

The background of the cover is a photograph of an AFLW match, overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. Two players are in mid-air, competing for a football. The player on the right is wearing a black and white striped jersey, while the player on the left is in a dark jersey. A third player is visible in the lower left, and another in the lower right. The football is at the top center, with the 'AFLW' logo visible. The text 'AFLW' and 'Competition Rules' is printed in white, bold, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

# AFLW Competition Rules

Issued 11 June 2025

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## 1. DEFINITIONS

### 1.1 Definitions

**AFL** means the Australian Football League ACN 004 155 211;

**AFLPA** means the Australian Football League Players' Association ACN 662 842 033;

**AFLW** means the premier women's Australian Football competition conducted by the AFL currently known as the NAB AFLW competition or "AFLW";

**AFLW Commercial Operations Guidelines** means the guidelines determined by AFL to regulate the commercial operations of the AFLW as amended by AFL from time to time;

**AFLW Event** means any event, other than a Match, conducted under the auspices of, and approved by, the AFL in connection with the AFLW;

**AFLW Season** means the period commencing on the Monday of the week of the first Match of the AFLW Premiership Season and ending on the date of the Grand Final of the AFLW Finals Series;

**AFLW Team** means the team which the Club is licensed to field in the AFLW;

**Associate** of a person in these Rules has the corresponding meaning under the AFL Rules;

**Australian Football** means the game played in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football;

**CBA** means the Collective Bargaining Agreement known as "AFL and AFLW Collective Bargaining Agreement 2023-2027" and any such Collective Bargaining Agreement replacing that agreement;

**Club** means the AFL Club that has been granted a licence to field a team in the AFLW;

**Club Session** means Club or AFL sessions including without limitation training, skills, video sessions, strength and conditioning, mandatory preparation, recovery, Club medical consultations, Club meetings, Club inductions, outductions, education and development sessions and events as required by the Club or AFL in accordance this Agreement, with the exception of Matches, Appearances and Voluntary Use of Club Facilities;

**Excess Medical Costs** means the difference between:

- (a) costs of any Club or AFL approved (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld) consultations, corrective surgery or rehabilitation treatment for a Football Injury; and
- (b) any lesser amount recoverable from Medicare and Player's Required Health Insurance (including extras cover) in respect of such Club or AFL approved consultations, corrective surgery or rehabilitation treatment for that Football Injury;

**Final Eight System** means the system to determine the premier Club between those Clubs competing in the Finals Series, as set out in Appendix B;

**Finals Series** means the series of Matches played at the conclusion of the AFLW Home and Away Season to determine the premier Club in each AFLW Season or any like successor competition howsoever titled;

**Football Injury** means an injury or illness suffered by a Player as a result of:

- (a) training or playing for their Club or AFLW Team in respect of AFLW during the term of the CBA;

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- (b) training or playing at the direction of their Club or AFL in respect of AFLW during the term of the CBA;
- (c) performing any Appearances pursuant to the CBA;
- (d) travel required by AFL or the Club to perform any obligations pursuant to the CBA; or
- (e) performing any other services in accordance with the CBA;

**Football Payment** means in respect of a Player, any payment, consideration, advantage or other benefit directly or indirectly given or provided to, or applied for the benefit of, the Player or any Associate of the Player and which:

- (a) relates in any way to, or which is connected with, the Player's past, present or future services with a Club as a football player, or any agreement, arrangement or understanding for the Player to join a Club or to refrain from joining a Club; or
- (b) is so given, provided or applied by a Club, or by an Associate of a Club, unless the Player, the Club or the Associate of a Club proves to the satisfaction of the AFL's nominated investigations manager that the payment, consideration, advantage or benefit was paid, given or provided to the Player, or applied for the benefit of the Player or any Associate of a Player, in consideration of bona fide:
  - (i) employment;
  - (ii) marketing; or
  - (iii) other services or rights,not falling within paragraph (a), rendered by the Player;

**Home and Away Season** means the series of home and away Matches during the AFLW Competition played over a series of rounds in each year;

**Image** means an AFLW Player's name, image, photograph, footage, likeness, reputation or identity;

**Inactive Replacement Player** means a player who is added to a Club's Primary List as a result of an existing Player's long term unavailability in accordance with Rule 7.1;

**Match** means a match of Australian Football between two (2) AFLW Teams;

**Medical Officer** means any duly qualified medical practitioner appointed by the Club or AFL;

**Player** means a player of AFLW who is or becomes contracted with a Club or who is or becomes listed with the AFL as a Player with a Club;

**Pre-Season** means the period commencing on the Training Start Date and ending on the day prior to the first Match of the Home and Away Season;

**Rules** means these AFLW Competition Rules as amended by the AFL from time to time;

**Standard Playing Contract (SPC)** means the form of contract for the employment of a Player as an AFLW Player, entered into between a Player, Club and the AFL;

**State League Competition** means each of the following competitions:

- (a) South Australian National Football League Women's;

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- (b) Victorian Football League Women's;
- (c) West Australian Football League Women's; and
- (d) Queensland Australian Football League Women's;

**Voluntary Use of Club Facilities** means the voluntary or personal uses of Club facilities and resources, which include:

- (a) Player arriving to a session earlier than required (i.e. earlier than the time stipulated by Club, or earlier than is reasonably necessary to be ready when required);
- (b) Player choosing to do extra sessions at the Club, or outside the Club using Club resources;
- (c) time spent eating Club provided meals, if not required to be at the Club;
- (d) extra rehabilitation/rehabilitation Player chooses to complete (over and above what is expected or required by Club); or
- (e) any Player requested session.

## 1.2 Other capitalised terms

Capitalised terms not otherwise defined in these Rules have the meaning given to them in the CBA or, where undefined in the CBA, in the AFL Regulations.

## 2. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

### 2.1 Home and Away Season

- (a) The AFLW Competition will be conducted in a single ladder format.
- (b) Home and Away Season Matches will be set to ensure no AFLW Team is significantly disadvantaged. The method of determining Home and Away Season Matches will be determined for the AFLW Premiership Season based on the number of AFLW Teams and the number of Home and Away Season Matches and otherwise in accordance with the requirements of the CBA.
- (c) Ladder positions will be determined by, in order, points, percentages, results between the two (2) Clubs (if they played), percentage in the matches between the Clubs (if they played) and a coin toss.

### 2.2 Finals Series

At the completion of the Home and Away Season Matches, the first eight Clubs will compete in the Finals Series under the Final Eight System.

## 3. AFLW LIST MANAGEMENT

### 3.1 List structure

- (a) Each Club AFLW List must be made up of a list size of 30 players;
- (b) The Club AFLW List can comprise:
  - (i) 30 AFLW Primary List Players;

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- (ii) 29 AFLW Primary List Players plus 1 AFLW Rookie List Player;
- (iii) 28 AFLW Primary List Players plus 2 AFLW Rookie List Players; or
- (iv) 27 AFLW Primary List Players plus 3 AFLW Rookie List Players.

## 3.2 General Player eligibility

Players must be 18 years of age on or before 31 December in the year prior to the relevant AFLW Season, to be eligible to be on a Club's AFLW Primary List, Rookie List or contracted as a Top Up player in the AFLW Competition.

## 3.3 Key dates

The AFL will advise all Clubs of the key list management dates for the relevant AFLW Season, including list lodgements (including but not limited to the dates for List Lodgement 1, List Lodgement 2, List Lodgement 3 and List Lodgement 4, being the final List Lodgement), the Trade Period, AFLW Free Agency Period, AFLW Draft and other relevant dates, subject to any timing notification and consultation requirements as set out in the CBA.

## 3.4 AFLW List Committee

The AFL will appoint the AFLW List Committee, which is in place to provide advice to Clubs regarding these AFLW List Rules and consider exceptions that may be submitted by Clubs from time to time. It is comprised of representatives from the AFL TPP, Legal and Football Operations teams.

# 4. GENERAL LIST BUILD RULES

## 4.1 Signing timing

- (a) Clubs may re-sign their Players at any time during a year.
- (b) Clubs may only sign traded Players during the AFLW Trade Period.
- (c) Clubs may only sign AFLW Free Agents and Restricted AFLW Free Agents during the AFLW Free Agency Period.

## 4.2 Signing Players

- (a) Signing a Player means the Club and Player reaching agreement on the Player's payment tier and Additional Service Agreement (**ASA**) payments (as applicable) with the approval of the AFL. In addition to this, the Club must advise the AFL all other known payments agreed to be paid to the Player via whatever means requested by the AFL.
- (b) The AFL will review each offer submitted and notify the Club as to whether it has been approved as soon as practicable, with the review to consider:
  - (i) whether ASAs are bona fide and commercial; and
  - (ii) any other matter the AFL considers relevant acting reasonably.
- (c) All Players must sign a Standard Playing Contract for a minimum of one AFLW Season, with no restrictions as to the maximum number of years, subject to AFL approval, noting the approval of Player signings and trades by the AFL will not be unreasonably withheld.

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- (d) The only consideration that may be included in a Standard Playing Contract for a Player's services is a Player's tier payment and any applicable Relocation Allowance.
- (e) Any AFLW Primary or Rookie Listed player who:
  - (i) elects not to re-sign with their current Club after being made an offer;
  - (ii) is not traded by their current Club; and
  - (iii) is not eligible for free agency,may nominate for the AFLW Draft if they so choose.
- (f) Any Player who has not been signed by or traded to a Club by the close of the nominated period notified to Clubs by the AFL pursuant to Rule 3.3 following the Trade Period will be considered to be delisted.

## 4.3 Employment and Independent Agreements

All Employment Agreements (**EAs**) and Independent Agreements (**IAs**) between Clubs or Associates of Clubs and Players must be bona-fide arrangements and are subject to the prior written approval of the AFL, acting reasonably. The AFL will use best endeavours to consider and approve EAs and IAs promptly, subject to the relevant Clubs, Associates of Clubs and Players providing prompt access to information requested by the AFL. For the avoidance of doubt, prior written approval of an EA or IA will not diminish the AFL's capacity under Rule 28 of the AFL Rules to request further information regarding an EA or IA and investigate any potential breaches of the AFL Rules.

## 4.4 Free agency

- (g) The AFLW Free Agency Rules are as set out in the CBA.
- (h) All AFLW Free Agent and Restricted AFLW Free Agent offers are subject to AFL approval (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld).

## 4.5 Player led delisting or retirement

- (a) A Player may elect to retire and/or delist themselves by signing a Form 40 and submitting it to the AFL, following which that Player will be removed from the Club's AFLW List.
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt:
  - (i) A Player who retires or chooses to delist themselves is not eligible to be re-listed by any Club, unless they nominate for a future AFLW Draft.
  - (ii) A Player who delists themselves or retires whilst under contract is not entitled to any payments or benefits owed, except as provided for in this Rule 4.5 or where provided for in the CBA, and must sign a Deed of Release with the AFL and their Club in respect of their Standard Player Contract.
  - (iii) A Player who retires due to a Football Injury is entitled to the benefits set out in their existing Standard Player Contract and the CBA.
  - (iv) A Player who retires for any other reason is not entitled to any other payments or benefits owed, except as provided for in the AFLW pregnancy and Parental Management Travel Policy.



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- (v) Should a Player retire between List Lodgement 2 (as advised by the AFL under Rule 3.3) and the final date for inactive player lodgement prior to the Draft, the Club will be allocated an additional Draft pick at the end of the Draft under Rule 7.1(c).
- (vi) Where a Club's AFLW Total Player Payments falls below the required AFLW Total Player Payments per AFLW Team set out in item 1 of Schedule 2B of the CBA due to a Player retiring or delisting themselves, the Club will not be obligated to make additional payments to make up any shortfall in the AFLW Season in which the Player retires or delists themselves only.

## 4.6 Trading Players and AFLW Draft selections

- (a) Clubs may trade Players and AFLW Draft selections in accordance with this List Rule 4.6 during the Trade Period.
- (b) Trades do not need to be one Player for one Player (e.g. can be 2 for 1):
  - (i) Contracted Players can be traded (subject to agreement by all parties);
  - (ii) Clubs may trade the number of AFLW Draft selections equivalent to the number of AFLW List spots they have available at the point at which the trade is submitted to the AFL for approval (for example, if a Club has 26 players re-signed, they are able to trade up to 4 Draft selections);
  - (iii) Trades involving multiple Clubs are allowed;
  - (iv) Clubs may trade AFLW Draft selections from the following year's Draft (i.e. one year in advance), subject to the following conditions:
    - (A) Clubs may trade their future first round selection or their future second round AFLW Draft selection but not both;
    - (B) Clubs may only trade away future first round selections with the approval of the Club's Board. Such approval must be provided by the Club President, on behalf of the Board, making a declaration in the form prescribed by the AFL and notified to Clubs;
    - (C) Clubs must hold a presence in the first-round of the AFLW Draft for at least two years over each five-year period. A presence is defined as taking at least one selection within the first-round (i.e. should a club take multiple selections in the given National Draft, for the purpose of this determination, it will only count as one selection, and hence, a 'presence' in that year's first-round);
    - (D) If a Club does not comply with sub-paragraph (C) above, that Club may apply to the AFL for an exemption to trade away a future first round selection. Applications will then be determined by the AFL having regard to the Club's recent player movement history, including the age of players traded for first round selections and other draft selections have been taken by the Club in the relevant time frame; and
    - (E) the General Counsel may make a Determination for the Trading of Future AFLW Draft Selections which sets out additional conditions under which Clubs may exchange AFLW Draft selections from future AFLW Drafts.
  - (v) The trade must be agreed by all parties (all Clubs, all Players and the AFL).
- (c) The AFL will take the following into consideration when determining whether to approve a trade:

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- (i) proposed Player payments;
  - (ii) whether ASAs are bona fide and commercial;
  - (iii) overall impact of the trade on competitive balance of the competition; and
  - (iv) any other matter the AFL considers relevant acting reasonably.
- (d) A Player who is traded to another Club must be signed by that Club for the upcoming AFLW Season.
- (e) An AFLW Rookie List Player who is traded to another Club must be signed by that Club on their AFLW Primary List.
- (f) If a Player is being traded who is entitled to have Excess Medical Costs covered by their previous Club due to a Football Injury which occurred during the term of the Player's Standard Playing Contract, then upon approval of the trade, the Player's new Club takes over that liability subject to the original Club advising the new Club of the liability prior to the Trade. If the original Club does not advise the new Club of the liability, the liability for payment of Excess Medical Costs will remain with the original Club.
- (g) A Player cannot be traded more than once in any given Trade Period.
- (h) For the avoidance of doubt, all trades under this Rule 4.6 must be submitted to the AFL for approval, and the AFL may withhold approval over a trade if the AFL considers that the trade does not reflect a bona fide exchange of value between the applicable Clubs.
- (i) If a Player requests to leave a Club due to a change in personal circumstances (e.g. – interstate work relocation) and the AFL agrees that, despite their existing Club's best efforts, their existing Club cannot secure a suitable trade, then:
  - (i) the Player may move to a Club of their choice and be paid at the payment tier agreed by the AFL, the Player and the new club; and
  - (ii) the AFLW List Committee will determine (in its sole discretion) whether the original Club requires compensation, or the receiving Club be deducted draft picks, in the interests of competitive balance.
  - (iii) For the avoidance of doubt:
    - (A) personal circumstances cannot be connected to the Club or an associate of the Club that the Player is requesting to move to (e.g. – a Player cannot accept employment at an alternative Club and subsequently request to move to that Club);
    - (B) a Player will not be allowed to move Clubs within the State through this mechanism; and
    - (C) relocation assistance can be provided subject to the relocation eligibility rules set out in the CBA.
- (j) A Player will only be eligible for relocation support if they meet the eligibility requirements as set out in the CBA.

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## 4.7 Rookie signings/nominations

- (a) To be considered a Rookie, a Player must not have played or been registered to play Australian Football or involved in a high-performance AFL program (e.g. – U18 State Academy or Coates League program) in the 3 years immediately prior to their Rookie nomination under Rule 4.7(b).
- (b) A Club can nominate up to three (3) Rookies (subject to the relevant Players agreeing) at any stage during the year, subject to the following:
  - (i) the Players meet the Rookie eligibility criteria; and
  - (ii) that Club may have a maximum of three (3) Rookie List Players in total, including any retained Rookies.

For the avoidance of doubt, a Rookie may only spend two (2) years on the Rookie List.

- (c) A Rookie signed prior to List Lodgement 4 (as advised by the AFL under Rule 3.3) in a given year will be included on a Club's Rookie List for that upcoming AFLW Season. A Rookie signed after List Lodgement 4 in a given year will be included on a Club's Rookie List for the following season. For example, a Rookie signed in October 2025 (after List Lodgement 4) will be signed to the Club's list for the 2026 season.
- (d) All Rookie nominations are subject to approval by the AFLW List Committee, with the AFL reserving the right to consider exceptional circumstances outside of the eligibility rules.
- (e) Exceptions may only be considered by the AFLW List Committee under Rule 4.7(d) in cases where the Club can demonstrate they have had an active role in bringing the Player into the game. In granting an exception to the eligibility rules, the AFLW List Committee may impose any conditions it considers reasonable on the relevant AFLW Club, including the deduction or amendment to that Club's draft picks, in the interests of competitive balance.
- (f) All Rookie Players must sign a Standard Playing Contract for a minimum term up to the end of the relevant contract year with no restrictions as to the maximum number of years, provided that, for any Standard Playing Contract for a term greater than two (2) years, the Player must be moved to the AFLW Primary List no later than the commencement of the third year of the Standard Playing Contract.
- (g) A Rookie may be paid at any tier level, with the Club responsible for any payment above a Tier 4 rate, with the difference sitting outside of the Club's Total Player Payments for the duration that the Player remains on the Rookie List.

## 5. AFLW DRAFT

### 5.1 Confirmation of order

- (a) The AFLW Draft order will be set by the AFL for the AFLW Draft including any special assistance as set out in Rule 6.
- (b) Subject to Rule 5.1(a), the AFL will then set the order for the remainder of the AFLW Draft based on the previous year's reverse finishing positions:
  - (i) For teams that make the AFLW Finals Series, it will be based on their finishing position in the AFLW Finals Series. Where teams lose at the same stage of the AFLW Finals Series, they will be ranked by comparing their AFLW Premiership Season results (as determined by, in order, points on their

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respective ladders, percentage on their respective ladders, results between the two (2) Clubs (if they played), percentage in the matches between the Clubs (if they played) and a coin toss).

- (ii) For all other teams, their AFLW Premiership Season results will be compared to determine the overall order. This will be based on points on their respective ladders, percentage on their respective ladders, results between the two (2) Clubs (if they played), percentage in the matches between the Clubs (if they played) and a coin toss.
- (iii) Following the completion of the AFLW Trade Period and AFLW Free Agency Period, the AFL will confirm a revised AFLW Draft order based on any transactions that have occurred and reflecting the number of available selections a Club can make to finalise their AFLW List.

## 5.2 AFLW Draft details

- (a) The AFLW Draft will be held on a date and time nominated by the AFL and notified to Clubs.
- (b) At each AFLW Draft, each Club must exercise a minimum of two (2) Draft selections (not including any additional Draft selection provided under Rule 4.5(b)(v)).
- (c) Any player who nominates for the AFLW Draft will be placed into a National Draft pool and will be eligible to be selected by any Club.
- (d) Players residing internationally must select the “International” option during the nomination process to enable their nomination to be approved.
- (e) Clubs can choose to make selections in the AFLW Draft up to a full AFLW List of 30 or choose to leave up to two (2) spots on their Primary List open for an AFLW Pre-Season Draft selection. If a Club has received an additional Draft selection under Rule 4.5(b)(v), the Club must make that selection at either the AFLW Draft or the AFLW Pre-season Draft.
- (f) The number of selections available to each Club will be based on the number of Primary List spots remaining at the commencement of the AFLW Draft plus any replacement picks.
- (g) All Players are required to nominate for the AFLW Draft through the designated online portal during the specified nomination period.
- (h) Clubs will be provided with a full list of AFLW Draft nominees after nominations have closed.
- (i) All Players drafted in the AFLW Draft must sign a Standard Playing Contract for a minimum of two years, with no restrictions as to the maximum number of years, subject to AFL approval, which will not be unreasonably withheld. For the first two AFLW Seasons, the drafted Player will be paid the lowest tier of Player payments for those AFLW Seasons as set out in the CBA. For the avoidance of doubt, this condition also applies to any Players taken through the Draft who have previously been on a Club’s AFLW List.

## 5.3 AFLW Pre-Season Draft

- (a) The AFL may determine in its absolute discretion to hold a AFLW Pre-Season Draft and may implement such processes and procedures as it sees fit to govern such Draft.
- (b) Clubs will be permitted to keep up to two (2) AFLW List spots open at the completion of the AFLW Draft to be used on AFLW Pre-Season Draft selections.
- (c) The date of the AFLW Pre-Season Draft will be notified to Clubs by the AFL in accordance with Rule 3.3.

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- (d) Subject to any additional eligibility rules determined by the AFL under Rule 5.3(a), only Players who nominated for the most recent AFLW Draft and were not selected by any Club in that AFLW Draft are eligible to be selected in the AFLW Pre-Season Draft in the same year (including a Train-On Player from any Club).
- (e) All players signed through the AFLW Pre-Season Draft must sign a Standard Playing Contract for a minimum term up to the end of the relevant contract year, with no restrictions as to the maximum number of years, subject to AFL approval, which will not be reasonably withheld. For the first season, the AFLW Pre-Season Draft selected Player will be paid at the lowest tier of Player payments as set out in the CBA. If the Player is signed for a second AFLW Season, they must be paid in line with a drafted player under Rule 5.2(i). This SPC will supersede and replace any previously signed agreement in respect of their participation as a Train-On Player (if relevant).

## 5.4 Father-Daughter rule

- (a) A Player can be nominated by a Club based on the Father-Daughter Rule if their father played at least one (1) AFL Match for that Club.
- (b) Where relevant a Club must submit the Father-Daughter nomination via Form 9 to the AFL between the dates specified annually by the AFL (noting that the relevant Player must have nominated for the AFLW Draft in the same year). Form 9 must include the Player's agreement to be a Father-Daughter nomination.
- (c) All Clubs will be advised of Father-Daughter nominations and any Club is eligible to bid for the Father-Daughter nominated Player during the AFLW Draft. For the avoidance of doubt, once a Club submits a bid for a Father-Daughter nominated Player during the AFLW Draft, no other Club may submit a bid for that Player.
- (d) Clubs can bid with any draft selection they hold in the AFLW Draft.
- (e) The Club that submitted the Father-Daughter nomination will have the opportunity to match any bid made for that Player.
- (f) Matching a bid by a Club means using a selection in the AFLW Draft which falls within eighteen (18) selections of the bid. For example, where a bid falls with pick #6 of the AFLW Draft, the matching Club must use their next selection by pick #24 of the AFLW Draft (inclusive). For the avoidance of doubt, where a Club has multiple selections within the next eighteen (18) selections, the Club must use the earliest selection to match a bid.
- (g) If the Club that submitted the Father-Daughter nomination does not match the bid, the Player will be drafted to the Club that made the bid.
- (h) The Club that nominated the Player can select them with any selection within the AFLW Draft, subject to any bids.
- (i) The Father-Daughter nominated Player is bound to any bid and will be paid in accordance with Rule 5.2(i).

## 5.5 Northern Academy concessions

- (a) A Player can be nominated by the Brisbane Lions, Gold Coast SUNS, GWS Giants or Sydney Swans under the Northern Academy concessions, if the Player meets one or more of the following criteria:
  - (i) is a current member of the respective Club Academy Program, noting:

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- (A) if a Player moves from one region to another, they need to be domiciled in the new region for a minimum of three (3) consecutive years to be eligible; and
  - (B) a Club may retain a Player who is aged over 18 years and under 19 years as at the 31st day of December in the relevant year in the Club Academy; or
- (ii) is otherwise approved by the AFLW List Committee.
- (b) Where relevant a Club must submit the Northern Academy nomination via Form 9A to the AFL between the dates specified annually by the AFL (noting that the relevant Player must have nominated for the AFLW Draft in the same year). Form 9A must include the Player's agreement to be a Northern Academy nomination.
- (c) All Clubs will be advised of any Northern Academy nominations and any Club is eligible to bid for the Northern Academy nominated Player during the AFLW Draft. For the avoidance of doubt, once a Club submits a bid for a Northern Academy nominated Player during the AFLW Draft, no other Club may submit a bid for that Player.
- (d) Clubs can bid with any draft selection they hold in the AFLW Draft.
- (e) The Club that submitted the Northern Academy nomination will have the opportunity to match any bid made for that Player.
- (f) Matching a bid by a Club means using a selection in the AFLW Draft which falls within eighteen (18) selections of the bid. For example, where a bid falls at pick #6 of the AFLW Draft, the matching Club must use their next selection by pick #24 of the AFLW Draft (inclusive). For the avoidance of doubt, where a Club has multiple selections within the next eighteen (18) selections, the Club must use the earliest selection to match a bid.
- (g) If the Club that submitted the Northern Academy nomination does not match the bid, the Player will be drafted to the Club that made the bid.
- (h) The Club that nominated the Player can select them with any selection within the AFLW Draft, subject to any bids.
- (i) The Northern Academy nominated Player is bound to any bid and will be paid in accordance with Rule 5.2(i).

## 5.6 North Melbourne concessions

- (a) With the Player's agreement and subject to notification to the AFL, a Player who resides in Tasmania (and has domiciled in Tasmania for a minimum of three (3) consecutive years) can be nominated by North Melbourne for draft concessions.
- (b) All Clubs will be advised of any North Melbourne nominations and any Club is eligible to bid for the North Melbourne nominated Player during the AFLW Draft from pick #31 of the AFLW Draft onwards. For the avoidance of doubt, once a Club submits a bid for a North Melbourne nominated Player during the AFLW Draft, no other Club may submit a bid for that Player.
- (c) Clubs can bid on a North Melbourne nominated Player with any draft selection they hold in the AFLW Draft from pick #31 of the AFLW Draft onwards.
- (d) North Melbourne will have the opportunity to match any bid made for that Player from draft selection 31 onwards.

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- (e) Matching a bid by a Club means North Melbourne using a selection in the AFLW Draft which falls within eighteen (18) selections of the bid. For example, where a bid falls at pick #35 of the AFLW Draft, North Melbourne must use their next selection by pick #53 of the AFLW Draft (inclusive). For the avoidance of doubt, where North Melbourne has multiple selections within the next eighteen (18) selections, North Melbourne must use the earliest selection to match a bid.
- (f) If North Melbourne does not match the bid, the Player will be drafted to the Club that made the bid.
- (g) For the avoidance of doubt, there will be no draft concessions in respect of North Melbourne nominated Players selected with picks #1 to #30 of the AFLW Draft (inclusive). If a Club selects a North Melbourne nominated Player with picks #1 to #30 of the AFLW Draft (inclusive), the Player will be drafted to that Club and North Melbourne will not have the opportunity to match the bid.
- (h) North Melbourne can select a North Melbourne nominated Player with any selection within the AFLW Draft.
- (i) The North Melbourne nominated Player is bound to any bid and will be paid in accordance with Rule 5.2(i).

## 5.7 Next-Generation Academy concessions

Whilst it is encouraged that each Club develops eligible Players through their Next Generation Academy pathway, there are no available Next-Generation Academy Draft concessions for any Club in the AFLW Draft.

## 6. SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

- (a) The AFLW List Committee, with the approval of the AFL General Counsel, may determine in its absolute discretion, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these Rules, that a Club is entitled to special assistance, either in the form of current or future Draft selections or list concessions, ahead of the next occurring AFLW Draft.
- (b) The AFLW List Committee will exercise its discretion in granting any special assistance only in exceptional circumstances, considering the recent on field performance of the Club, the subject of the proposed special assistance and any other matter the AFLW List Committee regards relevant.

## 7. INACTIVE LIST AND REPLACEMENT PLAYERS

### 7.1 Inactive Player replacement

- (a) If a Club identifies that a contracted Player will be unavailable for the upcoming AFLW Season prior to the inactive player lodgement date (as notified by the AFL in accordance with Rule 3.3) due to retirement, injury or personal circumstances, they may submit a request, signed by the Club and Player, for the Player to be transferred to the AFLW Inactive List via Form 1A (Application for Player Transfer to the Inactive List) and must provide any additional information requested by the AFL.
- (b) The AFL will review each Application to transfer a Player to the AFLW Inactive List submitted in accordance with Rule 7.1(a) and may in their absolute discretion, acting reasonably, approve or disapprove the transfer of the unavailable Player to the Club's Inactive List or require such further medical evidence, including without limitation a medical report from a duly qualified medical practitioner approved by the AFL, prior to determining whether to approve or disapprove the transfer. The AFL will act reasonably when reviewing each Application and accept reasonable medical evidence.
- (c) If an Application is approved by the AFL:

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- (i) where the Application is submitted prior to the date of the final determination of AFLW Draft order, the Club will be allocated a replacement Draft selection at the end of the Draft. If multiple Clubs require a replacement Draft selection, such selections will be allocated in Draft order as set out in Rule 5.1(b). Such selection(s) must be used to select a Player at the AFLW Draft;
  - (ii) where the Application is submitted after the date of the final determination of AFLW Draft order and prior to the date of the final determination of the AFLW Pre-Season Draft order, the Club will be permitted to select a replacement Player at the next AFLW Pre-Season Draft; and
  - (iii) where the Application is submitted after the date of the final determination of AFLW Pre-Season Draft order, the Club will be permitted to sign an Inactive Replacement Player who nominated for the most recent AFLW Draft but was not selected in that Draft.
- (d) Subject to Rule 7.1(e), if a Player is moved to the AFLW Inactive List, they must not participate in any Match for the duration of the AFLW Season that they are on the Inactive List.
- (e) A Club may make an application to the AFL to move a Player from the AFLW Inactive List onto the Club's AFLW Primary List where the Player was made inactive due to pregnancy or a Football Injury and has subsequently been assessed to be medically fit by the Club's Doctor to participate in AFLW Matches. The AFL will assess any application made on a case-by-case basis and may approve an application at its discretion, acting reasonably.
- (f) If a Player is unavailable due to pregnancy, the AFLW Pregnancy and Parental Management Travel Policy, as set out in the CBA, will apply, including in relation to Players returning to a Club AFLW List after pregnancy. If there is any inconsistency between the AFLW Pregnancy and Parental Management Travel Policy and this Rule 7.1, the AFLW Pregnancy and Parental Management Travel Policy will prevail to the extent of such inconsistency.
- (g) As part of the review undertaken in accordance with Rule 7.1(b) and in consultation with the Club, a determination will be made as to whether the Player will be entitled to be paid in line with the terms of their Standard Playing Contract and will be required to perform all other non-playing obligations under the Standard Playing Contract which they are reasonably capable of doing so (e.g. appearances).
- (h) For the avoidance of doubt, if the Player has chosen to make themselves inactive due to personal reasons (e.g. participating in another sport or work commitments), they will not be entitled to receive any payments or associated benefits relating to their Standard Playing Contract.
- (i) If a Player retires (except due to a Football Injury) during the term of their SPC, they will not be entitled to receive any further payments or associated benefits relating to their SPC from the time of their retirement, except where provided for in the CBA.

## 7.2 Top Up Players

- (a) A Club will be eligible for a Top Up Player or Players during the AFLW Season if:
  - (i) the Club is unable to meet the minimum requirement of having a full AFLW Team plus three (3) emergencies available for selection for a Match; or
  - (ii) the Club considers there is a health and safety risk resulting from the unavailability of certain Players, and the AFL agree that there are exceptional circumstances to allow a Top Up Player to play a Match.



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- (b) If a Club considers that exceptional circumstances have arisen or are likely to arise in accordance with Rule 7.2(a)(ii), the Club must specify those exceptional circumstances in writing and their preferred Top Up Player(s) to the AFL as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for the AFL to consider the Club's application.
- (c) In assessing an application under Rule 7.2(a)(ii), any decision by the AFL will be at their sole discretion, who may request any further information from the Club and the relevant Players that it considers reasonably necessary (including conducting an independent medical assessment).
- (d) If a Player has been suspended by the AFL or the Club, it will be at the sole discretion of the AFL as to whether a Top Up Player is permitted.
- (e) If the Club is unable to meet the minimum list requirements outlined above in Rule 7.2(a)(i), the Club must submit an Unavailable List Form 1C to the AFL including supporting documentation (e.g. a medical certificate) by Wednesday 12pm AEST/AEDT in order for a Top Up Player to be available for selection for that round (AFL will consider requests after this time by exception). This form will require:
  - (i) Names of the unavailable Players, including any Player the subject of a previously submitted Application for Player Transfer to the Inactive List Form 1A pursuant to Rule 7.1;
  - (ii) Expected return date and round of the unavailable Players (if any);
  - (iii) Details of the reason behind the unavailable Players' unavailability;
  - (iv) Evidence provided of the unavailable Players' unavailability, including (if applicable) the expected length of injury as declared by a Medical Officer in a medical certificate (**Injury Period**); and
  - (v) The Club's nomination of their preferred Top Up Player(s).
- (f) If the Club only becomes aware after the Wednesday 12pm AEST/AEDT form deadline that the Club will be unable to meet the minimum list requirements due to a Player entering into the Health and Safety Protocols, the Club must submit the above-listed information as soon as reasonably practicable after becoming aware of the relevant information.
- (g) The nominated preferred Top Up Player must be a registered Train-On Player with any Club for that Season unless determined otherwise by AFL in circumstances where a Club can prove that exceptional circumstances apply.
- (h) The AFL has the right to approve or disapprove any claimed unavailability, including conducting an independent medical assessment if deemed necessary.
- (i) If the AFL approves the request and subject to the nominated Top Up Player agreeing, the Top Up Player will be required to enter a Top Up Player contract.
- (j) Top Up Players will be paid \$1,192 per week (or part thereof – e.g. if a Top Up Player is required for ten (10) days, they will be paid \$2,384) they are required, regardless of whether they participate in a Match plus, if applicable, the \$80 Travel Allowance under the same conditions as all Players.
- (k) Subject to Rule 7.4, Top Up Players are not entitled to any other payment beyond the payment amounts referred to in Rule 7.2(j).
- (l) The Club will be financially liable for Top Up Player fees (outlined above).

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- (m) It is strongly recommended that Top Up Players have equivalent private health insurance to the Required Health Insurance that Players are required to hold under the CBA.
- (n) Regardless of whether or not a Top Up Player has the health insurance contemplated in Rule 7.2(m), and notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the CBA, the Club will be liable for Excess Medical Costs for Football Injuries suffered by a Top Up Player during the applicable AFLW Season, and for a period of 18 months after the applicable AFLW Season.
- (o) Top Up Players will be eligible to be selected for Matches during the approved Injury Period ahead of other Primary Listed Players (i.e. a listed Player can be used as the emergency behind a Top Up Player).
- (p) A Top Up Player can be required to attend Club Sessions and matches during the approved Injury Period but will have no other requirements (i.e. player appearances, broadcaster appearances, etc.) and is not permitted to train with the Club outside of the approved Injury Period other than through the Train – On process (if applicable) as set out in Rule 7.3 below. Clubs should refer to the terms of the Top Up Player contract for a full outline of Club and Top Up Player obligations.
- (q) A Top Up Player is only eligible to be signed for one Club in a given AFLW Season unless approved otherwise by the AFL.
- (r) Primary and Rookie Listed Players which the Club has reported to the AFL as being unavailable due to injury or personal circumstances will be placed on the Injury List and will not be eligible to play for the agreed Injury Period.
- (s) At the end of the agreed Injury Period, the injured Player will automatically be returned to the Primary or Rookie List unless the Club submits a follow-up Unavailable List Form 1C including any supporting documentation (e.g. a medical assessment) that outlines the additional Injury Period the Top Up Player is required for and the AFL approves the additional claimed unavailability as set out in Form 1C.
- (t) A Top Up Player will be removed from the Primary List on the Monday following the last match they were required for if no extension is submitted.
- (u) Clubs will have no priority access to Top Up Players for future AFLW Seasons.

## 7.3 Training / Train – On Players

- (a) Subject to Rule 7.3(b), only Players on a Club's AFLW list are eligible to train with the Club's AFLW Team during the term of their SPC unless the AFL provides permission otherwise. This prohibition applies to (without limitation) Players in Club Academies or second tier programs, in other sporting program/s at the Club, in State Academies, in the National Academy and previously listed AFLW Players.
- (b) Notwithstanding Rule 7.3(a), each Club may have up to ten (10) Train-On Players in addition to their listed Players. Train-On Players are allocated for the entire AFLW Season (Pre-Season, Home and Away Season and Finals). A Club may apply to the AFL to have one (1) additional Train-On Player in addition to their listed Players and ten (10) existing Train-On Players where that Player meets the Next Generation Academy criteria. The AFL may approve such application at its discretion.
- (c) Train-On Players must have nominated for the preceding AFLW Draft unless there are exceptional circumstances as approved by the AFL.
- (d) Train-On Players are to provide additional support for Club training and are not provided to develop alternative or overage talent.

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- (e) AFLW Clubs must submit a list of proposed Train-On Players to the AFL at least two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of the Pre-Season period. Where two (2) or more Clubs name the same Player, the AFL will work with the Player to assist the Player in determining which Club the Player is to be allocated to.
- (f) The AFL will provide confirmation to Clubs of their official Train-On list at least one (1) week prior to the commencement of the Pre-Season period.
- (g) Following confirmation of Players on the Train-On list from the AFL, each Club is required to have each Train-On Player sign a Train-On Agreement, which sets out the terms and conditions of Train-On Players for the Player and the AFLW Club. Train-On Agreements must be returned to the AFL before the Player attends any Club Session.
- (h) AFLW Clubs will be able to access Train-On Players based on the following guidelines:
  - (i) subject to Rule 7.3(h)(ii), each Train-On Player will not be able to participate in more than one (1) Club Session per week;
  - (ii) a Club may apply to the AFL to have access to Train-On Players for one (1) additional Club Session per week during the Season. If the AFL approves the additional training session for a particular week, attendance will be at the option of the Train On Player;
  - (iii) AFLW Clubs must advise the AFL of which Club Sessions the Train-On Players are proposed to attend at least two (2) weeks prior to the relevant Session; and
  - (iv) AFLW Club access to Train-On Players is at the discretion of the AFL and, if the Player is a member of a State Academy, the relevant State body at all times.
- (i) Clubs are not required to seek Train-On Player approval for National Academy Players to attend training where their attendance has been arranged by the AFL. National Academy Players are required to sign a Training Agreement with the relevant Club before attending training. National Academy Players are not permitted to attend any AFLW Club Training session without approval from the AFL.
- (j) If the AFL approves Club access to Train-On Players in respect of a particular AFLW Season, that Club has no priority access to that Train-On Player for future AFLW Seasons.
- (k) Train-On Players are strongly encouraged to have premium level private health insurance including hospital cover.

## 7.4 Inactive Replacement Player

Where permitted under Rule 7.1(c), a Club will be able to access the Inactive Replacement Player in accordance with the following guidelines:

- (a) unless agreed otherwise by the AFL, only Players who nominated for the most recent AFLW Draft and were not selected by any Club in that Draft are eligible to be signed as an Inactive Replacement Player;
- (b) where an Application is approved by the AFL and the Club is permitted to sign an Inactive Replacement Player pursuant to Rule 7.1(c)(iii), the Club may sign any Player that meets the requirements of Rule 7.4(a) as an Inactive Replacement Player via Form 1D (Application for Inactive Player Replacement) and, for the avoidance of doubt, such Player can be a Train-On Player from any Club;
- (c) where an Application is approved by the AFL and the Club is allocated a selection in the AFLW Draft pursuant to Rule 7.1(c)(i), Rule 5.2(i) will apply;

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- (d) where an Application is approved by the AFL and the Club is allocated a selection in the AFLW Pre-Season Draft pursuant to Rule 7.1(c)(ii), Rule 5.3(e) will apply;
- (e) where an Application is approved by the AFL and the Club is permitted to sign an Inactive Replacement Player pursuant to Rule 7.1(c)(iii):
  - (i) the Inactive Replacement Player will be required to enter a SPC with the Club and the AFL for the remainder of the relevant contract year. This SPC will supersede and replace any previously signed agreement in respect of their participation as a Train-On Player (if relevant); and
  - (ii) the payments to the Inactive Replacement Player will be the Tier 4 Player payments on a pro rata basis from the date the Player signs the SPC through to the end of the relevant contract year;
- (f) the Inactive Replacement Player will be able to participate in all Club Sessions and Matches;
- (g) subject to Rule 7.4(h) and unless otherwise agreed by the AFL in exceptional circumstances, all payments for Inactive Replacement Players will be borne by the Club and will sit outside the Total Player Payments per AFLW Club set out in item 1 of Schedule 2B of the CBA, unless an Inactive Replacement Player is replacing a Player who is no longer eligible to be paid, in which case payments to that Inactive Replacement Player can be used to supplement the reduction in Total Player Payments as a result of no further payments being made to the replaced Player;
- (h) if a Player is:
  - (i) unavailable due to pregnancy;
  - (ii) the first Player made inactive by a Club due to injury in a given year; or
  - (iii) where the AFL determines there are exceptional circumstances,the AFL will bear the cost of the additional Player payment costs associated with the Inactive Replacement Player; and
- (i) Clubs will have priority access to retain Players for the AFLW Season following the AFLW Season in which they were an Inactive Replacement Player.

## 7.5 State League Competition injury

If a Club gives a Player permission to participate in a State League Competition match during the period commencing from the commencement of the Home and Away Season and concluding when the Club has no further Matches to play in the AFLW Season, then, if that Player suffers an injury or illness as a result of playing in that match, the injury suffered will be deemed to be a Football Injury.

## 8. PLAYER CONTRACTS, PAYMENTS AND BENEFITS

### 8.1 Standard Playing Contract

- (a) No agreement between a Player and Club will be valid unless via a SPC approved by the AFL.

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- (b) Players who are signed to a Club through any mechanism will be required to enter a SPC, which must be signed by all parties by the date notified by the AFL.

## 8.2 Standard Playing Contracts and Player payments

- (a) The SPC must be lodged with the AFL no later than two weeks after the confirmation that the Player will be signed to the Club.
- (b) Players will be paid at four (4) tiers of payment under their SPC, with payment tiers as set out in the CBA.
- (c) Nominated Rookies can be paid at any tier, as agreed between the Club and the Player.

## 8.3 Player relocation support

Clubs will be required to provide Players with relocation support in accordance with item 5 of Schedule 4 of the CBA.

## 8.4 Additional Services Agreements

Clubs must spend the minimum prescribed amounts on Additional Services Agreements in each year as set out in the CBA.

## 8.5 Allowable Payments and Benefits

- (a) Subject to any guidelines that may be issued from time to time or in any particular case by the Commission, a Club will not in any Football Year, give or provide to or apply for the benefit of, or offer to give or provide to or apply for the benefit of, any Player or any Associate of a Player any Football Payments or cause or offer to cause any Football Payments to be so given, provided or applied other than as specifically provided for under these Rules, a Player's SPC, Ambassador Agreement, Additional Services Agreement or as otherwise provided for under the CBA.
- (b) Allowable payments for the AFLW Season are any payments permitted under the CBA.
- (c) Clubs will be required to provide a reconciliation of all payments made to Players following the AFLW Season in a form to be advised by the AFL.

# 9. CLUB AND AFL ACCESS TO PLAYERS

## 9.1 Contact with Players during the off-season

- (a) A Club will not permit or invite a Player who is not on the Club's List, without written approval by the AFL, to train with the Club.
- (b) A Club may permit or invite an unlisted Player to visit a Club, undertake Club testing or complete a Club survey if they are a:
  - (i) Player who has been delisted from another Club's List following the conclusion of the most recent AFLW Season and have not yet signed with another Club; or
  - (ii) Player who is in discussions for a potential trade, subject to approval from their current Club and the AFL.
- (c) No training or other requirements are to be placed on listed Players prior to the commencement of their SPC except in accordance with the CBA.

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## 9.2 Contact with prospective players

- (a) A Club cannot make any contact or undertake any Club or Associated Club testing, survey or interview with any player that is entering their first year of draft eligibility outside of the following:
  - (i) Clubs should ensure that any player agent that they engage with in the process of contracting a player has been accredited by the AFL Players' Association.
  - (ii) Players may only be interviewed during such time frames determined by the AFL, outside of structured AFLW interview opportunities (such as at the AFLW Draft Combine). No medical or physical testing or screening will be permitted without prior approval from the AFL.
  - (iii) Using the player interview register located in the athlete management system as advised by the AFL, Clubs must ensure that the AFL is notified of their intent to interview a player, at least seven (7) days prior to a scheduled meeting.
  - (iv) A Club may only interview the same player a maximum of two (2) times.
  - (v) A Club's Head of Women's Football, Head Coach and/or Recruiting Manager are the only Club staff permitted to conduct a home interview with a prospective player.
  - (vi) A maximum of one (1) home visit per prospective player is permitted for each Club.
  - (vii) Player agents (where applicable) may attend an interview between a Club and a prospective player at the player's discretion.
  - (viii) If a prospective player is under 18 years of age, their parent or guardian must be present. If a Club wishes to film or record a player interview, that Club must ensure that the prospective player has completed and signed a consent form (Model Agreement) and this form has been lodged with the AFL before recording an interview with the player. If the player is under 18 years of age, the player's parent/guardian must also sign the Model Agreement.
  - (ix) Prospective players should not be interviewed within seven (7) days of a school or university exam. Exam periods vary from state to state, and institution to institution therefore it is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that the timing of their interview falls within the guidelines.
  - (x) Players and families have the discretion to reschedule and/or postpone a Club interview if it will impact the player's overall wellbeing in any way, over and above the educational considerations documented.
  - (xi) All Club staff members attending interviews with players under 18 years of age must provide proof of a valid Working with Children Check (or state equivalent) to the AFL prior to the interview.
  - (xii) For prospective players who do not attend the AFLW Draft Combine, a Club may invite a player to attend the club to be interviewed, medically screened, or tested (as per National Combine tests) during dates specified by the AFL between the AFLW Draft Combine and the AFLW Draft, provided that the player meets ALL of the following criteria:
    - (A) The player is not currently listed with a Club; and
    - (B) The player has not been invited to attend the AFLW Draft Combine.
  - (xiii) In accordance with any guidelines or determination issued by the General Counsel from time to time under the AFL Rules.

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- (b) Any cost associated with testing will be at the Club's expense. These costs will sit within the Club's AFLW Soft Cap.
- (c) Prior to a player attending the Club to undergo medical screening, an interview or combine testing, the Club must:
  - (i) Log the prospective player's attendance in the athlete management system as advised by the AFL using their Club's unique login details to gain access;
  - (ii) Submit a completed Player Consent Form to the AFL.

## 9.3 Summary of Club access to Players

- (a) Club access to Players is set out in item 8 of Schedule 4 of the CBA. The AFL will monitor and enforce Clubs' compliance with these access entitlements, including by taking appropriate disciplinary action to address any material breach.
- (b) The AFL and AFLPA will determine the AFLW 'blackout period' each year, being a period outside of the AFLW Access Period pursuant to the CBA where Clubs are not permitted to contact their Players or organise mandatory training sessions except in accordance with the CBA and other directions provided by the AFL, and advise the Clubs of the dates and requirements associated with that period. Clubs and Players must comply with all requirements during each blackout period notified by the AFL.
- (c) Voluntary Use of Club Facilities will be excluded from Player's contact hours.
- (d) Clubs must develop a schedule of training commitments for the AFLW Pre-Season and AFLW Season in consultation with their AFLW playing group, which must comply with the parameters set out in item 8 of Schedule 4 of the CBA, and must be approved by AFL and AFLPA prior to commencement of the AFLW Pre-Season.
- (e) Any variations to the agreed training schedule require approval from the AFL and AFLPA.
- (f) Clubs must upload their respective training schedules weekly to eAFL. This weekly schedule must record actual training hours.

## 9.4 Club training camps

Clubs may run training camps during the Pre-Season period subject to meeting the following conditions:

- (a) Must be conducted outside of 9am and 5pm on weekdays, unless the applicable AFLW playing group has together agreed with their Club to conduct the camp during these hours;
- (b) Must get agreement from the majority of Players, as well as the AFL and AFLPA;
- (c) Any Club Sessions conducted during the camp count towards the total overall Pre-Season hours i.e. the Club must reduce contact time in other weeks to stay under the overall total;
- (d) A Club must cover all costs associated with the camp including (but not limited to) transport, accommodation and meals;
- (e) Costs of running the training camp are to be included in the Club's AFLW Soft Cap;
- (f) A Club must seek approval from the AFL Football Operations and Soft Cap Management teams and the AFLPA to run a training camp no later than 21 days prior to the proposed commencement date of the camp

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(or such shorter timeframe as is reasonably practicable and agreed between the Club, AFL and AFLPA). Submissions to the AFL and the AFLPA must include the detail outlined by the AFL Football Operations and Soft Cap Management teams, including but not limited to:

- (i) Purpose of the camp and contribution to training (or other objectives);
- (ii) Overview of key logistics: dates, location, transport, accommodation (and whereabouts);
- (iii) List of players and staff attending (including roles and responsibilities);
- (iv) Detailed daily itinerary of activities;
  - (A) Details and credentials (include link to website) of any external facilitators/guest speakers engaged. This detail should highlight whether any potential traumatic or culturally sensitive topics will be covered as part of the camp. Please also provide the purpose/learning outcomes of the external facilitators/guest speakers engaged;
  - (B) An assessment of physical and psychosocial risks by a suitably qualified person, and appropriate risk mitigation strategies (including confirmation of appropriate insurance documents received) also recommended and implemented by a suitably qualified person. A completed risk assessment will need to be submitted as part of this application;
  - (C) Any planned engagement with children or young people and confirmation all staff and players have valid Working with Children Checks;
- (v) Cultural information (permission to attend location if required, details of communication to community, itinerary etc.);
- (vi) Detail of security measures the Club plans to implement in the delivery of the camp, with any queries on this matter to be directed to Tony Keane (tony.keane@afl.com.au);
- (vii) Any planned media appearances;
- (viii) Details of Player Appearance hours including: type of appearance, purpose, audience, Players participating and length of time.

## 9.5 Player Appearances

- (a) Each AFLW Player will be available for up to and including 20 hours of Appearances per AFLW Season pursuant to the CBA as directed by that AFLW Player's AFLW Club or AFL provided that twelve (12) hours of such appearances will be scheduled by the AFLW Player's AFLW Club and the remaining eight (8) hours of appearances will be scheduled by AFL.
- (b) All Appearances must be logged by Clubs in the method or form of compliance documentation as prescribed by the AFL and made available on request.
- (c) All Players will be required to have a valid Working with Children Check (or State equivalent), at the cost of the Club.
- (d) Additional Appearances must be logged in the in accordance with Rule 9.5(b).
- (e) The Club will be responsible for making the appropriate payment to the Player, with Club bearing costs incurred from additional Club-required Player Appearances and AFL bearing costs for additional AFL-



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required Player Appearances. No additional payments should be made to Players until they have completed all 20 hours required under their SPC.

- (f) Each Club is to pay the Player as part of the next Player payment instalment following the additional Appearance.

## 9.6 Broadcaster Access Policy

- (a) Clubs will be provided with the Broadcaster Access Policy before the commencement of each AFLW Season. The current Broadcaster Access Policy is set out at Schedule 8 of the CBA.
- (b) The AFL will monitor and enforce Clubs' compliance with the Broadcaster Access Policy, including by taking appropriate disciplinary action to address any material breach.
- (c) Broadcasters will advise Clubs of Player requirements to participate in a mid-week interview by 5pm on the Thursday in the week prior to an interview.

## 10. AFLW PLAYER EDUCATION AND COMPLIANCE

### 10.1 Player Induction

- (a) All Club listed Players who were not listed by a Club in the previous AFLW Season will be invited to attend an induction program. Any Player not able to attend will be inducted through online programs.
- (b) All Players will undergo mandatory online codes and policies assessment, as advised by AFL Education.

### 10.2 Player and Personnel Management

- (a) All Players must be registered in the AFLW PPM.

## 11. AFLW LAWS AND REGULATIONS

### 11.1 Laws of Australian Football – Variations

- (a) Unless otherwise specified, the Laws of Australian Football apply to AFLW.
- (b) The following specific variations to the Laws of Australian Football apply to the AFLW Competition:

- (i) Law 4.1 The Football - Specifications

- A football shall be of a symmetrical oval shape and conform to a standard Size 4 Sherrin and be inflated to a pressure of 69 PSI.

- (ii) Law 5.1 Teams and Players - Number of Players in Team

- An AFLW Team must consist of 16 Players who may be on the Playing Surface at any one time and five (5) Interchange Players.

- (iii) Law 10.1 Match Timing - Duration of Match and Intervals

- 10.1.1 Duration

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A Match shall be played for a period of 68 minutes, divided into four (4) quarters, each of 15 minutes plus time on for goals or major injuries only, and an additional two (2) minutes plus time on for Match stoppages, goals or major injuries, unless otherwise advised by the AFL.

## 10.1.2 Intervals Between Quarters

An interval shall be taken between each quarter as follows:

- (a) a period of six (6) minutes between the end of the first quarter and the beginning of the second quarter;
- (b) a period of 14 minutes between the end of the second quarter and the beginning of the third quarter; and
- (c) a period of six (6) minutes between the end of the third quarter and the beginning of the fourth quarter.

## (iv) Law 13.1 Centre Bounces - Starting Positions

The following starting positions must be met within a reasonable time as set by the AFL, before the field Umpire commences their approach to the Centre Circle to throw up the football to start a quarter or recommence play after a Goal has been scored:

- (a) five (5) Players from each AFLW Team are permitted in each area defined by the Boundary Line and the Fifty Metre Arcs;
- (b) of these five (5) Players for each area referenced in Law 13.1(a), at least one (1) Player from each AFLW Team is positioned within the Goal Square;
- (c) if an AFLW Team is unable or elects not to have 16 Players on the Playing Surface, the requirements stated in Law 13.1(a), (c) and (e) are modified such that the number of relevant Players for each starting position can be reduced but not exceeded.

...

## (v) Law 8.2.2 Duties – Boundary Umpires

...

- (b) When the boundary Umpire signals that the football is Out of Bounds, the field Umpire shall immediately sound a whistle to indicate that the football is out of play and the following shall apply:

(i) where the football goes Out of Bounds between the two Fifty Metre Arcs, when directed by the field Umpire, the boundary Umpire shall move 10m into the Playing Surface and bring the football into play by throwing the football over their head towards the centre of the Playing Surface; and

(ii) where the football goes Out of Bounds within the Fifty Metre Arcs, when directed by the field Umpire, the boundary Umpire shall, from the boundary line, bring the football into play by throwing the football over their head towards the centre of the Playing Surface.

The field Umpire may recall any throw-in by the boundary Umpire that in their opinion does not allow any opportunity for the football to be contested.

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- (vi) Law 18.10.2 Free Kicks – Out of Bounds

A field Umpire shall award a Free Kick against a Player who:

...

- (d) Kicks or Handballs the ball over the Boundary Line between the Fifty Metre Arcs.

- (vii) Law 14(g) Throwing up the football

...

- (g) For all instances captured in Laws 14(a) to 14(f) which occur between the Fifty Metre Arcs less than 10 metres from the Boundary Line, play shall be restarted with a throw-up 10 metres inside the Boundary Line, in a direct line towards the Centre Circle from where the instance occurred.

## 11.2 AFL Regulations – Variations

- (a) Unless otherwise specified, AFL Regulations apply to AFLW.

- (b) The following specific variations to the AFL Regulations apply to the AFLW Competition:

- (i) 1.1 Definitions

...

**Interchange Cap:** is the total number of Interchanges that a Club may make in the course of a Match, being 60.

...

- (ii) 4.6 Other Apparel

...

- (l) Players are not permitted to have their hair in a free braid(s)/plait(s). Any free braid(s)/plait(s) must instead be either rolled into a bun or changed into a ponytail (unless approved by the AFL Competition Operations Department).

- (m) With the approval of the AFL Competitions Operations Department prior to the relevant AFLW Season (such approval to only be withheld if a reasonable safety issue is identified), hijabs and limb coverings may be worn for religious reasons provided they are plain black or the same plain base colour as the Club uniform, and with no sponsorship or branding (unless approved by the AFL Competitions Operations Department).

- (n) Hair scrunchies must be coloured black or in a Club uniform colour. Patterned scrunchies are not permitted (unless approved for a themed round by the AFL Competition Operations Department upon application).

- (iii) 12.2 Composition of Official Team Sheet

- (a) Unless otherwise determined by the Executive General Manager - Football, the Official Team Sheet must list:

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- (i) 21 Players (inclusive of five (5) interchange Players);
  - (ii) ...
  - (iii) three (3) Emergency Players.
  - ...
- (iv) 12.5 Substitute Player

There will be no Substitute Player.
- (v) 12.14 Staff and Officials Permitted onto the Playing Surface during the Match
  - (a) a Team Runner may enter the Playing Surface:
    - (i) following the goal umpire signalling a goal for the sole purpose of conferring briefly with Players of their Club. The Team Runner must be making their way off the Playing Surface as the Field umpire bounces or throws the football up to recommence play after a goal; and
    - (ii) three (3) times between the start of each quarter and the last three (3) minutes of each quarter for a maximum of 90 seconds each time.
  - (b) the Trainers listed on the Official Team Sheet (including the Interchange Bench Trainer) solely for the purpose of:
    - ...

## 11.3 Announcement of AFLW Team lists

- (a) Clubs must log onto COMET and lodge their team with the AFL as follows:
  - (i) Friday and Saturday Matches

A Club participating in a Home and Away or Finals Series Match on Friday or Saturday must lodge its Team list with the AFL by 5.45pm AEDT (or AEST where Matches are being played outside of daylight savings for Victoria) on the preceding Thursday. The Team list must contain the name and guernsey number of 16 Players in playing position, five (5) Interchange Players and three (3) Emergency Players.
  - (ii) Sunday Matches
    - (A) A Club participating in a Home and Away or Finals Series Match on a Sunday must lodge its Squad list with the AFL by 5.45pm AEDT (or AEST where matches are being played outside of daylight savings for Victoria) on the preceding Thursday. The Squad list lodged at this time must contain the name and guernsey number of 16 Players in playing position and eight (8) Players on an extended Interchange Bench. A Club is not obliged at this time to identify which of the eight (8) Players will be Interchange Players and Emergency Players.
    - (B) A Club must then again lodge with the AFL its Team list, in which it sets out the name and guernsey number of 16 Players in playing position, five (5) Interchange Players and three (3) Emergency Players, by 4.30pm AEDT (or AEST where matches are being played outside of daylight savings for Victoria) on the preceding Friday.

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(iii) Weekday Matches (other than Friday)

A Club participating in a Home and Away or Finals Series Match on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday must lodge its Team list with the AFL by 5.45pm AEDT (or AEST where matches are being played outside of daylight savings for Victoria) on the preceding day. The Team list must contain the name and guernsey number of 16 Players in playing position, five (5) Interchange Players and three (3) Emergency Players.

## 11.4 Changes to AFLW Team or Squad prior to Match Day

Prior to Match day, if a Club needs to make a change to its named Team, the following process must be followed to advise of the Player being withdrawn from the AFLW Team list and the new Player being included, along the reason for this change:

- (a) A Club may elect to either:
  - (i) elevate an Emergency Player listed in the Team list into the Team and replace the elevated Emergency Player with a Player from outside the Team list; or
  - (ii) include a Player not listed in the Team list directly into the named Team.
- (b) The Club must first contact the AFL Competition Operations On-Call Contact (contact name and number will be listed in the final release of the Match Day Information document) for approval. The Club is to advise of the player being withdrawn, the reason for withdrawal (injury, illness or personal circumstances) and the replacement player, and must provide confirmation of the Team/Squad (including bench and emergencies).
- (c) Following approval, the Club is to contact the Opposition Club Football Manager to advise of the change.
- (d) Details of the change will be released to afl.com.au automatically via COMET once the opposition Club has been formally notified. The Club making the change should release details of the change to the media themselves after such time (and not before) the change has been approved by the AFL and the opposition Club notified. Communication of any changes will not be withheld for any reason.
- (e) The Player being withdrawn cannot play in any other match in any other competition that weekend including AFLW Match Scrimmages.
- (f) A medical certificate and letter detailing the reason for the withdrawal of the player must be submitted to the AFL Competition Operations Department no later than the first business day following the Match.
- (g) Changes are not permitted on Match day unless there are exceptional circumstances approved by the AFL Executive General Manager – Football.

## 11.5 Match day operations

- (a) The AFL will outline Match day information and operational processes in the AFLW Match Day Guide. Clubs must comply with the AFLW Match Day Guide.
- (b) The AFL will appoint a Match Manager for every Match.
- (c) The AFL will appoint Umpires, Timekeepers, Interchange Officials, Ball Stewards and other Match Officials.
- (d) The venue operator will arrange for an ambulance to be in attendance from one (1) hour prior to the commencement of the Match and departing after signing-off with each Club doctor post-Match. For

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Victorian venues the AFL will book a non-emergency patient transport vehicle to be in attendance for the same duration.

- (e) An Emergency Physician will also attend all matches in Victoria and Western Australia to assist Clubs in the event of a medical emergency.
- (f) The AFL will monitor the weather forecast in consultation with the AFLW Medical Director and AFL Chief Medical Officer in the week leading into each round. In the event of a forecast for extreme weather on Match day (e.g. excessive heat, lightning, severe rain, etc), the AFL will communicate with Clubs in the days leading into the game (see process in AFLW Match Day Guide).
- (g) Match day catering and ice requirements are the responsibility of each Club. It is recommended contact be made with the venue directly or the home Club.
- (h) Broadcast equipment including all cameras must not be covered up or interfered with in any way;
- (i) The Official Team sheet must be submitted in accordance with Regulation 12.1.
- (j) The Official Team Sheet must be comprised of the persons set out in Regulation 12.2(a) (as set out at Rule 11.2(b)(iii)).
- (k) The 27 accredited Club Football Officials listed on the Official Team Sheet will only be permitted to be located in the positions during a Match inside the Arena as set out in Regulation 12.2(g).
- (l) Timing of game - Clubs must enter the Arena at the times designated by AFL. Players must be in position ready to commence play at the starting time (includes Match start and after breaks)
- (m) Unless otherwise advised by the Match Manager, the winning AFLW Team is required to remain on the Arena after the Match to sing their Club song. The winning Team should move to the AFLW composite logo in front of Interchange Benches and wait until the broadcaster cues the song as it goes live to TV.

## 11.6 Weekly submission of Player Movement report

- (a) Clubs will be required to complete and submit the AFLW Player Movement Report via the Player Movement Report module on the eAFL database prior to 12noon AEDT (or AEST where Matches are being played outside of daylight savings for Victoria) Wednesday following each round of Matches.
- (b) The report is to allow the AFL to track the status of each Player on the list for each Match, and support required injury reporting metrics. Clubs are expected to provide current and accurate information to the best of their knowledge.
- (c) Each Club is to nominate a contact who will complete this form weekly.

## 12. MATCH DAY ACCESS AND ACCREDITATION

### 12.1 Player Pass

- (a) In addition to the Player ticketing entitlement, the AFL will provide each Player on both the Primary List and Rookie List of each Club with a Player Pass, allowing access to all AFLW Matches, in which they are a competing Club.
- (b) The Player Pass will feature each Player's photo and will not be transferrable.

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- (c) The pass is to be used for the Player's own admission to venues and provides access to the Club Dressing Rooms and Club Zones when participating.
- (d) The Player Passes will be provided to Club Football Departments for distribution to Players prior to the commencement of each applicable AFLW Season.
- (e) The Player Passes will provide each Player with access to their relevant Club's men's matches during the AFL Premiership Season during the same calendar year only.

## 12.2 Club – AFL Match Day Personnel Accreditation

- (a) All Club personnel who require access to AFL and/or AFLW matches in a working capacity will need to be accredited by the AFL. This includes:
  - (i) Coaching staff;
  - (ii) Football department staff;
  - (iii) Administration staff;
  - (iv) Board members/Directors; and
  - (v) Match day contractors who are contracted by the Club to perform a match day function.
- (b) For personnel who only require access to AFLW Matches, there is a specific AFLW accreditation which should be selected during the application process.
- (c) For those personnel who are working across multiple seasons (AFLW, AFL Pre-Season and AFL Premiership Season), the Seasonal Match Day Passes should be selected during the application process.
- (d) To ensure all Club staff who require access to matches receive their accreditation prior to AFLW Season commencing, all applications must be entered into the system by the time and date advised by the AFL in advance of each AFLW Season.

## 12.3 Applying for accreditation

- (a) Applications for accreditation will be open mid –January. Login details and a user information guide will be provided prior to this time.
- (b) All Club personnel who have been registered in the PPM and have a match day role will be pre-populated in the accreditation system.
- (c) Club Administrators will be required to manage all accreditation requests and will need to select the applicable access areas required for personnel to perform their match day function. Individual personnel will not be able to request accreditation themselves.
- (d) Applications for personnel who require accreditation for the upcoming AFLW Season must be submitted by the time and date advised by the AFL in advance of each AFLW Season in order to receive accreditation passes prior to the season commencing. This includes AFLW only and Seasonal Match Day Passes (which includes AFL Pre-Season and AFL Premiership Season).

## 12.4 Lanyards (arena access)

- (a) Policy as per existing AFL Competition.

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- (b) Specific arena access lanyards will be supplied with all arena access accreditation and must be worn in conjunction with the accreditation to access the arena.
- (c) Clubs will also be provided with daily arena access lanyards for accreditation passes that do not have permanent access to the arena. These daily lanyards will be transferrable amongst accredited Club staff and provide temporary access for personnel who require ad-hoc access to the arena to perform a match day duty (see below for further details).

## 12.5 On-field access

- (a) Club Football Department Staff – as per existing AFL competitions, unless otherwise notified by the AFL:
  - (i) Football department staff who require access to the arena for all Matches will be provided the entitlement on their accreditation pass.
  - (ii) Accreditation must be worn and visible by Club Football Department personnel at all times. Any staff found on the arena without accreditation may be sanctioned by the AFL Football Operations department;
- (b) Club Administration Staff – as per existing AFL competitions, unless otherwise notified by the AFL:
  - (i) Only Club personnel who require access to the arena for all Matches will be provided the entitlement on their accreditation pass. This will include the following:
    - (A) Football department staff who require access to the arena to perform their match day role;
    - (B) Commercial Operations staff (including Event & Fan Engagement staff), maximum of eight (8) per Club; and
    - (C) Media and Communications staff, maximum of four (4) per Club plus a Club Photographer.
  - (ii) Clubs will be issued with ten (10) daily arena access lanyards for administration staff who require access to the arena on an ad hoc basis and do not have arena access with their seasonal accreditation.
  - (iii) Lanyards will be required for arena access at all venues.
  - (iv) Temporary lanyards will be transferable. Staff utilising the temporary arena access lanyards will need to affix the lanyard to their seasonal accreditation pass prior to accessing the arena.

## 13. SUPPORTING FOOTBALL OPERATIONS

### 13.1 Match Review Process

- (a) The Match Review Officer (**MRO**) will review all Matches and determine any penalties. In Pre-Season Matches and any session involving Clubs opposing each other where AFL umpires are present, incidents can be referred by the officiating umpires or the AFL or either competing Club can refer an incident for review.
- (b) Contact to the chest will be treated as per contact to the head/groin.
- (c) The AFLW Tribunal will be convened for challenges to MRO charges and direct referrals.



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- (d) The AFLW Tribunal Guidelines document contains all relevant details regarding the process, system and penalties.

## 13.2 Pre-Season Matches

- (a) Each Club must participate in one officially sanctioned Pre-Season Match scheduled by the AFL (the **Pre-Season Match**).
- (b) The AFL will provide a travel subsidy for any relevant AFLW Team travel costs for the Pre-Season Match in line with the AFLW travel policy and will provide umpires for pre-season matches.
- (c) Clubs are responsible for all other costs related to the Pre-Season Match.
- (d) The home Club must film the Match and provide the vision from the Pre-Season Match to the AFL for distribution to all other Clubs.
- (e) The Pre-Season Match will be played in accordance with the AFLW Rules with the squad and team size to be advised by the AFL.
- (f) Clubs will be required to submit a team list at the time requested by the AFL.

## 13.3 AFLW Match day team travel

- (a) The AFL will fund travel for AFLW Matches as follows:
  - (i) Travel party of 42;
  - (ii) Flights (in line with AFL policy on Official AFL Partner Airline);
  - (iii) Bus transfers at the destination;
  - (iv) Accommodation for one (1) night where a flight is available to return home following the completion of the Match or two (2) nights otherwise;
  - (v) 29 hotel rooms (at Official AFL Partner Accommodation);
  - (vi) Meal allowance per night away;
  - (vii) Flights and accommodation for a Player's infant and support person in accordance with the AFLW Pregnancy and Parental Management Travel Policy; and
  - (viii) In addition, the AFL will provide Clubs with a subsidy of \$4000 per travel Match to cover Player costs of travel to and from the home airport. The Club will be expected to reimburse all costs relating to Players in the travel party getting to and from the airport, with the Club responsible for any costs over and above \$4000.
- (b) Clubs will manage their own travel arrangements based on the following:
  - (i) AFL Clubs must use AFL official travel and accommodation partners in accordance with AFLW Commercial Operations Guidelines;
  - (ii) AFL to provide a travel subsidy to the Club that covers flights, accommodation, meals and bus transfers based on the AFLW travel policy. The level of funding to be advised once the fixture is released;

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- (iii) Virgin must be used for all flight requirements unless in accordance with the AFLW Commercial Operations Guidelines;
  - (iv) Accor must be used for all accommodation requirements unless in accordance with the AFLW Commercial Operations Guidelines;
  - (v) AFL Clubs will be responsible for any costs beyond this travel subsidy with these costs sitting in the Club's AFLW Soft Cap; and
  - (vi) AFL Clubs are expected to minimise the impact on Player's work and study where possible.
- (c) Any debut or milestone Match hospitality provided to a Player's family members or support persons in accordance with the CBA must be provided directly in relation to the Match that the Player is selected to play in. For the avoidance of doubt, such hospitality does not extend to international airfares or in advance of the applicable AFLW Season commencing, unless the AFL agrees that there are exceptional circumstances requiring such arrangements.
- (d) The AFLW Travel Subsidy will be based on the following:
- (i) Clubs should seek to minimise impact on work and study;
  - (ii) Teams to return to home city on game day where flights are available;
  - (iii) Bus should be considered as an alternative to flying for journeys under three (3) hours;
  - (iv) Clubs are expected to check out at the standard hotel check out time (if Clubs choose to check out late, it will be at their own cost); and
  - (v) Daily meal allowance provided for each night the travel party is required to be away from.

## 13.4 AFLW awards

The following awards will be awarded annually for the AFLW Competition:

- (a) Best and Fairest;
- (b) Rising Star;
- (c) Leading Goal Kicker;
- (d) Best on Ground in the Grand Final;
- (e) Mark of the Year;
- (f) Goal of the Year;
- (g) All Australian honours; and
- (h) Other awards as determined by the AFL from time to time.

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## 14. COMPRESSION APPAREL

### 14.1 Permitted Compression Apparel

Match day rules for Player compression apparel will apply including as follows, unless otherwise approved:

- (a) Compression can't be visible under on field apparel;
- (b) Compression can't carry visible branding.

### 14.2 Sponsored Compression Apparel

- (a) Clubs and Players may partner with compression brands however all association with respect to the partnership, the Club and Players must be limited to compression and the restrictions with respect to Cotton On set out in the AFLW Commercial Operations Guidelines otherwise apply.
- (b) By way of example, an AFLW Team will not be permitted to partner with Nike in the apparel category. However, the Club may enter a partnership with Nike in the compression category, provided:
  - (i) the partnership is strictly limited to the promotion of compression; and
  - (ii) the AFLW Team and its Players must not promote, or associate with, Nike apparel or products other than compression.
- (c) Players are permitted to enter personal arrangements with compression sponsors provided:
  - (i) Players comply with match day compression regulations; and
  - (ii) Players do not promote the compression sponsor using AFL/Club IP or pass off an association between the Player and the AFLW or the Player's Club without consent.

## 15. LICENSING

### 15.1 Centralised apparel and headwear partners

The AFL has appointed centralised Apparel and Headwear partners for the AFLW in Cotton On and New Era. The below official designations apply and must be used when referencing the two (2) partners of the league –

- (a) Cotton On:
  - (i) The non-exclusive right during the Term to be recognised as an "Official Partner of the NAB AFLW"; and
  - (ii) The exclusive right during the Term to be recognised as the "Official On Field Apparel Partner to the NAB AFLW".
- (b) New Era:
  - (i) The non-exclusive right during the Term to be recognised as an "Official Partner of the NAB AFLW"; and
  - (ii) The exclusive right during the Term to be recognised as the "Official Headwear Partner to the NAB AFLW".

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## 15.2 Provision of Apparel and Headwear to Clubs

- (a) As at the date of these Rules, each Club will be provided with no less than \$37,500 + GST worth of contra from Cotton On with Clubs to determine how they spend that amount, provided they comply with the 'minimum order requirement guidelines' communicated each AFLW Season by the AFL.
- (b) Where possible training gear will be delivered to Clubs prior to the commencement of Pre-Season.
- (c) Player sizes and numbers for guernseys must be provided to Cotton On alongside the final list lodgement after the draft to allow for guernseys to be delivered in time for Round 1, in accordance with the Development Calendar provided by Cotton On
- (d) Cotton On will communicate a development and delivery calendar in 12 months prior to the commencement of the next AFLW Season outlining the product development process, and key deadlines.
- (e) The AFL will communicate the approval process, and the AFLW On Field Guidelines 12 months prior to season commencement.
- (f) New Era to provide 72 headwear items to each Club.

## 15.3 Retail orders

- (a) Clubs to order apparel and headwear for retail by in the timelines advised by the AFL.
- (b) Enquiries around specific AFLW branded retail items to be made to the AFL's consumer products department for further discussion.

## 15.4 Match Footballs

Sherrin to supply the following Match footballs for each Match:

- (a) Six (6) size 4 footballs.
- (b) The AFL will order Match footballs directly from Sherrin.
- (c) Clubs will be responsible for ordering training footballs directly from Sherrin and will be invoiced directly from Sherrin.
- (d) All Match footballs to contain the approved Competition, Sherrin and Sponsor IP logo or artwork.
- (e) The AFL will provide the six (6) Match footballs on Match day to the umpires' room at least 45 minutes prior to the commencement of the Match. These Match footballs remain the property of the AFL, and the AFL will collect all six (6) Match footballs upon the conclusion of the Match.

## 16. MEDIA

- (a) AFL will manage media accreditation process for all AFLW Events including Matches, draft, Player induction and functions.
- (b) AFL will release the finding of the MRO to media.
- (c) AFL will release official AFLW weekly team lists to media.
- (d) AFL will release weekly news list to media.

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- (e) AFLW official apparel must be worn for all media related appearances by Players and Club staff.
- (f) Broadcast rights holder and media access to Players and coaches, both during the week and on match day, will apply as outlined in the Broadcast Rights Holder and General Media Access Policy.

## 17. AFLW SOFT CAP

Clubs must comply with the compliance requirements for each Club's AFLW Soft Cap as outlined in the Football Department Soft Cap manual issued by the AFL's TPP Assurance & Advice Department.

## 18. RULES

### 18.1 Effect of AFL Rules and Regulations

The AFL Rules and AFL Regulations and Laws of Australian Football will apply to the AFLW Competition (including the Trade, Draft and Pre-Season) unless expressly stated otherwise. To the extent of any inconsistencies between the AFL Rules and AFL Regulations and these Rules, and where the application of a specific AFL Rule or Regulation is clearly unworkable when applied in conjunction with these Rules, these Rules will take priority. These Rules, the AFL Rules and the AFL Regulations are referred to collectively from time to time as the AFLW Rules and are "AFL Rules and Regulations" for the purpose of the AFL Rules and the AFL Regulations.

### 18.2 CBA

Except as expressly provided in these Rules, the provisions of the CBA and SPC will prevail over any inconsistent provision or rule in these Rules.

### 18.3 Breaches of these Rules

Any Club found to be in breach of these Rules or the CBA may be subject to a sanction at the discretion of the AFL which can include (but is not limited to):

- (a) A sanction to be imposed and/or determined in accordance with the AFL Rules;
- (b) A Fine;
- (c) The loss of draft picks in future AFLW Drafts or any AFLW related draft thereafter;
- (d) Loss/Suspension of AFLW licence; and
- (e) Any combination of the above.

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## APPENDIX A – AFLW forms

Form name	Purpose
<b>Transfer to Inactive List (Form 1A)</b>	Transfer of Player to a Club's Inactive List where the Player is unavailable for the entire applicable AFLW Season
<b>Application for Inactive Player Replacement (Form 1D)</b>	Used by a Club to sign a replacement player for an Inactive player (where the Player is unavailable for the entire applicable AFLW Season)
<b>Unavailable List (Form 1C)</b>	List of unavailable Players, their expected return date and details of unavailability
<b>Preliminary List Lodgement Form (Form 7, 7A, 7B)</b>	Submission of Players signed by the Club during the Trade period and the Free Agency period, as well as any list deletions (retirement, delisting, etc)
<b>Final List Lodgement Form (Form 7, 7A, 7B)</b>	Submission by Club of their final Primary and Rookie lists
<b>Trade form (Form 8)</b>	Submission of a proposed trade to the AFL
<b>Father-daughter Nomination Form (Form 9)</b>	Nomination by Club of a Player who is eligible to be taken as a father-daughter selection in the AFLW Draft
<b>Northern Academy Nomination Form (Form 9A)</b>	Nomination by Club of a Player who is eligible to be taken as a Northern Academy selection in the AFLW Draft
<b>Rookie Nomination Form (Form 39A)</b>	Nomination by Club of Rookies
<b>Player Request for Removal from a List (Form 40)</b>	Request by a Player to delist or retire themselves
<b>Delisted Free Agent (Form 3A)</b>	Used by a Club to sign a Delisted Free Agent
<b>Restricted Free Agent (Form 3B)</b>	Used by a Club to sign a Restricted Free Agent
<b>Unrestricted Free Agent (Form 3C)</b>	Used by a Club to sign an Unrestricted Free Agent
<b>Academy List (Form 4)</b>	Used by a Club to list all Players in their Academy
<b>Training Player Request</b>	Used by a Club to request non-listed Players to attend AFLW training sessions at their Club
<b>Declaration – 3 Yrs Non Registered</b>	Used by Player to declare they are a 3 year non-registered player and eligible as a Rookie

# AFLW Competition Rules

Issued 11 June 2025

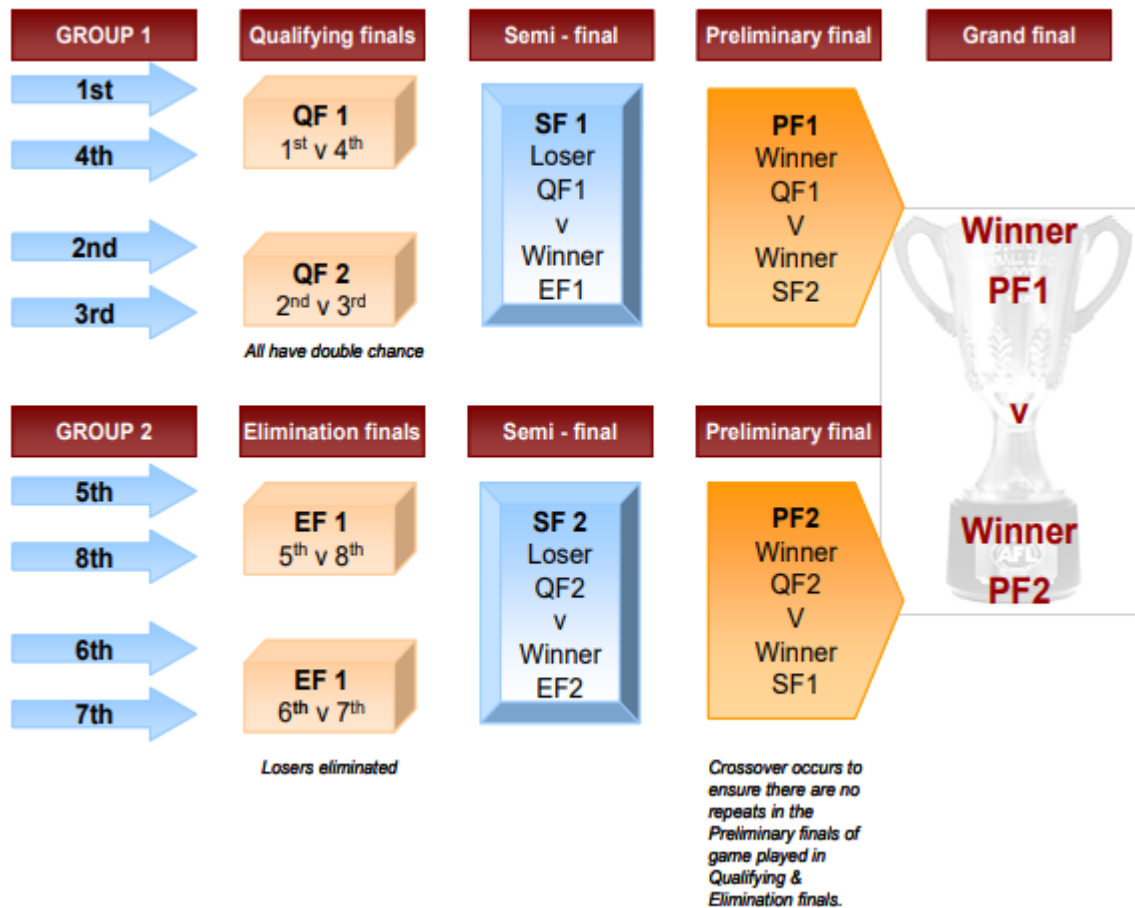
**The AFL recommends referring to the following supporting documents:**

- AFL and AFLW Collective Bargaining Agreement
- Standard Playing Contract
- Laws of Australian Football (last updated: 2025)
- AFLW Commercial Operations Guidelines
- Soft Cap Manual
- AFLW Match Day Guide
- Broadcast Access Policy
- Venue Guidelines
- AFL Medical Manual

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## APPENDIX B – Final Eight System



\* The Club deemed to be the home Club for the Grand Final will be the Club of the two winning Clubs from the Preliminary Finals with the highest ranking under AFL Regulation 2.9(a) (following the completion first round of the Finals Series).