



SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INC.
Player Points System Policy
SFL Men's Competition 2024

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1. OBJECTIVES

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

AFL – Australian Football League.

Category – means the player points category which determines the base allocation of the Player Points Allocation for a player.

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.

OSFA – means Old Scholars Football Association

ODFA – means Oatlands District Football Association

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

QAFL – means Queensland Football League

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 1st grade team.

Tier 1 Competition- Senior Competition in VFL, WAFL, SANFL, TSL, Coates League (U18)

Tier 2 Competition- All Non-Tier 1 competitions not included in Tier 1 above

TSL – means the Tasmanian State League.

Total Team Points – means the total amount of points allocated to a specific Senior or Colts 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.

3. INTERPRETATION

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

a) The Total Team Points allocation for 2024 will be 35 points

b) The SFL Executive will consider all applications from 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).

b) The SFL Executive may allocate additional points or apply deductions to Total Team Points to specific Clubs in accordance with this PPS Policy to manage unique local conditions and meet the needs of local Clubs and the relevant senior Competitions.

c) Additional total team points may be allocated if a Club;

i. has finished in the last three positions on the ladder for two consecutive seasons

ii. ii) is in a region with a low population base

iii. iii) endures significant hardship, lack of success, is coming out of recess, or is a recently merged or restructured entity.

iv. iv) can prove special dispensation to the League on a case by case basis.

d) If any team has received a variance to the Total Team Points, 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. Additional total team points may be allocated if a Club endures significant hardship, lack of success, is coming out of recess, or is a recently merged or restructured entity.
- e) Any decision to alter the Total Team Points cap must be approved by the SFL Executive to ensure the evenness and equalisation objectives of this PPS Policy is achieved.

5 RECRUITMENT CAP

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 2024. If a club wants to sign a subsequent player it will require approval from the PPS Committee for approval.

6 PLAYER POINT ALLOCATION

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 players 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

SFL Clubs may 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.

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

8 ADDITIONAL PLAYER POINT ALLOCATIONS

8.1 If a player transfers to a Club and will be competing in the same Competition and against their former Club, (except Category 2 - Development Community Players) an additional one-point penalty will apply.

8.2. 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 DEDUCTIONS TO PLAYER POINT ALLOCATIONS

9.1 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.

9.2 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.

9.3 Subject to the considerations which the SFL PPSC should consider under clause 9.2, the determination of an application for reassessment will be at the discretion of the SFL PPSC.

10 ENFORCEMENT

10.1. 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.

10.2. 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 10.3.

10.3. 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

11 APPEAL AND REVIEW

11.1 Where a Club is of the view that a player's Player Points Allocation is incorrect under this PPS Policy, any appeal against that Player Points Allocation must be heard by the SFL PPSC.

11.2 Where a Club is of the view that the Total Team Cap allocation is incorrect under this PPS Policy, any appeal against that Total Team Points allocation must be heard by the SFL PPSC.

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

11.4 The PPS committee may review the PPS Policy throughout the season and amendments and variations may be made by the PPS committee from time to time.

The Appeal process as per S26 of the National Community Football Policy Handbook, Part E-Disciplinary section 26 Appeals Board.

12. Appendix A- SFL MEN

12.1. 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 (unless eligible as a home player)
Category 6	5 points	Tier 1 - VFL, WAFL, SANFL, TSL, Coates League (U18)	Minimum 5 senior games in the current season or any of the previous three seasons (unless eligible as a home player).
Category 5	5 points	Premium Community Player	SFL Player who has achieved an SFL League B & F top 3 in Senior competitions only in the preceding season and is changing clubs.
Category 4	4 points	Senior Community Player	Senior Community Player – A SFL player recruited by another SFL club where the player has played 5 or more senior games in the previous season.
Category 3	3 points	Promotional Player	A former AFL player who is engaged for a promotional game. Points will multiply for each appearance in the same season. i.e. 3 points for the 1 st game, 6 for his second appearance. Six is the maximum number of points a player can be allocated. A maximum of one promotional player can play for a team in any one match. A promotional 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 th 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 only at that Club in the SFL 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.