



FINALS AND QUALIFICATION POLICY

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define the procedural guidelines for the conduct of the NTJFA Youth Finals series. It encompasses criteria for player and team eligibility, as well as explaining the responsibilities of member clubs in facilitating the execution of the finals.

2. PROCESS FOR CONDUCTING FINALS

The NTJFA Competition Manager is responsible for organising the finals series. This includes determining the participating teams, fixturing, and the venues at which matches are to be played. Clubs may be invited to host finals, however the NTJFA reserves the right to:

- a) Schedule and conduct match times as required.
- b) Provide or arrange for gate staff, set entry fees, and receive all takings.
- c) Arrange and pay all umpiring costs.

A hosting club should manage finals matches like a normal home gameday, and provide Timekeeper/Scorer, Match/Venue Manager, and any other volunteers as required. The Host Club will submit all necessary gameday paperwork to the Competition Manager.

The Competition Manager will arrange footballs for the finals. The NTJFA will provide one new football or reimburse the host club for the cost of one new football per match. The host club will provide one (1) good quality spare football for each match to be located at the interchange area. Every football used in finals must be NTJFA branded.

3. FORMAT FOR FINALS

The Finals Series is conducted by the NTJFA using a recognised finals formula that provides the fairest outcome for all participants. The formula for each age group/division final will be decided at the beginning of the season.

The Competition Manager will determine the teams who have qualified to play finals at the completion of the season roster. The ladder position of a team at the end of the roster will give them preference over teams finishing below them. Where possible the Competition Manager will schedule home finals matches to a club that is hosting finals.

4. MANAGING DRAWN FINALS MATCHES



Should scores be level at the end of normal time in the finals match (including a Grand Final), the match will be determined playing the Golden Point Rule.

- a) Teams will swap ends after the final siren and play two five (5) minute periods of extra time, changing ends after the first five (5) minute period. Two (2) minute breaks are allowed at each change of ends.
- b) If scores are still level after 10 minutes, a coin toss will decide the choice of ends for the period of play, a two (2) minute break is allowed.
- c) The match will then continue until the next score, and the scoring team will be determined the winner.

5. PLAYER QUALIFICATION FOR NTJFA FINALS

To qualify, a player must have participated in a minimum of one-third (1/3) of the scheduled season matches, plus one (1) additional game, with the total being rounded to the nearest whole number. Eligibility is determined based on the team with which the player is registered as a permanent member at the conclusion of the roster season. For further details on the definition of a permanent member, please consult the Competition Policy.

It should be noted that the calculation of eligible matches excludes any Byes within the season's roster. Additionally, any matches forfeited by the opposing team may be considered by the Competition Manager, subject to a formal request from the player's affiliated Club.

6. QUALIFICATION IF PLAYERS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OTHER AFL COMPETITIONS

If a player plays in another AFL competition during the season (School and AFL Talent Competitions excepted) they can in play NTJFA finals if they have played a minimum of 1/2 plus one (rounded to the nearest whole number of games) of the rostered matches for their team in that age group/division during the current season (excluding byes).

7. INJURED REGISTERED PLAYERS FINALS QUALIFICATION

A Club may request the Competition Manager to consider a Finals Qualification exemption if the player.



- a) was registered to play in current season before becoming injured; and
- b) has played at least 2 NTJFA roster games in the season, which may include NTJFA Representative games, and
- c) has a certificate from a medical/ sports injury practitioner that clears you to play football again.

The Competition Manager will assess the request, and if the exemption is approved to play the club will be notified in writing. The player will be considered unqualified until approval is granted, and the Competition Manager's decision will be final.

8. PLAYING UNQUALIFIED PLAYERS IN FINALS

If a player has not met the qualification criteria and plays in an NTJFA final it may result in their team being disqualified, and the match may be awarded to the other team. If both teams are found to have played unqualified players, both teams will be disqualified. The Competition Manager will investigate the circumstances regarding player qualification, determine penalties, and how affected finals are to be rescheduled.

9. PLAYER QUALIFYING FOR MORE THAN ONE TEAM IN THE FINALS

Should a player be eligible to participate in the finals with multiple teams across any age group or division, they are required to be designated to the team of which they are a recognised permanent member. During the NTJFA finals series, the player must compete exclusively for this specified team. However, if the initially nominated team are eliminated, the player may be considered for selection in another team they are qualified for, under the following conditions:

- 1) The team is lacking the minimum recommended number of starting players for the respective age group or division.
- 2) The player's Club must formally request authorisation, at least 48 hours prior to scheduled game, from the Competition Manager, who retains the authority to either grant or refuse such requests at their discretion.

10. TEAM PLAYER LIST FOR FINALS

Clubs playing in the final series must submit their list of full team/s list/s of qualified players including identifying and reasons for unavailable players to the Competition Manager by 9 am on the Friday before the start of the final series. No player can be added to this list during the final series without the consent of the Competition Manager.



11. PROVISION FOR PLAYERS THAT HAVE MOVED FROM INTERSTATE OR INTRASTATE

If a player has registered and played in an AFL interstate/intrastate competition, the games played in that competition may be considered for qualification to play finals at the discretion of the Competition Manager.

12. PLAYING FINALS IN OTHER ASSOCIATIONS/LEAGUES

NTJFA registered players may, if qualified, participate in another Association or League's final series, including a Grand Final. However, they may only compete in one NTJFA Grand Final in a single season.