



Player Selection Policy



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1. Objectives of Selection Policy

- 1.1 The objectives of this Policy are:
 - a. To clearly document and make available to all Players eligible to play in the NAB LEAGUE, their parents and the member REGIONS of AFL Victoria, the process, and criteria to be used by the NAB LEAGUE and its member REGIONS in selecting Players for training squads, Player lists and match teams to compete in the NAB LEAGUE; and
 - b. To select Players to compete in a high standard competition in the NAB LEAGUE so as to enable them to develop to their full potential as a football Player and to equip them for a career in Australian Football.

2. Application of Policy

- 1.2 This Policy is issued by the NAB LEAGUE MANAGER COUNTRY & NAB LEAGUE MANAGER METRO
- 1.3 This Policy shall take effect from 1 November 2021.
- 1.4 This Policy applies to all REGIONS which participate in the NAB LEAGUE and to all Players eligible to play in the NAB LEAGUE as set out the “NAB LEAGUE Competition Rules and Regulations” and “NAB LEAGUE Competition Player Rules” issued by the AFL.

3. Definitions

The following words used in this Policy shall mean the following:

Affiliate	means any of the organisations engaged in the control and conduct of football REGIONS and football competitions in Victoria including the Victorian Country Football League (VCFL), Victorian Metropolitan Leagues and the Victorian Amateur Football Association (VAFA)
REGION	means any one of the following football REGIONS, namely Bendigo Pioneers, Calder Cannons, Dandenong Stingrays, Eastern Ranges, Geelong Falcons, Gippsland Power, Murray Bushrangers, North Ballarat Rebels, Oakleigh Chargers, Northern Knights, Sandringham Dragons, and Western Jets.
REGION Training Squad	means, in respect of each REGION, a squad of Players selected for the purposes of determining the Player List
Player List	means, in respect of each REGION, the list of Players required to be lodged and maintained in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the NAB LEAGUE Competition
Match Team	means, in respect of each REGION, the team of Players which are selected to play a match in the NAB LEAGUE Competition
Player	means a person who meets the requirements set out in clause 4 of this Policy
Talent Operations Lead	means the person employed or appointed by the AFL in such role in the regions as prescribed by the AFL.
Selection Panels	means in respect of each REGION, the persons appointed under clause 5 of this Policy



4. Process of Selection

- 1.5 Each REGION shall invite Players, as determined by the REGION's Selection Panel to be members of its Training Squad. The grounds which the REGION must consider when offering such invitations are set out in clause 6.1.
- 1.6 For Players invited into a REGION Training Squad to participate in that Squad and to be considered for selection to the Player List and Match Teams, each Player invited to a REGION Training Squad must:
 - a. be eligible for registration with AFL Victoria as a Player for a REGION in accordance with the "NAB LEAGUE Competition Player Rules", and
 - b. complete and sign, along with their parent or guardian, the application for selection form and return it to the REGION to which they have been invited to be a member of the REGION's Training Squad by a date advised to the Player by the REGION.
- 1.7 Each REGION's Selection Panel will review the Player's performance and other factors and by applying the Selection Criteria (as set out in Section 5) will select:
 - a. a REGION Training Squad for the NAB LEAGUE, within the timeframe as dictated by the AFL
 - b. the Player List for the NAB LEAGUE, within the timeframe as dictated By the AFL; and
 - c. the Match Team for the NAB LEAGUE prior to each match.

The dates provided in 4.2(a), (b), and (c) may be amended at any time by the selectors, with any such changes to be communicated to all affected Players, REGIONS, and Affiliates.

NOTE: The above dates are the latest dates by which the selections are to be completed. REGIONS are entitled to identify and give notice to all Players of an earlier date on which such selections in respect of that REGION will be made.

5. Selection Panels

- 1.8 Subject to clause 5.3, each REGION shall appoint a Selection Panel which shall comprise of:
- a. the Talent Pathways Coach (or his/her nominee) in the REGION.
 - b. the Talent Operations Lead (or his/her nominee) in the REGION
 - c. other persons appointed by the REGION, who has experience in the selection and/or coaching of Players for the NAB LEAGUE or equivalent level.
- Each REGION shall advise all Players on the Training Squad and Player List the persons comprising that REGION's Selection Panel.
- 1.9 The Talent Pathways Coach (or his nominee) in each region shall be the Chair of the Selection Panel in that region.
- 1.10 No person shall be appointed as a member of the Selection Panel if they have a personal association (e.g. family member) with a Player who is seeking selection to that REGION's Training Squad, Player List and/or Match Team for the NAB LEAGUE unless written approval is obtained from the NAB LEAGUE MANAGER.
- 1.11 The NAB LEAGUE MANAGER may also direct any member of any Selection Panel to vacate the relevant Panel where it considers, in its sole discretion, the Panel Member has an association with a Player which may give rise to a question or perception of bias or conflict of interest in the selection process.

6. Criteria for Selection

- 1.12 Each REGION shall apply the following criteria in the selection of Players to be invited to the REGION's Training Squad:
- a. past performance of the Players including but not limited to school/local football, regional representative teams, State Carnivals and performance in the NAB LEAGUE in the previous year;
 - b. potential of the Player in the Selection Panel's discretion, to perform well in the NAB LEAGUE;
 - c. potential of the Player, in the Selection Panel's discretion, to play in the AFL / AFLW;
 - d. ability of the Player to perform football skills (both general and specific positional skills) to a high level.
 - e. adequate fitness and athleticism of the Player,
 - f. versatility of the Player and their ability to play in a variety of positions.
 - g. attendance by the Player at pre-season training and REGION Training Squad training;



- h. availability of the Player for training and games commitments prior to and including the NAB LEAGUE; (Note: Players who have played with a school and/or REGION team the day before NAB LEAGUE matches will be ineligible to play in that weekend's NAB LEAGUE match, except in exceptional circumstances, e.g. due to late withdrawal by a player selected to a NAB LEAGUE Team);
 - i. evidence of a positive attitude to training and commitment to team rules and principles as displayed in previous teams and squads;
 - j. evidence of a desire to play AFL/AFWL or senior VFL/VFLW football.
- 1.13 Each Selection Panel shall apply the following criteria in the selection of Players to the REGION's Player List:
- a. past performance of the Players including but not limited to school/local football, regional representative teams, State Carnivals and performance in the NAB LEAGUE in the previous year;
 - b. performance in REGION Training Squad and practice matches;
 - c. potential of the Player in the Selection Panel's discretion, to perform well in the NAB LEAGUE;
 - d. potential of the Player, in the Selection Panel's discretion, to play in the AFL / AFLW;
 - e. ability of the Player to perform football skills (both general and specific positional skills) to a high level.
 - f. adequate fitness and athleticism of the Player,
 - g. versatility of the Player and their ability to play in a variety of positions.
 - h. attendance by the Player at pre-season training and REGION Training Squad training;
 - i. availability of the Player for training and games commitments prior to and including the NAB LEAGUE; (Note: Players who have played with a school and/or REGION team the day before NAB LEAGUE matches will be ineligible to play in that weekend's NAB LEAGUE match, except in exceptional circumstances, e.g. due to late withdrawal by a player selected to a NAB LEAGUE Team);
 - j. evidence of a positive attitude to training and commitment to team rules and principles as displayed in previous teams and squads;
 - k. evidence of a desire to play AFL/AFWL or senior VFL/VFLW football.



- 1.14 Each Selection Panel shall apply the following criteria in the selection of Players to the REGION's Match Team:
- a. Performance at training, in Training Squad practice matches, and in previous NAB LEAGUE matches
 - b. potential of the Player in the Selection Panel's discretion, to perform well in the NAB LEAGUE;
 - c. potential of the Player, in the Selection Panel's discretion, to play in the AFL / AFLW;
 - d. balance of skills and positions of Players in the team;
 - e. adequate fitness including consideration of injuries, illness etc;
 - f. attitude and understanding of game plan;
 - g. ability to continually improve over period of the NAB LEAGUE season;
 - h. ability to assist other Players develop their football ability;
 - i. evidence of a desire to play AFL or senior VFL football.
- 1.15 No particular part of the selection criteria above shall be weighed more or less significantly by reason only of the order in which that criterion appears in the Policy.

7. Notification of Selection

- 1.16 Upon selection of the REGION Training Squads, Player Lists and Match Teams the Region Manager in each region shall announce the Players selected respectively.
- 1.17 The Match Teams must be announced no later than the Friday before the relevant match.
- 1.18 The announcement will be done verbally and then notified to players by any of the following means: mail, local newspaper or as otherwise determined by the REGION.

8. Appeals

- 1.19 Subject to clause 8.2, any Player who is aggrieved by a decision of a Selection Panel under this Policy may appeal that decision to the AFL Tribunal in accordance with rule 21 of the "AFL NAB LEAGUE Competition – Rules and Regulations".
- 1.20 Before appealing under clause 8.1, the Player must go through the following process:
- a. Firstly, the Player concerned (or his representative) must inform the Chair of the relevant Selection Panel of their intention to appeal the decision and must meet or discuss with them the selection or non-selection decision.

- b. Secondly, if the Player is not satisfied with the outcome of the discussions in sub-clause (a) of this clause, then they must inform the NAB LEAGUE MANAGER or their nominee of their intention to appeal and must meet or discuss with them the selection or non-selection decision.

9. Removal/Withdrawal from Selection

- 1.21 A Player who is selected to a REGION Training Squad, the Player List or a Match Team under this Policy may be withdrawn from the squad/list/team if he:
 - a. breaches or fails to comply with this Policy;
 - b. breaches or fails to comply with the Constitution of the AFL, the NAB LEAGUE Competition Rules and Regulations and the NAB LEAGUE Competition Player Rules;
 - i. brings any squad/team, his REGION or the AFL, or the sport of football into disrepute including behaving contrary to the aims and messages of the competition's major sponsor; or
 - ii. has an illness or injury which in the relevant Selection Panel's opinion prevents the Player from continuing to meet the criteria for selection.
- 1.22 Any selected Player may be withdrawn by the Selection Panel if any of the grounds in clause 9.1 occur. The Player's REGION shall notify the Player in writing of the alleged breach or grounds upon which it is proposed that he be withdrawn. He shall be given a reasonable opportunity (not being less than seven days) to provide reasons why he should not be withdrawn.
- 1.23 A selected Player may withdraw from selection by giving notice in writing to the relevant Region Manager.
- 1.24 If a selected Player is withdrawn from selection, the Selection Panel may consider another Player who in the Selection Panel's opinion meets the criteria set out in this Policy.

10. Changes to the Policy

- 1.25 The NAB LEAGUE may change this Policy from time to time, provided that it shall provide as much notice of such change as is possible to all affected Players, REGIONS and Affiliates.
- 1.26 The Talent Operations Leads will take reasonable steps to give written notice to Players affected by any amendments and/or supplements to the Policy.