

Football NSW – NPL NSW Men's, FNSW League One Men's & FNSW League Two Men's Player Points System

The Football NSW Men's NPL Player Points System applies to the NPL NSW Men's, FNSW League One Men's and FNSW League Two Men's.

The PPS distinguishes between two distinct types of **NPL/Leagues Club** teams: those upon which an age restriction is placed (e.g. U16s, U18s, U20s) (***NPL Club/Leagues Age-Eligible Team***) and the NPL/Leagues Club's senior team, being the ***First Team***.

The PPS points cap (***Points Cap***) applies to each NPL/Leagues 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 falling below the minimum player roster, or adding players that result in "First Team" players in excess of the maximum points cap, will result in a forfeit against the offending team.

The maximum Points Cap is as follows for each competition:

- NPL NSW Men's – 200
- Football NSW League One Men's – 200
- Football NSW League Two Men's – 200

The Club's that is promoted into the NPL NSW Men's and Football NSW League One Men's and Football NSW League Two 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.

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.

1. PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM

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 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/Leagues 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/Leagues Club's Age-Eligible Teams. The maximum adjustment to a Player's points value under this category is minus five (5) points. In addition to the Homegrown Player deductions, an NPL/Leagues Club must have a minimum of three (3) Homegrown Players on their NPL/Leagues First Team Player Roster who between the ages of 15-21, was registered to the Club for a period of three (3) entire seasons or 36 months in total (noting such periods are aggregate and not required to be continuous) with their NPL Club.
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/Leagues 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/Leagues Club's First Team.
Visa Player	+10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Visa Player is any outfield Player who is not an Australian Player. Visa Player Goalkeepers are not permitted. 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). Outside of the one (1) AFC/OFC Visa Players, an NPL/Leagues Club can have a maximum of two (2) Visa Players on their First Team Player Roster at any one time.
AFC/OFC Visa Player	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An AFC/OFC Visa Player is any outfield Player who is not an Australian Player and who holds citizenship from an AFC or OFC Member Association. Visa Player Goalkeepers are not permitted. AFC/OFC Visa players will incur 0 Visa Category points under the points adjustments table but will still accrue switching points. An NPL/Leagues Club can have a maximum of one (1) AFC/OFC Visa Player 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> he was registered as a professional with his previous Club, regardless of whether the player is switching from an NPL/Leagues or non-NPL Club (this does not apply to the nominated Australian Marquee Player(s) or to a National Elite Pathway Loan Player); or he was registered in the NPL/Leagues as an amateur with his previous NPL/Leagues Club and he played ten (10) or more games in that NPL/Leagues Club's First Team in the most recent NPL/Leagues 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/Leagues as an amateur with his previous NPL/Leagues Club and played in less than ten (10) games in that NPL/Leagues Club's First Team in the most recent NPL/Leagues 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/Leagues Club other than their NPL/Leagues Club of origin (i.e. the NPL/Leagues Club he was registered with prior to that National Elite Pathway Team).
National Elite Pathway Loan Player	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<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/Leagues Club to join a National Elite Pathway Team and having returned to the same NPL/Leagues 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 A-League Club or an overseas Club immediately prior to registering with the NPL/Leagues 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/Leagues 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/Leagues 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/Leagues season.

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

Category	Points Adjustment	Criteria
First Team Player Loan	-3 per Player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three (3) points may be deducted from a NPL/Leagues Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is subsequently registered on Loan to a National Elite Pathway Team from the NPL/Leagues Club's First Team Player Roster. The points deduction will only apply for one (1) NPL/Leagues season, which must be applied in either the NPL/Leagues season that the relevant Player moves to the National Elite Pathway Team, or the next NPL/Leagues season.
Youth Player Advancement	-3 per Player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three (3) points may be deducted from a NPL/Leagues Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is permanently transferred to a National Elite Pathway Team from the NPL/Leagues Club's Age-Eligible Teams. The points deduction will only apply for one (1) NPL/Leagues season, which must be applied in either the NPL/Leagues season that the relevant Player moves to the National Elite Pathway Team, or the next NPL/Leagues season.
First Team Player Advancement	-8 per Player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eight (8) points may be deducted from a NPL/Leagues Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is signed by a National Elite Pathway Team from the NPL/Leagues Club's First Team Player Roster.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The points deduction will only apply for one (1) NPL/Leagues season, which must be applied in either the NPL/Leagues season that the relevant Player moves to the National Elite Pathway Team, or the next NPL/Leagues season.
Promoted Club	-20 per Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Club that is promoted into the NPL NSW Men's, FNSW League One Men's and FNSW League Two 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.

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/Leagues Clubs with further clarity with respect to each of the PPS categories.

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

First Team

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

First Team Player Roster

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

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 Men's Club including Academy team's participating in the NPL and or, the A-League Team;
- National 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. *does not account for any potential introduction of a National Second Tier in 2025.

Leagues

Leagues means the Football NSW second and third tier club men's competitions.

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. For ease of reference, this includes Football NSW Leagues competitions.

NPL Club

NPL Club means any entity admitted by Football NSW to field a team in a NPL Competition. For the purposes of the PPS, this includes Football NSW Boys Youth

FNSW League One Men's Club

FNSW League One Men's Club means any entity admitted by Football NSW to field a team in a FNSW League One Men's Competition. For the purposes of the PPS, this includes Football NSW Boys Youth.

FNSW League Two Men's Club

FNSW League Two Men's Club means any entity admitted by Football NSW to field a team in a FNSW League Two Men's Competition. For the purposes of the PPS, this includes Football NSW Boys Youth.

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 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/Leagues Club's Points Total, as determined by Football NSW, in consultation with FA.

Points Total

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

Promoted Club

A Promoted Club means:

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

State Premiers

State Premiers means the NPL Club who is the premiers 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/Leagues Club First Team Player Roster Requirements

- At all times during a NPL/Leagues season, a NPL/Leagues 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/Leagues 2024 Season exceeds the age-limit for the oldest NPL/Leagues Age-Eligible Team at an NPL/Leagues Club (e.g. U20), must be included on his NPL/Leagues 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:

<i>Player's Age as at 31 December in current NPL season</i>	<i>Points Deduction</i>
22 years of age (2003 born)	-1
21 years of age (2004 born)	-2
20 years of age (2005 born)	-3
19 years of age (2006 born)	-4
18 years of age (2007 born) and under	-5

Australian Player

An Australian Player is any Player who is:

- a) a citizen of Australia; or
- 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 A-League Men's Club who has been permitted to play in the National Youth League as an "NYL 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/Leagues 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/Leagues Club's Age Eligible Teams, prior to that NPL/Leagues Club being granted an NPL/Leagues licence.

Example: Prior to Club A being granted a licence to participate in the NPL/Leagues, 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/Leagues Club's First Team in 2022, 2023 and 2024 (continuous seasons). If also registered in 2025, he will be eligible to receive his first point reduction of one (1) point as a Loyalty Player in the 2025 season.

- If a Player is not registered with any Club for a season and subsequently returns to his last NPL/Leagues 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/Leagues Club in 2021, 2022 and 2023 (continuous seasons), however was not registered with any Club in 2024. If the Player registers with that NPL/Leagues Club in 2025, it will be deemed to be his fourth continuous season with that NPL/Leagues 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 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/Leagues Club (**Former NPL/Leagues Club**) and subsequently registers with a Club that does not participate in the NPL, Leagues, 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/Leagues Club (**Subsequent NPL/Leagues Club**);
 - a) Football NSW may attribute Switching Player Points for that Player upon registration with the Subsequent NPL/Leagues Club as if the Player had transferred directly from the Former NPL/Leagues Club to the Subsequent NPL/Leagues Club;
 - b) The Subsequent NPL/Leagues Club may apply Football NSW to justify the reasons as to why Switching Player points should not apply.
- Football NSW has the right to determine in its sole and absolute discretion as to whether Switching Player points will apply where Football NSW 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/Leagues Club qualifies for the national NPL/Leagues Finals Series.
- Switching Player points also apply for mid-season registrations and transfers, including a Player promoted from a different NPL/Leagues Club's Age-Eligible Team.
- Where a Player is promoted from a NPL/Leagues Club's Age-Eligible Team (or equivalent) to a NPL/Leagues 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 2025 season) or in the previous NPL/Leagues season was with another NPL/Leagues Club.
- A Player will not incur Switching Player points if they are on Loan to an NPL/Leagues 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/Leagues season.
- In accordance with 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/Leagues 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/Leagues 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/Leagues Club.

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

2022 - Registered with United FC (NPL Club)
2023 - Registered with Perth Glory (FYL)
2024 - Registered with Brisbane Roar (A-League)
2025 - Registered with United FC (NPL Club)

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

2022 - Registered with United FC (NPL Club)
2023 - Registered with Perth Glory (FYL)
2024 - Registered with Thailand FC (Overseas)
2025 - 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/Leagues Club and for one (1) season only in his career for that NPL/Leagues Club. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player is not able to be an Australian Marquee Player in his second season in the NPL/Leagues with that NPL/Leagues Club.
- b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) immediately above, if a Player is categorised as an Australian Marquee Player for an NPL/Leagues Club, he then transfers as a professional to an A-League Men's Club or overseas Club and then subsequently returns to the NPL/Leagues and seeks to register for an NPL/Leagues Club (either the same or different NPL/Leagues 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 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; or*
- b) *three (3) points deducted (-3 points) from next 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 next season's Points Total.*

Points Deduction – First Team Player Advancement

Example: A NPL/Leagues Club has a First Team Player signed this season by a National Elite Pathway Team. The NPL/Leagues 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/Leagues or an entity granted a licence to participate in the NPL/Leagues 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/Leagues.