2027 Player Points Policy

Northern Tasmanian Junior Football Association

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1. OBJECTIVES

The NTJFA and its member clubs have identified player movement as being a factor that impacts the evenness of the competitions and viability of teams. This document provides mechanisms that will assist in minimising player movement to help club sustainability.

The Player Points System applies only to players transferring between NTJFA Clubs. It does not apply to new first-time registrations unless determined otherwise by the NTJFA Executive. This clause will not apply for the 2026 season, however the NTJFA reserves the right to review and implement this for 2027 and beyond if deemed appropriate

The aim is to apply a player points system for the Under 12 – Under 17 age groups that will assist in the reduction of player movement from Club to Club within the NTJFA. This will contribute to creating evenness amongst teams and more even competitive competitions.

Even and fair competitions lead to interest, 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, to help competition's, ensure competitiveness and club sustainability.

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

a) support equalisation of community football Competitions.
b) ensure teams fielded in the Competitions are strong and as equally matched as possible.
c) provide the best opportunities for players to develop and display their skills.
d) provide opportunities to compete at a community level within an orderly and fair system.
e) enable team spirit and public support.
f) encourage community and corporate sponsorships of Community Clubs.
g) promote player loyalty and junior development.
h) support the role volunteers undertake in managing their Clubs by
    i. providing a more competitive environment on field, that encourages more volunteers to support at Club level.
    ii. 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 to achieve the above objectives.

In support of the aims of the AFL and AFL Tasmania, the NTJFA has player retention as one of its core objectives. The wholesale movement of players to a new Club and consequent reduction in players leaving the game runs counter to the Association's mission to manage, promote, and support Australian Football for junior and youth players in Northern Tasmania. It aims to provide a safe, inclusive, enjoyable, and competitive environment that encourages participation and development.

This practice has in the past resulted in unevenness of competition and reduction in the number of teams – both of which is unhealthy for the sport.

Clubs are required not to encourage or recruit players from other clubs. Such conduct undermines team stability and may lead to the collapse of teams.

2. DEFINITIONS

AFL – Australian Football League.
Category – means the player points category which determines the base allocation of the Player Points Allocation for a player.
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).
Competition – an Australian football competition in which the Community Clubs participate in official fixtured matches.
Competition Manager – means the person responsible for the administration of the football competition.
Competitive Football – means any formally organised football competition excluding AFL 9s and school football.
First Home and Away Match – means the first official competition match for the home and away season of a Competition.
NTJFA PPS – means the Northern Tasmanian Junior Football Association Player Points System
National Player Transfer Regulations – means the AFL's national policy for player transfers as updated by the AFL from time to time.
NTFA Premier League - means the highest tier of competition of the NTFA.
NTFA Community Leagues – means Division 1 and Division 2 competitions within the NTFA.
NTFL – means Northern Territory Football League.
Parent / Sibling Qualification – means a player qualifies for a Community Club based on parent service eligibility / sibling registration.
Play HQ The online competition management system implemented by football competitions across Australia (previously known as Sports TG, Gameday or Footyweb).
Player membership details – means a player's individual details provided for on the PlayHQ System.
Player Points Allocation – means the total number of points allocated to an individual player in the NTJFA, 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.
PPS Policy - means the player points policy as amended by the NTJFA from time to time.
QAFL – means Queensland Football League
SANFL – means the South Australian National Football League.
Season – means Community Football season between 1 March and 31 October each year (or such other agreed dates).
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.
Competition – means any Competition within any division of the NTJFA**.**
Team – means the team of players that participate in a Community Club's football team.
TSL – means the Tasmanian State League.
Total Team Points – means the total number of points allocated to a specific Team by the NTJFA for each Season in accordance with this PPS Policy.
VFL – means the Victorian Football League.
WAFL – means the Western Australia Football League.

3. INTERPRETATION

A reference to:

“Aligned Senior Club” is where juniors and seniors exist under the same constitution, or where there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place between standalone junior and senior clubs approved by the Controlling Bodies. Junior clubs may be aligned to multiple senior clubs.

“**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 Competition Manager.

“Residentially aligned club” means the club whose catchment most closely aligns with the player’s primary residential address, based on local government and school catchment boundaries. (The NTJFA may maintain and publish a guidance map or reference list of residential alignments for transparency)

4. TOTAL TEAM POINTS

a) The Total Team Points as determined by the Competition Manager and is outlined in Appendix A.
b) The Competition Manager will consider all applications from Clubs for the allocation of additional Total Team Points in accordance with this PPS Policy (i.e. applications based on unique local circumstances).
c) The Competition Manager 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 Competitions.
d) The Competition Manager will allocate the final figure for Total Team Points to each Team for each Club affiliated for the upcoming Season and in accordance with the PPS Policy.
e) If any team has received a variance to the Total Team Points, points will be reset at the end of each season.
f) Any decision to alter the Total Team Points cap must be approved by the Competition Manager to ensure the evenness and equalisation objectives of this PPS Policy is achieved.

5. PLAYER POINT ALLOCATION

5.1. The NTJFA will liaise with Clubs to ensure Player Point Allocations are entered via the PlayHQ System prior to any player’s first Home and Away Match of each Season. The NTJFA will enter Player Points Allocation into each relevant player membership details using the PlayHQ System prior to the relevant Clubs first Home and Away Match of the Season.

5.2. Once the process in clauses 5.1 has been undertaken, any player’s Player Point Allocation will be fixed for the Season, unless the Competition Manager is of the view that there are exceptional circumstances relevant to a player which warrants an amendment of the Player Point Allocation during the Season.

5.3. Clubs may need to consult with the Competition Manager to ensure player point allocations have been completed as allocations cannot be updated until players have completed online registration for the season. Players that have transferred clubs must have completed the online registration via the email link generated through PlayHQ transfer approval process.

5.4. Where Clubs do not follow this procedure and decide to play a player in a match, who has not had their Player Points Allocation allocated in PlayHQ, that Club accepts the risk of any subsequent enforcement penalty as determined by the NTJFA Executive in accordance with this PPS Policy.

5.5 A player’s Player Points Allocation remains for the duration of their tenure at the Club (subject to transferred players qualification period for reduction).

6. PLAYER POINTS CATEGORIES

6.1.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.

6.2. Each Player expected to play in the Team of a Community Club will be allocated a Category and a Player Points Allocation as follows:

6.2.1 **Category 1 – Standard 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 registers for the first time in the NTJFA at club competition level (excludes Auskick); or
c) A player who has not played competitive football in the previous 24 months

6.3. **Categories 2, 3, and 4 apply only to transferred players.** If a player does not meet Category 1 'Standard Player' eligibility, their points Category will be assessed based on the highest playing level achieved in the following categories:

6.3.1 **Category 4 – Emerging Talent Pathway | Devils Academy | Nominated State Player – 4 Points**

a) A Talent Identified and nominated State Player; **or**
b) A Talent Identified and nominated Devils Academy Squad Member.

The four points will remain valid for a period of 3 years after transfer at which time they will reduce as with other Categories

6.3.2 **Category 3 – NTJFA Representative Player – 3 Points** *(or equivalent from another league/association)*

a) An NTJFA Representative Player and transferred from another NTJFA Club to a new Club; **or**
b) A player who has represented their previous league or association and transfers to a new club within the NTJFA.

The three points will remain valid for a period of 3 years after transfer at which time they will reduce as with other Categories

6.3.3 **Category 2 – Transferred Player – 2 Points**

a) A player who has transferred from another NTJFA Club to a new Club; **and**
b) The player does not meet the Category 1, 3 or 4 eligibility criteria.

The two points will remain valid for a period of 3 years after transfer at which time they will reduce as with other Categories

A summary table in respect of Player Points Categories is contained in Appendix B.

6.4. A Community Club with a player who does not meet any of the above categories must apply to the Competition Manager to determine the appropriate Player Points allocation.

6.4.1. Intrastate and interstate transfers will be assessed in accordance with the above categories.

6.5. A player playing on an Interchange Agreement (i.e. a permit player) as detailed in Clause 3.11 of the National Player Transfer Regulations will be assessed on the same basis as transferred players.

6.6. 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 to a maximum of 4 points.

6.7. A sibling who wishes to transfer Clubs to align with another sibling, will be subject to assessment under 6.2 and 6.3.

7. SENIOR CLUB ALIGNMENT

Clubs may have one (or more) senior football clubs recognised as their "aligned senior club".

Applications for approval of Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) between senior and junior clubs must be submitted to both Controlling Bodies by 1st March annually. Existing agreement do not require reapproval whilst remaining in current but require MOU's to be resubmitted each year for NTJFA records.

It is intended MoU's will only be approved where a geographical alignment exists between the clubs, and where the MoU provides for a genuine partnership with benefits to both clubs.

Junior Club	Aligned Senior Club
N/A	Bracknell
N/A	Bridgenorth
N/A	Bridport
Deloraine JFC	Deloraine
East Coast JFC	East Coast
Evandale JFC	Evandale
George Town JFC	George Town
N/A	Hillwood
Launceston JFC	Launceston
N/A	Lilydale
Longford JFC	Longford
N/A	Meander Valley
North Launceston JFC	North Launceston
East Launceston JFC	Old Scotch
N/A	OLFC
N/A	Perth
N/A	Rocherlea
Scottsdale JFC	Scottsdale
South Launceston JFC	South Launceston
Prospect Hawks JFC	St Patricks
N/A	UTAS

Senior Club alignment exists for pathway and partnership purposes and affects Player Points Allocations only where the Family Connection provision in clause 9.4(a) applies.

8. ADDITIONAL PLAYER POINT ALLOCATIONS

8.1. If a player has transferred to three (3) or more different Community Clubs across the previous 36 months, one additional point will be applied to that player's Player Points Allocation, up to a maximum of 4 point.

8.2. A Community Club may make an application for a re-assessment under 9.3 to Competition Manager in relation to a player's additional point allocation.

9. DEDUCTIONS TO PLAYER POINT ALLOCATIONS

9.1. Once a player's Player Points Allocation has been determined, after 3 years a reduction of one point will apply for each 'Season of Service' to that player's Community Club (minimum 5 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 football at his Club, they must play 5 games to meet the criteria for a Season of Service point reduction.

9.2. Competition Manager may, acting reasonably, reassess an individual player's Player Points Allocation where it is deemed inappropriate based on playing history and circumstances. A Community Club will need to make an application detailing relevant evidence regarding the reassessment of a player to the Competition Manager. 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 and schooling arrangements of the player; or
e. Any other relevant consideration.

9.3. Subject to the considerations which the Competition Manager should consider under clause 10.2, the determination of an application for reassessment will be at the discretion of the Competition Manager.

9.4. Family Connection

A player's points allocation shall be reduced to one (1) point if:

a) the player's parents or grandparents have played 100 or more senior/reserves men's or women's games for the aligned Tasmania State League, NTFA Premier League or Community League club, as outlined in clause 7.
b) the player's parents or grandparents have played 4 seasons at NTJFA level with the Club (minimum 5 games per season)

All efforts will be made to source data to support this point; however, the supply of substantiated data will be the responsibility of the Club.

10. ENFORCEMENT & TRANSFERS

10.1. Given Player Points Allocations are managed via the PlayHQ system, if correct procedure is applied, being Players Points Allocations 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 PlayHQ will not permit a club to complete an electronic team sheet that has a combined Total Team Points allocation of more than that Club's permitted points cap.

10.2. Each team may register no more than:

a) Three (3) transferred players Team to Team (Categories 2–4 combined) per season.
b) Five (5) transferred players Club to Club (Categories 2–4 combined) per season
c) Exemptions may be approved by the Competition Manager based on unique local circumstances.

10.3. Players wishing to train with a different NTJFA Club while still registered with their current Club must first complete the *Permission to Train Form* (Attachment M). This form authorises participation in official training sessions with another Club and ensures the player remains covered under the Marsh AFL Insurance Policy in the event of injury.

Prior to completing the form, the player must.

a) The player must obtain permission from their current club before training with another club.
b) The form must be signed by an approved Current Club Official.
c) Clubs may only refuse the request if the player:
    i. Is financially indebted to the club, or
    ii. Is in possession of club property

10.4. It will be at the discretion of Competition Manager as to the enforcement provisions they apply to affiliate Clubs, should any Club knowingly make a false or incorrect declaration regarding player circumstances affecting Player Points Allocations, the Club may be penalised in line with the penalties set out in clause 10.5.

10.5. Penalties may include (without limitation):

a) **Minor breach** (administrative or first offence): Written warning or small fine

b) **Moderate breach** (exceeding team cap or unapproved player): Loss of 4 premiership points per breach
c) **Major breach** (false declarations or repeated offences): Disqualification from finals and/or further penalties as determined by the NTJFA Executive
d) Any other penalty determined by the NTJFA PPS committee (e.g. a reduction in total Team Player Points)

11. APPEAL AND REVIEW

11.1. Right of Appeal

A Club may appeal a decision made by the Competition Manager under this PPS Policy in relation to:
a player's Player Points Allocation;

a) a Club's Total Team Points or Total Team Cap allocation; or
b) a decision to apply or enforce a provision of this PPS Policy.

11.2. Appeal Application

An appeal under Clause 11.1 must:

a) be submitted using the Application for Appeal of AFL Tasmania Decision form; and
b) be submitted to the Community Football Manager, AFL Tasmania no later than fourteen (14) calendar days after the decision was communicated to the Club.

11.3. Appeal Fee

For each appeal lodged, a fee of five hundred dollars ($500) is payable by the Club to AFL Tasmania as follows:
AFL Tasmania will invoice the Club for the applicable fee;

a) fifty (50) per cent of the fee is non-refundable; and
b) the remaining fifty (50) per cent will be refunded where the appeal is successful, or where the Club withdraws the appeal before it is determined.

11.4. Determination of Appeal

An appeal lodged by a Club will be referred to the AFL Tasmania Appeal Board for determination.

11.5. Appeal Process

Any appeal will be conducted in accordance with Section 26 of the National Community Football Policy Handbook, excluding Section 26.1(a).

12. IMPLEMENTATION

12.1. AFL Tasmania, in consultation with the NTJFA Executive, will manage Player Points decisions and appeals.

12.2. This policy replaces the existing transfer policy and will take effect from Season 2026. It will not apply retrospectively to player registrations prior to 2026.

12.3. Policy Review

The NTJFA and AFL Tasmania will review the operation of this PPS Policy at the conclusion of each season. Any amendments or variations to the Policy will be made in accordance with the applicable governance and approval requirements.

APPENDIX

Appendix A

Maximum team points on game day scaled to number of game day participants										
Age Group	**Maximum Players - On Field**	**Maximum Players - Interchange**	**Maximum Points**	**Maximum 22 Players**	**21 Players**	**20 Players**	**19 Players**	**18 Players**	**16 - 17 Players**	**Minimum 14 - 15 Players**
U17 Girls	16	4	**28**			28	27	26	24	22
U16 Boys	18	4	**30**	30	29	28	27	26	24	20
U15 Boys	18	4	**30**	30	29	28	27	26	24	20
U15 Girls	16	4	**28**			28	27	26	24	22
U14 Girls	16	4	**28**			28	27	26	24	22
U14 Boys	16	6	**30**	30	29	28	27	26	24	20
U13 Boys	16	6	**30**	30	29	28	27	26	24	20
U13 Girls	12	4	**20**						20	18
U12 Boys/Girls/Mixed	12	4	**20**						20	18
U11 Boys/Mixed	12	4	**20**						20	18

Maximum team points on game day scaled to number of game day participants										
Age Group	**Maximum Players - On Field**	**Maximum Players - Interchange**	**Maximum Points**	**Maximum Players**	**Players = Points**	**Players = Points**	**Players = Points**	**Players = Points**	**Players = Points**	**Players = Points**
U11 Girls	12	4	**20**	16	15p = 18	14p = 17	13p = 16	12p = 15	11p = 13	9p = 11
U10 Boys/Girls/Mixed	12	4	**20**	16	15p = 18	14p = 17	13p = 16	12p = 15	11p = 13	9p = 11
U9 Boys/Girls/Mixed	9	3	**15**	12	11p = 13	10p = 12	9p = 11	8p = 10	7p = 8	6p = 7
U8 Boys/Girls/Mixed	6	6	**15**	12	11p = 13	10p = 12	9p = 11	8p = 10	7p = 8	6p = 7

Appendix B

Category	Player Type	Base Value	Criteria
Category 1	Standard Player	1 Point	A player who has only played competition football for their current club; **or** Registers for the first time in the NTJFA at club competition level; **or** Has not played competitive football during the previous 24 months.
Category 2	Transferred Youth Player	2 Points	A player who transfers from another club and does not qualify as a Category 1 Standard Player. *The two points will remain valid for a period of 3 years after transfer, at which time they will reduce as with other Categories*
Category 3	Representative Player	3 Points	A transferred player who has represented the NTJFA, or an equivalent league/association representative program, within the applicable assessment period. *The three points will remain valid for a period of 3 years after transfer, at which time they will reduce as with other Categories*
Category 4	Talent / State Pathway or Academy Player	4 Points	A transferred player who has been identified or selected in an applicable talent or state pathway program, including the Devils Academy or nominated State programs, within the applicable assessment period. *The four points will remain valid for a period of 3 years after transfer, at which time they will reduce as with other Categories*

Where a player meets more than one category, the higher category applies, excluding home, veteran and promotional players where that category applies.