased for their Club.

(b) Such application must be made in writing, via email, to the Competition Manager and must rely on at least one of the following grounds:

i. the Club does not field teams in any Junior Competition or have an Aligned Club Relationship with a Club which fields teams in any Junior Competition and is not capable of fielding any team in a Junior Competition or initiating an Aligned Club Relationship with such a Club, due to factors outside of its control;

ii. the Club's win/loss ratio across the previous two (2) Seasons within the relevant Competition;

iii. the Club has endured significant hardship through forces beyond its control, e.g. floods, is coming out of recess or is a recently merged or restructured entity;

iv. it is the first Season in which the Club is fielding a team to the relevant Competition;

v. the Club is aligned with a university and is subject to players moving in and out over a three (3) to four (4) year period; and/or

vi. other circumstances or considerations which the Club deems relevant.

Note: An application on the basis of any of the above does not guarantee a Club's TTP Cap will be increased. Each application is considered on its own merits.

(c) The TTP Cap cannot be increased by more than five (5) points for a QAFLW Season.

(d) If a Club is successful in their application pursuant to section 4.2(a), the increased TTP Cap will only apply for the upcoming QAFLW Season (i.e. the increased TTP Cap will not apply in the following year, and the Club will have to reapply for any increase under this provision in the following year).

(e) There is no ability for a Club to apply for review of the TTP Cap assigned to any other QAFLW Club.

(f) AFLQ may reduce the TTP Cap for a Club at their reasonable discretion, even below the TTP Cap prescribed for the Competition (see Section 4.1(b)), provided the primary purpose in doing so is to maintain competitive balance within the QAFLW Competition.

5. CALCULATING PLAYER POINTS ALLOCATION

5.1 Process

To determine a player's PPA, and in turn, a team's TTP, AFLQ must follow the process as outlined at Appendix One, subject to the rules outlined at Section 5.2.

5.2 Rules

When applying the process noted at Appendix One, AFLQ must apply the following rules:

(a) With respect to determining a player's Base PPA:

i. If a player played in the QAFLW Competition in the previous Season for the same Club, that player's Base PPA will remain unchanged, with the following exceptions:

A. the 'Season of Service' Points Deduction (see Appendix One, Step Three); or

B. achieved a 'Home Club Player' milestone (see Appendix One, Step One).

ii. The highest level of Competition played by the player in the previous three (3) Seasons (i.e. 2024, 2025 & 2026) must be taken into account. However, there will be cases where in order to establish the circumstances of the player's arrival at the Club, their history beyond three (3) Seasons may need to be considered. In these cases, this PPSP will be applied retrospectively.

iii. Excluding players allocated as Category One, if a player meets the criteria for multiple Categories, the player will be allocated to the Category with the highest points.

iv. In the event a player does not fit into one of the Categories, the Competition Manager will determine the most reasonable Category for the player, taking into consideration the intent of this PPSP, and given relevant factors.

(b) A playing coach or playing assistant coach will have their PPA assessed in the same way as any other player.

(c) Any player playing on a season permit will have their PPA assessed in the same way as a Transferred player.

(d) All relevant Penalty Points will be applied for the 2026 Season onwards.

(e) Once a player's PPA is applied, it will not be changed during the Season, unless amended by AFLQ pursuant to section 3.1(k). For clarity, this provision still applies when a player becomes a 'Home Club Player' during a Season.

(f) Where a player was previously registered at a Club and played five (5) or more games in a Season before transferring to a higher-level Competition, they may return to the same Club on the same PPA as when they left. A player could have played at multiple clubs in a higher-level competition during such time.

(g) A player that was previously registered at a Club and played five (5) or more games in a Season before transferring to an interstate Club is able to return to the same Club on the same PPA as when they left. If a player transfers to/registers at more than one Category 4 or less interstate Clubs before returning, this clause will no longer apply.

6. PLAYER POINTS REVIEW

6.1 Application to review PPA

(a) Within seven (7) days of a Club being advised of a player's PPA, a Club may apply for that PPA to be reassessed by the PPRC.

(b) A Club may only make an application pursuant to section 6.1(a) with respect to its registered players. No Club can apply for the review of a Competing Club player's PPA.

(c) The application outlined at section 6.1(a) must be made in writing, via email, to the Competition Manager and must rely on the grounds that the PPA is excessive, when considering the player's:

i. playing history and achievements;

ii. age, particularly if the player is looking to play at a higher level;

iii. injury history;

iv. living circumstances (for example, they have been required to relocate to another "SEQ Region" (i.e. between Greater Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast), and therefore required to change Clubs due to living, education or work requirements); and/or

v. any other circumstances or consideration which the Club deems relevant.

Note: An application on the basis of any of the above considerations does not guarantee that a player's PPA will be reduced. Each application is considered on its own merits.

(d) Such application must be supported by:

i. detailed written submissions; and

ii. any relevant evidence.

(e) The Competition Manager will endeavour to present the application to the PPRC within seven (7) days of receipt of the application.

6.2 Player Points Review Committee

(a) By 15 November each year, the Competitions Manager - QLD will appoint a PPRC for the purpose of considering PPA review applications (see section 6.1(a)).

(b) The PPRC will consist of no less than three (3) and no greater than five (5) persons, as determined by the Competitions Manager – QLD.

(c) When the PPRC is presented with a PPA review application, they will endeavour to make a determination:

i. within ten (10) days from receipt of the application, when such application is made prior to the commencement of the Season; or

ii. within seven (7) days from receipt of the application, when such application is made during the Season.

(d) The PPRC may contact any Club that the relevant player was formerly registered with, for the purposes of that Club:

i. providing any relevant information;

ii. giving context to the submissions provided; and/or

iii. verifying information that has been submitted in support of the application.

Note: If a Club is contacted pursuant to section 6.2(d), only information, supported by evidence and/or independently verified may be considered by the PPRC.

(e) Any determination of the PPRC must be communicated to the applicant QAFLW Club in writing.

7. APPEALS

(a) If a Club disputes:

i. a player's PPA following review by the PPRC;

ii. the TTP Cap for their Club, following review by the Competition Manager; or

iii. any penalty imposed for non-compliance with this PPSP;

they may submit a Notice of Appeal, via email, to the Competitions Manager – QLD (refer to Appendix 6 of the National Handbook).

(b) Pursuant to s 26.1(c)(i)(B) of the National Handbook, the Notice of Appeal must be accompanied by a payment of $500.00 AUD.

(c) The process outlined at Section 26 of the *National Handbook* will be adopted in hearing any such appeal (for clarity, for the purpose of this PPSP, s26.1(a) is to be disregarded).

8. PENALTIES

(a) Should a Club breach:

i. any provision of this PPSP; or

ii. make a false or incorrect declaration regarding PPAs or a Team's TTP;

that Club will be sanctioned.

(b) Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

i. the reversal of a match result in which the breach(es) occurred;

ii. a fine;

iii. team relegation;

iv. loss of premiership points – current & future;

v. suspension from finals – current & future;

vi. player/official suspensions – if false information has been knowingly provided; and

vii. any other penalty as determined by AFLQ.

(c) In applying any sanction, AFLQ will take into consideration whether the breach was:

i. Intentional – where a Club has clearly breached this PPSP with little or no regard (including ignorance) for its requirements.

ii. Unintentional – where a Club has breached this PPSP without intended malice or has acted on inaccurate but reasonable information.

iii. Interpretive – where a Club has applied this PPSP in a manner other than what the PPSP was intended for.

APPENDIX ONE

Step One – Determine player's base allocation of points

A player's Base PPA is determined by establishing which of the following Categories the player belongs:

CATEGORY	POINTS	DESCRIPTION
(a) Category 1 = Home Club and/or One Point Player	1	**"HOME CLUB PLAYER" :** **Junior** – The player has played forty (40) or more games within a Junior Competition for the Club with which they are registered, or within a Junior Competition for a Club with which the Club they are registered has an Aligned Club Relationship. *Note: State Representative and/or sanctioned Academy games played whilst registered with such Junior Club can be counted towards this threshold, if played on the same weekend as their usual team within the Junior Club played. These games should be listed within a player's profile in PlayHQ.* **Senior** – Played a combined total of fifty (50) or more Senior Competition games for the Club with which they are registered. *Note: State Representative and/or sanctioned Academy games played whilst registered with such Club can be counted towards this threshold as Reserve Grade games, if played on the same weekend as their team within the QAFLW Competition played. These games should be listed within a player's profile in PlayHQ.* *Note: 'Home Club Player' status is a lifetime achievement that a player maintains at the relevant Club regardless of where else they play.* **"ONE (1) POINT PLAYER" :** **Transferred Junior** - Transferred directly from an SEQ Junior Club to the Senior Club, provided that the SEQ Junior Club from which they transferred does not have an Aligned Club Relationship with a Competing Club with respect to the Senior Club to which they transferred. **Single Club** - Has not satisfied the Junior or Senior "Home Club Player" criteria but has not played Australian Rules Football at any other Club. **Hiatus** – Has not played competitive football in the current and previous two (2) Seasons.

		QLD Regional - Recruited from a Regional Queensland Competition, having played Australian Rules Football solely in Regional Queensland (excluding representative matches). **Interstate Recruit** - Aged 19 or under as at the beginning of the Competition year, is recruited from interstate and hasn't played within Queensland previously.
(b) Category 5 = AFLW Player	5	**AFLW** – Played five (5) games or more in TOTAL in the AFLW Competition across the current and previous two (2) Seasons.
(c) Category 4 = State League Player	4	**State League** – Played five (5) Senior Grade games or more in a State League Women's Competition in any one (1) season, in the current or previous three (3) Seasons. Note: NTFLW is a Category 3 Competition.
(d) Category 3 = Senior Community Player	3	**Senior Community** – Played five (5) Senior Grade games or more in a Community Competition in any one (1) season, in the current or previous three (3) Seasons.
(e) Category 2 = Reserves Community Player	2	**Reserves Community** - Has not played five (5) Senior Grade games or more in a Category 3 or Category 4 Competition in a Season, in any of the current or previous three (3) Seasons. **Uncapped Junior** – Transferred from a Junior Club to a Senior Club, where those Clubs have an Aligned Club Relationship but has not met the Home Club Junior player eligibility, and is not a Single Club player. **Exception** - Does not satisfy any Category 1 clause and does not fit into any Category 3 clause or above.

Step Two – Consider if player is subject to any Penalty Points

Penalty Point/s will apply as per the below:

Competing Club Penalty

Category 4 players that Transfer to a Competing Club will have an additional one (1) penalty point added to their Base PPA.

Notes:

i. *Category 2 and Category 3 players will not be subject to a Competing Club Penalty.*
ii. *A player returning to a Club as a Home Club Player will not have this penalty applied.*
iii. *A player that Transfers interstate and returns to another Club within the QAFLW Competition within the same Season will attract the Competing Club Penalty.*
iv. *A player transferring from a Junior database to a Senior database, where the aligned Senior clubs are in the same competition, the competing club penalty will also apply.*

Step Three – Consider if a player is entitled to any Point Deductions

A point (unless stated otherwise) will be deducted for each of the following circumstances:

Seasons of Service

Player is entering their third (3rd) Season (or more) at a Club, having played at least five (5) matches at the Club (excluding practice matches) in each of the previous QAFLW Seasons.

Notes:

i. *This deduction can be applied in consecutive QAFLW Seasons, until the player reaches a PPA of one (1) point.*
ii. *If a player Transfers to another AFLQ Club (regardless of which Competition the Club competes in), the 'Seasons of Service' deduction will restart at each Club.*
iii. *This deduction will still be applied even if the QAFLW Seasons are not in consecutive years, provided the player has not Transferred out to any other equal or lower-level Competition during this time.*
iv. *This deduction will still be applied if a player Transfers out to an interstate Club but does not play five (5) matches or more before returning to the same Club.*

Promotion

A player that has played Australian Rules Football solely in Queensland and is Transferring from a lower to higher level Competition.

Note: The 'Promotion deduction' will NOT apply to a player that has previously played in a Category 4 Competition or higher.

University Club

A Club that is associated with a university can apply for a maximum deduction of two (2) points per player, provided:

- the player is studying full time at the tertiary-aligned institution (relevant evidence must be provided);
- the player Transferred to the relevant Club from a Club not within SEQ; and
- their PPA remains at least two (2) points.

Note: This deduction may only be applied to a player's PPA once (i.e. two (2) points are not deducted each year) and once that player is no longer studying full-time, the deduction will be removed.