



Memorandum of Understanding AFL Sydney -- AFL South Coast

THE PARTIES

AFL Sydney & affiliated Clubs
(AFL)

AFL South Coast & affiliated clubs
(AFLSC)

INTRODUCTION

Clubs affiliated with the above parties are located in the Illawarra and South Coast regions or nearby. AFL Sydney and AFL South Coast senior teams draw from some common Junior AFL Clubs and operate in competitions administered by the AFL. The Parties to this agreement seek to develop a close and effective relationship. To give effect to this relationship and ensure clarity they have determined that the relationship shall be governed by this document.

PRINCIPLES

The Parties agree that the following statements of principle shall govern their relationship:

- All Parties will actively encourage individuals to play AFL. If an opportunity does not exist at one party's club, or the individual is better suited to play at the other party's club the individual will be actively encouraged towards that club.
- Players should be given the opportunity and actively encouraged to play at the highest level they can achieve.
- Whenever possible and appropriate the parties will work together to support the development of a strong and competitive junior football competition in the region.
- All parties acknowledge that whenever possible and appropriate best use is made of limited resources by sharing and using those resources co-operatively.
- The AFL strongly supports the relationship between the clubs by doing everything possible to streamline the administrative burden involved with player exchanges between clubs.

For the avoidance of doubt the parties agree that:

- There is no financial relationship between the Clubs
- No player will be compelled to make themselves available for selection with a club.

SPECIFIC AREAS OF COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY

Players

It is understood that affiliated Clubs will seek to secure the best players they can for their respective teams.

AFL South Coast clubs will actively encourage those players of a high standard to make themselves available to participate in the AFL Sydney competition.

Affected AFL Sydney Clubs will actively encourage any surplus players that emanate or are registered with AFL South Coast clubs to play with their club of origin.

For player development purposes, the Clubs will encourage those Under 17 players with identified potential to make themselves available for senior selection in AFL Sydney Clubs that draw from the regions. In doing so, AFL Sydney Clubs will have as their top priorities the welfare, safety and career development of the individual.

Player Transition

All parties to the agreement acknowledge the importance to the code of encouraging an awareness of the pathways offered by Senior affiliated clubs that are party to this agreement.

It is also acknowledged by all parties to this agreement that maximising the benefits to all is most likely to occur by all parties endeavouring to adopt and apply the initiatives outlined in the following document which all clubs should have:

- Player Transition – Youth Football to Senior Football - "The Importance of Building Relationships"

Interchange of Players

It is acknowledged that the interchange of players between the various clubs party to this agreement will be actioned on the process of permits. Players involved will retain registration with the club of origin until such time as the player themselves decide to make transition to a new club. This must occur before June 30. After that date the permit process can continue.

For players from AFL South Coast wishing to play with an AFL Sydney Club under permit or AFL Sydney players wishing to play in AFL South Coast (in either the senior or junior competitions) the following applies:

- The player only plays with one club on any weekend or round
- Details of the player are to be lodged with the governing body by email no later than 12 noon on the last business day preceding the match.
- Games played on match permit do count towards finals eligibility provided the player participates in a minimum of four (4) matches with the club under which the permit is provided to. However, if the player participates in more than eight (8) matches with any club then that club is where the player is eligible to play finals.

The spirit of this provision is to allow a club with surplus player(s) on a given match day to give these player(s) a game of football with their club of origin. It is also designed to allow a player to trial with another club which is playing in a higher competition.

Disputes

All parties acknowledge and commit to open, honest and timely communication when either party(s) becomes concerned that the spirit of this agreement is not being complied with.

If a discussion between the Presidents (or their nominated representatives) cannot resolve the issue the parties will approach the AFL to assist in mediation of the matter.

Any party reserves the right to withdraw from this agreement at the conclusion of any season.

SIGNED for and on behalf of AFL South
Coast by its duly authorised officer in the
presence of:)
)
)
)

Authorised Officer – Print
Name

Signature

SIGNED for and on behalf of AFL Sydney)
by its duly authorised officer in the)
presence of:)



Garry Burkinshaw

Authorised Officer – Print
Name



Signature