

Football NSW – Men's NPL Player Points System

- The Football NSW Men's NPL Player Points System applies to the NPL NSW Men's, NPL 2 NSW Men's and NPL 3 NSW Men's Competitions. NPL4 will not have a PPS for the 2020 season.
- The PPS distinguishes between two distinct types of **NPL Club** teams: those upon which an age restriction is placed (e.g. U16s, U18s, U20s) (**NPL Club Age-Eligible Team**) and the NPL Club's senior team, being the **First Team**.
- The PPS points cap (**Points Cap**) applies to each NPL Club's First Team Player Roster (**First Team Player Roster**) and this First Team is required to remain within the Points Cap at all times. A breach of the PPS during the season, either via fielding an ineligible player, falling below the minimum player roster, or upgrading players that result in "1st team" players in excess of the maximum, will result in a forfeit against the offending team.
- The maximum Points Cap is as follows for each competition:
 - NPL NSW Men's – 200
 - NPL 2 NSW Men's – 200
 - NPL 3 NSW Men's – 200
- The Club that is promoted into the NPL NSW Men's and NPL 2 NSW Men's Competitions, will be granted a twenty (20) point deduction. This points deduction only applies for the Promoted Club's first season following promotion.
- The points deduction granted to the Club that is promoted into the NPL 3 NSW Men's Competition, will be dependent on the status of the promoted Club's Youth program (U13-U16):
 - Clubs with an existing youth program within the Football NSW Competitions will be granted a twenty (20) point deduction, or;
 - Clubs without an existing youth program within the Football NSW Competitions will be granted a forty (40) point deduction.
- Each Player is, as a starting point, attributed a points value of 10 points, after which his points value is adjusted depending on certain characteristics which result in points being added to or deducted from the Player's points value. A Player's points value cannot be less than 0 points.
- Promoting Players from the NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams onto the First Team Player Roster is permitted in limited circumstances as outlined further in the Explanatory Notes and Guidelines under First Team Player Roster Requirements.
- The following table details the points adjustment depending on the Player's history:

| Category | Points Adjustment | Criteria |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Youth Player | -1 for each year the Player is under 23 years of age | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Youth Player is 22 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL season. • In relation to a Player's age, one (1) point is deducted from the Player's points value for each year the Player is under 23 years of age. • The maximum adjustment to a Player's points value under this category is minus five (5) points. |
| Homegrown Player | -1 for each season registered with the NPL Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Homegrown Player is a Player that has been registered for any period during a season with his NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams. • One (1) point is deducted from the Player's points value for each season the Player was registered with his NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams. • The maximum adjustment to a Player's points value under this category is minus five (5) points. |
| Loyalty Player | -1 for each continuous season with the NPL Club's First Team | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Loyalty Player is a Player that has registered for his NPL Club's First Team for at least five (5) continuous seasons. • One (1) point is deducted from a Player's points value for each season, starting from his fifth continuous season, in which the Player is registered for the NPL Club's First Team. |
| Visa Player | +10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Visa Player is any Player who is not an Australian Player. • Ten (10) points is added to a Player's points value if that Player is a Visa Player. • A Visa Player will only incur a maximum of 20 points on a First Team Player Roster and will not otherwise be subject to the Switching Player category. • A Visa Player may still benefit from the other categories of the PPS (e.g. Youth Player). • A NPL Club can have a maximum of two (2) Visa Players on their First Team Player Roster at any one time. |
| Switching Player | +5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) points is added to a Player's points value if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) he was registered as a professional with his previous Club, regardless of whether the player is switching from an NPL or non-NPL Club (this does not apply to the nominated Australian Marquee Player); or (b) he was registered in the NPL as an amateur with his previous NPL Club and he played ten (10) or more games in that NPL Club's First Team in the most recent NPL season (unless the Player's last registration was with a National Elite Pathway Team). |
| | +3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) points is added to a Player's points value if he was registered in the NPL as an amateur with his previous NPL Club and played in less than ten (10) games in that NPL Club's First Team in the most recent NPL season (unless the Player's last registration was with a National Elite Pathway Team). |
| | +2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (2) points is added to a Player's points value if he is an Australian Player and his last registration was as an amateur with an overseas Club. |
| | +1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) point is added to a Player's points value if the Player was last registered as an amateur with a National Elite Pathway Team and registers for a NPL Club other than their NPL Club of origin (i.e. the NPL Club he was registered with prior to that National Elite Pathway Team). |
| Pathway Player | 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No points are added to, or deducted from, a Player's points value only by virtue of that Player having left a NPL Club to join a National Elite Pathway Team and having returned to the same NPL Club. |

| Australian Marquee Player | 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Australian Marquee Player is an Australian Player that was registered as a professional Player for a Hyundai A-League Club or an overseas Club immediately prior to registering with the NPL Club. The Australian Marquee Player will only incur a maximum of ten (10) points on a First Team Player Roster and will not otherwise be subject to the Switching Player category. The Player can benefit from the other categories of the PPS (i.e. Homegrown Player). A NPL Club can have one (1) Player on its First Team Player Roster nominated as its Australian Marquee Player at any one time. |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Category | Points Adjustment | Criteria |
| First Team Player Advancement | -8 per Player | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eight (8) points may be deducted from a NPL Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is signed by a National Elite Pathway Team from the NPL Club's First Team Player Roster. The points deduction will only apply for one (1) NPL season, which must be applied in either the NPL season that the relevant Player moves to the National Elite Pathway Team, or the next NPL season. |
| Promoted Club | -20 per Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Club that is promoted into the NPL NSW Men's and NPL 2 NSW Men's Competitions, will be granted a twenty (20) point deduction. A Club that is promoted into the NPL 3 NSW Men's Competitions, will be granted a twenty (20) point deduction, if the Club has an existing youth program within the Football NSW Competitions. This points deduction only applies for the Promoted Club's first season following promotion. |
| Promoted Club | -40 per Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Club that is promoted into the NPL 3 NSW Men's Competitions, will be granted a forty (40) point deduction, if the Club does not have an existing youth program within the Football NSW Competitions. This points deduction only applies for the Promoted Club's first season following promotion. |

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

First Team

First Team means the NPL Club's senior team participating in the NPL.

First Team Player Roster

First Team Player Roster means the roster of Players for a NPL Club's First Team maintained in accordance with the Player Points System and the Football NSW Competition Regulations.

National Elite Pathway Team

A National Elite Pathway Team is a team which participates in the National Elite Pathway, as determined by the FFA Technical Department and the Member Federations from time to time. Points are credited for the movement of Players through the National Elite Pathway. For the purposes of the PPS, a team is a National Elite Pathway Team if they are one of the following:

- Hyundai A-League Club including Academy team's participating in the NPL and or, the Hyundai A-League Team;
- Foxtel Y-League team;
- National Training Centre team (full-time programs only), or;
- FFA Centre of Excellence.

NPL

NPL means the national men's second tier club competition staged in each Member Federation in Australia and includes the NPL Finals Series.

NPL Club Age-Eligible Teams

NPL Club Age-Eligible teams are the teams that sit below the NPL Club First Team as determined by Football NSW. For clarity, these include Under 13s through to Under 20s.

NPL Club

NPL Club means any entity admitted by Football NSW to field a team in a NPL Competition.

NPL Finals Series

NPL Finals Series is the national eight (8) team knockout competition staged by, or under the control of, FFA between the State Premiers of each Member Federation's National Premier League and is comprised of the Elimination Finals, Semi Finals and Grand Final or any other configuration as determined by FFA from time to time.

PPS or Player Points System

PPS or Player Points System means the system for calculating NPL Club's player points as set out in Schedule C of the NPL Finals Series – Competition Regulations and in this document.

Points Cap

Points Cap means the permitted total value of a NPL Club's Points Total, as determined by Football NSW, in consultation with FFA.

Points Total

Points Total means the sum of all points attributed to all Players on a NPL Club's First Team Player Roster at any given time.

Promoted Club

A Promoted Club means:

- a club promoted into the NPL from a lower tier competition, including a lower division of the NPL, or;
- is an entity granted a licence to participate in the NPL for the first time.

State Premiers

State Premiers means the NPL Club who is the premier of the relevant Member Federation's NPL Regular Season by being top of the table at the end of the NPL Regular Season.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

NPL Club First Team Player Roster Requirements

- At all times during a NPL season, a NPL Club must include a minimum of 20 Players on its First Team Player Roster and may include a maximum of 23 Players on its First Team Player Roster.
- A NPL Club may promote a Player from its NPL Age-Eligible Teams to play for its First Team up to a maximum of 40% of matches throughout a NPL season without being required to include such Player on the First Team Player Roster. In order for such Player to be eligible to play in more than 40% of the matches in the NPL season, the Player must be included on the NPL Club's First Team Player Roster.
- For the purposes of the PPS, playing in a match is defined as taking the field of play (i.e. in the starting 11 or entering the field as a substitute). For the avoidance of doubt, it will not constitute playing a match if the Player remains on the bench and does not enter the field of play.

- All Players must be registered to the appropriate age-category (where applicable). Any Player who during the NPL 2020 Season exceeds the age-limit for the oldest NPL Age-Eligible Team at an NPL Club (e.g. U20), must be included on his NPL Club's First Team Player Roster.
- 40% of matches equates to the following:
 - NPL NSW Men's – 9 matches
 - NPL 2 NSW Men's – 9 matches
 - NPL 3 NSW Men's – 9 matches

Youth Player

Please refer to the table below in respect to the relevant point deductions in the Youth Player category:

| <i>Player's Age as at 31 December in current NPL season</i> | <i>Points Deduction</i> |
|---|-------------------------|
| 22 years of age | -1 |
| 21 years of age | -2 |
| 20 years of age | -3 |
| 19 years of age | -4 |
| 18 years of age and under | -5 |

Australian Player

An Australian Player is any Player who is:

- (a) a citizen of Australia;
- (b) a Permanent Resident of Australia (where Permanent Resident means a person residing in Australia on a “permanent” visa class issued by the Australian Government, evidenced by either the person’s Visa Grant Notice or as a listed entitlement on the person’s online Visa Entitlement Verification); or
- (c) the holder of a refugee visa, humanitarian visa or protection visa issued by the Australian government. For further details see: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>.

Visa Player

- Member Federations and NPL Clubs are encouraged to refer to the following website for further clarification regarding visas: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>.
- For the purposes of the PPS, a New Zealand Citizen is classified as a Visa Player unless he satisfies the definition of an Australian Player. Please refer to the Department of Home Affairs for further clarification regarding the visa status of New Zealand Citizens in Australia: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>.
- Any Player participating in the NPL with a Hyundai A-League Club who has been permitted to play in the Foxtel Y-League as an “FYL Australian Player” will, for the purposes of the PPS, be deemed an Australian Player.

Homegrown Player

- A Player does not need to register in continuous seasons in a NPL Club’s Age-Eligible Teams to be eligible for Homegrown Player points.

Example: For a Player who was registered for the NPL Club in the U14s and U16s but was not registered with the NPL Club in the U18s to U20s, a total of two (2) points will be deducted from his points value for the current season.

- A Player is eligible for Homegrown Player points at the same time as being eligible for Loyalty Player points.
- For the avoidance of doubt, a Player is eligible to receive a points deduction as a Homegrown Player where that Player was registered to the NPL Club’s Age Eligible Teams, prior to that NPL Club being granted an NPL licence.

Example: Prior to Club A being granted a licence to participate in the NPL, John Smith is registered to the age-eligible teams of Club A between 2010 and 2013 in the state league competition. On that basis, a total of four (4) points will be deducted from his points value for the current season.

Loyalty Player

Example: A Player is registered with a NPL Club's First Team in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 (continuous seasons). If also registered in 2020, he will be eligible to receive his first point reduction of one (1) point as a Loyalty Player in the 2020 season.

- If a Player is not registered with any Club for a season and subsequently returns to his last NPL Club, the number of continuous seasons of registering for that NPL Club will be deemed to be continuous.

Example: A Player was registered with the same NPL Club in 2016, 2017 and 2018 (continuous seasons), however was not registered with any Club in 2019. If the Player registers with that NPL Club in 2020, it will be deemed to be his fourth continuous season with that NPL Club.

- Should a Player move into a National Elite Pathway Team, the determination of the continuous seasons of service will not be deemed to have ceased if he returns to his previous NPL Club. During the Player's time in the National Elite Pathway Team, the calculation of continuous seasons of service will be suspended.

Example: Player John Smith of NPL Club A has been part of the First Team squad for three (3) continuous seasons. He then moves to a Hyundai A-League Club for two (2) years and then at the completion of his stint with that Hyundai A-League Club, he returns to NPL Club A. This season with NPL Club A will be deemed his fourth continuous season.

Switching Player

*Example: Where a Player was registered with a NPL Club (**Former NPL Club**) and subsequently registers with a Club that does not participate in the NPL, A-League or FYL (**non-NPL Club**); and having not played for the non-NPL Club in a competitive match seeks to register with a subsequent NPL Club (**Subsequent NPL Club**);*

- (a) Football NSW may attribute Switching Player Points for that Player upon registration with the Subsequent NPL Club as if the Player had transferred directly from the Former NPL Club to the Subsequent NPL Club;*
- (b) The Subsequent NPL Club may apply Football NSW to justify the reasons as to why Switching Player points should not apply.*

- For the purposes of Switching Player points, played means taking the field of play (i.e. part of the starting eleven or taking the field as a substitute).
- Football NSW has the right to determine in its sole and absolute discretion as to whether Switching Player points will apply where the Member Federation is the Competition Administrator.
- FFA has the right to determine in its sole and absolute discretion as to whether Switching Player points will apply in the event that the NPL Club qualifies for the national NPL Finals Series.
- Switching Player points also apply for mid-season registrations and transfers, including a Player promoted from a NPL Club's Age-Eligible Team.
- Where a Player is promoted from a NPL Club's Age-Eligible Team (or equivalent) to a NPL Club's First Team Player Roster during the season, Switching Player Points will be applied where the Player's registration immediately prior (e.g. earlier in the 2019 season) or in the previous NPL season was with another NPL Club.

Pathway Player

- A Pathway Player is subject to all other categories of the PPS (other than the Switching Player category). For example, a Pathway Player is eligible for Loyalty Player points and Homegrown Player points.
- A Player who departs a NPL Club for a National Elite Pathway Team and returns to the same NPL Club will be classified as a Pathway Player provided the Player has remained within the National Elite Pathway for the duration of their absence from the relevant NPL Club.

Example A: Player history of John Smith – Eligible Pathway Player

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| 2017 | - | Registered with United FC (NPL Club) |
| 2018 | - | Registered with Perth Glory (FYL) |
| 2019 | - | Registered with Brisbane Roar (A-League) |
| 2020 | - | Registered with United FC (NPL Club) |

Example B: Player history of Mark Jones – Ineligible Pathway Player

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| 2017 | - | Registered with United FC (NPL Club) |
| 2018 | - | Registered with Perth Glory (FYL) |
| 2019 | - | Registered with Thailand FC (Overseas) |
| 2020 | - | Registered with United FC (NPL Club) |

Australian Marquee Player

An Australian Marquee Player is subject to all other categories of the PPS (e.g. Homegrown Player) but will not be subject to the Switching Player category:

- (a) Subject to paragraph (b) below, a Player may only be categorised as an Australian Marquee Player in his first season with the NPL Club and for one (1) season only in his career for that NPL Club. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player is not able to be an Australian Marquee Player in his second season in the NPL with that NPL Club.

Notwithstanding paragraph (a) immediately above, if a Player is categorised as an Australian Marquee Player for an NPL Club, he then transfers as a professional to a Hyundai A-League Club or overseas Club and then subsequently returns to the NPL and seeks to register for an NPL Club (either the same or different NPL Club), he is eligible to be categorised as an Australian Marquee.

Points Deduction – Youth Player Advancement

Example: A NPL Club has a U14 Player signed this season by a National Elite Pathway Team. The NPL Club can choose to have:

- (a) *three (3) points deducted (-3 points) from this season's Points Total;*
(b) *three (3) points deducted (-3 points) from next season's Points Total.*

Points Deduction – First Team Player Advancement

Example: A NPL Club has a First Team Player signed this season by a National Elite Pathway Team. The NPL Club can choose to have:

- (a) *eight points deducted (-8 points) from this season's Points Total;*
(b) *eight (8) points deducted from next season's Points Total.*

Points Deduction – Promoted Club

This category applies to Clubs promoted into the NPL or an entity granted a licence to participate in the NPL for the first time. This points deduction only applies for the Promoted Club's first season following promotion into, or being granted a licence to participate in, the NPL.