



## **AFL VICTORIA COUNTRY REGION**

Management of  
Rules, Regulations and Policies  
via Region By Laws

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Version 1

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## 1. Definitions

### 1.1 Junior League, Club or Competition

AFL Barwon, for the purpose of interpretation of AFL Victoria Country Rules and Regulations, classify the following as Junior Leagues, Clubs or Competitions:

#### 1.1 AFL Barwon Juniors

- Colac & District Football Netball League – Under 15 and Below
- AFL Barwon Female Football Under 17 and below competitions.

### 1.2 Region

The hierarchical authority including but not limited to a Region Council, that:

- has designated governance responsibilities for the direction of football in a geographical location and
- is affiliated with AFL Victoria

## 2. Player Points System AFL Barwon Regional Conditions

AFL Barwon affiliated leagues of the Region must comply with the provisions of the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy (**the PPS Policy**), with all Region By laws developed under Section 3.4 of the Policy to be lodged and approved by the CCSP Advisory Panel.

The application and interpretation of these Policies is at the absolute discretion of the AFL Barwon Player Points Panel and Region Council.

### 2.1 Definition of a “Home Player” for AFL Barwon Leagues

This clause is to be read in conjunction with the definition of a Home Player contained in the PPS Policy. A Club may claim a junior aligned “home player” under the applicable Region By Law in the following circumstances:

Junior Club	Aligned Senior Club/s
Peninsula Sharks Junior Football Club	Portarlington, Queenscliff, Drysdale, Leopold

Where an MOU is in place between two or more Senior Clubs affiliated with AFL Barwon that recognises they oversee and govern a single Junior Club;

- any exiting player from the highest aged junior competition who has met the requirements specified in 5.2.1 of the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy will be a “home player” at either of the two participating Senior Clubs that have entered

into the MOU until they have played 18 first grade games and will then be fixed as a home player at the club where they have first played 18 or more first grade games.

- Games played on “permit” are not included in these assessments, except for underage matches played on a Compassionate (Spilt Family) or Student living away from home permit under AFL Victoria Community Affiliate Regulations \*.
- Where there is any difference or dispute as to whether a player is a “Home Player” then this will be determined by AFL Barwon in its absolute discretion.

Note: A player may have multiple “home clubs”.

#### Allocation of Points for Players in Highest Underage Competition

If a player has played less than 5 games in their club’s highest graded underage team and a minimum of 6 in their lower graded team (ie club has 2 teams in the highest underage competition) in the previous season and transfers clubs, they are to be categorised as a Development Community player (2 Points)

Where a club has two (2) or more teams within the highest underage competition, any player who transfers from one of these clubs, and has played;

- less than five (5) games in their club’s highest graded underage team, and
- a minimum of six (6) games in their club’s lower graded team(s),

in the previous season, is to be categorised as a Development Community Player (2 Points).

### **3. AFL Barwon Policy Panel**

The Region may appoint persons to a Policy Panel. The panel will be a minimum of three (3) members and will comprise:

- the Region Manager (Or); and
- Head of Football AFL Barwon
- One member appointed at the discretion of the Region Manager.

### **4. Jurisdiction of AFL Barwon Policy Panel – Player Points Re Assessment**

#### **4.1 Application for Player Point Reassessment**

Clubs may make application in writing to the *AFL Barwon Region Manager* for reassessment of a player’s points allocation consistent with Section 7.3 of the PPS Policy;

- within 7 days of the player’s points being reviewed by AFL Barwon pursuant to the PPS Policy following the PPS value being assigned to that player by the club and league, and
- no later than 14 days after the players PPS allocation for the upcoming season
- not less than 75% of the clubs anticipated Senior team playing list is registered \*

**4.1.1** The application must address the matters set out in Clause 7.3 of the PPS Policy and 4.3 of these AFL Barwon Region By law . All applications must use the *template*

*available here* and any supporting evidence should be submitted with the application.

- 4.1.2** All applications for individual player points reassessment will be considered by the AFL Barwon Policy Panel each Wednesday morning on a weekly basis. Any applications received after 9.00am Wednesday will not be considered until the following week, and if they play in the Senior Male Football Team, the individual player *will forfeit the chance to have their points reassessed and incur their original assessment of points.*

Once a player has played in the Senior (Highest Graded) Team for a club, any request for a reduction to their assessed points will not be considered.

Retrospective requests will not be considered, however the AFL Barwon Policy Panel reserve the right to reassign points if there was an error on the behalf of the AFL Barwon Policy Panel when initially assessed.

## **4.2 Guide to Reassessments**

- 4.2.1** The guide below will be used by the AFL Barwon Policy Panel when assessing club submissions. The application of these guidelines will be at the absolute discretion of the AFL Barwon Policy Panel .Declared Player

Any player in Male Football who is to receive in excess of \$200 per Senior game in the current season will not be considered for any points reduction.

### **4.2.2 University Placement**

No reduction in assessed Player points will be considered, but additional points may not be applied only where the relocation has resulted in the player registering at 3 or more community clubs in 3 seasons as referenced in Clause 6.5 of AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy.

If a player has been relocated due to a university placement, consideration for non application of extra points as above will only be given if:

- Acceptable evidence of current enrolment is provided with the application
- The distance relocated is considered by the AFL Barwon Policy Panel too excessive to continue playing for their previous club.

### **4.2.3 Employment**

No reduction in assessed points will be considered, but additional points may not be applied only where the relocation has resulted in the player registering at 3 or more community clubs in 3 seasons as referenced in Clause 6.5 of AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy.

Consideration will only be given where a player has been relocated by the employer to another area with the same company or government organisation, and if:

- Acceptable evidence of forced employment relocation is provided by the employer with the application
- The distance relocated is considered by the AFL Barwon Policy Panel too excessive to continue playing for their previous club

#### 4.2.4 Circumstances that limit playing opportunities

Where evidence is provided to support a claim whereby a player was unable through injury to complete the required games in the previous season to attract a one point Season of Service reduction referenced in Clause 7.1 of AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy and having already been registered at that club.

#### 4.2.5 Playing History

Consideration not to apply additional points for registering at 3 clubs in 3 seasons as referenced in Clause 6.5 of AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy, or for a transfer from a Premier Competition to a Non Premier competition as referenced in Clause 6.4 of AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy, may be given whereby a player has played less than 3 Senior/Reserve games in total during the 3 previous seasons.

#### 4.2.6 Age of Player Development Opportunities

Consideration may be given to a player aged 19 or under as at the start of the upcoming season coming from a Talent League club outside the AFL Barwon Region, who can demonstrate they are transferring purely for the purpose of playing at the VFL or AFL, and with written approval from their National Under 18 or 19 Competition Club & Community club. Endorsement from relevant VFL club is also required.

### 4.3 Conditions of Reassessment

4.3.1 Decisions of the Policy Panel will be by majority vote of the AFL Barwon Policy Panel.

4.3.2 The Policy Panel is not obliged to give reasons for its decision.

4.3.3 AFL Barwon will provide written notification to the Club within 7 days of the Policy Panel making its decision.

4.3.4 To manage the review process of the Player Point Allocations entered by the Community Clubs as detailed at section 3.8. of the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy, AFL Barwon delegate authority to the GFNL, BFNL, CDFNL &

GDFNL for those leagues competitions and as confirmed in writing with the GFNL, BFNL, CDFNL & GDFNL.

## **5. Jurisdiction of AFL Barwon Policy Panel –Total Team Points Assessment**

### **5.1 Allocation of Total Team Points**

AFL Barwon shall give notice of the allocation of total team points for each affiliated League for the following season by August 31st annually or such other date as determined by the Region. All Clubs in the AFL Barwon Region will be allocated Total Team Points using a tiered approach based on their Senior Male Football team's ladder position as at the end of the home and away season for the previous year. The weighting for these determinations will be at the discretion of the AFL Barwon Policy Panel.

### **5.2 Total Team Points Reassessment**

**5.2.3** Clubs may make application in writing to AFL Barwon Policy Panel , via the AFL Barwon Region Manager, for reassessment of their total team points allocation by 31 October and following the Club's being notified pursuant to the PPS Policy. All applications must use the template available here.

**5.2.4** The application must set out the Club's reasons for seeking reassessment and must particularly address the matters set out in Clause 8.2 of PPS Policy and be accompanied by all supporting evidence which the Club wants considered.

### **5.3 Considerations for Total Team Point Reassessments**

**5.3.1** Recent Sustained Lack of Success:

- Failed to win a game in preceding season or
- Finished bottom 2 in preceding 2 seasons or
- Finished bottom 3 in preceding 3 seasons

**5.3.2** Club has no underage sides:

- Club not capable of developing a junior program due to reasons outside of its control

**5.3.3** Geographic Location

- The Club may be located in a low-density area or in rural location.

**5.3.4** Demographics:

- The Club may be located in an area where age, race, ethnicity, education, income and employment may be seen as detrimental to the success of the Club.

**5.3.5** Other factors:

- A Club may experience an ‘outlier’ issue that doesn’t fall within this policy but requires consideration.

#### **5.4 Conditions of Total Team Point Reassessment**

**5.4.1** AFL Barwon Policy Panel will consider the application within 28 days of receipt by the AFL Barwon Region Manager.

**5.4.2** Decisions of the AFL Barwon Policy Panel will be by majority vote.

**5.4.3** The Policy Panel is not obliged to give reasons for its decision.

**5.4.4** AFL Barwon will provide a written notification to the club within 7 days of the Policy Panel making its decision, and there is no appeal process available

### **6. Appeals against the AFL Barwon Policy Panel - Player Points**

As provided under Sections 11.1 of the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy, clubs may appeal a decision of the Policy Panel made under By-Law 4 to the AFL Barwon Appeal Panel consistent with Section 18 of these By laws.

### **7. AFL Barwon Player Payments Rules**

AFL Barwon have adopted the Player Payment Rules as detailed on the League/Region Website at AFL Barwon.

The Regions affiliated leagues and clubs must comply with the provisions of the Rules.

### **8. Jurisdiction of AFL Barwon Policy Panel – Allowable Player Payment variation under APP Rule 3(a)**

#### **8.1 Notice of Allowable Player Payment Cap**

The Region shall confirm the Allowable Player Payment cap for each affiliated League for the following season by August 31st annually or such other such date as determined by the Region.

#### **8.2 Allowable Player Payment Cap Increase Application**

**8.2.1** By 31 October, a Club may make application in writing to the AFL Barwon Policy Panel via the Region Manager for an increase in the Allowable Player Payment Cap to apply to that Club for the upcoming season .

**8.2.2** The application must set out the Club’s reasons for seeking an increase in the Allowable Player Payment to apply to that Club and particularly should address the factors set out in Clause 3(a)(iv) of the Player Payment Rules and be accompanied by supporting evidence.

### **8.3 Conditions of Allowable Player Payment Cap Increase Application**

**8.3.1** AFL Barwon Policy Panel will consider the application within 14 days of receipt of application..

**8.3.2** Decisions of the AFL Barwon Policy Panel will be by majority vote.

**8.3.3** AFL Barwon will provide a written response to the Club notifying the decision of the AFL Barwon and will give reasons for the decision.

**8.3.4** The decision of the AFL Barwon Policy Panel is final.

**8.3.5** Where an application for an increase in the Allowable Player Payment for the Club is granted, AFL Barwon will make this decision public.

## **9. Jurisdiction of AFL Barwon Policy Panel –Application under APP Rule 8(d)**

### **9.1 Application for 8(d) Ruling**

**9.1.1** A Club may at any time make application for a ruling as to whether any payments, considerations, advantages or other benefits constitute a Player Payment, including their value, for the purpose of the Allowable Player Payment Rules.

**9.1.2** The application must set out the Club's reasons for seeking the ruling and be accompanied by all supporting evidence which the Club wants considered.

### **9.2 Consideration of Application**

**9.2.1** AFL Barwon Policy Panel will consider the application within 14 days after receipt by the AFL Barwon Region Manager and any ruling of the Region must be forwarded to the AFL Victoria Football Operations Manager prior to any announcement or approval by the Region.

**9.2.2** The ruling may be made public.

## **10. AFL Barwon Allowable Player Payments Integrity Reviews**

### **10.3 Initiation of Integrity Review**

The AFL Barwon Region Manager may initiate integrity reviews into possible breaches consistent with Rule 9 of the AFL Barwon Player Payment Rules.

### **10.4 Charges Laid**

Where an integrity review has occurred and charges are laid against a Club and or player(s) and the charge is found proven at a Hearing of the Disciplinary Committee, the Disciplinary Committee may order that the offending Club or player pay all or part of the costs of the investigation.

## **11. Jurisdiction of AFL Barwon Policy Panel – Additional Matters**

### **11.1 Absence of Rule**

In the absence of an affiliate league having the relevant rule AFL Barwon Policy Panel may, in direct consultation with the relevant affiliate league and at the Regions absolute discretion also consider and determine the following matters or alternatively delegate to the affiliated League of that Region to determine:

- 11.1.1 Minimum Age Player or Umpire applications – refer to By Law 12 and 14 and sections 3 and 6 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook (NCFPH).
- 11.1.2 Management of Age Dispensation (Overage) applications – refer to By Law 13 and section 4 of NCFPH.
- 11.1.3 Management of any Policy regulations or breaches under the NCFPH, including but not limited to potential Breaches of the Member Protection regulations (Section 9) and Social Media regulations (Section 12) – refer Section 23 of the NCFPH.
- 11.1.4 Management of the Match Review Regulations for Reportable Offences consistent with section 22.2(b) of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook.
- 11.1.5 Any matter referred to it by the AFL Barwon Region Manager, where provided for in the AFL Barwon By Laws.

## **12. Minimum Player Age to Play in a Competition**

A player's minimum age eligibility to play in a relevant age group of an AFL Barwon competition is detailed at Section 3.1 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook (NCFPH).

### **12.1 Special Consideration**

- 12.1.1 Section 3.1 (b)(iii) of the NCFPH allows for special consideration permission for individual players, to participate in a higher age group to that specified in the minimum age table detailed at 3.1 (b) of the NCFPH. This permission may be

granted by the affiliated League under exceptional and compelling circumstances as detailed in the application form template.

**12.1.2** The processes for special consideration permission will be on application and will be assessed considering the needs of existing official competitions and Auskick programs which are relevant to the application.

**12.1.3** Any Application must be lodged using the application form and must include the player's parent or guardians signed consent.

## **13. Management of Age Dispensation (Overage) applications**

### **13.1 Conditions of Application**

AFL Barwon affiliated leagues may only consider applications from a Club for a player to play in a Competition age group below their applicable age group consistent with the process detailed Section 4 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook.

AFL Barwon affiliated leagues may only consider such applications made the [application form](#) and must include the player's parent or guardians signed consent

### **13.2 Appeal**

Any appeal of an unsuccessful Overage Dispensation application will be heard under the Region Appeal Committee process detailed at Clauses 8.3 and 8.1 of the AFL Victoria Country Rules.

## **14. Minimum age to umpire in a competition**

A Umpires minimum age eligibility to participate in a relevant age group of an AFL Barwon competition is detailed at Section 6.2 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook (NCFPH).

### **14.1 Special Consideration**

**14.1.4** Section 6.2 (c) (iii) of the NCFPH allows for special consideration permission for individual umpires , to participate in a higher age group to that specified in the minimum age table detailed at 6.2 (c) (ii) of the NCFPH. This permission may be granted by the affiliated Local League or Umpiring group (as determined by the Local League) under exceptional and compelling circumstances as detailed in the application form template available here , must include the player's parent or guardians signed consent

**14.1.5** The processes for special consideration permission will be on application and will be assessed considering the needs of existing official competitions which are relevant to the application.

## **15. Interchange (Area) Agreements and Permits**

The following Permit conditions may be included in Interchange (Area) Agreements relevant to AFL Barwon Leagues, noting these conditions do not apply to Underage Compassionate or

Students Living Away from Home permits applied for under Sections 3.5 of AFL Victoria Community Affiliate Regulations Rules.

### **15.1 Permit Conditions**

The following Permit conditions shall be included in all Interchange (Area) Agreements relevant to all AFL Barwon Leagues:

- (a) AFL Victoria Country and League finals eligibility criteria shall apply
- (b) Player eligibility shall be the responsibility of the club playing the permit player
- (c) Permit breaches shall be addressed under AFL Victoria Country Rules ineligible player regulations

### **15.2 Special Circumstances**

Any clubs requesting special circumstance considerations must apply in writing to the AFL Barwon Region Manager annually, and prior to June 30th.

## **16. Management of Investigation Fees**

### **16.1 Absence of Regulation**

In the absence of an applicable league regulation, where a club and or League has initiated an investigation under Clause 5 of AFL Victoria Country Rules, the following shall prevail;

**16.1.1** Where the investigation request is deemed frivolous by the relevant league executive, the application fee lodged shall be forfeited in full; or

**16.1.2** Where a charge resulting from an Investigation is referred to a league independent tribunal by the relevant League Executive and the charge is not proven at a hearing, the application fee lodged shall be forfeited in full.

**16.1.3** Where a charge from an Investigation results in the acceptance of an Early Guilty Plea or is referred to the league independent tribunal by the relevant League Executive and the charge is proven at a hearing;

- (a) the application fee shall be fully refunded and;
- (b) the offending club shall be fined a sum equal to the costs of the investigation.

**16.1.4** Where multiple charges to one or more clubs resulting from an Investigation is referred to the league independent tribunal by the relevant League Executive and all or some charges are proven at a hearing.

- (a) the total cost of the investigation will be imposed proportionally to the clubs based on charges which are proven.

**16.1.5** For other matters, not specifically covered by these rules, clubs and/or leagues may request that the AFL Barwon Region make a determination on whether the application fee is refundable provided that;

- (a) The request be made in writing.
- (b) The request is made by 5pm on the 7th day after the tribunal hearing or sending of notification from the relevant league.
- (c) AFL Barwon Region shall determine the matter on evidence presented and its absolute discretion.
- (d) The AFL Barwon Region's decision is final.

## **17. Variation Of Time**

Notwithstanding any other provision of these By Laws, where any time limit is imposed for the doing of any act or thing or for any other purpose, the Region Manager may in their absolute discretion extend or bring forward the time within which a person may do any act or thing under these Rules.

## **18. Appeals**

### **18.1 Region Appeals**

**18.1.1** Region appeals under these By Laws will be heard by the Region Council and must be conducted consistent with Section 26 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook.

**18.1.2** Appeals that may be heard by the Region within these by Laws include

- Individual Player Points reassessment as per Section 4 of these by laws and consistent with Section 7.3 of the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy.
- 
- Ineligible Player breaches as per Clause 1.1 of AFL Victoria Country Rules

**18.1.3** Any appeal must detail relevant Grounds for appeal as specified at Section 26.1 (b) of the NCFPH and Section 11 of the AFL Victoria Player Points System, allowing an Appellant subject to a decision to appeal in respect of such a decision on one or more of the following grounds:

- (a) Section 26.1(b)(i)(A) the decision was an error of law that had a material impact on the decision.
- (b) Section 26.1(b)(i)(B) the decision was so unreasonable that no Controlling Body or Tribunal acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to the evidence before it.

## **18.2 Notice of appeal**

An appeal must be submitted by the Appellant lodging with the AFL Barwon, by no later than 5:00pm on the second day following the relevant decision of the Region including:

- a duly completed Notice of Appeal which must specify the Appeal Ground(s) relied upon by the Appellant and supporting submissions in respect of the Appeal Ground(s); and
- payment of \$750 (which will be dealt with in accordance with Sections 26.4(d) and 26.4(e) of the NCFPH.

## **18.3 Appeal Process**

**18.3.1** The Region Council shall consider the Appeal and provide written notification of the appeal decision as soon as practicable and no later than 7 days of receipt of the final written submissions.

**18.3.2** At the discretion of Region Council, any party may, within the time specified by the Region, lodge written submissions which may contain:

- any facts, reasons and arguments concerning the appeal; and
- any other matters that they desire to be considered by the Region Council in determining the appeal.

**18.3.3** Following provision of submissions, the Region Council may seek further detail from any party to the appeal and this further detail must be provided in writing and within the timeframe specified by the Region Council.

**18.3.4** Decisions of the Region Council will be by simple majority vote of the Councillors.

**18.3.5** The Region Council:

- is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to courts record but may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.
- may confirm, reverse or modify the decision being appealed and make such decisions in such manner as it thinks fit.
- shall not be obliged to give reasons for its decision.
- The decision of the Region Council is final.

**18.3.6** For the avoidance of doubt, Region council members that were part of the decision-making process to the decision being appealed shall not be involved in any Appeal hearing.