

NTFA Inc. Player Points System Policy

November 2018



NTFA PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM POLICY

1. Objective of the NTFA PPS Policy

The NTFA Player Points System Policy committee believes that equalisation of community football competition is vital for community football.

Even and fair competitions lead to interest, which leads to bigger crowds, which leads to stronger clubs and competitions. Even competitions allow supporters and club volunteers the chance to turn up on any given match day with the knowledge that the outcome of the game is uncertain, and that their team is a chance of winning. This mindset motivates people to become and remain engaged with their community club and provides rewards and recognition to all those that assist in putting a team out on the field.

The philosophy of competition equalisation is accepted in sports all around the world. Professional sporting bodies have accepted practices such as drafts, salary caps, FIFA Fair Play, and the like, in order to help competitions ensure competitiveness and club sustainability.

The objectives of the NTFA PPS Policy are as follows, to:

1. support equalization of community football Competitions;
2. ensure teams fielded in the Competitions are strong and as equally matched as possible;
3. provide the best opportunities for players to develop and display their skills;
4. provide opportunities to compete at a community level within an orderly and fair system;
5. enable team spirit and public support;
6. encourage community and corporate sponsorships of Community Clubs;
7. reduce the inflationary nature of player payments to assist clubs survive financially and reduce financial burden/stress on Clubs;
8. promote player loyalty and junior development;
9. support the role volunteers undertake in managing their Clubs by;
 - minimising the need to fundraise for player payments
 - providing a more competitive environment on field, that encourages more volunteers to support at Club level
 - providing incentive to spend more time and effort in the development of football, a welcoming Club environment and growing the game within the local community.

This PPS Policy sets out a framework of rules and guiding principles in relation to a player points system which should be adopted by NTFA Clubs in order to achieve the above objectives.

If this policy is to be adopted, the NTFA will need to amend their relevant by laws to include all relevant provisions under this PPS Policy.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. **AFL** – Australian Football League.
- 2.2. **AFL Victoria** - means Australian Football League (Victoria) Limited ACN 147 664 579.
- 2.3. **Category** – means the player points category which determines the base allocation of the Player Points Allocation for a player.
- 2.4. **Community Club or 'Club'** – means an Australian football club which participates within a community football competition that does not include State Leagues (i.e the TSL, VFL etc).
- 2.5. **Competition** – an Australian football competition in which the Community Clubs participate in official fixtured matches.

- 2.6. **Competitive Football** – means any formally organised football competition excluding AFL 9s, school football and women’s competitions.
- 2.7. **First Home and Away Match** – means the first official competition match for the home and away season of a Competition.
- 2.8. **Footyweb System** – means the online competition management system implemented by football competitions across Australia. (Sporting Pulse)
- 2.9. **NTFA** - means the Northern Tasmanian Football Association Inc.
- 2.10. **NTFAPPS** – means the NTFA Player Points System
- 2.11. **National Player Transfer Regulations** – means the AFL’s national policy for player transfers as updated by the AFL from time to time.
- 2.12. **NEAFL** – means North East Australia Football League.
- 2.13. **NTFL** – means Northern Territory Football League.
- 2.14. **Player membership details** – means a players individual details provided for on the Footyweb System.
- 2.15. **Player Points Allocation** – means the total number of points allocated to an individual player in a Senior Team taking into consideration the Player Points Category that applies to each player and any additional points or deducted points in accordance with this PPS Policy.
- 2.16. **PPS Policy** - means the community club player points policy as amended by the NTFA from time to time.
- 2.17. **PPSC** – means Player Points System Committee
- 2.18. **Premier Competition** - means the Competitions outlined in clause 6.2 of this PPS Policy.
- 2.19. **SANFL** – means the South Australian National Football League.
- 2.20. **Season** – means Community Football season between 1 April and 30 September each year (or such other agreed dates).
- 2.21. **Season of Service** – means a Season where a player has played a minimum of five (5) senior or reserves games in one Season for a particular Community Club. A player who has completed a Season of Service is eligible for a reduction of one point should they play for the same Community Club in the following year in accordance with this PPS Policy.
- 2.22. **Senior Competition** – means the senior or 1st grade Competition within any division of the NTFA.
- 2.23. **Senior Team** – means the team of players that participate within a Community Club’s senior or 1st grade football team.
- 2.24. **TSL** – means the Tasmanian State League.
- 2.25. **Total Team Points** – means the total amount of points allocated to a specific Senior Team by the NTFA for each Season in accordance with this PPS Policy.
- 2.26. **VFL** – means the Victorian Football League.
- 2.27. **WAFL** – means the Western Australia Football League.

Interpretation:

A reference to:

“**Transferred**” refers to the formal transfer authorised under the National Player Transfer Regulations.

“**Unique local conditions**” refers to the conditions, environment or circumstances which are unique to a Community Club or a region of Community Clubs which may give grounds for a reassessment of a Club’s Total Team Points as determined by the relevant NTFA PPS Committee.

3. NTFA Player Points System Committee Responsibilities

Total Team Points

- 3.1. acknowledge that the Total Team Points allocation will be capped at 48 points per Senior Team subject to the conditions of this clause 3.
- 3.2. will consider all applications from Community Clubs for the allocation of additional Total Team Points in accordance with this PPS Policy (i.e applications based on unique local circumstances under clause 4.5).
- 3.3. may allocate additional points or apply deductions to Total Team Points to specific Community Clubs in accordance with this PPS Policy to manage unique local conditions and meet the needs of local Community Clubs and the relevant senior Competitions.
- 3.4. acknowledge that any decision to alter the Total Team Points cap should be approved by the PPSC.
- 3.5. will allocate the final figure for Total Team Points to each Senior Team for each Club affiliate (i.e not reserves or underage Competitions) for the following Season and in accordance with PPS Policy, with all points allocations to be assessed by the PPSC by 31st August each calendar year.
- 3.6. subject to approval of Total Team Points via the PPSC, the NTFA must communicate the allocation of each Club’s Total Team Points to each of their affiliate Clubs for the following Season in accordance with PPS Policy by 30th September in each calendar year (or such date other date as determined by the PPSC).

Player Points Allocation

- 3.7. will liaise with Community Club’s to ensure Player Point Allocations are entered via the Footyweb System prior to any player’s first Senior Home and Away Match of each Season.
- 3.8. as part of the Player Point Allocation process, the NTFA PPSC may provide the opportunity for Clubs to contest any player’s Player Point Allocation. An appeal against a Player Point Allocation should be made no later than 5 days before the player’s first Senior Home and Away Match of each Season.
- 3.9. once the process in clauses 3.7 – 3.8 has been undertaken, any player’s Player Point Allocation will be fixed for that Season unless the NTFA PPSC is of the view that there are exceptional circumstances relevant to a player that warrant an amendment of the Player Point Allocation during the Season.

4. Affiliated Club Responsibilities

Each affiliate Community Club:

- 4.1. will determine each player's Player Points Allocation for its Senior Team. This determination may include any additions or deductions applicable to each player in accordance with this PPS Policy. See clauses 6 and 7 and appendices 12.1 and 12.3 for applicable PPS table and flow chart to assist in this process.
- 4.2. will enter Player Points Allocations into each relevant player's membership details using the Footyweb System prior to the relevant Community Club's First Home and Away Match of each Season unless the NTFA chooses to do so on behalf of clubs.
- 4.3. acknowledges that if a Community Club does not follow this procedure and decides to play a player in a match in a Senior Competition, who has not had their Player Points Allocation approved and entered into the Footy Web System, that Club will bear the risk of any subsequent enforcement penalty as determined by the NTFA in accordance with this PPS Policy.
- 4.4. will ensure that on match days the Senior Team does not exceed that Club's Total Team Points. For the avoidance of doubt, Community Clubs may recruit above their allocated points in any given Season but must comply with the Total Team Points allocation on match days.
- 4.5. may make an application to the NTFA PPSC for the allocation of additional Total Team Points in accordance with this PPS Policy (i.e for unique local circumstances). The application process is to be set down and communicated to affiliate Clubs by the PPSC.

5. Player Points Categories

- 5.1. A player's Category and the subsequent Player Points Allocation will be determined by that player's playing history and achievements and is structured in a way to promote player retention and loyalty.
- 5.2. Each player expected to play in the Senior Team of a Community Club will be allocated a Category and a Player Points Allocation as follows:
 - 5.2.1. Category 1 – Home Player – 1 Point
 - a) A player who has played only at that Community Club and for no other Community Club; or
 - b) A player who has not played Competitive Football in the previous 36 months.
- 5.3. If a player does not meet the Category 1 'home player' eligibility above, their points Category will be assessed based on the highest playing level achieved prior to the player joining the current club in the following Categories:
 - 5.3.1. Category 6 – AFL Player – 5 Points

Player who has played a minimum of one AFL game in any of the previous three (3) Seasons.

For all other ex AFL players if they are currently playing for another club and transfer to the NTFA for games then they shall be assessed on their past three (3) seasons like any other player.

If they have not played any football in the past three (3) seasons then clubs must apply to the PPSC for them to be rated.

5.3.2. Category 5 – State League Tier One – 5 Points

Player who has played a minimum 5 senior games of VFL, WAFL, or SANFL in the current Season or any of the previous three (3) seasons.

For example, a player *would not qualify* in this category for the 2019 Season if that player has played as follows in the previous three (3) Seasons:

Season 2018 – 4 games
Season 2017 – 3 games
Season 2016 – 2 games

However, a player *would* qualify in this category for the 2019 Season if that player had played as follows in the previous three (3) Seasons:

Season 2018 – 0 games
Season 2017 – 6 games
Season 2016 – 2 games; or

Season 2018 – 5 games
Season 2017 – 0 games
Season 2016 – 0 games.

NOTE: where a Category refers to “a minimum of 5 games in any of the previous 3 Seasons”, the above calculation example will apply.

5.3.3. Category 4 – TAC Cup, State League Tier Two, and Premium Community Player – 4 Points

- a) TAC Cup player - who has played a minimum 5 TAC Cup games in the current Season or any of the previous three (3) Seasons; or
- b) State League Tier Two player – who has played a minimum of 5 senior games in the current Season or any of the previous three (3) seasons at NEAFL or TSL level.
- c) Premium Community player – who has achieved a club senior best and fairest top 5 finish, in senior Competitions only, in the previous Season.

5.3.4. Category 3 – Senior Community Player and Transferred Junior Player – 3 Points

- a) Senior Community player – who has played the same number or more senior games than reserves games in any of the previous three (3) Seasons at community football level; This includes:
 - TSL development league players who do not meet Category 4 eligibility (i.e. who haven't played the minimum of 5 senior TSL games in any of the current or previous 3 Seasons); or
 - A player from any of the interstate community league Competitions including the Northern Territory Football League.
- b) Transferred Junior – a player who was recruited from an U18's Competition and who does not meet Category 1 eligibility.

5.3.5. Category 2 – Development Community Player – 2 Points

A player who has played more reserves games than senior games in the preceding Season at community football level.

- 5.4. A Community Club that has a player that does not meet any of the above player Categories will need to apply to the NTFA PPSC to determine the appropriate Player Points Allocation. In determining the Player Points Allocation the PPSC will have regard to all relevant factors so as not to unreasonably restrict the player's movement between Community Clubs or a player's opportunity to play football at a Club of his choice.

- 5.5. For the purposes of a Player Points Allocation, a playing coach or playing assistant coach is classified as a player and will be assessed under the above Categories.
- 5.6. A player playing on an Interchange Agreement as detailed at clause 3.9 of the National Player Transfer Regulations (i.e. a permit player) will be assessed on the same basis as transferred players.
- 5.7. Where a player qualifies in more than one Category based on their playing history in the current Season or any of the previous 3 Seasons, the Category with the highest points will apply, hence the use of the flow chart in appendix 12.3. (Category 1 - Home Players are excluded).

6. Additional player point allocations:

- 6.1. If a player transfers to a Community Club and will be competing in the same Competition and against their former Community Club, (except Category 2 - Development Community Players) an additional one point penalty will apply.
- 6.2. Where a player has registered at three (3) or more different Community Clubs in three (3) seasons, one additional point will be applied to that player's Player Points Allocation. In determining the 3 season's timeframe, clubs shall assess the current or upcoming season as the first season along with the previous two (2) seasons, as detailed in the example below.

Club A – 2019 season
Club B – 2018 season
Club C – 2017 season
- 6.3. A Community Club may make an application for a re-assessment under clause 7.3 to NTFA PPSC in relation to a player's additional point allocation.

7. Deductions to player points allocation:

- 7.1. Once a player's Player Points Allocation has been determined, a reduction of one point will apply for each 'Season of Service' to that player's Community Club (minimum 5 senior or reserves games per Season), even if not in consecutive years, until the player reaches not less than 1 point. (This is the minimum number of points a player can have). For the avoidance of doubt if a player is eligible for underage football at his Club, they must play 5 senior games to meet the criteria for a Season of Service point reduction.
- 7.2. NTFA PPSC may, acting reasonably, reassess an individual player's Player Points Allocation where it is deemed inappropriate based on playing history and circumstances. Community Clubs will need to make an application detailing relevant evidence regarding the reassessment of a player to the NTFA PPSC. The application for reassessment may be based upon one or more of the following:
 - (a) The age of the player especially if the player is looking to play at a higher level
 - (b) The injury history of the player
 - (c) The recent playing history of the player
 - (d) The living, schooling and work arrangements of the player; or
 - (e) Any other relevant consideration.
- 7.3. Subject to the considerations which the NTFA PPSC should take into account under clause 7.2, the determination of an application for reassessment will be at the discretion of the NTFA PPSC.

- 7.4. Should a player be recruited from a Tasmanian affiliate Community Club which participates in a community Competition which has not adopted a PPS Policy, that player will have a value of one point to a Community Club which has adopted the PPS Policy by September 30th. The NTFA PPSC, at their discretion may review this one point allocation particularly where the playing history of that player includes prior participation in Competitions that have adopted a PPS Policy.

8. Total Team Points

- 8.1. The NTFA PPSC will undertake their own process of Total Team Points allocations and will be responsible for determining Total Team Points for their affiliate Senior Competitions and Clubs. As stated under clause 3, the starting point is that Total Team Points will be capped at 48 points and should only vary for legitimate circumstances necessary to achieve the evenness and equalisations objectives of this PPS Policy.
- 8.2. In order to determine variances in the 48 point Total Team Points' cap, the NTFA PPSC should adopt the following guiding principles regarding the additional allocation or reduction of Total Team Points to a Community Club:
 - 8.2.1. Additional total team points may be allocated to a Community Club which is located in a region with a low population base.
 - 8.2.2. Additional total team points may be allocated if a Community Club did not qualify for finals in previous seasons or has been promoted from previous seasons.
 - 8.2.3. Reduction of total team points for multiple premierships and sustained success over previous seasons.
 - 8.2.4. Additional total team points may be allocated if a Community Club endures significant hardship, lack of success, is coming out of recess, or is a recently merged or restructured entity.
- 8.3. Any alterations to a Community Club's Total Team Points cap under clause 8.2 or for any other reason must be prior approved by NTFA PPS committee. For each match, a Club must ensure that the Total Team Points allocation is calculated based on the maximum number of players allowed to participate in a match for that Competition and this should be consistent for each match within a Season, within each Competition. For example if the maximum number of players on match days for the Competition is 22 players, a Club cannot submit a team list of 21 players to meet the Total Team Points cap. For the avoidance of doubt, a Club must list the maximum number of players allowed on its team sheet in calculating its Total Team Points.

9. Implementation

- 9.1. The NTFA PPSC are free to publicise Total Team Points to affiliate Clubs for the following year at their own discretion once approved.

10. Enforcement

- 10.1. Given Player Points Allocations will be managed via the Footyweb System, if correct procedure is applied, with Players Points Allocation entered into the system prior to the start of the Season, it is envisaged there will be minimal issues in the management of the Player Points Allocations. Errors are less likely given that Footyweb will not permit a club to complete a Senior Team into an electronic team sheet that has a combined Total Team Points allocation of more than that Club's permitted points cap.
- 10.2. As detailed in clause 9.2 it will be at the discretion of NTFA PPSC as to the enforcement provisions they apply to affiliate Clubs, however from 2017 onwards, should any Club knowingly make a false or incorrect declaration regarding Player Points Allocations, the Club may be penalised in line with the penalties set out in clause 10.3.
- 10.3. Penalties may include (without limitation):
- (a) Club fines
 - (b) Loss of premiership points – current season and in the future
 - (c) Suspension from finals – current season and in the future
 - (d) Player / Official suspensions – for those players/ officials that knowingly provide false information to the Club;
 - (e) Any other penalty determined by the NTFAPPS committee from time to time.

11. Appeal and Review

- 11.1. Where a Community Club is of the view that a player's Player Points Allocation is deemed inappropriate under this PPS Policy, any appeal against that Player Points Allocation must be heard by the NTFA PPSC under their own appeals process.
- 11.2. Where a Club is of the view that its own Total Team Points or Total Team Cap allocation is deemed inappropriate under this PPS Policy, any appeal against that Total Team Points allocation must be heard by the NTFA PPSC under their own appeals process.
- 11.3. An appeal against a decision to enforce an enforcement provision under this PPS Policy should be made via the NTFA PPS Committee.
- 11.4. The PPS committee will review the PPS Policy throughout the season and amendments and variations may be made by the PPS committee from time to time.

12. Appendices

12.1. Player Points Categories Tables

| PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM – CATAGORIES AND DEFINITIONS | | | |
|---|----------|---|--|
| Category 6 | 5 points | AFL Player | Minimum 1 AFL game in any of current or previous 3 seasons |
| Category 5 | 5 points | State League Tier 1 - VFL, WAFL, SANFL | Minimum 5 senior games in the current season or any of the previous 3 seasons |
| Category 4 | 4 points | TAC Cup | Minimum 5 games in the current season or any of the previous 3 seasons |
| | | State League Tier 2 - NEAFL, TASFL | Minimum 5 senior games in the current season or any of the previous 3 seasons |
| | | Premium Community Player | Player who has achieved a club senior best and fairest top 5 finish, in Senior Competitions only, in the previous Season |
| Category 3 | 3 points | Senior Community Player | Played the same or more senior than reserves games in any of the previous 3 seasons. Also includes TSL Development League Players not meeting Category 4 State League definition and Interstate Community Leagues including NTFL |
| | | Transferred Junior | Player recruited from an U18's competition and does not meet the Category 1 home club definition. (Note player must still be eligible for U18's at time of recruitment for this to apply) |
| Category 2 | 2 points | Development Community Player | Played more reserves than senior games in the preceding season |
| Category 1 | 1 point | Home Player | Player who has only played at that club |

Note: For any player that does not meet any of the above categories will need to apply to the NTFA PPSC who will determine the appropriate categories and points

| | | |
|---|--------------------|---|
| Additional Penalty Player Points | Additional 1 point | If transferring from another community club and will be competing against their former club (does not include Category 2 Development Community Player) |
| | Additional 1 point | If registered at three (3) or more different Community Clubs in the current or previous two (2) seasons |
| Deductions for Player Points | Deduct 1 point | For each season of service to the club (minimum 5 senior or reserves games per season), even if not in consecutive years, until the player reaches 1 point Note: if the player is eligible for underage football at that club, they must play 5 senior games to meet the criteria for a year of service. |
| Note: NTFA PPSC may reassess an individual players points classification where it is deemed inappropriate based on playing history | | |
| Note: Where a player qualifies in more than one category based on their playing history in the previous 3 seasons, the category with the highest points will apply, hence the use of the flow chart. (Home players are excluded). | | |

12.2. Total Team Points Allocation Tables

NTFA PPSC may choose to adopt or adapt any of these types of clauses below based upon unique local conditions when allocating total team points;

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| Total Team Points Allowances / Reductions | Small population base | Additional points to team allocation where the club is located in a region with low population base |
| | Ladder Position | Additional points to team allocation if team did not qualify for finals in previous season or has been promoted from previous season |
| | | Reduction in points to team allocation for multiple premierships in defined number of seasons (note multiple is more than one consecutively) |
| | | Additional points to team allocation if finished in bottom 3 of competition and not relegated |

