



Netball Player Points System – Equalisation Policy

Outer East Football Netball League Player Points System (PPS) Equalisation Policy for Netball competitions.

1.0 Objective of the Outer East Football Netball Player Points System and Community Club Sustainability

Outer East Football Netball believes the equalisation of community netball competitions is vital for the growth and sustainability of community netball.

Even and 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 Outer East Football Netball PPS policy are as follows, to:

1. Promote player loyalty and junior development
2. Support the role that volunteers undertake in managing their clubs by:
 - Minimising the need to fundraise for player payments
 - Providing a more competitive environment on court, 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 affiliate clubs
9. Reduce the inflationary nature of player payments to assist clubs survive financially and reduce financial burden/stress on 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 affiliate clubs in order to achieve the above objectives.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **ANL** - Australian Netball League
- 2.2 **Category** - player points category which determines the base allocation of the Player Points allocation for a player
- 2.3 **Community Club or 'Club'** - Netball club which participates within a community netball competition that does not include State Leagues (VNL, ANL or SUNCORP)
- 2.4 **Competition** - Victorian Netball competition in which the community club participates in official fixtured matches
- 2.5 **Football Netball League** - Netball competition that is run in conjunction with local Australian Rules Football Competitions
- 2.6 **First Home & Away Match** - first official competition match for the home and away season of a competition
- 2.7 **Netball Victoria** - Netball Victoria state governing body
- 2.8 **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
- 2.9 **PPS Policy** - community club sustainability player points policy
- 2.10 **QSNL** – Queensland State Netball League
- 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 a minimum qualification of 10 games as stipulated in the Football Netball Leagues by laws
- 2.13 **SSN** – Suncorp Super Netball
- 2.14 **TNL** – Tasmanian Netball League
- 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 **WANL** – Western Australian Netball League

INTERPRETATION:

A reference to:

3.0 Outer East Football Netball Responsibilities

Outer East Football Netball will ensure the following with each affiliated football netball club.

- 3.1 Outer East Football Netball acknowledge that the total team points allocation will be capped at 26 points per A grade team subject to the condition of clause 3.
- 3.2 Will consider all applications from affiliate clubs for the allocation 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 affiliate clubs in accordance with this PPS policy to manage unique local conditions and meet the needs of local community clubs and the relevant senior competitions.
- 3.4 Acknowledge that any decision to alter the 26-point total team points cap should be approved by Outer East Football Netball.
- 3.5 Will allocate the final figure for total team points to each A Grade senior team for each club affiliate (i.e., not lower grades or underage competitions) for the following season and in accordance with PPS policy, with all points allocations to be lodged by the Friday, 2 weeks prior to the round 1 of competition.
- 3.6 Subject to approval of total team points via Outer East Football Netball must communicate the allocation of each club's total team points to each of their affiliate Clubs for the following season in accordance with the PPS Policy.

Player Points Allocation

- 3.7 The Outer East Football Netball will liaise with affiliate Club's to ensure player point allocations are entered via the Netball Operations Coordinator prior to any players first A Grade home and away match of each season and will confirm the player point allocations entered by the affiliate club.
- 3.8 As part of the player point allocation process, clubs may seek the opportunity to re-assess any player's player point allocation. Any reassessment against a player point allocation should be made to the Netball Operations Coordinator no later than 5 days before the players first A Grade home and away match each season.
- 3.9 Once the process in clauses 3.7 and 3.8 has been undertaken, any player's player point allocation will be fixed until such time they play 3 or more games in a higher category (players in Categories 5.3.6 and 5.3.7 are not subject to these changes).

4.0 Affiliated Club Responsibilities

Each affiliated club

- 4.1 Will determine each player's points allocation for its A and B Grade squad. This determination may include any additions or deductions applicable to each player in accordance with this PPS Policy. See clauses 6 and 7 and appendices 1.1 for applicable flow chart to assist in this process.
- 4.2 Will submit player points allocations to the Netball Operations Coordinator prior to the relevant affiliate Club's first home and away match of each season, or a player's first A Grade home and away match if they have joined the club after the commencement of that season.
- 4.3 Acknowledges that if an affiliate club does not follow this procedure and decides to play a player in a match in an A Grade competition, 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 the Outer East Football Netball in accordance with this PPS Policy.
- 4.4 Will ensure on match days the A Grade 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.
- 4.5 May make an application to the Outer East Football Netball 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 Outer East Football Netball.

5.0 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 A Grade team of an affiliate club will be allocated a category and a player points allocation as follows:
- 5.3 All new players to Outer East Football Netball will be categorised based on their highest level of "current" playing ability from the two previous seasons, prior to registering with their club for the upcoming season. See below for all categories:

5.3.1 Category 6- International Tier 1 Player/ Suncorp Super Netball- 6 Points

- a) A current player of Suncorp super netball or in the previous two seasons.
- b) A player who has represented a Tier 1 Country at an International Event.

5.3.2 Category 5- International Tier 2 Player / VNL, WANL, QSNL, Netball SA State League, TNL Championship/ ANL / Suncorp Super Netball League Training Partner – 5 Points

- a) Player who has represented a Tier 2 Country at an International Event.
- b) A current player of an ANL team or has played ANL in the previous two seasons.
- c) A Suncorp Super Netball training Partner.
- d) A current player of a VNL, WANL, QSNL, Netball SA State League, TNL in Championship division team or has played VNL, WANL, QSNL, Netball SA State League, TNL Championship in the previous two seasons.

5.3.3 Category 4 - VNL, WANL, QSNL, Netball SA State League, TNL Division 1 or 19 & Under / State Representation / Premium Community Player – 4 points

- a) A current player of a VNL, WANL, QSNL, Netball SA State League, TNL Division 1 or 19 & Under team or has played in VNL, WANL, QSNL, Netball SA State League, TNL Division 1 or 19 & under in the previous two seasons.
- b) Players selected in a State Sporting Body's 19 & Under teams (this includes all States).

5.3.4 Category 3 – Premier League (Waverley Night and Parkville) / Senior Community Player and Transferred Junior – 3 Points

- a) A player who has played in the Premier Open Section One on a Monday night at Parkville Netball Association or Premier Open Section 1 on a Tuesday night at Waverley Night Netball Association or in the previous two seasons.
- b) Achieved a club A Grade Best & Fairest in the previous season for another FNL Club.
- c) Transferred junior applies to juniors playing within the Outer East Football Netball region and transfer to another club within the Outer East Football Netball League.

5.3.5 Category 2- Development Community Player/ Vacant Player Category - 2 Points

- a) Played A Grade or Lower in any FNL in the previous 3 years.
- b) If a club elects not to play 10 players in any A Grade match, each vacant position up to 10 players shall be worth two points each.

5.3.6 Category 1 – Transitioning Juniors – 1 Point

- a) Players who have played 40 or more games with the same club and not yet played any senior netball prior to the current season. These players will remain 1 point for the season being played and **are not** subject to clause 5.4. Category 1 players will be reassessed in the following season.

5.3.7 Category 0 - Junior Player – 0 Points

- a) Junior players who are currently playing in a junior division (15 Under or 17 Under) or they are still age eligible for the 15 Under or 17 Under competitions. These players will remain 0 points for the season being played and **are not** subject to clause 5.4.

- 5.4** If during the season, a player is selected to play in a category higher to that in which they have already been assessed, the player can take the court on 3 separate occasions in that category before being reassessed and allocated an additional point within 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 Outer East Football Netball League to determine the appropriate player points allocation prior to the commencement of the season, or the players first A Grade match if this is after the commencement of the season. In determining the player points allocation, Outer East Football Netball 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.

6.0 Additional player point allocations:

6.1 If a senior player transfers to an affiliate club and will be competing against their immediate former affiliate club an additional one-point penalty will be applied.

6.2 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 players 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 - 2021 Season

Club C - 2019 Season

6.3 An affiliate club may make an application for a re-assessment under clause 7.3 to Outer East Football Netball in relation to a player's additional points allocation.

7.0 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' (10 Games constitute a season of service) to that players community club, even if not in consecutive years, until the player reaches no less than 4 Points for a category 6 Player, 3 points for a category 5 or 4 player and no less than 2 points for a category 3 player. (This is the minimum number of points a player can have and is known as the "category buffer"). For the avoidance of doubt, if a player is eligible for underage netball at his/her club, they must play a minimum of 10 x games to meet the criteria for a season of service point reduction.

7.2 Player Retention Bonus – 1 Point Deduction

Where a player has played a minimum of 5 seasons (10 x games constitute a season) with the same club, they will be eligible for an additional 1-point deduction. This clause supersedes the allocated "category buffer" for each category in clause 7.1, however, the player cannot go any lower than 1 point below the allocated category buffer. Eg. Player A is a current Championship level player within the VNL and therefore has an initial 5-point allocation, they have played 4 seasons and therefore assessed as 3 points due to the allocated buffer, at the completion of their 5th season they will be eligible for the player retention bonus and will be reassessed as a 2-point player. This is the lowest the player can drop whilst they still meet the Category 5 definition. With the player retention bonus, the absolute minimum points a player can drop to shall be:

Category 6 – three points
Category 4 & 5 – two points
Category 1, 2 & 3 – one point
Category 0 – zero points

7.3 Where a player qualifies in more than one category based on their playing history in current season or any of the previous two seasons, the category with the highest points will apply.

7.4 Outer East Football Netball League may, acting reasonably, reassess an individual players 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 Outer East Football Netball. 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 arrangement of the player; or
- e) Any other relevant consideration

7.5 Subject to the considerations which the Outer East Football Netball League should consider under clause 7.3, the determination of an application for reassessment will be at the discretion of the Outer East Football Netball.

8.0 Total Team Points

8.1 Outer East Football Netball will undertake their own process of total team points allocations and will be responsible for determining the total team points for their affiliate A Grade competition and clubs. As stated under clause 3, the starting point is that total team points will be capped at 26 points and should only vary for legitimate circumstances to achieve the evenness and equalisation objectives of this PPS Policy.

8.2 In order to determine variances in the 26-point Total Team Points' cap, Outer East Football Netball will adopt the following guiding principles regarding the additional allocation or reduction of total team points to an affiliate club on a case-by-case basis:

8.2.1 Additional total team points may be allocated to an affiliate club which is located in a region with a low population base

8.2.2 Additional total team points may be allocated if an affiliate club did not qualify for finals in the previous seasons or has been promoted from a previous 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 an affiliate club endures significant hardship, lack of success, is coming out of recess, or is a recently merged or restructured entity

8.2.5 Additional total team points may be allocated where an affiliate club has no 17&U or younger underage sides and is not capable of developing a junior program due to reasons outside of its control.

8.3 Any alterations to an affiliate club's total team points cap under clause 8.2 or for any other reason must be approved by Outer East Football Netball. For each match, a club must ensure that the total team points allocation is calculated based on 10 x players participating in a match for that competition and this should be consistent for each match within a Season, within each Competition.

8.3.1 A Grade Team lists must consist of a minimum of 10 listed players and a maximum 12 listed players. It is at the club's discretion to the number of players listed between 10-12 however the total team points calculated for the listed players must not exceed the clubs total team point allocation.

8.3.2 Where a team has less than 10 players on their A Grade team list, each remaining available spot shall be worth 2 points. i.e., Club A has 8 players that equate to 22 points, they must add an additional 4 points to accommodate the 2 missing players which will take their total team points to 26.

8.3.3 Where an affiliate club enacts **bylaw 61.4.3, (in the event of two or more teams from the one club competing on the same weekend, no more than (2) two players per team are eligible to play in a maximum of two games)** if those players listed on the scoresheet do not take to the court in the A Grade match, they shall be subsequently removed from the scoresheet as not playing and replaced with a two point category vacant player.

9.0 Implementation

9.1 Outer East Football Netball will provide reasonable notice to all affiliate clubs prior to the commencement of the first season of implementation. Outer East Football Netball is free to publicise total team points to affiliate clubs for the following years at their own discretion once approved.

10.0 Enforcement

10.1 Player points allocations will be managed by the Outer East Football Netball via the Netball Operations Coordinator and other Outer East Football Netball staff.

10.2 Should any club knowingly make a false or incorrect declaration regarding player points allocations; the club may be penalised by the Outer East Football Netball 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 Outer East Football Netball League

In applying any enforcements provisions in relation to any breach of the PPS Policy, Outer East Football Netball 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

11.0 Appeal and Review

- 11.1 Where an affiliate Club is of the view that a player's player points allocation is deemed inappropriate under the PPS Policy following a reassessment conducted under 7.4, any appeal against that player points allocation must be heard by the Outer East Football Netball 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 the PPS Policy, any appeal against that total team points allocation must be heard by the Outer East Football Netball under the appeals process.
- 11.3 An appeal against a decision to apply an enforcement provision under this PPS policy should be made via the Netball Operations Coordinator and will be reviewed by a panel appointed by the Outer East Football Netball.