



MEMORANDUM

To: **AFL Western District League Executives & Clubs**

CC: **Media Contacts & AFL Western District Advisory Board**

From: **Matthew Ross, Regional Manager** Date: **9 September 2021**

Re: **2022 Community Club Sustainability Program Caps & Procedures**

Dear All,

We write to inform clubs of the CCSP policies and procedures that apply for 2022 as well as confirming integrity measures for the season ahead.

Points

1. 2022 Total Team Points

In line with the approach taken for the 2021 season, stability was deemed paramount in establishing club Total Team Point (TTP) allocations for season 2022 given the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The exception to this is the reduction in the maximum available TTP from the current 47 to 46 in season 2022. This is a state-wide change implemented by the AFL Victoria CCSP Advisory Committee and will reduce the points allocation for six AFL Western District affiliated teams. The impact on those teams is expected to be minimal for reasons listed as follows:

- Only one team of the six with a TTP of 47 has averaged an entered team in season 2021 with total points averaging over 45 (being 45.8 – Cavendish).
- Only two teams have entered a team that has exceeded 45 points in season 2021 (Moyston-Willaura 46 and Cavendish 47).
- Only two teams across the state have exceeded 45 points on average.
- Clubs still have flexibility to apply for individual player point reassessments within the guidelines and receive season of service deductions for those players retained.

Final 2022 total team point allocations are listed on the following page with those clubs reducing to 46 highlighted.

Under section 11 of the [Player Points System Policy](#), clubs may apply to the AFL Western District Advisory Board for reassessment of their TTP should they deem it to be inappropriate.

Under section 7 of the [Player Points System Policy](#), clubs may apply to AFL Western District for reassessment of an individual player's points value. We are reassessing the process for consideration of these applications for season 2022. Applications will be considered by a panel of members formed

from the AFL Western District Advisory Board. Further policy and procedure information is being developed and will be shared once finalised.

For further resources and templates, please see <https://www.aflvic.com.au/community-club-sustainability-program>

AFL WESTERN DISTRICT - TOTAL TEAM POINTS ALLOCATIONS 2022

Hampden FNL	2022 Approved
Camperdown	40
Cobden	40
Hamilton	40
Koroit	37
North Warrnambool	40
Port Fairy	40
Portland	40
South Warrnambool	40
Terang-Mortlake	40
Warrnambool	40

Warrnambool DFNL	2022 Approved
Allansford	44
Dennington	44
Kolora-Noorat	42
Merrivale	44
Nirranda	42
Old Collegians	45
Panmure	44
Russells Creek	46
South Rovers	44
Timboon Demons	44

South West DFNL	2022 Approved
Branxholme-Wallacedale	46
Cavendish	46
Coleraine	45
Dartmoor	45
Heathmere	45
Heywood	45
Tyrendarra	45
Westerns	45

Mininera DFL	2022 Approved
Ararat	46
Caramut	46
Glenthompson-Dunkeld	45
Great Western	45
Hawkesdale-Macarthur	46
Lismore-Derrinallum	45
Moyston-Willaura	46
Penshurst	45
SMW Rovers	45
Tatooon	45
Wickliffe-Lake Bolac	45
Woorndoo-Mortlake	45

2. Points Policy amendments

An outline of amendments to the Points Policy as enacted by the AFL Victoria CCSP Advisory Committee due to the impacts of the pandemic on season lengths and feedback from community.

- Season of Service

Refer to section 2.21 of the [policy](#). The qualifying number of games in 2021 to obtain a season of service deduction and receive a player point value deduction of one point will reduce to 3 matches (from the usual 5 required)

- Home Player Qualification

Refer to Category 1 – Home Player of the [policy](#). To recognise the challenges of qualifying junior players for home player status during heavily reduced season lengths, there will be a policy change. In essence, where a player qualifies for junior competition and has not moved clubs, they will receive 15 games in seasons 2020 and 2021 (totalling 30 games if they qualify for both seasons) to go towards the minimum 40 games requirement for home player status. This is irrespective of total number of games they may have actually played in those seasons.

- Premium Community Player Category

Refer to section 12 of the [policy](#). This category of player will be removed for season 2022. Community feedback was that it was difficult to monitor and also created conflicting player point values for players of various ability levels. Therefore the prior season's B&F finishing position of a player will become irrelevant when calculating their Player Point Value.

The above changes will be made to the policy shortly and a revised copy will be made available within the [AFL Victoria CCSP resources page](#).

Salary Cap (Allowable Player Payments)

1. 2022 Salary Caps

2022 league salary caps were announced in August 2020 and will either be maintained or reduced in line with the intentions across seasons 2021 - 2023. You may read this announcement [here](#). No club may exceed their league applicable Allowable Player Payment limits in any given season. You may read the full player payment rules and policy at the following [link](#). 2022 salary caps are set on the basis of a full and uninterrupted season being played. Should COVID-19 restrict the number of games played or season length, the caps are subject to change. On this basis, the advice to contract players on a 'per match' basis rather than a 'fee per season' basis and the avoidance of 'sign-on' fees is reiterated.

The relevant 2022 salary caps are as follows:

- **HFNL** \$104,500 (Reduced 5% from 2021 \$110,000)
- **MDFL** \$70,000 (No Change)
- **SWDFNL** \$66,500 (Reduced 5% from 2021 \$70,000)
- **WDFNL** \$66,500 (Reduced 5% from 2021 \$70,000)

Total player payments as originally budgeted by 40 clubs across the AFL Western District for season 2021 was circa \$2.4m. Actual payments are expected to be well under that original budgeted figure given the

season interruptions that have occurred through 2021. The average club in the region budgeted payments at 70% of their total salary cap. Should clubs factor the reduction into budgeting for season 2022, there is potential to save around \$100k on total player payments across the region – reducing the demand on volunteer workloads to fund those payments and freeing up funds for investment into junior development or facilities as examples of alternate uses. The future cap reduction planned for 2023 will only increase the benefits to flow from reducing player payment levels and further reduce volunteer workloads.

State-wide, salary caps are either reducing or being maintained. There is presently no broad appetite for any increase in these caps in the current environment.

2. Compliance Procedures and Framework

a. Start of Season – Prior to 30 April 2022

- i. Club signs and completes [Player Declaration](#) (contract) with individual players receiving payments/benefits from the club.
- ii. Club completes the [Non-declared Player Statement Form](#) for all senior payers receiving less than the Individual Player Payment threshold (set at \$100 per season in Western District)
- iii. Once all player declarations are completed, the club completes a [budget](#) for the forthcoming season. This is prepared on a ‘best case’ scenario, that is completed as if the team were to win every match (to account for any varying win or loss payment rates) to determine the maximum expected payments. The budget is to be signed by Club President (or equivalent) and one of the secretary, treasurer or football manager.
- iv. The club ensures it has a trusted official connected to the [PlayHQ](#) system for uploading and secure storage of the above documents. At time of writing, the PlayHQ system is still in the process of roll-out (to replace present Gameday system). Steps involved will be advised once known but are expected to be very similar to those used in the present Gameday Contracts Module.
- v. The club uploads the player declarations and club budget using the PlayHQ system.
- vi. The above steps are due for completion by 30 April 2022.

b. End of Season – Prior to 31 October 2022

- i. Club completes final summary of actual player payments made during the season using the same template used as the budget. A link to this document is [here](#). The actuals summary is to be signed by Club President (or equivalent) and one of the secretary, treasurer or football manager.
- ii. The actuals summary is to be lodged within the club’s PlayHQ system by 31 October 2022.

3. 2022 Salary Cap Audits

In season 2022, AFL Western District will be facilitating salary cap audits from an appointed Integrity Officer on the following clubs at the conclusion of season 2022:

1. HFNL – 2022 Premier

2. MDFL – 2022 Premier
3. SWDFNL – 2022 Premier
4. WDFNL – 2022 Premier
5. All leagues – one further selected club from any league

The results of these planned audits will be shared at a high level with all stakeholders.

Clubs are reminded that a number of penalties can be imposed from any adverse audit conclusions, including but not limited to:

- a. Club fines;
- b. Loss of premiership points;
- c. Suspension from finals; and
- d. Player and/or official suspensions.

We thank clubs in advance for their adherence to the rules of the Community Club Sustainability Program in season 2022.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Ross', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Ross
Regional Manager – AFL Western District