

DEFINITION

Following the introduction of the WACFL paid Player Bylaws in 2017 a Paid Player Payment is categorised as:

- Football Match Payments;
- Approved Travel Payments;
- Approved Coaching Payments (for Playing Coaches);
- Approved Relocation Payments;
- After Match Best Player Awards;
- Fairest and Best Awards;

WACFL defines a paid player as any WACFL registered player that receives any payment for playing football or participating in a football club.

The only transfer of money, goods or services able to sit outside of the term “Player Payment” is post-match best player awards, approved travel payments, approved coaching payments, club meals and insurance upgrades for players.

For the point of the WACFL’s Paid Player Bylaws, all other transfers of money, goods or services will be considered player payments and therefore must be included in any match and player calculations.

4.1 No WACFL Team is to pay out a combined total of greater than \$3,000 in total player payments in any given match unless Bylaws 4.4(b), 4.4(c) and 4.4(d) can be applied, in which case the amount may increase by that applied amount.

4.2 No WACFL Club is to pay a player a ‘Sign on Fee’ or provide any subsidiary benefits (outside of employment, relocation costs and match fees) to any player. Any relocation costs must be provided to the League for tracking and approval. Insurance provided to players specifically adding protection around the playing of football is deemed to be outside of the WACFL Paid Player Bylaws and is allowed.

4.2.1 Clubs can make reimbursement to a player to for any medical gap’s expenses associated with an injury sustained whilst playing football. Clubs are required to keep copies of the invoices (such as Medicare statements) that clearly identify the insurance gap for which reimbursement payments are being made.

4.3 The maximum match payment a player can receive is \$500 per match. A maximum amount of \$150 per match is able to be paid to a Reserves grade player for any one match to help with travel costs. A player cannot receive a payment for more than one match on one weekend. A

player who receives a payment for a reserves match is unable to play in a League match on that weekend. Reserves Payments should be noted on the Paid Player Spreadsheet.

4.3.1 Flights to and from matches are exempt from Paid Player Bylaws.

4.4 The only possible exceptions to Bylaw 4.3 are as follows:

a) Each WACFL Club is allowed to pay one 'Marquee Player' up to \$1,000 per match provided the player meets the listed criteria (see Bylaw 4.8).

b) Each WACFL Club is allowed to pay a 'one off' undisclosed match payment to a celebrity footballer who transfers in for one match to promote football. This payment will sit outside of the salary cap. This player must have played AFL and this payment must be approved by the League prior to him playing.

c) A playing coach is allowed to receive up to \$1,000 per match. A maximum of \$500 of this amount can sit outside of the total match ceiling listed in Bylaw 4.1.

d) A player can qualify to receive a travel fee (\$150 maximum) for matches in which the player travels greater than 500 km (return) from their place of residence to attend.

This payment must be approved by the League prior to payment, it must be recorded on the WACFL's Paid Player Spreadsheet.

e) A Marquee Player that is also a playing coach is allowed to receive up to \$1,500 per match, \$500 of which can sit outside of the total match ceiling as per Bylaw 4.4 (c).

4.5 Any WACFL Club paying individuals match payments relating to Country Football must ensure payments are legally compliant and all player payments must be recorded on the WACFL's Paid Player Spreadsheet for auditing purposes. For all WACFL Clubs paying players outside of Best Player Awards, the following paperwork must be supplied by the club directly to the WACFL where appropriate:

4.5.1 All Club Presidents must submit to the League (prior to the start of the season) a signed Club Paid Player Declaration as per the WACFL's Club Paid Player Declaration paperwork.

4.5.2 All proposed Marquee Player payments must be submitted to the WACFL for approval using the WACFL Marquee Player Approval form.

4.5.3 All proposed Playing Coach payments must be submitted to the WACFL for approval using the WACFL Playing Coach Approval form.

4.5.4 All proposed Travel payments must be submitted to the WACFL for approval using the

WACFL Travel Payment Approval form.

4.5.5 All Clubs making player payments must submit a completed WACFL Paid Player Spreadsheet to the WACFL after each game.

4.6 No WACFL Club is to pay out greater than \$500 in total player prize money (or goods to the value of) for any given match. A player is unable to receive greater than \$100 in prize money (or goods or services to the value of) per match. All prizes must be recorded in the WACFL's Paid Player Spreadsheet. A maximum amount of \$1,000 can be paid out to a Club Best and Fairest winner, with a maximum of \$500 for a Runner Up and a maximum of three more descending (<\$500) amounts allowed. No other ex gratia payments should be provided to players during or at the completion of the football season.

4.7 For Marquee Players and Player Coaches receiving greater than \$500 in payments per match, the Club must ensure the following conditions are met:

- a) The Marquee Player or Player Coach must have a signed Standard Playing Declaration lodged with the WACFL prior to three business days before the player participates in a sanctioned match.
- b) Payment to a Marquee Player does not alter Bylaw 4.1.
- c) Application can be made for Coaches (that occasionally play) to fall outside of the salary cap provided they are not considered playing coaches, but occasionally play due to diminishing numbers. This application should be made through the WACFL and will be at the League's discretion.

4.8 For a player to qualify as a Marquee Player he must fill a minimum of one of the following criteria:

- a) Been on an AFL Club list (including Rookie List).
- b) Played a minimum of 50 State League (League grade) games.
- c) Have written approval from the WACFL based on elite performances in Country League and Representative achievements. This will be at the WACFL's discretion.

4.9 A League playing coach is the only player able to receive remuneration for coaching within the League team. A League Player is able to receive a maximum of \$100 per match (outside of the cap in 4.1) to assist with the coaching of any other team within that Club (capped at one player per team). This is subject to approval by the WACFL.

4.10 WACFL reserves the right to investigate any Ex-Gratia Payments (or services provided) made to

a player, or his family, which it deems (or suspects) to have been made with the intention of circumventing the requirements of the Paid Player Bylaws and in exchange for the payment of playing in football matches for the Club. This includes payments made either by the Club or by a third party.

4.11 WACFL reserves the right to investigate any Club based Employment Payments made to a player, or his family, which it deems (or suspects) to be in exchange for the payment of playing in football matches for the Club rather than in exchange for the services rendered.

4.12 The WACFL Paid Player Bylaws are all encompassing across all Affiliated Country Leagues. The individualisation of these bylaws to suit a specific League will only be valid should the League have first obtained the WACFL's approval.