

OSFA 2023 PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM POLICY

1. Objective of the OSFA PPS Policy

The OSFA Player Points System Policy aims to support a relevant, competitive and sustainable community football competition.

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 competitions ensure competitiveness and club sustainability.

The objectives of the OSFA PPS Policy, in conjunction with the Club Sustainability Model, are as follows, to:

1. support the aims of AFL Tasmania to equalize Tasmanian community football Competitions.
2. ensure teams fielded in all Competitions are strong and as equally matched as possible;
3. provide the best opportunities for players to develop and display their skills;
4. provide opportunities to compete at a community level within an orderly and fair system;
5. enable team spirit and public support;
6. encourage community and corporate sponsorships of Community Clubs;
7. reduce the inflationary nature of player payments to assist clubs survive financially and reduce financial burden/stress on Clubs;
8. promote player loyalty and junior development;
9. support the role volunteers undertake in managing their Clubs by;
 - minimising the need to fundraise for player payments
 - providing a more competitive environment on field, that encourages more volunteers to support at Club level
 - 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 which should be adopted by OSFA Clubs in order to achieve the above objectives.

2. Definitions

2.1. **AFL** – Australian Football League.

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

2.3. **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).

2.4. **Competition** – an Australian football competition in which the Community Clubs participate in official fixtured matches.

2.5. **Competitive Football** – means any formally organised football competition excluding AFL 9s, school football and Masters football

2.6. **Competition Manager** – means the AFL Tasmania appointed and funded staff member working with the OSFA at the time.

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

2.8 **NTFL** – means the Northern Territory Football League

2.9. **National Player Transfer Regulations** – means the AFL's national policy for player transfers contained the AFL's National Community Football Handbook updated each year.

2.10. **OSFAPPS** - means the Old Scholars Football Association Player Points System

2.11. **Play HQ** – means the online competition management system utilised by the Old Scholars Football Association and all football leagues in Tasmania.

2.12. **Player membership details** – means a player's individual details provided in Play HQ.

2.13. **Player Points Allocation** – means the total number of points allocated to an individual player in a Senior 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.

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

2.15. **PPSC** – means Player Points System Committee.

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

2.17. **Season** – means Football season between 1 April and 30 September each year (or such other agreed dates).

2.18. **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 OSFA Club. A player who has completed a Season of Service is eligible for a reduction of one point should they play for the same OSFA Club in the subsequent season in accordance with this PPS Policy. These seasons do not need to be in consecutive years.

2.19. **Senior Competition** – means the Senior Competition of the OSFA.

2.20. **Senior Team** – means the team of players that participate within an OSFA Club's senior football team.

2.21. **SFL** – means the Southern Football League (Tasmania)

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

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

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

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

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 OSFA PPS Committee.

3. OSFA Player Points System Committee Responsibilities**Total Team Points**

3.1. acknowledge that the Total Team Points allocation will be capped at 45 points per Senior Team subject to the conditions of this clause 3.

3.2. 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 under clause 4.5).

3.3. 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 Clubs and the Senior Competition.

3.4. acknowledge that any decision to alter the Total Team Points cap should be approved by the OSFA PPSC.

3.5. will allocate the final figure for Total Team Points to each Senior Team for each Club for the following Season and in accordance with PPS Policy, with all points allocations to be assessed by the OSFA PPSC by 30 September each calendar year.

3.6. subject to approval of Total Team Points via the PPSC, the OSFA must 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 30th September in each calendar year (or such date other date as determined by the PPSC).

Player Points Allocation

3.7. Once determined, the Registrar/ Play HQ administrator in each club may enter the Player Point Allocations in the Play HQ system. This must be done at the time of players registration in Play HQ. The Competition Manager will review the allocations and raise any queries with the Registrar/Play HQ administrator.

3.8. As part of the Player Point Allocation process, the OSFA PPSC 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 5 days before the player’s first Senior Home and Away Match of each Season.

3.9. Once the process in clauses 3.7 – 3.8 has been undertaken, any player’s Player Point Allocation will be fixed for that Season unless the OSFA PPSC is of the view that there are exceptional circumstances relevant to a player that warrant an amendment of the Player Point Allocation during the Season.

4. Affiliated Club Responsibilities

Each affiliate OSFA Club:

4.1 will ensure that on match days the Senior Team does not exceed that Club's Total Team Points. For the avoidance of doubt, Clubs may recruit above their allocated points in any given Season but must comply with the Total Team Points allocation on match days.

4.2. may make an application to the OSFA PPSC for the allocation of additional Total Team Points in accordance with this PPS Policy (i.e for unique local circumstances). The application process is to be set down and communicated to affiliate Clubs by the PPSC.

5. Player Points Categories

5.1. 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.

5.2. 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 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):

5.2.1. Category 1 – Home Player – 1 Point

a) A player who has played only at that OSFA Club **in the previous 3 seasons**

or

b) A player who has not played Competitive Football in the previous 36 months at any level.

5.3. If a player does not meet the Category 1 'home player' eligibility above, their points Category will be assessed based on the highest playing level achieved in the following Categories:

5.3.2. Category 6 – AFL Player – 6 Points

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

5.3.3. Category 5 – State League Tier One (VFL, SANFL and WAFL) – 5 Points

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

For example, a player *would not qualify* in this category for the 2023 Season if that player has played as follows in the previous three (3) Seasons:

Season 2020– 4 games

Season 2021 – 3 games

Season 2022 – 2 games

However, a player *would* qualify in this category for the 2018 Season if that player had played as follows in the previous three (3) Seasons:

Season 2020 – 0 games

Season 2021 – 6 games

Season 2022 – 2 games; or

Season 2020 – 5 games

Season 2021 – 0 games

Season 2022 – 0 games.

NOTE: where a Category refers to "a minimum of 5 games in any of the previous 3 Seasons", the above calculation example will apply.

5.3.4. Category 4 – State League Tier 2 (TSL, and NTFL), or Coates Talent League (formerly named NAB League) – 4 Points

- a) State League Tier 2 - Player who has played a minimum of 5 senior games in the current Season or any of the previous three (3) seasons at TSL, NTFL (Northern Territory) level; or
- b) Coates Talent League (formerly NAB League) player – Player who has played a minimum 5 NAB League games in the current Season or any of the previous three (3) Seasons.

5.3.5. Category 3 – Promotional Player or Senior Community Player– 3 Points

- a) An ex 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 1st game, 6 for his second appearance, and 9 points for his 3rd etc
- b) State League Tier 1 and Tier 2 Other – Any player who has played at State League level (seniors or reserves) in the current season or any of the previous three (3) seasons and does not meet the criteria for Category 4 or 5
- c) Senior Community player – Player who has played the same number or more senior games than reserves games in any of the previous three (3) seasons at community football level (this includes the OSFA and all competitions below State League level).
- d) **Under 18s players** – If a Player is recruited from an STJFL Under 18 side and is still eligible to play STJFL Under 18's then they are to be rated (3) points.
- e) **TSL Development League Player**– These players should be attributed three (3) points in all cases, subject to deductions in line with the PPS policy.

5.3.6. Category 2 – Development Community Player – 2 Points

- a) A player who has played more reserves games than senior games in the preceding Season at community football level (this includes the OSFA and all competitions below State League level).
- b) A player no longer eligible for STJFL U18 competition. i.e. transitioning from Junior football to Senior football.

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

5.5. 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.

5.6 A player playing on a Season Permit, Local Interchange Permit or Match Day Permit as detailed in Clause 3.9 of the National Player Transfer Regulations (i.e. a Permit Player) will be assessed on the same basis as a fully transferred player.

6. Additional player point allocations:

6.1. If a player transfers to an OSFA Club from another OSFA Club an additional one-point penalty will apply (except Category 2 - Development Community Players).

6.2. 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 TSL, Coates Talent League,

under local interchange agreements, where their home club is classified as a Community Club, will not be penalised under this clause.

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

7. Deductions to player points allocation:

7.1. 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 Club (minimum 5 senior or reserves 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).

7.2. OSFA 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 OSFA 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.

7.3. Subject to the considerations which the OSFA PPSC should take into account under clause 7.2, the determination of an application for reassessment will be at the discretion of the OSFA PPSC.

8. Total Team Points

8.1. The OSFA 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 3, the starting point is that Total Team Points will be capped at **45** points and should only vary for legitimate circumstances necessary to achieve the evenness and equalisations objectives of this PPS Policy.

8.2. In order to determine variances in the **45** Total Team Points' cap, the OSFA PPSC should adopt the following guiding principles regarding the additional allocation or reduction of Total Team Points to a Club:

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

8.2.2. Additional total team points may be allocated if a Club finished last, or second last in the prior season.

8.2.3. Reduction of total team points for multiple premierships and sustained success over previous seasons.

8.2.4. 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.

8.3. Any alterations to a Community Club's Total Team Points cap under clause 8.2 or for any other reason must be prior approved by OSFA 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.

9. Implementation

9.1. The OSFA PPSC are free to publicise Total Team Points to affiliate Clubs for the following year at their own discretion once approved.

9.2. The implementation of the PPS Policy in 2023 may result in unintentional errors with the player points allocation or in other administrative activities, as the association familiarises itself with the new system. OSFA PPSC will have the discretion in 2023 to either address any of these breaches in the PPS Policy through education and training, or they may decide to apply the enforcement provisions listed below. In 2024 and beyond, all enforcement provisions should be implemented and applied.

10. Enforcement

10.1. Given Player Points Allocations will be managed via PlayHQ, if correct procedure is applied, with Players Points Allocation 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 Play HQ 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. Not will Play HQ allow a player to be selected without their Player Points having been allocated.

10.2. As detailed in clause 9.2 it will be at the discretion of OSFA PPSC as to the enforcement provisions they apply to affiliate Clubs in 2023 however from 2024 onwards, 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 OSFA PPSC;
- (e) Any other penalty determined by the OSFA PPS committee from time to time.

11. Appeal and Review

11.1. 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 OSFA PPSC under the appeals process.

11.2. 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 OSFA PPSC under their own appeals process.

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

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

12. Appendices

12.1. Player Points Deduction

PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM – CATAGORIES AND DEFINITIONS

Category 6	6 points	AFL Player	Minimum 1 AFL game in any season of any of the last 3 seasons
Category 5	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 4	4 points	State League Tier 2 (TSL,NTFL)	Minimum 5 Senior games in the current season or any of the previous 3 seasons
Category 4	4 Points	Coates Talent League (formerly NAB League) player	Minimum 5 Coates Talent League games in the current season or any of the previous three (3) seasons
Category 3	3 points	Promotional Player	Ex AFL player who is engaged for a promotion game. Points will accrue for each game of the season he plays for during the same year. i.e. 1 st game 3 point. 2 nd appearance 6 points etc etc.
Category 3	3 Points	State League Tier 1/2 (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 4 or 5
Category 3	3 Points	Senior Community Player	A Senior Community Player who has played the same number or more Senior games over Reserves games in any of the previous 3 seasons. Under 18 player still eligible for STJFL Under 18's.
Category 2	2 points	Development Community Player	Played more Reserves than Senior games in the preceding season with another community Club.
Category 2	2 points	Transferred Junior	Player no longer eligible for STJFL U18 competition.
Category 1	1 point	New player	A player who has not participated in an AFL Tas affiliated competition in the previous 3 years or at all. This includes players who have only played school football.

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 Club (minimum 5 senior or reserves games per Season), even if not in consecutive years, until the player reaches 1 point.

NOTE: Refer to Section 6 – namely rule 6.1. **If a player transfers to an OSFA Club from another OSFA Club, an additional one-point penalty will apply (except Category 2 - Development Community Players).**