NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES

PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM | 2022

Football Australia – National Premier Leagues

A key outcome of the National Competitions Review (***NCR***) conducted in 2012 was the introduction of the Player Points System (***PPS***) to complement the Club Licensing framework for the National Premier Leagues (***NPL***). The objectives of the PPS are to:

- Provide greater opportunities to Australian Players;
- Promote a greater focus on the importance of youth development;
- Ensure Player salaries remain at levels which ensure the long-term sustainability of NPL Clubs;
- Promote Players through the Club youth development structures;
- Increase the stability of NPL Club Player Rosters;
- Maintain competitive balance and parity amongst the NPL Clubs;
- Incentivise Players progressing through to national elite pathway teams (***National Elite Pathway Team***) to return to their original NPL Clubs; and
- Reward Clubs who develop Players that progress through to a National Elite Pathway Team.

The PPS encourages NPL Clubs to simultaneously promote greater focus on youth development whilst delivering the outcomes and objectives of the NCR.

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.

The Points Cap for the 2022 season will be set by each Member Federation, in consultation with Football Australia (***FA***), up to a maximum of 200 points.

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.

1. PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM

Category	Points Adjustment	Criteria
Youth Player	-1 for each year the Player is under 23 years of age	• 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.
Visa Player	+10	• 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.
Homegrown Player	-1 for each season registered with the NPL Club	• 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	• A Loyalty Player is a Player that has registered for his NPL Club's First Team for at least four (4) continuous seasons. • One (1) point is deducted from a Player's points value for each season, starting from his fourth continuous season, in which the Player is registered for the NPL Club's First Team.
Switching Player	+5	• Five (5) points is added to a Player's points value if: (a) he was registered as a professional with his previous Club (this does not apply to the nominated Australian Marquee Player(s) or to a National Elite Pathway Loan 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	• 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	• 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	• 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).
National Elite Pathway Loan Player	0	• A Player will not incur Switching Player points if they are loaned to an NPL Club from a National Elite Pathway Team, provided they are an Australian Player 23 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL season.
Pathway Player	0	• No points are added to, or deducted from, a Player's points value only by virtue of that Player having left an NPL Club to join a National Elite Pathway Team and having returned to the same NPL Club.
Australian Marquee Player	0	• An Australian Marquee Player is an Australian Player that was registered as a professional Player for an 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). • An NPL Club can have a maximum of two (2) Players on its First Team Player Roster nominated as Australian Marquee Players at any one time. If an NPL Club has two (2) Australian Marquee Players on its First Team Player Roster, at least one (1) of these Players must be 23 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL season.

Points Deductions

An NPL Club's Points Total can be decreased in accordance with the following provisions:

Category	Points Bonus	Criteria
Youth Player Advancement	-3 per Player	• Three (3) points may be deducted from a NPL Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is permanently transferred to a National Elite Pathway Team from the NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams. • 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.
First Team Player Loan	-3 per Player	• Three (3) points may be deducted from a NPL Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is subsequently registered on Loan to 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.
First Team Player Advancement	-8 per Player	• Eight (8) points may be deducted from a NPL Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is permanently transferred to 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	• A Promoted Club will receive a deduction of 20 points from their Points Total. 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.

2. GENERAL DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

The general definitions are provided for ease of reference.

The following discussion points and examples are intended to provide Member Federations and NPL Clubs with further clarity with respect to each of the PPS categories.

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 any other NPL competition regulations provided by the applicable Member Federation.

Loan
Loan means the temporary transfer of a Player's registration from the Parent Club to the Loan Club, effected in accordance with the FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations.

Loan Club
Loan Club means the Club to which the registration of a Player subject to a Loan is, will be, or has been temporarily transferred from a Parent Club for the term of a Loan.

National Elite Pathway Team
A National Elite Pathway Team is a team which participates in the National Elite Pathway, as determined by the FA 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:

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

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 each Member Federation.

For clarity:

- where NPL Competitions commence from Under 12s, these include Under 12s through to Under 20s
- where NPL Competitions commence from Under 13s, these include Under 13s through to Under 20s

NPL Club

NPL Club means any entity admitted by a Member Federation to field a team in the NPL.

NPL Finals Series

NPL Finals Series is the national eight (8) team knockout competition staged by, or under the control of, FA 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 FA from time to time.

Parent Club

Parent Club means the Club from which the registration of a Player subject to a Loan is, will be, or has been temporarily transferred to a Loan Club for the term of a Loan.

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 the Member Federation, in consultation with FA, up to a maximum of 200 points.

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) a club promoted into the NPL from a lower tier competition, including a lower division of the NPL or,

(b) 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 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.
- All Players must be registered to the appropriate age-category (where applicable). Any Player who during the NPL 2022 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.

Youth Player

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

Player's Age as at 31 December in current NPL season	***Points Deduction***
22 years old (2000)	-1
21 years old (2001)	-2
20 years old (2002)	-3
19 years old (2003)	-4
18 years old (2004)	-5

Australian Player

An Australian Player is any Player who is:

(c) a citizen of Australia;

(d) 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

(e) 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 A-League Club who has been permitted to play in the 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 2011 and 2014 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 2019, 2020 and 2021 (continuous seasons). If also registered in 2022, he will be eligible to receive his first point reduction of one (1) point as a Loyalty Player in the 2022 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 2018, 2019 and 2020 (continuous seasons), however was not registered with any Club in 2021. If the Player registers with that NPL Club in 2022, 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 an A-League Club for two (2) years and then at the completion of his stint with that A-League Club, he returns to NPL Club A. This season with NPL Club A will be deemed his fourth continuous season.

Switching Player

- In the event that a Player is a Switching Player, he can only be classified in one (1) category (e.g. a Player cannot incur Switching Player points in two (2) different categories).
- 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).
- 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***);
    - the Member Federation or FA 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.
- The Subsequent NPL Club may apply to FA or the Member Federation (whichever is applicable) to justify the reasons as to why Switching Player points should not apply.
- The Member Federation 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.

- FA 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 2022 season) or in the previous NPL season was with another NPL Club.
- A Player will not incur Switching Player points if they are on Loan to an NPL Club from a National Elite Pathway Team, provided the Player is 23 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL season.
- In accordance with clause 4.5 of the FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations, a Player will remain registered with FA for a period of thirty (30) months from the date the Player made his or her last appearance for a Club in a Match. A Player who has been inactive for this thirty (30) month period will not incur Switching Player points should they then register with another NPL Club following this period.

National Elite Pathway Loan Player

- A National Elite Pathway Loan Player is subject to all other categories of the PPS (other than the Switching Player category). For example, a National Elite Pathway Loan Player is eligible for Loyalty Player points and Homegrown Player points.

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*

2019 - Registered with United FC (NPL Club)
2020 - Registered with Perth Glory (FYL)
2021 - Registered with Brisbane Roar (A-League)
2022 - Registered with United FC (NPL Club)

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

2019 - Registered with United FC (NPL Club)
2020 - Registered with Perth Glory (FYL)
2021 - Registered with Thailand FC (Overseas)
2022 - 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.

(b) 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 an 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 an U14 team Player and an U20 team Player signed this season by a National Elite Pathway Team. The NPL Club can choose to have:

(a) six (6) points deducted (-6 points) from this season's Points Total;

(b) three (3) points deducted (-3 points) from this season's and next season's Points Total; or

(c) six (6) points deducted (-6 points) from next season's Points Total.

Points Deduction – First Team Player Loan

Example: A NPL Club has two (2) First Team Players signed on Loan this season by a National Elite Pathway Team. The NPL Club can choose to have

(a) six (6) points deducted (-6 points) from this season's Points Total;

(b) three (3) points deducted (-3) from this season's and next season's Points Total; or

(c) six (6) points deducted (-6 points) from this season's and next season's Points Total.

Points Deduction – First Team Player Advancement

Example: A NPL Club has two (2) First Team Players signed this season by a National Elite Pathway Team. The NPL Club can choose to have

(a) sixteen points deducted (-16 points) from this season's Points Total;

(b) eight (8) points deducted (-8 points) from this season's and next season's Points Total; or

(c) sixteen points deducted (-16 points) 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.