



# **SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INC.**

## **Player Points System Policy**

### **SFL Men's Competition 2023**

<b>Policy Date</b>	<b>November 2023</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Drafted By</b>	<b>Competition Manager</b>	<b>Approved by Board on</b>	<b>28.2.2023</b>
<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Competition Manager</b>	<b>Scheduled Review Date</b>	<b>1.6.2023</b>

## 1. OBJECTIVES

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The SFL Player Points System Policy delivers equalisation of community football competition which is vital for the growth and development of 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, to help competition's, ensure competitiveness and club sustainability.

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

- a) support equalization 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) reduce the inflationary nature of player payments to assist clubs survive financially and reduce financial burden/stress on Clubs.
- h) promote player loyalty and junior development.
- i) support the role volunteers undertake in managing their Clubs by
  - I. minimising the need to fundraise for player payments
  - II. providing a more competitive environment on field, that encourages more volunteers to support at Club level
  - III. 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.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

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**AFL** – Australian Football League.

**AFL Victoria** - means Australian Football League (Victoria) Limited ACN 147 664 579.

**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.

**Competitive Football** – means any formally organised football competition excluding AFL 9s, school football and women's competitions.

**First Home and Away Match** – means the first official competition match for the home and away season of a Competition.

**Play HQ** The online competition management system implemented by football competitions across Australia. (Play HQ) Southern Football League.

**Competition Manager** – means the person responsible for the administration of the football competition.

**SFLPPS** – means the Southern Football League 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.

**NEAFL** – means North-East Australia Football League.

**NTFL** – means Northern Territory Football League.

**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 SFL Senior Men’s or Women’s 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.

**PPS Policy** - means the community club player points policy as amended by the SFL from time to time.

**PPSC** – means Player Points System Committee

**Premier Competition** - means the Competitions outlined in clause 6.2 of this PPS Policy.

**SANFL** – means the South Australian National Football League.

**Season** – means Community Football season between 1 April and 30 September 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. 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.

**Senior Competition** – means the senior or 1st grade Competition within any division of the SFL.

**Senior Team** – means the team of players that participate in a Community Club’s 1<sup>st</sup> grade team.

**TSL** – means the Tasmanian State League.

**Total Team Points** – means the total amount of points allocated to a specific Senior Team by the SFL for each Season in accordance with this PPS Policy.

**VFL** – means the Victorian Football League.

**WAFL** – means the Western Australia Football League.

**OSFA** – means Old Scholars Football Association

**SFL** – means Southern Football League Tasmania

### **3. INTERPRETATION**

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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 SFL PPS Committee.

### **4. TOTAL TEAM POINTS**

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- a) It is acknowledged that the Total Team Points allocation will be capped at 35 points per Senior Team.
- b) The SFL Executive will consider all applications from Community Clubs for the allocation of additional Total Team Points “or Salary Cap Extensions” in accordance with this PPS Policy (i.e. applications based on unique local circumstances under clause 5.
- c) The SFL Executive will 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.

- d) It is acknowledged that any decision to alter the 35 points Total Team Points cap must be approved by the SFL Executive.
- e) The SFL will allocate the final figure for Total Team Points to each Senior Team for each Club affiliate for the following Season and in accordance with PPS Policy, with all points allocations to be assessed and confirmed by the SFL Executive prior to March 31<sup>st</sup> each year.
- f) As stated under clause 4 a), the starting point is that Total Team Points will be capped at 35 points and should only vary for legitimate circumstances necessary to achieve the evenness and equalisations objectives of this PPS Policy.
- g) To determine variances in the 35-point Total Team Points' cap, the SFL Executive will adopt a guiding principle approach regarding the additional allocation or reduction of Total Team Points to a Community Club.
- h) Additional total team points may be allocated to a Community Club which is in a region with a low population base.
- i) Additional total team points may be allocated if a Community Club who have finished in the last three positions on the ladder for two consecutive seasons or can prove special dispensation to the League on a case by case basis.
- j) If any team has received a variance to the additional 35-point Total Team Points' cap, points will be reduced at the end of each season by the following means.
  - i. A deduction of one point per year until the team reaches the Total Team Points allocation as described in 4 a).
  - ii. If a team makes finals, a deduction of two points will be deducted from the Total Team Points allocation until it reaches the allocation as described in 4 a).
  - iii. If a team which has received additional team points finishes in last position on the ladder in that first year the team points variance will remain the same for the preceding year.
  - iv. Reduction of total team points for multiple premierships and sustained success over previous seasons. Although this rule has been adopted as part of the SFL PPS, it is hard to imagine any circumstances that would deem it necessary to implement it.
  - v. 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.
  - vi. Total Team Points Allocation may be reviewed and updated as deemed necessary by the SFL Executive. to achieve the evenness and equalisation objectives of this PPS Policy.
- k) Any alterations to a Community Club's Total Team Points cap under clause 4 j) or for any other reason must be prior approved by SFL Executive.
- l) The SFL will 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 31<sup>st</sup> October each year.

## **5 RECRUITMENT CAP**

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No SFL club will be permitted to register or recruit any more than three (3) players who previously were registered with the same SFL club in the previous season. For any avoidance of misunderstanding the rule applies across senior, reserves and colts players. The previous season is defined as the season immediately prior to the upcoming season, e.g. a club cannot recruit more than 3 players from another club to play in 2023. If a club wants to sign a subsequent player it will require approval from the PPS Committee for approval.

## **6 PLAYER POINT ALLOCATION**

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The SFL will liaise with Community Club's to ensure Player Point Allocations are entered via the PlayHQ System prior to any player's first Senior Home and Away Match of each Season.

As part of the Player Point Allocation process, the SFL Executive 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 1 day before the player's first Senior Home and Away Match of each Season.

A player's Category and the subsequent Player Points Allocation will be determined by that player's playing history and achievements.

Each player will be allocated a category and a Player Points Allocation as per Appendix A.

A player's Player Points Allocation, remains that player's Player Point Allocation for the duration of their tenure at that club. Clause 9.1 – Reduction of One Point, applies to the players Player Point Allocation.

A player's Player Points Allocation will be reviewed in accordance with clause 9.1, and amended, when that player moves clubs. This is to promote player retention and loyalty.

The SFL Competition Manager will determine each player's Player Points Allocation. This determination may include any additions or deductions applicable to each player in accordance with this PPS Policy.

The SFL Competition Manager will enter Player Points Allocations into each relevant player's membership details using PlayHQ prior to the relevant Community Club's First Home and Away Match of each Season.

The club may need to consult with the competition manager to ensure this process is up to date as it 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.

Clubs acknowledge that if they do not follow this procedure and decide to play a player in a match in a Senior Competition, who has not had their Player Points Allocation approved and entered into PlayHQ, that Club will bear the risk of any subsequent enforcement penalty as determined by the SFL Executive in accordance with this PPS Policy.

Clubs may make an application to the SFL Executive for the allocation of additional Total Team Points in accordance with this PPS Policy (s4 b).

## **7 ALIGNMENT TO A JUNIOR CLUB**

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SFL Clubs must have one (or more) single junior football club as their "aligned junior club" and this nomination must be accepted by the nominated junior club. Clubs who do not nominate an aligned junior club or do not have their nominated junior club accept the nomination by the due date that SFL Club will be deemed to have no aligned junior club.

The SFL Executive will deal with the issue / allocation of non-aligned junior clubs. i.e. Which SFL clubs can access any surplus, and how many points per player will be involved, and this will be at the total discretion of the SFL Executive.

Brighton	Brighton Juniors	Claremont	Claremont Juniors
Cygnets	Southern Storm Juniors/ Channel	Dodges Ferry	South-East Giants Juniors
Hobart	Hobart / Sandy Bay Juniors	Huonville Lions	Huonville Lions
Lindisfarne	Lindisfarne Juniors	New Norfolk	New Norfolk Juniors
Sorell	South-East Giants Juniors		

## **8 PLAYER POINT CATEGORIES**

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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.

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: (Note: Where a player qualifies for more than one Category based on their playing history in the current season or any of the previous three (3) seasons, the Category with the highest points will apply):

### **8.2 Category 1 – Home Player – 1 Points**

- a) A player who has played only at that Community Club in the SFL Competition (under 5 years continuous service); or
- b) A player who has played for the aligned junior club as outlined in 3.10.
- c) A player who has not played Competitive Football in the previous 36 months.

### **8.2 Category 2 – Development Community Player – 2 Points**

A player who has played more reserves games than senior games in the preceding SFL Season or any player moving from the OSFA, ODFA, NWFL, NTFA, KIFA or similar competition as determined by the SFL.

### **8.3 Category 3 – Promotional Player or Senior Community Player – 3 Points**

- An ex AFL player who is engaged for a promotional marquee game. Points will multiply for each appearance in the same season. i.e. 3 points for the 1st game, 6 for his second appearance. Six is the maximum number of points a player can be allocated. A maximum of one only player can play for a team in any one match.
- Marquee player is a player that plays for multiple teams on a promotional basis across the country during the season prior to the close of the National Transfer Period each season. Online transfer must be lodged in PlayHQ prior to the close of the 30th June in the calendar year.
- State League Tier 1 and Tier 2 Other – Any player who has played at State League level (seniors or Development League) in the current season or any of the previous three (3) seasons and does not meet the criteria for Category 1 or 2.
- Under 19 players – If a SFL player is recruited from an SFL Under 19 team by another SFL club and is still eligible to play Under 19's then they are to be rated as three (3) points.

### **8.4 Category 4 – State League, NAB League, and Premium Community Player – 4 Points**

- (a) State League Tier 2\* - A player that has played 5 or more games at TSL senior level in any of the last 3 seasons, including the current season.
- (b) NAB League player - who has played a minimum 5 TAC Cup games in the current Season or any of the previous three (3) Seasons and is changing clubs.
- Senior Community Player – A SFL player recruited by another SFL club where the player has played more senior games than reserves games in any of the previous three (3) seasons in the SFL.

\*State League Tier 2 is defined as TSL, NEAFL, NTFL

### **8.5 Category 5 – State League Tier One (VFL, WAFL, or SANFL) – 5 Points**

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

Premium Community player – who has achieved a club senior best and fairest top three (3) finish in SFL senior Community competition in the previous Season.

### **8.6 Category 6 – AFL Player – 6 Points**

Player who has played a minimum of one AFL or game in any of the prior three (3) seasons, including the current season.

8.7 A Community Club that has a player that does not meet any of the above player Categories will need to apply to the SFL 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.

8.8 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.

8.9 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.

8.10 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).

## **9 ADDITIONAL PLAYER POINT ALLOCATIONS**

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9.1. 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.

9.2. 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. For the avoidance of doubt, player movements under an arrangement e.g. to a State League, TAC Cup, under local interchange agreements, where their home club is classified as a Community Club, will not be penalised under this clause.

9.3. An SFL Community Club may make an application for a re-assessment under clause 7.3 to SFL PPSC in relation to a player's additional point allocation.

## **10 DEDUCTIONS TO PLAYER POINT ALLOCATIONS**

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10.1. 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 or underage 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, underage, reserve, and senior level appearances all qualify towards the players 5 games for the SFL club per year.

10.2. SFL 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 SFL 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.

10.3. Subject to the considerations which the SFL PPSC should consider under clause 10.2, the determination of an application for reassessment will be at the discretion of the SFL PPSC.

10.4. 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. The SFL 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, or the player is off exceptional ability. I.e. An ex AFL player as an example.

## **11 TOTAL TEAM POINTS**

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11.1. The SFL 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 4, the starting point is that Total Team Points will be capped at 35 points and should only vary for legitimate circumstances necessary to achieve the evenness and equalisations objectives of this PPS Policy.

11.2. To determine variances in the 35-point Total Team Points' cap, the SFL PPSC should adopt the following guiding principles regarding the additional allocation or reduction of Total Team Points to a Community Club:

11.2.1 Additional total team points may be allocated to a Community Club which is in a region with a low population base.

11.2.2 Additional total team points may be allocated if a Community Club who have finished-in the last three positions on the ladder for two consecutive seasons or can prove special dispensation to the League on a case by case basis.

If any team has received a variance to the additional 35-point Total Team Points' cap, points will be reduced at the end of each season by the following means.

a. A deduction of one point per year until the team reaches the Total Team Points allocation as described in 4. A

b. If a team makes finals, a deduction of two points will be deducted from the Total Team Points allocation until it reaches the allocation as described in 4.A

c. If a team which has received additional team points finishes in last position on the ladder in that first year the team points variance will remain the same for the preceding year.

11.2.3 Reduction of total team points for multiple premierships and sustained success over previous seasons. Although this rule has been adopted as part of the SFL PPS, it is hard to imagine any circumstances that would deem it necessary to implement it.

11.2.4 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.

11.3. Any alterations to a Community Club's Total Team Points cap under clause 10.2 or for any other reason must be prior approved by SFL 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.

## **12 ENFORCEMENT**

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12.1. Given Player Points Allocations will be managed via the PlayHQ System, if correct procedure is applied, with 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 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.

12.2. As detailed in clause 9.2 it will be at the discretion of SFL PPSC as to the enforcement provisions they apply to affiliate Clubs in 2021, 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 12.3.



12.3. 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 or the SFL PPSC.

(e) Any other penalty determined by the SFL PPS committee from time to time such as a reduction in total Team Player Points

### **13 APPEAL AND REVIEW**

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12.1. 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 SFL PPSC under their own \*appeals process.

12.2. 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 SFL PPSC under their own \*appeals process.

12.3. An appeal against a decision to enforce an enforcement provision under this PPS Policy should be made via the SFL PPS Committee.

12.4. The PPS committee may review the PPS Policy throughout the 2023 Season and amendments and variations may be made by the PPS committee from time to time.

\*Appeal process as per S58 of the SFL Competition Rules.

## 13. Appendix A- SFL MEN

### 13.1. Player Points Categories Tables SFL

PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM – CATAGORIES AND DEFINITIONS			
Category 7	6 points	AFL Player	Minimum 1 AFL game in any season of any of the last 3 seasons
Category 6	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 5	4 points	State League Tier 2- (TSL, NEAFL, NTFL)/ NAB League	Minimum 5 games in the current season or any of the previous 3 seasons
Category 5	5 points	Premium Player      Community Player	Premium SFL Player who has achieved an SFL Club B & F top 3 in Senior competitions only in the preceding season.
Category 5	4 points	Senior Community Player	Senior Community Player – A SFL player recruited by another SFL club where the player has played more senior games than reserves games in any of the previous three (3) seasons in the SFL.
Category 4	3 points	Promotional Player	An ex AFL player who is engaged for a promotional marquee game. Points will multiply for each appearance in the same season. i.e. 3 points for the 1 <sup>st</sup> game, 6 for his second appearance. Six is the maximum number of points a player can be allocated. A maximum of one only player can play for a team in any one match. Marquee player is a player that plays for multiple teams on a promotional basis across the country during the season prior to the close of the National Transfer Period each season. Online transfer must be lodged in PlayHQ prior to the close of the 30 <sup>th</sup> June in the calendar year.
Category 3	3 points	State League Tier 1 & 2	Any player who has played at State League level (seniors or D/L in the current season or any of the previous 3 seasons, and does not meet the criteria for Category 4 or 5. Under 19 players – If a SFL player is recruited from an SFL Under 19 team by another SFL club and is still eligible to play Under 19's then they are to be rated as three (3) points.
Category 2	2 points	Development Player      Community Player	Played more reserves than senior games in the preceding season with another Community Club or moved from the OSFA, ODFA, NWFL, NTFA, KIFA or similar.
Category 1	1 point	Home Player / New Player	A player who has played for the aligned junior club as outlined in 3.10. Player who has only played at that club or has reduced his points by being there for a period of years. Player new to the game.

#### EXAMPLE EXEMPTIONS.

- i. If a player returns to an SFL club **directly from** the TSL, after leaving the same SFL club to go **directly to** the TSL, then he should be classed as a Home Player = 1 point.
- ii. If a player returns to an SFL club **directly from** the TSL, after leaving an 'aligned junior Club' or acknowledged 'junior feeder Club' of the same SFL club to go **directly to** the TSL, then he should be classed as a Home Player = 1 point.
- iii. If a player returns directly to his original 'home' SFL club, after leaving a club that he directly moved to, then he should be classed as a Home Player = 1 point. The PPSC will adjudicate on a player returning to his 'home' SFL club after a stint intrastate or interstate, as there may be special circumstances surrounding their playing background that may need to be considered.
- iv. Players who played at junior level with a particular SFL club (or it's nominated junior club), but went on to play underage, reserve, or senior level at another SFL club, and then choose to return to the SFL club that is aligned to their junior pathway, may be eligible for an exemption from any points over the 'home' player level.