



1. Objective of the Southern FNL Player Points System

Southern FNL in conjunction with Netball Victoria believes the equalisation of community netball competitions is vital for the growth and sustainability of community netball. The Southern FNL Netball Player Points System (PPS) has been created as an equalization measure for the Netball competitions in the Southern FNL.

Even, fair, competitions lead to interest in growth in participation, which leads to stronger clubs and stronger competitions. Even competitions allow players, 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 has an even chance of winning. This mindset motivates people to become and remain engaged with their community club and provide rewards and recognition to all those that assist in putting a team out on the court.

The objectives of the Southern FNL PPS policy are as follows, to:

1. Promote player loyalty and junior development
2. Support the role of volunteers undertake in managing their clubs by:
 - 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 Netball, a welcoming environment and growing the game within the local community
3. Support the Equalisation of the community netball competitions
4. Ensure teams fielded in the competitions are strong and as equally matched as possible
5. Provide the best opportunities for players to develop and display their skills
6. Provide opportunities to compete at a community level within an orderly and fair system
7. Enable team spirit and public support
8. Encourage community and corporate sponsorships of Community Clubs

This PPS policy sets out a framework of rules and guiding principles in relation to a player points system which should be adopted by community clubs in order to achieve the above objectives.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 Affiliate Club – A Club that participates in the Southern FNL competition
- 2.2 AMMNA – Australian Men’s and Mixed Netball Association
- 2.3 ANC- Australian Netball Championships
- 2.4 Category- Player points category which determines the base allocation of the Player Points Allocation for a player
- 2.5 Competition- Victorian Netball competition in which the community club participates in official fixtured matches
- 2.6 Football Netball League- Netball competition that is run in conjunction with local Australian Rules Football Competitions
- 2.7 First Home & Away Match- First official competition match for the home and away season of a competition
- 2.8 Netball Victoria- Netball Victoria state governing body
- 2.9 Player Points Allocation- 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 accordance with this PPS policy
- 2.10 PPS Policy- Community club sustainability player points policy as amended by Netball Victoria from time to time
- 2.11 Season- Community netball season between April 1st and 30 September each year (or such agreed dates)
- 2.12 Season of Service- Season where a player has player the minimum qualification requirements in a senior grade as stipulated in the Football Netball Leagues By Laws
- 2.13 Southern FNL – Southern Football Netball League
- 2.14 SSN – Suncorp Super Netball
- 2.15 Total Team Points- Total amount of points allocated to a specific senior team by a Football Netball League for each season in accordance with this PPS policy
- 2.16 VNL- Victorian Netball League
- 2.17 VMMNA – Victorian Men’s & Mixed Netball Association

3. Southern FNL Responsibilities

Southern FNL will ensure the following with each affiliated Club:

- 3.1 Southern FNL acknowledge that the Total Team Points allocation will be capped at 22 points per A1 team and A2 team subject to the condition of clause 3.
- 3.2 Will consider all applications from affiliate clubs for the allocation of Total Team Points in accordance with this PPS policy.
- 3.3 May allocate additional points or apply deductions to Total Team Points to specific Affiliated Clubs in accordance with the PPS policy to manage unique local conditions and meet the needs of local affiliate clubs and the relevant senior competition.

- 3.4 Acknowledge that any decision to alter the 22-point Total Team Points cap should be approved by Southern FNL.
- 3.5 Will allocate the final figure for Total Team Points to each A1 & A2 team of affiliate Clubs for the following season and in accordance with the PPS policy, with all points allocations to be lodged (28) twenty-eight days prior to the Round 1 of competition.

Player Points Allocation

- 3.6 Southern FNL will liaise with affiliate Clubs to ensure Player Point Allocations are entered via the Netball Operations Coordinator prior to any player's first A1/A2 match of each season and will confirm the Player Point Allocations entered by the affiliate Club.
- 3.7 Clubs may seek re-assessment of any player's Player Point Allocation. All reassessment against a Player Point Allocation should be made to the Netball Operations Coordinator no later than 4 days prior to the Player's first A1/A2 match of each season.
- 3.8 Once the process in clauses 3.6 and 3.7 have been undertaken, any player's Player Point Allocation will be fixed until such time they play 4 or more games in a higher category (Category 1 & 2 players are not subject to these changes)

4. Affiliated Club Responsibilities

Each Affiliated Club

- 4.1 Will determine each Player's Points Allocation for its A1 & A2 squads. This determination may include any additions or deductions applicable to each player in accordance with this PPS Policy. See clauses 5, 6 and 7 to assist.
- 4.2 Will submit Player Points Allocations to Netball Operations Coordinator 28 days prior to the relevant affiliate Club's first match of each season, or 4 days before a player's first A1/A2 match if they have joined the Club after the commencement of that season.
- 4.3 Provide accurate information to Southern FNL pertaining to the relevant playing history of new recruits to aid with a Player Points assessments.
- 4.4 Acknowledges that if an affiliate Club does not follow this procedure and decides to play a player in a match in an A1/A2 match, who has not had their Player Points Allocation approved and submitted to the Netball Operations Coordinator, that club will risk of any subsequent enforcement penalty as determined by Southern FNL in accordance with this PPS Policy
- 4.5 Will ensure on match days their A1/A2 Team does not exceed that Club's Total Team Points. For the avoidance of doubt, Affiliate Clubs may recruit above their allocated points in any given Season but must comply with the Total Team Points allocation on match days.
- 4.6 May make an application to the Southern Football Netball League for the allocation of additional Total Team Points in accordance with this PPS Policy (i.e. for unique local circumstances).

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 A1/A2 Team of an Affiliated Club will be allocated a Category and a Player Points Allocation as follows,
- 5.3 All new players will be categorised based on their highest level of playing ability from the current year and previous 2 years.

5.3.1 Category 6 - International Player/National Netball Competition- 6 Points

- a. A contracted Super Netball player, or other National competition equivalent
- b. A player who has represented their Country in an International fixture.

5.3.2 Category 5 - VNL Open/ANC/Super Netball Training Partner – 5 Points

- a. A player who has taken the court at the Australian Netball Championships
- b. A Super Netball training partner
- c. A player who has taken to the court in four (4) games or more in a season in the VNL Championship division (or equivalent state competition in their highest division)

5.3.3 Category 4 - VNL 23&U or State Representative – 4 points

- a. A Player that has represented their State at a 19/U or 17/U National Championships
- b. A Player that has represented their State in the AMMNA National Championships
- c. A Player who has taken to the court in four (4) games or more in a season in the VNL Division 1 or 19/U Division (or equivalent state competition in their reserve division).
- d. A registered player in the VNL 23&U division
- e. A Player who has taken to the court in four (4) games or more in any Premier Open age VMMNA Competition

5.3.4 Category 3 – Senior Community Player and Elite 19/U Development Players – 3 Points

- a. A Player who has taken to the court in four (4) games or more in a season for A grade in another FNL in the previous 3 years
- b. A Player who has taken to the court in four (4) games or more in a season in A1/A2 in the Southern FNL
- c. A Player who has taken to the court in four (4) games or more in a season in the 19/U State Netball Super Series Division 1 or in a VNL Development Team.
- d. A Player who has taken to the court in four (4) games or more in any Division 1 Open age VMMNA Competition

5.3.5 Category 2- Development Community Player- 2 Points

- a. A Player who has taken to the court in four (4) games or more in a season in B Grade or lower in a FNL in the previous 3 years
- b. A Player who has taken to the court in four (4) games or more in A3 or lower in the Southern FNL

5.3.6 Category 1- Home Player – 1 Point

- a. A Player who has played only at that Affiliated Club for four (4) or more years
- b. A Player who has not played Competitive Netball (inclusive but not limited to, any Saturday netball competition or Premier Netball competition) in the Previous 3 years

5.4 Once a player has reached a higher category criterion than originally classified, the player's points must be reassessed, and points will be allocated based on the higher category.

5.5 An Affiliate Club that has a player that does not meet any of the above player Categories will need to apply to the Southern FNL to determine the appropriate Player Points Allocation prior to the commencement of the season, or the player's first A1/A2 match. In determining the Player Points Allocation, the Southern FNL will have referred to all relevant factors so as not to unreasonably restrict the player's movement between Affiliate Clubs or a player's opportunity to play Netball at a club of their choice.

5.6 For the purpose 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.

6. Additional player point allocations

6.1 Where a player has registered at three (3) or more different Southern FNL Clubs in three (3) seasons, one additional point will be applied to that player's Player Point Allocations. In determining the 3 season's timeframe, clubs shall assess the current or upcoming season as the first season along with the previous two (2) seasons, as detailed in the examples below.

Club A- 2022 Season, Club B- 2023 Season, Club C- 2024 Season

6.2 An Affiliate Club may make an application for a re-assessment under clause 7.3 to the Netball Operations Coordinator in relation to a player's additional points allocation.

6.3 Where an Affiliate Club requests clearance for three (3) or more A1/A2 players from another Affiliate Club's A1/A2 team, an additional one-point penalty will be applied to the third player, and any subsequent players requesting clearance. This is only applicable for consecutive seasons.

7. Deductions and Amendments 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' that player has given to a Club, 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 A Season of service is classified as eight (8) or more games in a season. For the purpose of this clause, 2020 is not considered a season, and five (5) games will be considered a season in 2021.

7.3 Where a player qualifies in more than one category based on their playing level, the Category with the highest points will apply.

7.4 The Southern FNL may, acting reasonably, reassess an individual player's Player Points Allocation where it is deemed inappropriate based on playing history and circumstances. Affiliate Clubs may make an application detailing relevant evidence regarding the reassessment of a player to the Southern FNL. 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

8. Player Points System Restrictions

8.1 Players who are Category 5 or 6 within the PPS may only compete in a Club's A1 or A2 team.

8.2 Players who are Category 4 within the PPS may only compete in a Club's A1, A2 or A3 team. No further deductions will be applicable if playing in A3.

8.3 A maximum of two (2) players from Category 4 will be able to take the court at any one time in A3.

8.4 Players who are Category 3 within the PPS may only play in a Club's A1, A2, A3 or A4 team. No further deductions will be applicable if playing in A3 or A4.

9. Total Team Points

9.1 Southern FNL will undertake their own process of Total Team Points allocations and will be responsible for determining Total Team Points for their affiliate A1/A2 Affiliate Clubs. As stated under

clause 3, the starting point is that Total Team Points will be capped at 22 points and should only vary for legitimate circumstances to achieve evenness and equalisation objectives of this PPS Policy.

9.2 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. Team lists must consist of a minimum of 9 listed players and a maximum 12 listed players. It is at the club's discretion to the number of players listed between 9-12 however the Total Team Points calculated for the listed players must not exceed the clubs Total Team Point Allocation.

9.3 Where a team has less than 9 players on their Team List, each remaining available spot shall be worth 2 points. I.e A Club has 7 players listed for a match equating to 18 points, they must add an additional 4 points to accommodate the 2 missing players which will take their total team points to 22.

10. Enforcement

10.1 Player Points Allocations will be managed via the Southern FNL Netball Operations Coordinator and other Southern FNL staff.

10.2 Should any Club knowingly make a false or incorrect declaration regarding Player Points Allocations, the Club may be penalised by the Southern FNL 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;
- (e) Any other penalty determined by the Southern FNL

In applying any enforcements provisions in relation to any breach of the PPS Policy, the Southern FNL shall take into consideration whether the breach was assessed as

- Unintentional- where a club had not been provided with accurate information
- Interpretive- where a club had applied the policy in a manner that the policy was not intended
- Intentional- where a clear breach had occurred with little or no regard to the requirements of the policy

11. Appeal and Review

11.1 Where an Affiliate Club is of the view that a player's Player Points Allocation is deemed inappropriate under this Player Points Policy following a reassessment conducted by the Netball Operations Coordinator, an appeal against that Player Points Application must be heard by the Southern FNL under the appeals process.

11.2 Where a Club is of the view that its own Total Team Points is deemed inappropriate following a reassessment by the Netball Operations Coordinator, an appeal against the Total Player Points must be heard by the Southern FNL under the appeals process.

11.3 An appeal against a decision to apply an enforcement provision under this PPS should be made via the Netball Operations Coordinator and will be reviewed by a panel appointed by the Southern FNL

11.4 Southern FNL reserves the right to review and amend a player's points value should new information be brought to light that had not been previously disclosed, and impacts on a player's points assessment.