



SYDNEY SWANS, GWS GIANTS & AFL SYDNEY PLAYER INTERCHANGE AGREEMENT

Season 2021

Version 1.1 (FINAL)

February 12, 2021

1. Background

Introduction

This document aims to outline the movement and alignment of players between Sydney Swans and GWS Giants players participating in the Victorian Football League (**VFL**) and the AFL Sydney Premier Division Competition for the 2021 season.

The Sydney Swans, GWS Giants and AFL Sydney agree to review the operation of this document at the end of each season in conjunction with the VFL.

Definitions

- a) “**VFL Club**” means the Sydney Swans and GWS GIANTS Football Clubs and specifically their reserves teams that compete in the VFL.
- b) “**AFL Club**” means the Sydney Swans and/or GWS Giants.
- c) “**AFL Sydney Clubs**” means any of the following clubs:
 - 1. Camden Australian Football Club
 - 2. East Coast Eagles Australian Football Club
 - 3. Inner West Australian Football Club
 - 4. Manly-Warringah Australian Football Club
 - 5. North Shore Australian Football Club
 - 6. Pennant Hills Australian Football Club
 - 7. St George Australian Football Club
 - 8. Sydney University Australian National Football Club
 - 9. University of Technology Sydney Australian Football Club
 - 10. University of New South Wales / Eastern Suburbs Australian Football Club
- d) “**VFL Players**” means Primary Listed Players and Development List Players.
- e) “**Primary List Players**” means all players on the Swans and GIANTS VFL Primary list players.

“**Development List Players**” means all players on the Swans and GIANTS VFL Development list players.

- f) **"Club of Origin"** means an AFL Sydney Premier Division Club that a VFL Club Primary or Development List Player has registered for in a previous season, or in exceptional circumstances, such as where a Player has clearly committed to the AFL Sydney Premier Division Club for the current season prior to being recruited by a VFL Club.

2. Player Club of Origin

- 2.1 Any Swans or GIANTS Primary or Development List Player who meets the Club of Origin definition can be automatically aligned back to that AFL Sydney Premier Division club should the player elect that club as their club of choice.
- 2.2 Any Swans or GIANTS Primary or Development List Player recruited from outside of AFL Sydney Premier Division who previously played for a Club of Origin can be automatically aligned back to that club should the player elect to do so.
- 2.3 Any Swans or GIANTS Primary or Development List Player who was aligned to an AFL Sydney Premier Division club in a previous season may choose to be automatically realigned to that club.
- 2.4 Players who do not elect to align to their Club of Origin, or the AFL Sydney Premier Division club they were previously aligned to, will enter the Mini Draft in accordance with Clause 5.

3. VFL List Amendments

- 3.1 Any player added to a Swans or GIANTS Primary or Development List via a list amendment that does not have a Club of Origin may be aligned to an AFL Sydney Premier Division club via the next active selection in the Mini Draft.

4. Players

- 4.1 The AFL Sydney Competition Management Committee will have the final say in any dispute between VFL Club Primary or Development List Player and AFL Sydney Clubs.
- 4.2 The VFL Club must provide as a minimum a squad of 26 players (with the four (4) likely emergencies identified) to AFL Sydney Premier Division clubs who have aligned VFL listed players by 5pm of the Thursday prior to the upcoming weekend fixture.

- 4.3 VFL Development List players can play VFL football at any stage of the season regardless of list implications including, 'without being required to be on the Primary List'.
- 4.4 VFL Players who have an AFL Sydney Club of Origin must register with their Club of Origin. The VFL Club must request a Type 2 - Local Interchange Permit to the VFL Club from the Club of Origin. All other VFL Primary and Development Listed players must register with the VFL Club and the aligned club shall request a Type 2 - Local Interchange Permit.

5. Mini Draft

- 5.1 The Mini Draft is a process for aligning VFL Players to AFL Sydney Premier Division Clubs.
- 5.2 The Mini Draft will be conducted prior to the start of the VFL and AFL Sydney Premier Division season, whichever comes first. The date of the Mini Draft will be determined by AFL Sydney in conjunction with the VFL Clubs.
- 5.3 VFL Players who do not have an AFL Sydney Club of Origin, and would like to be available to play in an AFL Sydney Competition when not selected for their VFL Club will be required to enter the Mini Draft unless exceptional circumstances apply as determined by the AFL Sydney Competition Management Committee.
- 5.4 VFL Players who are aligned to an AFL Sydney club via the Mini Draft process may elect at their own discretion to re-enter the Mini Draft at the beginning of each subsequent season they are on a VFL list. The players previous AFL Sydney club would not be allowed to re-select the player with any Mini Draft selection(s).
- 5.5 Subject to Clause 5.6, AFL Sydney Premier Division clubs shall have the right to select a Mini Draft player, in turn, in the reverse order of the position in which they finished at the end of the previous Home & Away season ('the selection order').
- 5.6 The AFL Sydney Competition Management Committee in its discretion may provide a Premier Division club with one or more priority selections.
- 5.7 If an AFL Sydney Premier Division club passes on a 'live' draft selection in the Mini Draft that selection falls to the club with the next pick in the Mini Draft. The club who passed will not have the opportunity to further select a Mini Draft player until all other clubs have had the opportunity to make a selection in accordance with the selection order.

6. Relegation of Player – other than injury or discipline

- 6.1 Any VFL Player not selected to play in the VFL, for reasons other than injury, illness or suspension (as advised by the VFL Club to AFL Sydney), who has an aligned AFL Sydney Club, is to play Premier Division Senior Grade for their aligned AFL Sydney Club.
- 6.2 In the event of non-aligned Sydney Swans and GWS GIANTS AFL, Rookie Listed, VFL or otherwise contracted player(s) becoming available to play in an AFL Sydney Competition match throughout the season, a mini draft will be held to determine the player(s) AFL Sydney Premier Division club. The selection order will be based on the current seasons ladder (reverse order) provided a minimum of 6 matches have been completed, otherwise it will be based on the previous seasons ladder (reverse order).

7. Eligibility of players from VFL Clubs to play for AFL Sydney Clubs

- 7.1 **Communication** and **Consultation** must transpire between the VFL Clubs and their aligned AFL Sydney Clubs to duly consider and negotiate the field positioning, workload and development of players prior to their selection by AFL Sydney clubs. The initial weekly communication will come from the VFL Senior Coach.
- 7.2 A VFL Player, whom is ruled unfit by a VFL Club's medical officer to play in a round of VFL matches, will be ineligible for selection and must not be listed on the Official Team Sheet of any AFL Sydney Club in any match played in the concurrent round of AFL Sydney matches.
- 7.3 Where the VFL Club has a bye, of the 22 VFL Players that played VFL the week before, only those players who have played one (1) VFL game or less in the previous two (2) VFL rounds prior to the VFL bye are eligible to play for their aligned AFL Sydney Club on the same weekend as the VFL bye.

8. Finals Eligibility

- 8.1 When a VFL Club is competing on the same weekend as the Player's aligned AFL Sydney Club's finals match, if not selected in the VFL team, the player will be eligible to play in the AFL Sydney Premier Division match irrespective of qualification.
- 8.2 When the VFL Club is not participating in VFL finals, any VFL Player must have played a minimum of six (6) home and away games in the current season for his AFL Sydney Club to be eligible to compete in an AFL Sydney Premier Division finals match and must not have played nine (9) or more VFL games in that

season.

9. Injury

- 9.1 If a VFL Player is injured whilst playing a match with an AFL Sydney Club, the VFL Club will manage the injury, and deal with any administrative issues for the player, as it would have had the player been injured playing or training for the VFL Club.

10. Inconsistency

- 10.1 Where there is any inconsistency between a VFL Player's contract signed by a player and any contract entered into between the player and the aligned AFL Sydney Club, the provisions of the VFL player contract will prevail.

11. Suspension of Players

- 11.1 An AFL Sydney Club cannot suspend a contracted player of a VFL Club without the approval of the VFL Club.
- 11.2 Any VFL Player who is suspended for one (1) match or more in the VFL competition will be ineligible to win the AFL Sydney Best & Fairest Award in the season in which they committed the offence.
- 11.3 Unless exceptional circumstances apply, a VFL Player shall serve their suspension in the competition in which it was incurred. The AFL NSW/ACT Community Football Manager shall determine whether exceptional circumstances apply.