

Community Club Sustainability Program

Final Points Criteria

November 2016



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- 1) Introduction
- 2) Philosophy on Equalisation
- 3) Player Points System Explained
- 4) Player Points Calculation Flowchart
- 5) Points Allocation for Existing Players
- 6) Examples of Points Allocation for Existing Players
- 7) Total Team Points Allocations
- 8) Club Development
- 9) FootyWeb Administration

Background

The significant movement of players between community clubs, which contributes to the current inflationary nature of player payments across football in community and country leagues, has been identified as a key issue affecting community football over the past 5-10 years.

Concerns have been aired that the burden currently being placed on clubs to raise money to pay players in order to be competitive within their competition was unreasonable, and was affecting the long term sustainability of community clubs.

The future sustainability of community football will be built upon highly competitive leagues, where costs are controlled and are within the fundraising means of volunteer administrators.

Competitive balance measures already exist in some leagues in NSW/ACT, however with AFL Victoria investing significant time and energy into the development of a state-wide system, AFL NSW/ACT are now implementing a similar regime to achieve improved competitive balance outcomes and also consistency across the states.

Safeguarding the interests of Community Football

The general philosophy behind the Community Club Sustainability Program is based on the following four objectives in the best interests of Community Football:

- 1) Assisting the equalisation of competitions
- 2) Improving the sustainability of Community Clubs by curbing the inflationary nature of player payments as a result of player movement
- 3) Promoting player loyalty and junior development
- 4) Supporting the role volunteers undertake in managing their clubs by:
 - a) Capping the need to fundraise money for player payments
 - b) Providing a more competitive environment on field, that encourages more volunteers to support at club level
 - c) Providing resources and education

Player Points System Explained

The Player Points System was identified as a potential method to reduce the continuing rise of player transfers between clubs. Ease of transfers, the willingness of players to move between clubs and some clubs recruiting philosophies were adding to the imbalance of talent from one club to the next.

These elements, which lead to the mass movement of players between clubs, were also identified as a significant cause for the inflationary nature of player payments. Given the potential ability of some clubs to 'buy' success, and others 'overstretching' to remain competitive, the Player Points System is designed to;

- ✓ Better manage player movement
- ✓ Reward player loyalty
- ✓ Encourage the development of junior players at an existing club

The Player Points System is also designed to differentiate between certain levels of community football. It is acknowledged that community football is made up of players at different levels and an effort has been made to categorise these community footballers based upon their playing history and achievements.

The overall aim of the Player Points System is to assist clubs in managing their recruitment strategies and to provide them with a tool that encourages player retention and also minimises the freedom of movement currently enjoyed by players, which is often at the expense of even competitions and sustainable clubs.

The Player Points System has been designed to provide a consistent approach across competitions and at the same time recognise and accommodate the varying standards between leagues. Accordingly it is seen as a system which will assist in the equalisation of competitions.

To administer the Player Points System each League has formed their own League Equalisation Panels, which will adjudicate on matters relating to player and/or club points within stipulated timeframes.



Player Points System Explained

PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM – CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS			
Category 6	6 points	AFL Player	Minimum 1 AFL game in any of the previous 3 seasons.
Category 5	5 points	State League Tier 1 - VFL, WAFL, SANFL	Minimum 5 senior games in any of the current or previous 3 seasons.
Category 4	4 points	TAC Cup	Minimum 5 games in any of the current or previous 3 seasons.
		State League Tier 2 - NEAFL, TASFL	Minimum 5 senior games in any of the current or previous 3 seasons.
		Premium Community Player	Club B&F top 5 or Competition B&F top 10 or Club Leading Goal kicker (minimum 40 goals in a season) in Senior competitions only, in the previous season.
Category 3	3 points	Senior Community Player	Played the same or more senior (or highest division) than reserves (or non-highest division) games in any of the current or previous 3 seasons.
		Transferred Junior	Player recruited from an U19's or younger competition and does not meet the home club definition.
Category 2	2 points	Development Community Player	Played more reserves (or non-highest division) than senior (or highest division) games in the previous season.
Category 1	1 point	Home Player	Played 40 or more games at the aligned junior club up to and including U17 competition or younger.
			Player who has only played at that club.

Definition of Junior Aligned Club	Where seniors and juniors exist under the same constitution, or where there is a memorandum of understanding in place between standalone senior and junior clubs that is approved by a League Equalisation Panel. Senior clubs can have multiple MOU's with junior clubs and junior clubs could have multiple MOU's with senior clubs. All MOU's must be approved by League Equalisation Panels to ensure appropriate player pathways exist.
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Player Points System Explained

ADDITIONS & DEDUCTIONS – POINTS ALLOCATION		
ADDITIONAL PENALTY PLAYER POINTS	Additional 1 point	If player transferring from another community club and will be competing against their former club (does not include Category 2 Development Community Player)
		If player transferred to three or more community clubs in past 36 months. Does not include players moving on permit (e.g.: VFL, TAC Cup NTFL or Local Interchange).
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, it must be 5 senior games to meet the criteria for a year of service.
		Where player is returning to their home club.
	Revert to 1 point	Where player has not played in the previous 36 months.

Player Points System Explained

ADDITIONS & DEDUCTIONS – LEAGUE EQUALISATION PANEL ASSESSMENT

1) League Equalisation Panels may reassess an individual player's points classification where the Panel deems in its ultimate discretion that the prescribed points allocation is inappropriate based on the player's playing history.

2) 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 (Note: Home players are excluded).

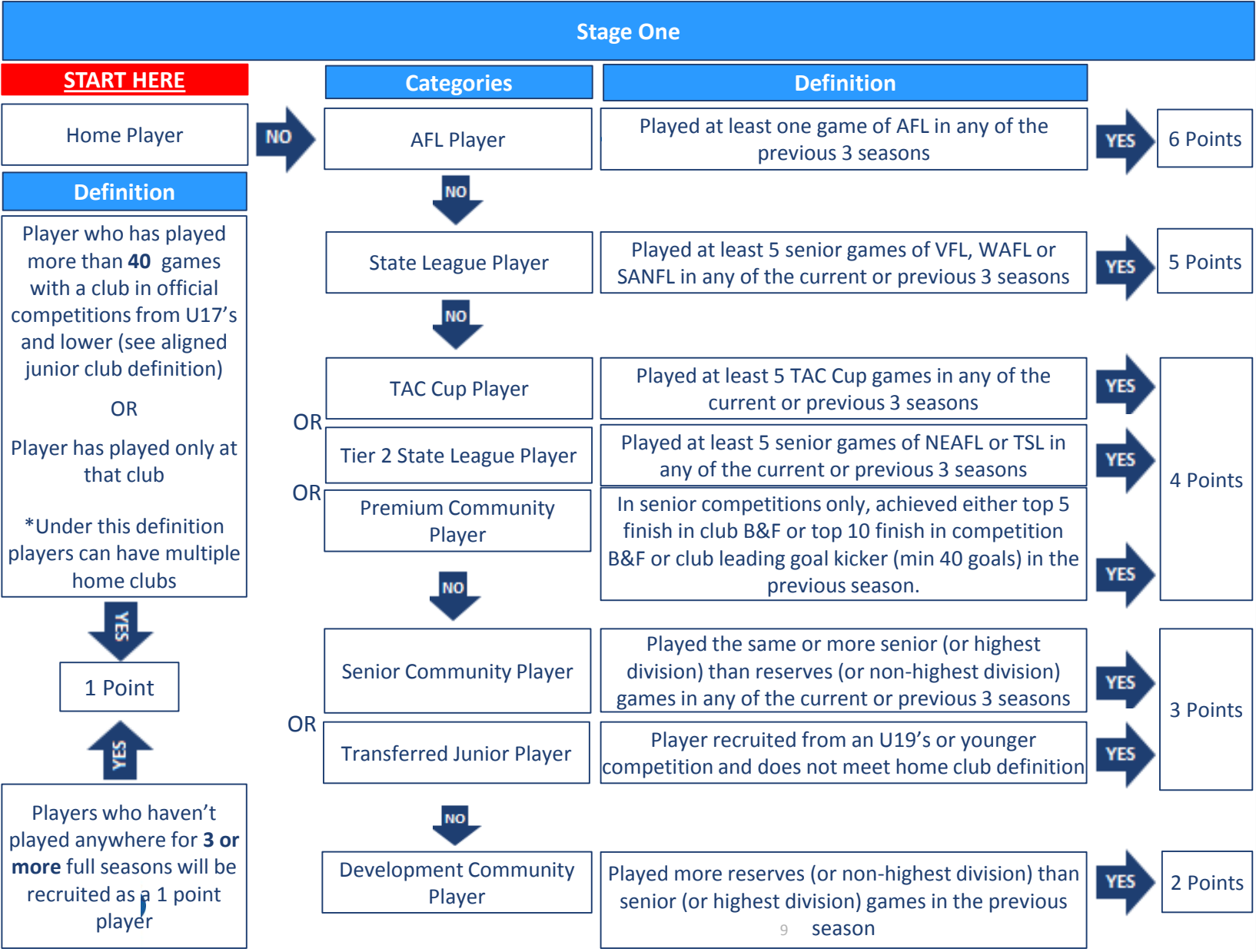
3) Any player that does not meet any of the prescribed point categories will need to apply to the League Equalisation Panel who will determine the appropriate points allocation in its ultimate discretion.

4) The League Equalisation Panel may take into account the following in determining whether or not the imposition of the additional point is appropriate in the circumstances:

- The nature and location of the player's employment;
- The principle place of residence of player's family members;
- The principle place of residence of the player's partner or spouse;
- The player's previous history and/ or relationship with the Club; and
- Any other factors deemed appropriate by the assessment panel in its absolute discretion.

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Player Points Calculation Flowchart



Stage Two

ONCE STAGE ONE HAS BEEN COMPLETED, SHOULD A PLAYER MEET EITHER OF THE CONDITIONS BELOW, ONE ADDITIONAL POINT WILL BE ADDED TO THE PLAYERS POINTS ALLOCATION FOR EACH CONDITION MET AS DETERMINED BY THE PANEL

1. If a player transfers to a community club and will be competing in the same competition and against their former community club, (does not include Category 2 – Development Community Players).
2. Three or more different community clubs in past 36 months.

Note:
A player that does not meet any of the categories will need to apply to the League Equalisation Panel who will determine the appropriate points allocation.

Points allocation for existing players of a community club

In order to determine the points allocation for a club's current senior players (already existing players who will be going into at least their 2nd year of service for the club) for the upcoming season, clubs will need to assess all those players against the previous flow chart. This will allow clubs to determine what a player's points allocation would have been in the year they arrived. You will only need to do this for players who haven't provided clubs with 5 years of service already, as they are guaranteed to now be a 1 point player based on the deduction system.

Once clubs have gone back to work out what a player's points allocation would have been when they first arrived at your club, **deduct one point off for every year of service the player provided to the club** until they are down to the minimum allocation of one point.

Note: The player must have played at least 5 senior or reserves games for the club in that season for a point to be deducted the following season, or if the player was eligible to play junior football, they must have played a minimum of 5 senior games.

While the allocation of points to existing players may be time consuming to begin with, once this process has been completed in preparation for the 2016 season, clubs will only have to allocate player points to any new players each year.

Note: Most clubs have approximately 30 players who come into contention to play senior football. Given many of these players will meet the home club criteria immediately, it is estimated that clubs should only need to 10-20 players in the first season and 3-8 players each season.

Examples of points allocation for existing players of a community club

Example:

East Wagga-Koorinal Football Club recruited a player in 2013 from East Perth in the WAFL, where he played 16 games the previous season and was therefore worth 5 points. (Note: he did not play at AFL level)

Solution: Having played at least 5 games in each of the following seasons for East Wagga-Koorinal Football Club, he was eligible for the following deductions –

2013 – 5 points

2014 – 4 points (1 point deduction from 2013)

2015 – 3 points (1 point deduction from 2014)

2016 – 2 points (1 point deduction from 2015)

Example:

Queanbeyan FC recruited a player from Tuggeranong FC (both in AFL Canberra) in 2014. He played more seniors than reserves in the previous season (2013). (Note: he has not played at a higher level in the previous 3 seasons)

Solution: Given he was recruited as a senior community player he is worth 3 points. However given he is transferring from another club in the same competition, an additional penalty point will be applied.

2014 – 4 points (1 point deduction from 2013)

2015 – 3 points (1 point deduction from 2014)

2016 – 2 points (1 point deduction from 2015)

Example:

Wagga Tigers FC recruit a player in 2015 who played 9 games with the Murray Bushrangers in the TAC Cup in 2014. He also played 10 senior games for Lavington in the seniors that same season.

Solution: Given a TAC Cup player is worth 4 points and a senior community player is worth 3 points, he must be allocated the highest possible points which is 4.

2015 – 4 points (1 point deduction from 2014)

2016 – 3 points (1 point deduction from 2015)

Examples of points allocation for existing players of a community club

Example:

A player who plays for St Ives U17's in AFL Sydney Juniors in 2013 transfers to Belconnen FC Rising Stars (U18's) in 2014 and is then selected to play senior football for Belconnen in 2015.

Solution: Having not played any games in Belconnen's junior teams (U17's and lower), the player is not eligible to be classed as a 'home player'. He also didn't play any senior Belconnen FC games as an underage player, so can't have been classed as providing a year of service. The player falls into the category of 'transferred junior'.

2015 – 3 points

2016 – 2 points (1 point deduction from 2015)

Example:

A player who finished 3rd in the best and fairest at Griffith in the Riverina FNL in 2013, transfers to Narrandera in the same competition in 2014. This player was also at Coolamon in 2012.

Solution: When the player arrives at Narrandera he will be allocated 4 points because they are a premium community player, 1 extra point because they are transferring to another club in the same competition, and a further point because it is their 3rd club in 36 months. Total points allocation is therefore 6 points.

2014 – 6 points

2015 – 5 points (1 point deduction from 2014)

2016 – 4 points (1 point deduction from 2015)

Example:

A player moves to Temora FC in the Farrer FNL in 2015 from Wyong Lakes in the Black Diamond Football League. He had played more lower division games than highest division games the previous season (2014) at Wyong Lakes.

Solution: The player will be considered a development community player (2 points).

2015 – 2 points

2016 – 1 points (1 point deduction from 2015)

Total Team Player Points Cap

The base Player Points Cap for each senior team in the applicable AFL NSW/ ACT Leagues in 2017 is as follows:

- AFL Canberra – 38
- Riverina FL – 42
- Farrer FL – 42
- Hume FL – 38

Total Team Points Allocations

The allocation of total points caps for each community club team will be assessed and determined by the respective League Equalisation Panel in its ultimate discretion.

In considering the total points allocation for each team, the following may be taken into account by the Panel:

- The location of a club and the size of the population within its region vis a vis other clubs (which may impact a clubs ability to be competitive against other clubs).
- The level of success a team has achieved e.g. (multiple premierships) including their ability to retain players with players attracting a one point deduction each season with the club.
- A team's lack of competitiveness over a sustained period of time a (e.g. low ladder finish over multiple seasons).

Note: some of the above considerations may not apply to competitions who have promotion/relegation.

- Additional points may be added to teams where a club is unable to field a competitive U18 or U19 side due to geographic and demographic factors.

Each League will implement a process in relation to assessment of club's submissions regarding a team total points cap and an individual player's points allocation.

Total Team Points Allocations

When allocating **total team points caps**, League Equalisation Panels may apply any of the following variations to the relevant base total team points cap due to unique local considerations:

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.
		Additional points to team allocation if finished in bottom three of competition and not relegated.
	Junior Pathway	Additional points to team allocation where a club has no U18/19 or younger underage sides aligned (MOU in place) to it, and not capable of developing a junior program due to reasons outside of its control, or if a club is aligned with a university and the team is based around players coming and going over a 3-4 year period.

Compliance – Footyweb Administration & By-Laws

Footyweb

Each club must submit the proposed points allocation for each Player to the League by the date as prescribed by the League for verification and assessment by the League Equalisation Panel. Each Player's final points allocation will be uploaded into Footyweb by personnel appointed by the League.

Footyweb will automatically calculate the total points for the team as part of the team selection and team sheet process. The team sheets will need to be printed by each competing club and provided as part of the normal match day paper work.

Footyweb will not allow a team to be selected if the total points allocation exceeds the cap applicable for that team. All team sheets may be subject to audits. In addition, the points that are allocated to each player will be displayed in the fixtures/results section of the league's websites to further enhance the transparency of the program.

By-Laws

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The League By-Laws will expressly state that clubs must comply with the Player Points System (and annexe to the By-Laws). A club who does not comply with the Player Points System may be subject to disciplinary sanctions.

A new column will be created to display a players allocated points figure

The screenshot shows a match report for Lilydale vs North Ringwood. At the top, there are tabs for 'Match Centre', 'Selected Teams', and 'Play By Play'. Below this is a table showing the match score by quarter (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4) for both teams. Underneath, there are sections for 'LILYDALE' and 'NORTH RINGWOOD' listing goal kickers and best players. The main part of the screenshot is the 'PLAYER MATCH STATS' section, which is split into two columns: 'LILYDALE' and 'NORTH RINGWOOD'. Each column has a table with columns for '#', 'PLAYER', 'G', and 'BST'. A red box at the top right contains the text 'A new column will be created to display a players allocated points figure'. A red arrow points from this box to the 'G' column in the player stats tables, indicating that this column represents the new points allocation.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Lilydale	1.6-12	4.8-32	6.11-47	10.15-75
North Ringwood	1.3-9	6.4-40	9.8-62	11.11-77

LILYDALE				NORTH RINGWOOD			
#	PLAYER	G	BST	#	PLAYER	G	BST
2	L. Mccombe	4	0	3	J. Dean	3	4
35	J. Hughes	2	0	44	D. Wood	2	0
1	B. Clark	1	3	4	N. Murphy	2	0
2	L. Wilson	1	0	17	D. Powell	1	6
11	F. Smith	1	0	2	A. Sharp	1	1
13	D. Carswell	1	0	24	T. Wills	1	0
	M. De Franceschi	0	6	8	J. Vanunen	1	0
8	N. Mende	0	5	14	T. Jones	0	5
29	A. Preston	0	4	21	C. Dunne	0	3
32	J. Depace	0	2	20	J. Blake	0	2
10	D. Baldwin	0	1	18	J. Ellison	0	0

