



NORTHERN TERRITORY FOOTBALL LEAGUE BY-LAWS



2016-17 Edition

This edition is valid for the 2016-17 season, and shall continue to be current until a new edition is released by AFL Northern Territory. These By-Laws are specific to the Northern Territory Football League competition and are to be read in conjunction with the AFL Northern Territory By-Laws.

Preamble

AFL Northern Territory (AFLNT) is responsible for the conduct of the premier competition in the Northern Territory, known as Northern Territory Football League (NTFL).

These By-Laws are drafted and designed to provide direction for the administration of all grades of NTFL club competition and should be read in conjunction with the most recent version of the AFL Northern Territory By-Laws.

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1 Operation of By-Laws

1.1 Member Protection Policy

1.1.1 In these by-laws, unless a contrary meaning is required by the context, the operation of these by-laws are as listed in the AFL Northern Territory By-Laws.

1.2 Amendments to Member Protection Policy

1.2.1 AFLNT has made the following amendments to the AFL Member Protection Policy (MPP) for the operation of the Northern Territory Football League:

- (a) NTFL By-Law 6.1 (NTFL Transfer Application Period) applies in addition to Schedule 5, Section 3.7 (Transfer Application Period)

1.3 Amendments to NTFL By-Laws

1.3.1 AFLNT has made the following amendments to AFLNT By-Laws for the operation of the Northern Territory Football League:

- (a) 5.1 Age and Gender Qualifications
- (b) 5.2 Player Eligibility – NTFL Finals Matches
- (c) 6.1.4 Match Day Permits

2 Definitions

2.1 In these By-laws, unless a contrary meaning is required by the context, definitions are as listed in the AFL Northern Territory By-Laws.

3 Football Operations

3.1 Match – Team Sheets

3.1.1 AFLNT and affiliated clubs are to provide visiting clubs with access to computers and printers where practical when managing AFLNT sanctioned matches, however, it is the responsibility of the club to ensure a printed team sheet with all player names and numbers for each team is submitted within the required time lines.

3.2 Competitions

3.2.1 In addition to those grades listed in the AFLNT By-Laws, the NTFL shall conduct competitions in the following grades:

(a) Under 15 Girls

3.3 Competition - Playing Numbers

3.3.1 Teams playing in the Under 15 Grade shall have no more than the following maximum number of players per team.

(a) 22 (16 + 6 interchange)

3.4 Competition - Footballs

3.4.1 A minimum of three new footballs are to be available for the commencement of each Premier League match.

3.4.2 Size 4 footballs are to be used for Under 15 Girls matches.

3.5 Competition – Affects of Forfeits

3.5.1 Where a club forfeits a premier league match, all other senior grade teams representing that club will be deemed to have forfeited any match that club has been scheduled to play in the same round of matches, regardless of whether the match has been completed prior to that Premier League Team forfeiting their match, and

3.5.2 Where a club forfeits a premier league match, that club will be fined the sum of \$5000.00 regardless of whether the Football Operations Department was notified within any timelines determined in these or AFLNT by-laws.

3.6 Competition – Drawn Finals Matches

3.6.1 In any Premier League or Senior Women's Division 1 Finals Match where the scores are tied at the end of full time, the following rules apply;

3.6.2 At the conclusion of full time there will be a five minute interval during which time the coaching staff may address the players.

- 3.6.3 The teams will then change ends from the final quarter and play five minutes.
- 3.6.4 At the conclusion of this period there will be a three minute interval during which time the coaching staff may not address the players.
- 3.6.5 At the conclusion of the three minute interval the teams will again change ends and play for a further period of five minutes.
- 3.6.6 At the conclusion of the second five (5) minute period;
- (a) The team with the highest score will be declared the winner.
 - (b) If the scores are still tied there will be a three (3) minute interval during which time the coaching staff may not address the players.
 - (c) At the conclusion of the three (3) minute interval the teams will again change ends and play until a score is registered at which time the game will end and the team with the highest score will be declared the winner.

3.7 Rules – Under 12 Modified Rules

3.7.1 Mercy Rule:

- (a) In the case of a team leading by 60 points, the game is deemed to be won by the team in front and scoring ceases.
- (b) The Goal Umpires are to inform the Field Umpire at quarter time, half time or three quarter time, where the score differential between the teams equals or exceeds sixty (60) points. No matter when the Mercy Rule is applied the end score will only be sixty (60) points difference. The Field Umpire will instruct the Goal Umpires to cease further scoring for the remainder of the match.

3.7.2 Player Numbers Rule:

- (a) Where one team has more players than their opposition, teams may loan players to their opposition to 'even up' the sides for home and away matches so that all junior participants are given the greatest opportunity to participate.
- (b) If a team has 'borrowed' players, it is that team's responsibility to complete a Match Day Permit on FootyWeb for the loaned player(s).

3.8 Rules – Under 15 Girls Modified Rules

3.8.1 In acknowledgement of the Under 15 Girls competition being skill development grades the following special rules will apply:

- (a) The ball must be thrown up at all ruck contests.
- (b) The umpire must identify one player from each opposing side to contest the ruck and only those nominated can contest the throw-up
- (c) Players are allowed to bounce the ball twice before they must dispose to another player.

- (d) Handballing to themselves or taking a third bounce must be penalised as “holding the ball”.
- (e) Players may not deliberately kick the ball off the ground at any time.
- (f) An accidental kick off the ground will not be penalised and a “play on” call will result.
- (g) When the ball goes out of bounds, the field umpire will conduct a “ball up” 15 metres inside the boundary line.
- (h) Where the 50 metre rule applied under offences within the Laws of the Game a distance of 25 metres will be substituted.
- (i) No player shall be deliberately slung, dumped or thrown to the ground in any tackle. A free kick shall be awarded against the player who contravenes this rule.

3.9 Rules - Player Points System

- 3.9.1 It is the responsibility of each club to submit a squad of up to 28 players that their premier league team will be selected from by 8pm on the Thursday prior to each premier league match.
- 3.9.2 It is the responsibility of each club to advise the Football Operations Department when a player is selected for his first premier league match for that season.
- 3.9.3 Each Premier League Player will be given a Points Value by the Football Operations Department in consultation with the AFLNT Laws Committee
- 3.9.4 Each club must select 22 players from the squad submitted in accordance with 3.8.1 for each premier league match and have those players listed on the relevant team sheet 60 minutes prior to the commencement of that club’s premier league match.
- 3.9.5 Each team must comprise players whose Total Points Value (TPV) does not exceed 20 points in any one Premier League Match.
 - (a) A club which plays a team with a TPV greater than 20 Points will forfeit the match in which that team played.
- 3.9.6 Players will receive a Points Value based on the following criteria:

(a) NTFL Player from another NTFL club	4 points
(b) Tier 2 players from States and Territories other than NT	3 points
(c) AFL players	2 points
(d) Tier 1 players	2 points
(e) AFLNT Affiliate League players	0 points
(f) Local club player	0 points
- 3.9.7 Points will be allocated to players on the basis of the competition they played in during the season prior to that player’s recruitment by an NTFL Club.
- 3.9.8 Each player’s points value will decrease by one (1) point with every season played at that same NTFL club.

- (a) Seasons played prior to a player playing for a different NTFL club will not be considered under this by-law.
- 3.9.9 If a player has played in the NTFL in the previous NTFL season, that season will take precedence over having played elsewhere in a Dry Season or season competition, when assessing a player's points value.
- 3.9.10 A player who has played less than five (5) NTFL premier league matches in the previous 12 months will be allocated zero (0) points when transferring to another NTFL club.
- 3.9.11 A player who has not played competitive football in the previous 24 months will be allocated zero (0) points when transferring to a NTFL club.
- 3.9.12 A local club player who is 30 years of age or older on the 1st of January in the year the competition commences, and has played a minimum of 100 NTFL premier league games for the club he is registered with will be allocated two (2) points when transferring to another NTFL club.
- 3.9.13 An AFL or Tier 1 player returning to his NTFL club at the completion of his AFL or Tier 1 career will be allocated zero (0) points.
- 3.9.14 A NTFC player returning to his local club will be allocated zero (0) points for as long as they are contracted as a NTFC player.
- (a) A NTFC player must have played the previous NTFL season with the same NTFL club to be eligible for this discount in points allocation.
- 3.9.15 Definitions;
- (a) A NTFC player is any player contracted to play for NT Thunder for as long as that contract remains in place.
- (b) An AFL player is a player recruited directly from an AFL Club
- (c) A Tier 1 player is a player recruited directly from a Tier 1 Club
- i. Any player who is recruited from a Tier 2 Competition and has played five (5) or more games in a Tier 1 Competition in the season immediately prior to his recruitment will be deemed a Tier 1 Player.
- (d) A Local Club Player is:
- i. Any player who has played for the same NTFL Club for four (4) seasons without having played for another NTFL Club in the same time period;
- ii. Any player who has played junior football for the same NTFL Club without having played for another NTFL Club in the same time period; and
- iii. Any player who has had transfer fees paid in full by the NTFL Club they are currently registered with prior to the implementation of these rules, provided that player has not played for another NTFL Club since those transfer fees were paid.

- (e) Where a club located in the Northern Territory is admitted to a Tier 2 Competition of another State, the players of the club located in the Northern Territory will be considered Local Club Players.

3.10 Rules - TIO Stadium Lighting

3.10.1 The Competition Manager may switch on flood lights during the progress of a match at their discretion

3.11 Scheduling – Run on Times

3.11.1 The Football Operations Department may allocate specific run on times for Premier League matches and other matches of interest where it deems necessary.

4 Club Requirements

4.1 As per AFLNT By-Laws

5 Player Eligibility

5.1 Age and Gender Qualifications

5.1.1 NTFL amendments to AFLNT By-Laws in the following grades:

(a) Each participating player in Under 18 Girls Grade must be:

- i. turning 15, 16, 17 or 18 years of age in the year the competition commences;
- ii. less than 18 years of age on 30 June in the year the competition commences; and
- iii. female;

(b) Each participating player in Under 15 Girls Grade must be:

- i. turning 12, 13 or 14 years of age in the year that the competition commences;
- ii. less than 15 years of age on 31st December in the year the competition commences; and
- iii. female;

5.2 Player Eligibility – NTFL Finals Matches

5.2.1 NTFL amendments to AFLNT by-laws:

- (a) A player is eligible to play a premier league finals match for a club if that player has played a minimum of five (5) home & away matches for that club's premier league team.

- (b) A player is eligible to play in a finals match for a team without having played the minimum number of home & away matches to qualify for that team subject to the age and gender qualifications and provided:
 - i. That player has played a minimum of five (5) home & away matches for that club in a lower grade or lower division, and
 - ii. Both teams are playing in that same round of finals matches.
- (c) A player who is deemed eligible to play in a finals match for a team under these by-laws will remain eligible to do so for the duration of that finals series.

6 Transfers and Permits

6.1 NTFL Transfer Application Period

- 6.1.1 No transfer is to be lodged prior to 1 September in a given season
- 6.1.2 No transfer shall be lodged after 30 November in a given season
- 6.1.3 The above commencement and conclusion period is only applicable for transfers from one NTFL Club to another NTFL Club.
- 6.1.4 The use of Temporary Transfers for NTFL Club to NTFL Club Transfers is not permitted.
- 6.1.5 Unless otherwise agreed between the respective clubs, clubs may apply for clearances for no more than five (5) players from any one other club in any NTFL season.

6.2 Interchange Agreements

6.1.1 Club Interchange Agreements

- (a) A Club may enter into an agreement with another NTFL Club at the discretion of the AFLNT Community Football Department.
- (b) A copy of the Interchange Agreement must be submitted to the Community Football Department within ten (10) days of its execution.
- (c) All Club Interchange Agreements must be in place by the 1st of August in any given year.
- (d) Players entering into this agreement will be deemed as participating in 'one club' in matters relating to finals eligibility.
- (e) Once a Club Interchange Agreement has been lodged with the Community Football Department it will be considered ongoing unless revoked by AFLNT.
- (f) Once the agreement is in place, a Permit must be initiated by the Destination Club by logging into AFL Footyweb and submitting a Type 2 Local Interchange Permit Application when moving a player from one club to another.

- (g) Any club found to have breached these By-Laws will be deemed to have played an ineligible player and will be dealt with in accordance with AFLNT By-Laws.

6.1.2 Senior Grade Division 2 Interchange Agreements

- (a) A Club may enter into a Senior Grade Division 2 Interchange Agreement with another NTFL Club at the discretion of the AFLNT Community Football Department.
- (b) A copy of the Interchange Agreement must be submitted to the Community Football Department within ten (10) days of its execution.
- (c) An Interchange Agreement may be entered into at any time during a season at the discretion of the Community Football Department.
- (d) Players entering into this agreement must meet all finals eligibility requirements in accordance with NTFL and AFLNT By-Laws.
- (e) Once a Senior Grade Division 2 Interchange Agreement has been lodged with the Community Football Department it will be considered ongoing until the completion of that season, unless revoked by AFLNT.
- (f) Senior Grade Division 2 Interchange Agreements are not to be used to allow a player to play in any Grade or Division other than Senior Grade Division 2 with the club in which the agreement was entered into (the Destination Club).
- (g) Once the agreement is in place, a Permit must be initiated by the Destination Club by logging into AFL Footyweb and submitting a Type 2 Local Interchange Permit Application when moving a player from one club to another.
- (h) Any club found to have breached these By-Laws will be deemed to have played an ineligible player and will be dealt with in accordance with AFLNT By-Laws.

6.1.3 Player Interchange Agreements

- (a) A Player registered with a club may enter into an agreement with another club at the discretion of AFLNT Community Football Department.
- (b) A copy of the Player Interchange Agreement must be submitted to the AFLNT Football Operations Department within ten (10) days of its execution.
- (c) A Player Interchange Agreement may be submitted at any time during the season.

- (d) A Player can only be included in one Player Interchange Agreement in any one season.
- (e) Players entering into this agreement will be deemed as participating for 'one club' in matters relating to player eligibility.
- (f) Once a Player Interchange Agreement has been lodged with the Football Operations Department it will be considered valid until the conclusion of that Season unless revoked by the Football Operations Department.
- (g) Player Interchange Agreements are not to be used to allow a player to play in a Grade or Division that would otherwise be available to that player should he remain at his original club.
- (h) Once the agreement is in place, a Permit must be initiated by the Destination Club by logging into AFL Footyweb and submitting a Type 2 Local Interchange Permit Application when players are moving from club to club.
- (i) Any club found to have breached these By-Laws will be deemed to have played an ineligible player and will be dealt with in accordance with AFLNT By-Laws.
- (j) No more than two (2) Player Interchange Agreements are allowed between the same two clubs in any one season.

6.1.4 Match Day Permits

- (a) NTFL amendments to AFLNT by-laws.
- (b) In addition to Under 12 Competitions, Match Day Permits are available to the following competitions;
 - i. Under 15 Girls, and
 - ii. Division 2 Competitions (Junior and Senior)

7 Representative Teams

7.1 As per AFLNT By-Laws

8 National Policies and Guidelines

8.1 As per AFLNT By-Laws

9 Appeals, Complaints and Deferrals

9.1 As per AFLNT By-Laws

10 Special Provision

10.1 NTFL Season

10.1.1 Unless otherwise determined by AFLNT, the NTFL Competition will generally be conducted each year in the period of 1 October to 31 March the following year.

10.2 Awards

10.2.1 Medals will be awarded for the Best and Fairest in each Grade except Under 12s in addition to identifying a Men's and Women's Rising Star and Men's and Women's Most Valuable Player in accordance with these by-laws.

11 Appendices

1. Grand Final Best Player Awards
2. Best & Fairest Awards
3. Best & Fairest Medal Conditions
4. Most Valuable Player Award Conditions
5. Rising Star Award Conditions
6. NTFC Player Movement Rule

Appendix 1 Grand Final Best Player Awards

1. Grand Final Best Player Awards
 - (a) Premier League Chaney Medal
 - (b) Senior Men's Division 1 Clark Medal
 - (c) Senior Women's Division 1 Brenda Williams Medal
 - (d) Senior Men's Division 2 Gear Medal
 - (e) Under 18 Boys Haritos Medal
 - (f) Under 18 Girls
 - (g) Under 16 Boys Div 1 Jeffrey Medal
 - (h) Under 16 Boys Div 2 Cooper Medal
 - (i) Under 15 Girls Sharon Knight Medal
 - (j) Under 14 Div 1 A.T. Shaw Medal
 - (k) Under 14 Div 2 Damaso Medal
 - (l) Under 12 Div 1 Atkinson Medal
 - (m) Under 12 Div 2 Deslandes Medal

2. Votes for Grand Final Best Player will be awarded by a panel appointed by the Chief Executive Officer.

Appendix 2 Best & Fairest Awards

1. Best & Fairest Awards

(a) Premier League	Nichols Medal
(b) Senior Men's Division 1	Mitch Lee Medal
(c) Senior Women's Division 1	
(d) Senior Men's Division 2	Lancaster Medal
(e) Under 18 Boys	Abala Medal
(f) Under 18 Girls	
(g) Under 16 Boys Div 1	Hickman Medal
(h) Under 16 Boys Div 2	Leverence Medal
(i) Under 15 Girls	Sharon Smith Medal
(j) Under 14 Div 1	Gundersen Medal
(k) Under 14 Div 2	Lewfatt Medal
(l) Under 12 Div 1	Not Applicable
(m) Under 12 Div 2	Not Applicable

Appendix 3 Best & Fairest Conditions

1. At the conclusion of each match played during the home & away series, the field umpires shall collectively award votes to the players they judge to be the best and fairest players participating in that match:
 - (a) Three votes will be awarded to the best player,
 - (b) Two votes will be awarded to the second best player, and
 - (c) One vote will be awarded to the third best player.
2. Once the votes have been cast, the umpires must place the vote card in the envelope provided and hand the envelope to the Match Manager.
3. The envelopes will be opened at the Nichols Medal Event and counted by a panel appointed by the Chief Executive Officer.
 - (a) AFLNT reserve the right to count some or all votes for minor competitions prior to the Nichols Medal Event.
4. Any player who has been suspended by an AFLNT appointed tribunal (including the acceptance of a prescribed penalty) in respect to a charge or an offence against the laws of the game shall be ineligible to win a best and fairest award in that year, unless they have been suspended for the following reasons;
 - (a) Attempt to trip another person,
 - (b) Engaging in time wasting,
 - (c) Engaging in an act of staging,
 - (d) Engaging in a melee,
 - (e) Wrestling another person,
 - (f) Interfering with a player kicking for goal,
 - (g) Intentionally shaking a goal or point post,
 - (h) Wearing prohibited boots, jewellery and equipment, and
 - (i) Refusing to play representative football.
5. Players who are suspended as a result of an incident which occurred whilst playing in a representative match will remain eligible to win the Nichols Medal.
6. The Nichols Medal count shall not commence until all offences reported during the home & away rounds have been finalised.
7. Where two or more players in a competition are tied on equal votes at the end of the count, each player shall be declared joint winners and each player will be awarded with a best & fairest medal.

Appendix 4 Most Valuable Player Award Conditions

The NTFL Most Valuable Player Award is a prestigious award that identifies the NTFL player most respected by their peers.

1. At the completion of each Premier League Match and Senior Women's Division 1 Match, the Coach and Captain are to jointly award votes to the five (5) most valuable players in order of 1 to 5, with the most valuable player receiving five (5) votes.
2. Votes may be awarded to players of either team.
3. Clubs are to submit their votes via email to ntfooty@aflnt.com.au by 5pm on the first business day after the match has been completed.
4. Players who have been suspended are eligible to win the MVP Award
5. The player who receives the most votes will be declared the winner of the MVP Award

Appendix 5 Rising Star Award Conditions

1. The NTFL Rising Star Award is a prestigious award that identifies the most promising young player in the Premier League Competition.
2. Any player who attains the age of 22 years or older in the year that the competition commences is not eligible to win the NTFL Rising Star Award.
3. Players that have previously won the NTFL Rising Star Award are not eligible to win the award a second time.
4. Each club must nominate one (1) Premier League Player and one (1) Senior Women's Division 1 Player, no later than the 31st of January.
5. The NT Thunder Head Coach and AFLNT Coaching Manager are to jointly nominate one (1) Premier League Player and one (1) Senior Women's Division 1 Player from each club no later than the 7th of February.
6. The NT News Football Writers are to nominate one (1) Premier League Player and one (1) Senior Women's Division 1 Player at the completion of each round of the NTFL Home & Away Season.
7. The NTFL Rising Star Adjudication Panel shall consist of a panel of five (5) members.
8. The Rising Star Award will be awarded at the Nichols Medal Count.

As A Guide:**1. Players over 21 years of age**

- a) Played less than 10 NTFC matches in the season
 - Available to play Round 1 and full home and away NTFL matches plus finals – subject to Individualised NTFC/NTFL Player Management Plan which is to be provide by NTFC to NTFL Clubs by October 1st each year.
- b) Played 10 or more NTFC Matches
 - A player has available to him 10 NTFL matches that can be played at any time during the NTFL home and away season plus finals – subject to Individualised NTFC/NTFL Player Management Plan which is to be agreed by October 1st of each year
 - If a rest, recovery and rehabilitation period for the player is identified in the NTFC Post season medical assessment the players' respective NTFL club will be notified by the NTFC Head Coach

2. 21 years of age & under

- a) Players are subject to Individualised Player Management Plans with no “automatic” entitlement to play a minimum or maximum number of matches. The Individualised Player Management Plan is to be provided to the NTFL Clubs by October 1st each year
- b) Individualised NTFC/NTFL Player Management Plan to be developed collaboratively by October 1st.

3. Individualised Player Management Plan process

- a) Players who play NTFL and with NTFC in back to back seasons will be provided with the Individualised Player Management Plan by NTFC. As in Rule 1 and 2, the plan is to be provided by October 1st for the NTFL season, and by April 1st for the NEAFL season
- b) Where there is disagreement between the Player Management Plan developed by the NTFC and the NTFL Club, an Independent sports science consultant will be asked to arbitrate; with the assistance of the NT Institute of Sport. A penalty for non-compliance will be devised by the NTFL By-Law Review Committee and included in the yearly NTFL Club Licensing Agreements. Similarly an NTFL Club can alert AFLNT (who will use the independent arbiter) if the Individualised Player Management Plan is not adhered to by NTFC

4. Player retirement

- a) Written notification of retirement to be received by October 1st
- b) Post season NTFC medical assessment conducted
- c) Player leaves NTFC with Individualised Player Management Plan
- d) No contract allowed for following NTFC Season

5. Player leaving NT Thunder to play elsewhere

- a) Written notification of pursuing other option/s to be provided to
- b) Post contract NTFC medical assessments conducted
- c) NTFC holds the right to consider a player's application to play with NTFC shall the player become available mid season

Individual Player movement plan to be developed with NTFC at the conclusion of the season and may be altered from time to time by NTFC Management.