



AFL Barwon Female
Player Points System
Policy



Reviewed July 2023

AFL BARWON FEMALE PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM (PPS) POLICY

1. Objective of the PPS Policy

The AFL Barwon Female Player Points System (PPS) has been created as an equalization measure for the Female football competitions in the AFL Barwon Region. The policy is being implemented in the infancy of the competition to reduce the impact on clubs once the competition has been established. This Policy is to be read in conjunction with the AFL Barwon Local PPS By Laws document.

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, and the like in order to help competitions ensure competitiveness and club sustainability.

The objectives of the AFL Barwon Female PPS Policy are as follows, to:

1. support equalization of Female Football Competitions;
2. ensure teams fielded in the 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. promote player loyalty and junior development;
8. support the role 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 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 Community Clubs in order to achieve the above objectives.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. **AFLW** – Australian Football League Women's.
- 2.2. **AFL Victoria** - means Australian Football League (Victoria) Limited ACN 147 664 579.
- 2.3. **Category** – means the player points category which determines the base allocation of the Player Points Allocation for a player.
- 2.4. **CWD** – Canberra Women's Division

- 2.5. **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 VFLW or Talent League Cup Girls).
- 2.6. **Competition** – means an Australian football competition in which the Community Clubs participate in official fixtured matches.
- 2.7. **Competitive Football** – means any formally organised football competition conducted by a Metropolitan League or Region Commission excluding AFL 9s, and school football.
- 2.8. **First Home and Away Match** – means the first official competition match for the home and away season of a Competition.
- 2.9. **PlayHQ System** – means the online competition management system implemented by football competitions across Victoria.
- 2.10. **National Player Transfer Regulations** – means the AFL's national policy for player transfers as updated by the AFL from time to time.
- 2.11. **NTWFL** – Northern Territory Women's Football League
- 2.12. **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.
- 2.13. **PPS Policy** - means the community club sustainably player point's policy as amended by AFL Victoria from time to time.
- 2.14. **PPP (Player Points Panel)** – means the AFL Barwon committee designated to manage the allocation of player points values and applications of reductions.
- 2.15. **QWFL** – Queensland Women's Football League
- 2.16. **SANFL** – means the South Australian Statewide Super Women's League.
- 2.17. **Season** – means Community 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 female 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 season(s) in accordance with this PPS Policy.
- 2.19. **Senior Competition** – means the senior or 1st grade Competition within any league or division of a Competition.

- 2.20. **Senior Team** – means the team of players that participate within a Community Club's senior or Open age football team.
- 2.21. **SWPD** – Sydney Women's Premier Division
- 2.22. **The Commission** – means the AFL Barwon Commission
- 2.23. **TSLW** – means the Tasmanian State League Women's.
- 2.24. **Total Team Points** – means the total amount of points allocated to a specific Senior Team by the Region Commission for each Season in accordance with this PPS Policy.
- 2.25. **VFLW** – means the Victorian Football League Women's.
- 2.26. **WAWFL** – means the Western Australia Women's Football League.

Interpretation:

A reference to:

"Aligned Junior Club" is where seniors and juniors exist under the same constitution, or where there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place between standalone senior and junior clubs that is approved by a Metropolitan League or Region Commission. To be considered an 'Aligned Junior Club' an MoU must be approved by the relevant Metropolitan League(s) and/or Region Commission(s) to ensure appropriate player pathways exist using the document detailed at Attachment 11.3 of this policy.

"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 Region Commission.

Victorian affiliated Community Club means a Community Club affiliated to a Victorian based Metropolitan League or Region Commission by way of an authorised licence or affiliation agreement.

3. AFL Barwon Commission Responsibilities

Total Team Points

- 3.1. Determine the maximum permitted Total Team Points that may be allocated to any individual club for the ensuing season.
- 3.2. Determine the Total Team Points allocation per Senior Team for the ensuing season.
- 3.3. will consider all applications from Community Clubs for the allocation of additional Total Team Points in accordance with AFL Barwon Local PPS By Laws.
- 3.4. may allocate additional points or apply deductions to Total Team Points to specific Community Clubs in accordance with the AFL Barwon Local PPS By Laws to manage unique local conditions and meet the needs of local Community Clubs and the relevant senior Competitions.

Player Points Allocation

- 3.5. 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 and will review the Player Point Allocations entered by the Community Club.
- 3.6. as part of the Player Point Allocation process, The Commission may provide the opportunity for Clubs to seek a reassessment of any player's Player Point Allocation. Any reassessment against a Player Point Allocation should be made in accordance with the AFL Barwon Local PPS By Laws.
- 3.7. once the process in clauses 3.4 and 3.5 has been undertaken, any player's Player Point Allocation will be fixed for that Season.

4. Affiliated Club Responsibilities

Each affiliate Community Club:

- 4.1. will determine each player's Player Points Allocation for its Senior Team. This determination may include any additions or deductions applicable to each player in accordance with this PPS Policy. See appendices 11.1 and 11.2 for applicable PPS table and flow chart to assist in this process.
- 4.2. will enter Player Points Allocations into each relevant player's membership details using the PlayHQ System prior to the relevant Community Club's First Home and Away Match of each Season, or a player's first Senior Home and Away Match of each Season
- 4.3. acknowledges that if a Community Club does not follow this procedure and decides to play a player in a match in a Senior Competition, who has not had their Player Points Allocation reviewed and entered into the PlayHQ System, that Club will bear the risk of any subsequent enforcement penalty as determined by The Commission in accordance with this PPS Policy.

- 4.4. will ensure that on match days the Senior Team does not exceed that Club's Total Team Points. For the avoidance of doubt, Community Clubs may recruit above their allocated points in any given Season but must comply with the Total Team Points allocation on match days.
- 4.5. may make an application to the AFL Barwon Commission for the allocation of additional Total Team Points in accordance with the AFL Barwon Local PPS By Laws (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 Senior Team of a Community Club will be allocated a Category and a Player Points Allocation as follows:
 - 5.2.1. Category 1 – Home Player – 1 Point
 - a) Player who has played 40 or more games over a minimum of 3 seasons at the aligned junior club up to and including U19 Competition; or
 - b) Player who has played a minimum of 5 games in each of any 5 consecutive seasons for the club or the aligned junior club up to and including Under 19's or
 - c) A player who has played only at that Community Club or an aligned junior club, and for no other Community Club; or
 - d) A player who has not played Competitive Football in the previous 36 months.

NOTE: Under the Category 1 definition, a player may be categorised as a 'home player' at more than one Community Club.

- 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 prior to the player joining the current club in the following Categories:
 - 5.3.1. Category 5 – AFLW Player – 6 Points
Player who has played a minimum of one AFLW game in any of the current or previous three (3) Seasons.
 - 5.3.2. Category 4 – State League – 5 Points
Played at least 5 senior games of VFLW, SANFL, WAWFL, QWFL, TSLW, SWPD, CWD or NTWFL in any of the current or previous 3 seasons.
 - 5.3.3. Category 3 – Under 18 Girls Talent Pathway Competition and Premium Community Player – 4 Points
 - a) Talent Pathway player - who has played a minimum 5 Talent Pathway Cup games in any of the current or previous three (3) Seasons; or
 - b) Premium Community player – 4 points

Commented [SA1]: Removed as no longer relevant.

- c) Who has transferred as a senior community player from a club competing in the highest grade of a divisional structure. Or
- d) Who has transferred from a community club who fielded multiple senior teams and played the same number or more games in total for their highest graded senior team, over the current and previous three (3) Seasons at community football level.

5.3.4. Category 2 – Senior Community Player and Transferred Junior Player – 3 Points

- a) Senior Community player – 3 points
 - A Player who has transferred as a senior community player from a club who were not competing in the highest grade of a senior divisional structure. Or
 - Who has transferred from a community club who fielded multiple senior teams and played more games in total for their lower graded senior team, over the current and previous three (3) Seasons at community football level.
- B) Transferred Junior – a player who was recruited from an U19's (or younger) Competition and who does not meet Category 1 eligibility.

- 5.4. A Community Club that has a player that does not meet any of the above player Categories will need to apply to their affiliate Player Points Panel and Region Commission to determine the appropriate Player Points Allocation. In determining the Player Points Allocation, the Region Commission 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 their 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 an Interchange Agreement as detailed at clause 3.9 of the National Player Transfer Regulations (i.e. a permit player) will be assessed on the same basis as transferred players.

6. Additional player point allocations:

Where a player has registered at three (3) or more different Community Clubs in three (3) seasons, one additional point will be applied to that player's Player Points Allocation. 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 example below.

Club A – 2024 season
 Club B – 2023 season
 Club C – 2022 season

For the avoidance of doubt, player movements under a permit arrangement e.g. to a State League, Talent Pathways Girls, NTFL club or under local interchange agreements, where their home club is classified as a Victorian affiliated Community Club, will not be penalised under this clause.

- 6.1. A Community Club may make an application for a re-assessment under clause 7.3 to the PPP in relation to a player's additional point allocation.

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' to that player's Community Club (minimum 5 games per season in a senior team), 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 their Club, they must play 5 games in their club's highest graded senior team to meet the criteria for a Season of Service point reduction.
- 7.2. 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, hence the use of the flow chart in appendix 2 (Category 1 - Home Players are excluded).
- 7.3. The PPP may, acting reasonably, and in accordance with the AFL Barwon Local PPS By-Laws document reassess an individual player's Player Points Allocation where it is deemed inappropriate based on playing history and circumstances. In addition, Community Clubs may make an application in accordance with the Local PPS By Laws detailing relevant evidence regarding the reassessment of a player to the PPP.

8. Total Team Points

- 8.1. The Commission 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. Any alterations to a Community Club's Total Team Points cap for any other reason must be prior approved by the PPP subcommittee.
- 8.2. 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 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.
- 8.3. For exceptional circumstances (i.e. not having enough players to field a full Senior Team) 2 points will be added for each player under the limit. (ie if 18 players are listed, and the maximum number of players is 22, then 8 points will be added to the total of allocated points for the 18 listed players.) Required procedures for these circumstances will be advised by AFL Barwon.

9. Enforcement

- 9.1. The Player Points Allocations will be managed via the PlayHQ System, 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 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 point's cap.
- 9.2. Should any Club make a false or incorrect declaration regarding Player Points Allocations, the Club may be penalised by the Commission as outlined below.
- 9.3. Penalties may include (without limitation):
 - (a) Loss of premiership points – current season and in the future
 - (b) Suspension from finals – current season and in the future
 - (c) Club fines
 - (d) Relegation (when in a divisional competition)
 - (e) Player / Official suspensions – for those players/ officials that knowingly provide false information to the Club;
 - (f) Any other penalty determined by the Commission.

In applying any enforcements provisions in relation to any breach of the PPS Policy, The Commission 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 than was the policy was not intended.
- Intentional - where a clear breach had occurred with little or no regard to the requirements of the policy.

10. Appeal and Review

- 10.1. Where a Community Club is of the view that a player's Player Points Allocation is deemed inappropriate under this PPS Policy following a reassessment conducted by the PPP, an appeal against that Player Points Allocation must be submitted to The Commission in accordance with the Local PPS By Laws.
- 10.2. Where a Club is of the view that its own Total Team Points is deemed inappropriate following a reassessment by the PPP, an appeal against that Player Points Allocation must be submitted to The Commission in accordance with the Local PPS By Laws.
- 10.3. The PPP will review the PPS Policy and Local By Laws throughout each Season.

11. Appendices

11.1. Player Points Categories Tables

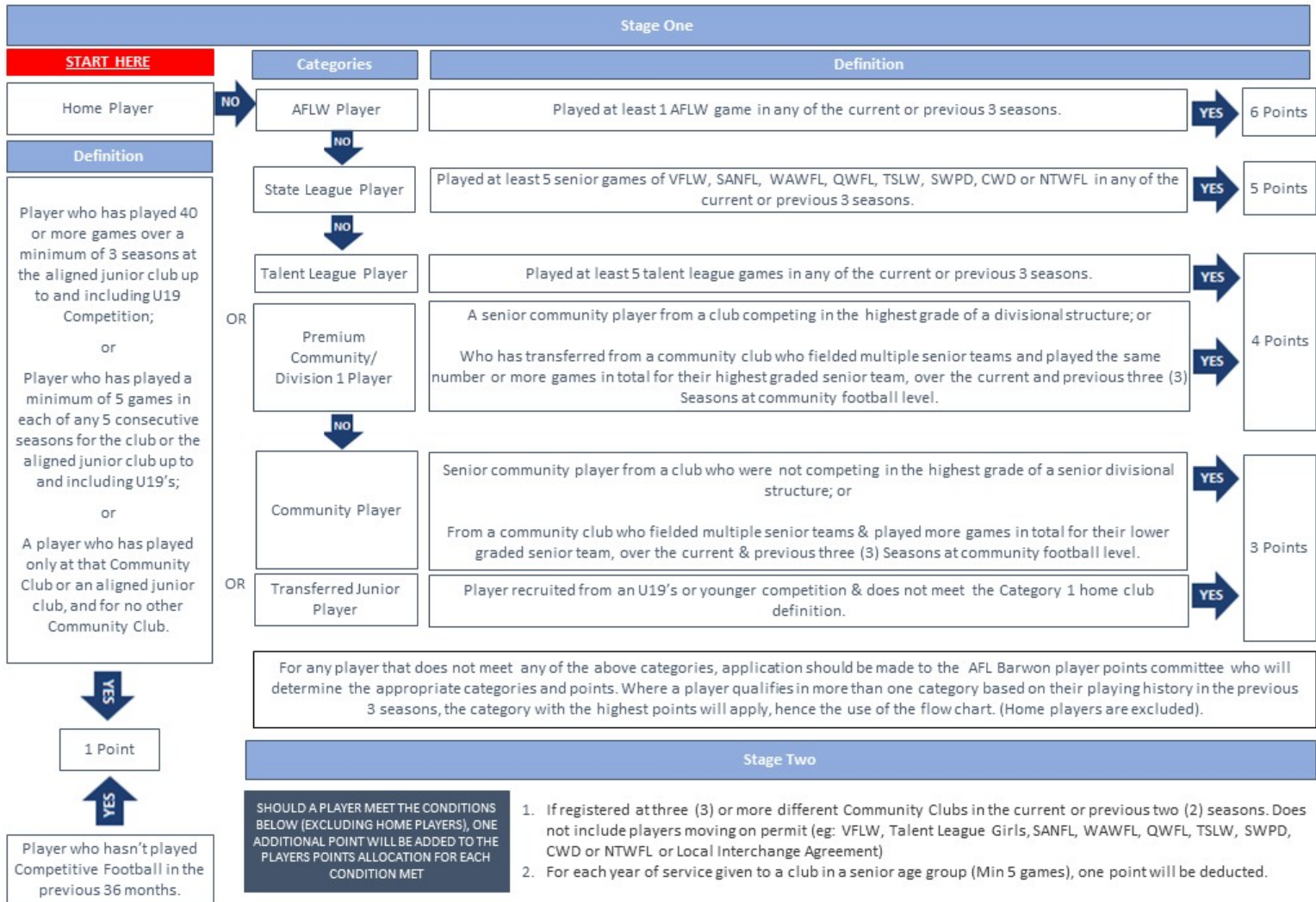
PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM – CATAGORIES AND DEFINITIONS			
Category 5	6 points	AFLW Player	Played at least 1 AFLW game in any of the current or previous 3 seasons.
Category 4	5 points	State League (post 2016)	Played at least 5 senior games of VFLW, SANFL, WAWFL, QWFL, TSLW, SWPD, CWD or NTWFL in any of the current or previous 3 seasons.
Category 3	4 points	Talent Pathway Girls	Played at least 5 Talent Pathway Girls games in any of the current or previous 3 seasons.
		Premium Community Player	Played 3 division 1 football games in previous three seasons
Category 2	3 points	External Community Player	Played 3 senior games in any of the previous 3 seasons.
		Division 2 or lower local community player	Played a greater number of game's in their club's second side, or played division 2 or lower in the previous 3 seasons.
		Transferred Junior	Player recruited from an U19's or younger competition and does not meet the Category 1 home club definition.
Category 1	1 point	Home Player	Played 40 or more games over a minimum 3 seasons at that club or aligned junior club up to and including U19 competitions.
			Player who has played a minimum of 5 games in each of the 5 consecutive seasons for the club or the aligned junior club up to and including Under 19's.
			Player who has only played at that club or aligned junior club.
			Player who hasn't played Competitive football in the previous 36 months.

Note: For any player that does not meet any of the above categories will need to apply to the PPP who will determine the appropriate categories and points

Additional Penalty Player Points	Additional 1 point	If registered at three (3) or more different Community Clubs in the current or previous two (2) seasons. Does not include players moving on permit (eg: VFLW, Talent league Girls, SANFL, WAWFL, QWFL, TSLW, SWPD, CWD or NTWFL or Local Interchange Agreement)
Deductions for Player Points	Deduct 1 point	For each season of service to the club (minimum 5 senior games per season), even if not in consecutive years, until the player reaches 1 point Note: if the player is eligible for underage football at that club, they must play 5 games in their club's highest graded senior team to meet the criteria for a year of service.
Note: The PPP may reassess an individual players points classification where it is deemed inappropriate based on playing history		
Note: Where a player qualifies in more than one category based on their playing history in the previous 3 seasons, the category with the highest points will apply, hence the use of the flow chart. (Home players are excluded).		

Commented [SA2]: Removed the application of additional point for moving to a club within the same league.

11.2 – Player Points Assessment Flowchart



11.3 Memorandum of Understanding



**SENIOR / JUNIOR CLUB ALIGNMENT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made on the _____ day of _____ 20__.

BETWEEN _____ FOOTBALL CLUB.
("Senior Club")

AND _____ FOOTBALL CLUB.
("Junior Club")

(the Parties)

The Senior Club is an affiliated Senior member of the _____ Football League
The Junior Club is an affiliated Junior member of the _____ Football League

1. Background

- A. Australian Football League (Victoria) Limited (**AFL Victoria**) has implemented a Player Points System Policy (**PPS Policy**) to support community football club sustainability, equalisation of community football competitions and to promote junior development (**Objectives**).
- B. The Junior Club party to this Memorandum of Understanding (**MOU**) will be recognised as an “**Aligned Junior Club**” in accordance with the PPS Policy.
- C. An Aligned Junior Club player is eligible for Player Point Allocation categorisation in accordance with the PPS Policy as amended by AFL Victoria from time to time.
- D. The Parties agree to comply with the terms and conditions set out in this MOU and the Objectives of the PPS Policy.
- E. Each Party will cooperate to maximize the opportunities for junior players to move to senior football through the Senior Club’s pathway competition (e.g. Under 19/ Under 18). This may include permit arrangements approved by the affiliated governing bodies where players are still eligible to play junior football.

2. Commencement of Agreement

The Parties agree that this MOU shall commence from dd/mm/yyyy, and following signing by relevant Clubs, Region Commissions, Metropolitan Leagues and AFL Victoria as applicable

Please note that any Junior games played prior to this date with the Junior club detailed in this MoU will not be included in assessing if a junior player meets the requirements of the Home Player category.

3. Amendment

This MoU may not be varied except by a written instrument duly executed on behalf of each Party.

4. No Partnership, No Agency

Each of the Parties shall in all other respects, remain independent of each other and nothing in this MoU shall be construed as creating a relationship of partnership, principal and agent or of trustee and beneficiary.

The Parties acknowledge that words and definitions defined in the PPS Policy shall bear the same meaning in this MOU and to the extent of any inconsistency between this MoU and the PPS Policy, the PPS Policy shall take priority.

SIGNED for an on behalf of _____ **Football Club (Senior Club)**

..... President Name
..... Signature/ /..... Date of signing

SIGNED for an on behalf of _____ **Football Club (Junior Club)**

..... President Name
..... Signature/ /..... Date of signing

SIGNED for an on behalf of **Metropolitan League/ Region Commission (of the Senior Club)**

..... C.E.O / Region Managers name
..... Signature/..... / Date of signing

SIGNED for an on behalf of **Metropolitan League/ Region Commission (of the Junior Club, if different to where Senior Club is affiliated)**

..... C.E.O / Region Managers name
..... Signature/..... /..... Date of signing

SIGNED for an on behalf of **AFL Victoria**

..... Football Operations Manager name
..... Signature/..... / Date of signing