



## Netball Player Points System Policy (Equalisation)

### 1.0 Objective of the Outer East FN Player Points System and Affiliate Club Sustainability

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

Equalisation measures in competitions lead to greater interest in growth and participation, which leads to stronger clubs and stronger competitions. Thus, allowing 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 FN Player Points System policy are as follows, to:

1. Promote player loyalty and junior development at club level
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. Encourage affiliate Clubs to develop players thru junior progression

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 to achieve the above objectives.

## 2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **Affiliate Club** – A club that participates in the Outer East FN competitions.
- 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 **Community Club or 'Club'** - Netball club which participates within a community netball competition that does not include State Leagues (VNL, ANC or SSN)
- 2.6 **Competition** - Netball competition in which the community club participates in official fixtured matches.
- 2.7 **FNL** – Football Netball League competition that is run in conjunction with local Australian Rules Football Competitions
- 2.8 **First Home & Away Match** - first official match for the home and away season of a competition
- 2.9 **Netball Victoria** - Netball Victoria state governing body
- 2.10 **Outer East FN** – Outer East Football Netball
- 2.11 **Player Points Allocation** - total number of points allocated to an individual player in an A Grade 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
- 2.12 **PPS Policy** - community club sustainability Player Points Policy
- 2.13 **QHSS** - Netball Queensland's Hart Sapphire Series
- 2.14 **SAPL** – Netball South Australia's Premier League
- 2.15 **Season** - community netball season conducted anywhere between Jan 1<sup>st</sup> and Dec 31<sup>st</sup>
- 2.16 **Season of Service** – a season where a player has played a minimum of 10 Open Grade games for their Club
- 2.17 **SSN** – Suncorp Super Netball
- 2.18 **TNL** – Tasmanian Netball League
- 2.19 **Total Team Points** - total amount of points allocated to an A Grade team in accordance with this PPS policy
- 2.20 **VNL**- Victorian Netball League
- 2.21 **WANL** – Western Australian Netball League

### INTERPRETATION:

#### 3.0 Outer East FN Responsibilities

Outer East FN will ensure the following with each affiliated Club.

- 3.1 Outer East FN acknowledge that the Total Team Points allocation will be capped at 22 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 Community clubs in accordance with this PPS policy to manage unique local conditions and meet the needs of local affiliate clubs and the relevant senior competitions.
- 3.4 Acknowledge that any decision to alter the 22-point Total Team Points cap should be approved by Outer East FN.

- 3.5 Will allocate the final figure for Total Team Points to each A Grade team of affiliate Clubs for the following season and in accordance with PPS policy, with all points allocations to be lodged (28) twenty-eight days prior to the round 1 of competition.
- 3.6 Subject to approval of Total Team Points, Outer East FN 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 Outer East FN 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 Clubs may seek 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 processes in clauses 3.7 and 3.8 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 (players in Categories 5.3.5 and 5.3.6 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 squads. This determination may include any additions or deductions applicable to each player in accordance with this PPS Policy. See clauses 6 and 7 to assist.
- 4.2 Will submit Player Points Allocations to the Netball Operations Coordinator 28 days prior to the relevant affiliate Club's first Home and Away match of each season, or 5 days before 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 an A Grade match, who has not had their Player Points Allocation submitted and approved to the Netball Operations Coordinator, that club will be at risk of any subsequent enforcement penalty as determined by Outer East FN in accordance with this PPS policy.
- 4.4 Will ensure that 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 Outer East FN.

## **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 will be categorised based on their highest level of playing ability from the years 2022, 2023 and 2024. See below for all categories:

### **5.3.1 Category 6- International Player/Suncorp Super Netball - 6 Points**

- a) A player who has taken to the court in a Suncorp Super Netball fixture.
- b) A player who has represented their Country in an International fixture.

### **5.3.2 Category 5 – ANC/ Suncorp Training Partner/Championship Level at VNL or Equivalent State based competition – 5 Points.**

- a) Taken to the court at the Australian National Championships.
- b) A Suncorp Super Netball training Partner.
- c) Taken to the court in (4) four games or more in a season in the VNL, WANL, QHSS, SAPL, TNL in Championship division.

### **5.3.3 Category 4 – 19&U or AMMNA State Representation/Division One level or 23&U level at VNL or Equivalent State based competition – 4 Points**

- a) A Player that has represented their State in 19&U at National Titles.
- b) A Player that has represented their State in the AMMNA at National Titles.
- c) Taken to the court in (4) four games or more in a season in the VNL, WANL, QHSS, SAPL, TNL in either Division One or 23&U Division.

### **5.3.4 Category 3 – 19&U Level at VNL or Equivalent State based competition/Transferred Junior – 3 Points**

- a) Taken to the court in (4) four or more games in a season in the VNL, WANL, QHSS, SAPL, TNL in the 19&U division.
- b) Transferred junior applies to juniors playing within the Outer East Football Netball competition that transfer to another club within the Outer East Football Netball.

### **5.3.5 Category 2 – Community Level Player - 2 Points**

- a) Played A Grade or Lower in any Football Netball League competition.
- b) Played in any Association Competition
- c) Has never played competition netball at all

### **5.3.6 Category 1 – Home Club Player – 1 Point**

- a) A player that has played (40) forty or more games over a minimum of two seasons for their club between the ages of (14) fourteen and (17) seventeen in the Outer East FN competition from 2019 onwards.

- 5.4** Once a player has reached a higher category criterion than originally classified, the player's points must be reassessed, and the points allocated based on the higher category. This is not applicable for players who have obtained Category 1 Home Club Player status.
- 5.5** An affiliate club that has a player that does not meet any of the above player Categories will need to apply to Outer East FN 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 FN will have referred to all relevant factors so as not to unreasonably restrict the player's movement between Community 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 will be classified as a player and will be assessed under the above Categories.
- 6.0 Additional player point allocations:**
- 6.1** If an Open age player transfers from one Outer East FN affiliate Club to another Outer East FN affiliate Club, an additional one-point will be applied to their Player Points allocation. This is not applicable to a Category 3 Transferred Junior.
- 6.2** Where a player has registered at (3) three or more different Outer East FN Clubs in (3) three consecutive seasons, one additional point will be applied to that players Player Point allocations. In determining the 3 season's timeframe, use the examples below.  
Club A - 2022 Season, Club B - 2023 Season, Club C - 2024 Season
- 6.3** An affiliate Club may make an application for a re-assessment under clause 7.3 to the Outer East FN 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 be applied for each 'Season of Service' that player has given to a Club. Starting from the very first Outer East FN season 2019, even if not in consecutive years, until the player reaches (1) one point. This is the lowest category that a player can reduce to.
- 7.2** A 'Season of Service' is (10) ten or more Open Grade games in a season. For the Covid interrupted seasons, 2020 is not considered a season at all. For 2021, (5) five games or more Open Grade games is considered a 'Season of Service'
- 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** Outer East FN 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 FN. 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

**7.4** Considerations which the Outer East FN should consider under clause 7.3, determination of an application for reassessment will be at the discretion of the Outer East FN.

## **8.0 Total Team Points**

**8.1** Outer East FN will undertake their own process of Total Teams 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 22 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 22-point Total Team Points' cap, Outer East FN will adopt the following guiding principles regarding the additional allocation or reduction of Total Teams 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 prior approved by Outer East FN. 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 18 points, they must add an additional 4 points to accommodate the 2 missing players which will take their total team points to 22.

## **9.0 Implementation**

- 9.1** Outer East FN will provide reasonable notice to all affiliate Clubs prior to the commencement of the first season of implementation. Outer East FN will be free to publicise Total Team Points to all 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 FN via the Netball Operations Manager and other Outer East FN 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 FN 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 FN

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

For quick reference purposes, the Outer East Football Netball competitions bylaws that are pertinent to this policy are:

## **61.5 Two teams in an age group – Junior Netball**

61.5.2 Where a club has two teams in an age group and any of its registered players also play at VNL level or higher, those players must only play in the clubs (Blue) graded team.

## **62.0 Player Points System and restrictions**

62.1 Player point allocations limit will be set by the Outer East Football Netball Board by November 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous season. Points allocations for season 2024 will be:

(a) All Divisions – 22 Points in A Grade

62.2 Player Point Allocations must follow the rules provided in the Outer East FN's Netball Player Points System Policy (Schedule 13), current for the year of play, which may be altered from time to time.

62.3 Each player's points value must be submitted to the Outer East Football Netball 28 days prior to the commencement of Round 1 in each season. This points value must also be listed in the prescribed position on the A grade teams scoresheet prior to the commencement of each A grade match.

62.4 Players who are Category 4, 5 or 6 within the Player Points System may only compete in a club's A Grade team.

62.5 Players who are a 19&U VNL (Category 3) within the Player Points System may compete in a club's A or B Grade teams only. A maximum of (3) three players from this category shall be eligible to qualify for B Grade finals.

62.6 If a Category 3 or 4 player takes to the court (4) four times or more in a higher VNL division during the current season, their points category needs to be reassessed immediately.

62.7 Variations to these rules may apply in special circumstances and will be at the discretion of the Outer East Football Netball Board.

62.8 Failure to comply with bylaw 62.0 will result in a loss of match points &/or a fine as determined by the Outer East Football Netball Board.

## **77.0 Finals Qualifications**

77.6 A Category 4, 5 or 6 within the Player Points System may only qualify for A grade finals, subject to meeting the criteria set out in (77.1) and (77.3)



- 77.6.1 Players classified as a VNL 19&U (Category 3) within the Player Points System may qualify for either A or B Grade finals subject to the criteria set out in (62.6), (77.1) and (77.3).
- 77.6.2 A maximum (3) three VNL 19&U (Category 3) players only may qualify for B Grade finals for a club.



2023 PLAYER POINT SYSTEM - CATEGORIES & DEFINITIONS			
Category	Points	Classification	Definition
Category 6	6 points	International Player/Suncorp Super Netball	A player who has taken to the court in either a Suncorp Super Netball fixture or an International fixture during 2022, 2023 or 2024.
Category 5	5 points	ANC/Suncorp Training Partner/ Championship Level, VNL, WANL, QHSS, SAPL, TNL.	A player that has taken to the court at the Australian National Championships or selected as a Suncorp Super Netball training partner in 2022, 2023 or 2024. A player who has taken to the court in a minimum four (4) games in a season at Championship level in the VNL, or an equivalent state-based competition during 2022, 2023 or 2024.
Category 4	4 points	19&U State Representative, AMMNA State Representative, Division One or 23&U at VNL, WANL, QHSS, SAPL, TNL.	A player that has taken to the court at National Titles in 19&U or AMMNA in 2022, 2023 or 2024 or taken the court a minimum of four (4) times at Division One or 23&U level in a season at VNL or an equivalent state-based competition during 2022, 2023 or 2024.
Category 3	3 points	19&U Level at VNL, WANL, QHSS, SAPL, TNL Transferred Junior Player	A player that has taken to the court a minimum of (4) four times in 19&U level in a Season at VNL or an equivalent state-based competition during 2022 or 2023. A junior player that transfers from an Outer East FN Club to another Outer East FN Club.
Category 2	2 points	Community Level Player	A player that has played in any Football Netball League or Netball Association or a player that has never played competition netball before.
Category 1	1 point	Home Club Player	A player that has played 40 or more games for their Home Club between the ages of 14 and 17 years in the Outer East competition in the 2019 season and onwards.
A player that does not meet any of the above criteria will need to apply to the Netball Operations Manager at Outer East FN who will determine the appropriate category and points allocation.			
Additional Points Allocation	1 point	Transferred Player	An Open age player transferring from an Outer East club to another Outer East Club.
		Multiple Club Transfer Player	A player that has registered at three (3) or more Outer East FN clubs during 2022, 2023 or 2024.
Deduction of Player Points	1 point deduction	Player Retention Bonus	For each season of service given to the club from the 2019 season and onwards, the player shall receive a one-point reduction from their player points allocation. A season shall consist of a minimum of ten (10) Open grade games played. For the Covid interrupted seasons, 2020 is not considered at all and for 2021, five (5) or more games shall constitute a season.