

AFLNT



Player & Official

**De-Registration
Policy**

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1. Introduction:

The AFLNT believes it is time to introduce a “**De-registration policy**”. The “**De-registration policy**” has been developed to provide a Risk Management framework and policy basis for all footballers and administrators who are associated one way or another within the AFLNT. This document recognises a Duty of Care with players / officials who could pose an unacceptable risk to other players / officials.

This document is designed for all leagues within the AFLNT to adopt, which will ensure that a consistent approach is applied to the “**De-registration**” of players / officials.

The AFLNT believes by implementing a “**De-registration policy**” AFLNT wide, it will decrease the risk of legal action against individuals or the leagues in that the AFLNT is putting steps in place to ensure that footballers registered within the AFLNT are playing in the safest environment possible.

The AFLNT would like to acknowledge the assistance of AFL Victoria in implementing this document.

2. Definitions

AFLNT – All affiliated leagues & clubs within the Northern Territory

De-registration – The withdrawal of a players or official permit to be associated with a football club.

Official – Includes but not limited to coaches, assistant coaches, board / committee members, trainers, runners, employees or any person performing any duties (paid or unpaid) for or on behalf of the club, team or league.

Playing Careers – means the period from U/13 onwards playing and / or officiating football in a recognised senior or junior age competition both within and outside the Northern Territory

3. Application

The “**De-registration policy**” applies to all members of the AFLNT and their affiliate leagues and clubs. Specifically in relation to:

Players: All players from seniors to U/13.

Officials: All league and club officials.

4. Policy Aims

The policy aims to:

- A. **“De-register”** a player who is found guilty of football offences during their playing days where such offences cause the tribunal history of such a player to fall beyond an acceptable level for Australian Football
- B. **“De-register”** an official who is found guilty of football offences (at any level) where such offence or offences are deemed to fall beyond an acceptable level for Australian football.
- C. Apply the **“de-registration”** of a player / official to both roles so that a **“de-registered”** player can not officiate in any capacity and a **“de-registered”** official can not participate as a player.
- D. Prevent a player or official to whom paragraph 4A or 4B apply from transferring between leagues with the view to creating a “clean slate” with the new league. The tribunal history shall follow the player to allow the new league to make an informed judgment regarding initial registration taking into account past and current tribunal sentence.

5. De-Registration Procedure

General

- A. A players full tribunal history throughout their playing career must be forwarded to they new league(s) from the previous league upon a player being cleared.
- B. The full tribunal history of a player (including tribunal record at all previous league/s) shall be considered when determining sanctions for offences and also potential **“de-registration”**.
- C. A league that suspects that an official may have a tribunal history is to seek information from their previous league/s.
- D. The only sanctions relevant to **“de-registration”** shall be sanctions imposed by the league, sanctions imposed by the club will not be taken into consideration when determining **“de-registration”**.
- E. Information regarding suspended sentences will be transferred between leagues and leagues would consider such sentences relevant to possible **“de-registration”** if and when the suspension from such suspended sentence is served.

6. De-registration Process

Notification

- A. The AFLNT must advise all leagues / clubs of the details of the policy and make the policy readily available.
- B. Once a player / official has accumulated a suspension history of 24 weeks or more in their playing career the league will advise the player / official and their club in writing that the player / official face automatic “**de-registration**” should the player incur further suspensions which would cause the accumulated suspension history to exceed 30 weeks.
- C. If players / officials have current tribunal record throughout their playing careers exceeding 30 weeks at the time of implementing this policy, the relevant league will formally advise the player / official and the club that the player / official faces automatic “**de-registration**” should the player / official incur another suspension.
- D. The AFLNT will reduce the 30 weeks “**de-registration**” policy to the following over the next 3 years, to fall in line with all other state league policies.

Year	Old Weeks	New Weeks	Notification Week
2008/9	30	25	20
2009/10	25	20	15
2010/11	20	15	10

This means that from 2010/11 any player or official who accumulates a tribunal throughout their playing careers that exceeds 15 weeks may face “**de-registration**”.

- E. Notification of “**de-registration**” will be made in writing to the player / official and the club that they are affiliated with.
- F. The AFLNT will keep a data base of all “**de-registered**” players / officials.
- G. The AFLNT will present this document to all leagues within the Northern Territory who will then present to their clubs within their league.
- H. Clubs must at all times strive to ensure their players and officials do not get themselves into a position of potentially being “**de-registered**”. Anger management training and other relevant counseling / education is seen as a critical component for clubs to arrange for their players and officials.

7. Criteria for De-registration

Players

A. Players shall be automatically “**de-registered**” and not allowed further registration with the same or another league if the player has accumulated a combined total of weeks (see section 6.D) in their career.

First Offence

B. Should a player receive the maximum weeks or more as a first offence, it shall be at the leagues discretion to “**de-register**” following such a first offence suspension.

Official

C. Officials shall be “**de-registered**” and not allowed to officiate in any capacity if they accumulate a combined suspension greater then that which is outlined in section 6.D

Player / Official

D. Players / Official shall be “**de-registered**” as both a player and official if their combined total of weeks is equal to or greater than the amount set out in section 6.D)

8. De-Registration Player / Official seeking Re-registration.

A. A player / official shall not be eligible for re: registration unless the player or official make an application for re-registration to the AFLNT Appeals Board. Such application shall only be granted under exceptional circumstances. (eg: relevant body is satisfied that the player / official is genuinely rehabilitated and unlikely to re: offend.

B. A “**de-registered**” player can not officiate in or at any game of Australian Rules football unless an exemption is given by the AFLNT Appeals Board.

C. A “**de-registered**” official can not participate as a player or an official in or at any game of Australian Rules football.

D. A “**de-registered** player / official who is successful in an application for re-registration to the AFLNT and subsequently re-offends and is suspended will automatically be “**de-registered**” with no further right subject to section 10, to apply for re-registration.

9. Appeals

After having progressed through section 5, 6, 7 & 8 and the player / official being “**de-registered**”, the affected player / official may:

A. Appeal to the AFLNT Appeals Board in accordance with the rule set out in section 10.

10. Appeals to AFLNT

A. In accordance with AFLNT By-laws section 9 Appeals Board a player / official can appeal a decision of their league to the AFLNT Appeals Board.

B. The conduct of the AFLNT Appeals Board shall be at the discretion of the Chairman and without limitation, shall be inquisitorial in nature and all available evidence as previously heard shall be made available to the Appeal Board as well as any further evidence that the Chairman deems relevant.

C. It is the obligation of the player / official who has been **“de-registered”** to present their case with the necessary witnesses and relevant documentation to the Appeals Board to show cause to why he should be reregistered.

D. The player / official must notify the secretary of the AFLNT Appeals Board in writing within 72 hours of the decision to **“de-register”** the player / official, to be able to appeal the decision.

E. The player / official may **only** submit (1) appeal in any one season.

F. The player / official shall be entitled to representation at the hearing.

G. Such representation shall not be by any person who is legally qualified.

H. The secretary of the AFLNT Appeals Board shall inform each affected league / club of the appeal date as soon as practicable after the lodgment of the player / official notice of appeal.

I. A representative from the player / official’s league will be required to justify the leagues decision to **“de-register”** the player / official.

J. The player / official must lodge a bond of \$550 (inc GST) made payable to the AFLNT and such bond may be forfeited should the appeal be considered frivolous. A \$250 (inc GST) administration fee will be retained by the AFLNT irrespective of the outcome of the appeal.

K. The player / official must also lodge a completed Appeal Form together with a copy of any relevant documentation regarding the **“de-registration”**.

L. The league who **“de-registered”** the player / official will be required to lodge the players / official’s tribunal history and any other relevant information to the appeal with the secretary of the AFLNT Appeals Board.

M. Should the player / official fail to lodge a bond of \$550 (inc GST) within six days of notifying the secretary of the AFLNT Appeals Board under section 10D, the **“de-registration”** shall stand and any right to appeal is forfeited.

N. In all cases with reference to applicable time lines, AFLNT shall determine the date and time for lodgement of the form or bond, as the case may be.

O. The AFLNT Appeals Board may regulate the proceedings before it as it deems fit and the decision of the AFLNT Appeals Board shall be final and binding on all parties.