

NORTHERN TERRITORY FOOTBALL LEAGUE BY-LAWS



2023-24 Edition

This edition is valid for the 2023-24 season and shall continue to be current until a new edition is released by AFL Northern Territory.

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1 Operation of by-laws

1.1 Operation

- 1.1.1 AFLNT is responsible for the conduct of the premier competition in the Northern Territory, known as NTFL. These by-laws are designed to provide direction for the administration of all grades of NTFL Competitions.
- 1.1.2 These by-laws apply to NTFL Competitions and are to be read in conjunction with the AFLNT Rules and Regulations.
- 1.1.3 In the event of any inconsistency between the AFLNT Rules and Regulations and these by-laws, these by-laws will prevail.

1.2 Amendments to 2022-23 Edition of NTFL by-laws

- 1.2.1 AFLNT has made amendments to the following NTFL by-laws for the operation of the Northern Territory Football League:

- (a) NTFL By-Law 3.8; Competition – Finals
(3.8.1, 3.8.2 (added))
- (b) NTFL By-Laws 3.9; Competition – Drawn Finals Matches
- (c) NTFL By-Laws 3.12; Rules Player Points System
(3.12.1, 3.12.5, 3.12.6, 3.12.7, 3.12.8, 3.12.9, 3.12.10, 3.12.14, 3.12.15)
- (d) NTFL By-Laws 3.14; Rules – Lights
- (e) NTFL By-Laws 3.16; Support Staff – NTFL Approved Apparel (Re-worded)
- (f) NTFL By-Laws 3.17; E-Points (Environment Points) (Re-worded)
(3.17.1, 3.17.2, 3.17.3, 3.17.4)
- (g) NTFL By-Laws 5; Player Eligibility – NTFL Finals Matches
(5.1.1, 5.1.2 (added))
- (h) NTFL By-Laws Appendix 6; AFLNT Residency Test

2 Definition

In these by-laws, unless a contrary meaning is required by the context, definitions are as listed in the AFLNT Rules & Regulations.

3 Football Operations

3.1 Match - Team Sheets

- 3.1.1 AFLNT and 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 each Club to ensure a printed team sheet that includes all Player names and numbers for each of that Club's teams is submitted within the required timelines.

3.2 Competitions

- 3.2.1 A season of Minor Round matches followed by a Major Round shall be played in accordance with the schedule of matches determined by AFLNT.
- 3.2.2 The schedule will be distributed to Clubs prior to the commencement of the season.
- 3.2.3 Other than in circumstances approved by AFLNT, the schedule will not be varied once distributed.

3.3 Competition - Footballs

- 3.3.1 A minimum of three new footballs are to be available for the commencement of each Men's Premier League match.

3.4 Competition - Playing Numbers

- 3.4.1 Playing numbers can be found in appendix 9 of these By-laws.

3.5 Competition - Match Time and Duration

- 3.5.1 Match times and duration for all NTFL Grades can be found in appendix 9 of these By-laws.

3.6 Competition - Forfeiture

- 3.6.1 A team shall forfeit a match if it is unable or fails, refuses or neglects to complete a match that has already commenced, regardless of the point in time at which the match was stopped.

3.7 Competition - Consequences of Forfeiture

- 3.7.1 Where a Club forfeits a Men's 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 during the same round of matches, regardless of whether the match has been completed prior to that Men's Premier League Team forfeiting their match, and
- 3.7.2 Where a Club forfeits a Men's Premier League match, that Club will be fined the sum of \$10,000.00 regardless of whether the AFLNT Football Operations Department was notified within any timelines determined in the AFLNT Rules & Regulations or these by-laws.
 - (a) Where a Men's Premier League match is deemed to be a forfeit due to a breach of player eligibility rules, player points rules or fly-in player rules, this fine will apply.

3.8 Competition - Finals

- 3.8.1 NTFL Finals matches must be played in accordance with the AFLNT Finals Schedule which can be found in the AFLNT Rules & Regulations.

- (a) All Senior Men's and Women's grades (including under 18) which comprise 7 or more teams, shall play the AFLNT Final Five (3 or 4 weeks) Finals Series at the completion of the Minor Rounds.
- (b) Senior Men's and Women's grades (including under 18) which comprise 4 to 6 teams, shall play the AFLNT Final Four Finals Series (3 or 4 weeks) at the completion of the Minor Rounds.
- (c) All other junior competitions will play the following:
 - i. Junior competitions will play the AFLNT Final Four (3 weeks) Finals Series.
 - ii. Junior competitions may play an E Point Plate Finals Series; design will be dependent on the number of teams in the competition.
- (d) Finals formats will ultimately be determined by the NTFL and subject to any unforeseen circumstances that may impact competitions.

3.8.2 Final Premiership ladder positions will be determined in accordance with AFLNT Rules and Regulations in all senior grades, including under 18, as well as under 16 Division 1 and under 14 Division 1.

- (a) In under 12, under 14 Division 2, under 14 Females and under 16 Division 2 grades, percentages will not be published, calculated, or taken into consideration when determining Premiership ladder positions. In those grades, Premiership ladder positions will be determined in the following order:
 - i. Total Premiership points (match points plus E-points) or Match ratio (total Premiership points divided by games).
 - ii. If teams are level on total Premiership points or Match ratio, their respective positions will be determined by the most winning games.
 - iii. If teams cannot be separated by the above, positions will be determined by the win/loss record of competition between the teams.
 - iv. If teams cannot be separated by the above, positions will be determined by count back of best recent form in the minor round (one round at a time from the last round).

3.9 Competition - Drawn Finals Matches

3.9.1 In any Men's or Women's Senior or Under 18 Finals Match where the scores are tied at full time, the following rules apply:

- (a) There will be a five (5) minute interval during which time the coaching staff may address the Players.
- (b) The teams will then change ends from the final quarter and play five (5) minutes (plus time-on where applicable).

- (c) At the conclusion of this period there will be a three (3) minute interval during which time the coaching staff may not address the Players.
- (d) At the conclusion of the three (3) minute interval the teams will again change ends and play for a further period of five (5) minutes (plus time-on where applicable).
- (e) At the conclusion of the second five (5) minute period:
 - (i) The team with the highest score will be declared the winner.
 - (ii) 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.
 - (iii) 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.

3.10 Rules - Under 12 Modified Rules

3.10.1 Mercy Rule:

- (a) If a winning team's margin exceeds 60 points (10 goals) the team will only be credited with a maximum of 60 points (10 goals) winning margin.

3.10.2 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 AFL PlayHQ for the loaned Player(s).

3.11 Rules - Under 14 Females Modified Rules

3.11.1 Under 14 Females Modified Rules 3.10.1 In acknowledgement of the Under 14 Females competition being skill development grades, the following special rules will apply:

- (a) Players are allowed to bounce the ball twice before they must dispose to another Player.
- (b) Handballing to themselves or taking a third bounce must be penalised as "holding the ball".
- (c) Players may not deliberately kick the ball off the ground at any time.
- (d) An accidental kick off the ground will not be penalised and a "play on" call will result.
- (e) When the ball goes out of bounds, the field umpire will conduct a "ball up" 15 metres inside the boundary line.
- (f) Where the 50-metre penalty is applied under offences within the Laws of Australian Football a distance of 25 metres may be substituted.

3.11.2 If a winning team's margin exceeds 60 points (10 goals) the team will only be accredited with a maximum of 60 points (10 goals) winning margin.

3.12 Rules - Player Points System

3.12.1 It is the responsibility of each Club to submit a squad of up to thirty (30) Players, including accurate Player names and uniform numbers, that their premier league teams (men and women) will be selected from, by 8:30pm on the Thursday prior to each premier league match. For matches played other than on a Friday or weekend, the squad of thirty (30) is required to be submitted by 8.30pm on the day prior to the match.

3.12.2 It is the responsibility of each Club to advise the AFLNT Football Operations Department when a Player is selected for their first Premier League match for that season.

3.12.3 Each Premier League Player will be allocated a Points Value by the Football Operations Department.

3.12.4 Each Club must select twenty-two (22) Players from the squad submitted in accordance with these by-laws for each Premier League match and have those Players listed on the relevant team sheet sixty (60) minutes prior to the commencement of that Club's Premier League match.

(a) Where a Club's Men's Premier League Reserves Team and/or Under 18 Males Team is scheduled to play the day before that Club's Men's Premier League Team, Players that have already participated in that Men's Premier League Reserves Team or Under 18 Males Team, may be included in the Men's Premier League Team should one of the twenty two (22) listed Players be a late withdrawal from the Premier League Team providing;

- i. The Player was listed in the squad submitted on the Thursday prior to the match in question;
- ii. The Player meets all eligibility criteria; and
- iii. The change is approved by the AFLNT Competitions Manager at least sixty (60) minutes before the Premier League Match is scheduled to be played.

3.12.5 Each team must comprise Players whose Total Points Value (TPV) does not exceed the allocated allowable points for that team. Penalty for non-compliance is forfeiture of the match.

(a) The base TPV allocation for Men's Premier League teams is determined by the average ladder position (after finals), compared to the other competing teams over the previous 3 seasons:

- i) 1st - 4th: 16 points
- ii) 5th - 7th: 18 points
- iii) 8th - last: 20 points

- (b) A team which does not have a feeder under 18 team at the club may be allocated up to an additional 2 points to their TPV, upon application to AFLNT. Such application must outline a pathway to introducing an under 18 program.

3.12.6 Points will be allocated to players based on the Category in which they played the most games during the previous 24 months, for the following categories:

- (a) Tier 2 Player from States and Territories other than NT: 3 points
- (b) AFL Player (1 – 49 career games): 1 point
- (c) AFLNT Affiliate League Player: 0 points

The above (24 month) rule **does not apply** to the following categories, where points will be allocated as specified:

- (d) NTFL Player from another NTFL Club: (refer 3.12.10 NTFL Local Transfer)
- (e) AFL Player (50+ career games): 1 point
- (f) Tier 1 Player (refer 3.12.15 – Definitions): 2 points
- (g) Returning Local Tiwi Junior: 2 points
- (h) Returning Local Junior Club Player: 0 points
- (i) Local Club Player: 0 points

3.12.7 Player points will be determined in accordance with 3.12.6, and will be checked/verified by AFLNT, based on the available playing records and relocation/residential information provided by the club.

3.12.8 The following will continue to apply for the 2023/24 NTFL Season:

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.

The following will apply from the 2024/25 NTFL season onwards:

Each player's points value will decrease by one (1) point, starting from their initial allocation (to a minimum of 0 points) from the previous NTFL season in which they played, provided that the player:

- (a) *played sufficient matches to qualify to play Premier League finals in that previous NTFL season; and*
- (b) *is continuing to play for the same NTFL club.*

If the player did not satisfy (a) above, the Player's points value will remain the same as the previous allocation (ie not decrease).

3.12.9 The following will continue to apply for the 2023/24 NTFL Season:

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 winter competition, when assessing a Player's points value.

The following will apply from the 2024/25 NTFL season onwards:

A player who has played in the NTFL in a previous NTFL season and is returning to the same club, is regarded as a returning NTFL player and games played in dry season or winter competitions will not be regarded in Player points calculations, provided the Player played sufficient games to qualify to play Premier League finals in a previous NTFL season.

3.12.10 NTFL Local Transfer:

Player points will be allocated to a player when transferring from one NTFL club to another, as provided below:

A player who:

- (a) played less than 4 Premier League (PL) games in the previous NTFL season and didn't play enough club games to qualify for PL finals: is subject to 3.12.6 (24 month rule).
- (b) played less than 4 PL games in the previous NTFL season but played enough club games to qualify for PL finals: 0 points
- (c) played 4 or more PL games in the previous NTFL season: 4 points
- (d) played 6 or more games in the previous NTFL season for an NTFL club that does not have a PL team: 0 points
- (e) played 5 or less games in the previous NTFL season for an NTFL club that does not have a PL team: is subject to 3.12.6 (24 month rule).

A player who transfers from one NTFL club to another during an NTFL season is subject to the above provisions, *unless* they have played 1 or more PL games in the current season, in which case they will be allocated four (4) points.

3.12.11 A Player who has not played competitive football in the previous twenty-four (24) months will be allocated zero (0) points when transferring to an NTFL Club.

3.12.12 A local Club Player who is thirty (30) years of age or older on the 1st of January in the year the Competition commences and has played a minimum of one hundred (100) NTFL Premier League games for the Club he is registered with will be allocated two (2) points when transferring to another NTFL Club.

3.12.13 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.

3.12.14 Clubs' Premier League teams will receive a points concession for the relocation of interstate players as follows.

- (a) Any Player that relocates to the Northern Territory must meet the AFLNT Residency Test (Appendix 6) and agree and be available to provide evidence of residency at any time during the season.
- (b) A team may receive a concession for a maximum six (6) players per season under this clause in which those players will have their points allocation reduced by two (2) points to a minimum of zero (0) for the season, regardless of Category.
[Guidance Note: The concession applied to a player is for one season only. Their points allocation for subsequent seasons is calculated from their recruitment allocation, as per 3.12.6].
- (c) Any relocated players above and beyond the maximum allowable six (6) players for concession under 3.12.14 will attract the normal points value as per 3.12.6.
- (d) This concession may be applied to a player at any time up to and including their 4th club game for the season. The concession takes effect after application is made and when approval from AFLNT is given. The Player Points value will be changed by AFLNT.
- (e) Once the concession has been applied to a player it cannot be reversed and used on another player.
- (f) The concession will be discontinued in the event of a player moving/returning interstate, thus being deemed a fly-in player should they return to play in that season. In such circumstances, that concession cannot be reallocated and used in respect of another player.
- (g) This concession is not available in respect of a player who transfers from one NTFL club to another during a season.

3.12.15 Definitions:

- (a) An AFL Player is a player who played at least 1 career game in the Australian Football League (AFL or AFLW).
- (b) A Tier 1 Player is a player who has played a majority of games in the most senior grade of Tier 1 competitions in the previous 24 months; or
 - i. Any Player who has played six (6) or more games in the most senior grade of a Tier 1 Competition in the season immediately prior to their recruitment will be deemed to be a Tier 1 Player.
- (c) 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;
 - 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; and
 - iv. Any Player who has previously been allocated a points value of zero under the former NTFC Player points deduction rule, provided that Player has not played for another NTFL Club since that allocation was applied. For the avoidance of doubt, this rule was introduced following the folding of the NTFC Men's NEAFL team.
- (d) 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 may be considered Local Club Players.
- (e) A returning Junior Club Player is a player who played at least 25 games in junior grades (including under 18) for an NTFL club, is returning to play for that same NTFL club, and has not played for another NTFL club in the interim.
- (f) A Returning Tiwi Local Junior is a player who is twenty-one (21) years of age or younger on the 1st of January in the year that the Competition commences who having resided in Darwin for the purpose of Education is returning home to the Tiwi Islands. The following will apply:
- i. Where the player played at least six (6) Men's Premier League matches, the player will be allocated two (2) points when transferring from one NTFL Club to the Tiwi Bombers.
 - ii. A Player who has played less than six (6) NTFL Premier League matches in the previous twelve (12) months will be allocated zero (0) points when transferring from one NTFL Club to the Tiwi Bombers.

3.13 Rules - Fly-In Players

- 3.13.1 For the purpose of these by-laws and subject to rule **Error! Reference source not found.**, a Fly-In Player is defined as a player who has not established permanent residence in the Northern Territory before 31 December in the year the Competition commences.
- (a) Any Player that relocates to the Northern Territory must meet the AFLNT Residency Test prior to participating in a Men's Premier League match.
 - (b) If a Player participates in a Men's Premier League or Men's Premier League Reserve match without meeting the AFLNT Residency Test, that player will be deemed a Fly-In Player and added to that Club's Fly-In Player List regardless of the date that match was played.

- 3.13.2 Each season, every Club with a Men's Premier League and/or Men's Premier League Reserves Team must submit a Fly-In Player List.
- (a) The Fly-In Player List must be submitted no later than 8:30pm on the Thursday prior to the first Fly-In Player participating in a Men's Premier League and/or Men's Premier League Reserves match.
 - (b) The Fly-In Player List can consist of anywhere between one (1) and eight (8) Players when first submitted.
 - (c) The Fly-In Player List can be added to throughout the season.
- 3.13.3 Every Fly-In Player selected each round must be on that Club's Fly-In Player List.
- (a) A Player is to be added to the Fly-In Player List by notifying the AFLNT Football Operations Department in writing, no later than 8:30pm on the Thursday prior to that round.
 - (a) When a Men's Premier League and/ or Men's Premier League Reserves match is scheduled for any day other than Friday, Saturday or Sunday, Players must be added to the list by 8:30pm on the business day prior to the day that match is scheduled to be played.
- 3.13.4 Each Club's Fly-In Player List may consist of up to, but not exceed, eight (8) Fly-In Players in any one season.
- 3.13.5 Once a Player is added to a Club's Fly-In Player List, that Player cannot be removed from that list for the remainder of that season.
- 3.13.6 When a Club submits their Fly-In Player List in respect to each round, that Club is deemed to have made a declaration that all other Players selected for that match reside in the Northern Territory and meet the AFLNT Residency Test.
- 3.13.7 Clubs will have a total of two full season exemptions that must be lodged like all other Fly-In players for a person that would ordinarily reside in the Northern Territory but for them attending secondary school outside of the Northern Territory (Boarder).
- (a) In order to fall within this exception, the Boarder must be able to demonstrate that his parents or guardians have met the requirements of the AFLNT Residency Test, and
 - (b) The Boarder must be able to provide a letter from the school in which they are enrolled, confirming their status as a Boarder at that school.
 - (c) The Boarder must have played a minimum of 25 games with the club that is applying for the exemption.
- 3.13.8 Where a Player relocates during the course of an NTFL season and no longer meets the AFLNT Residency Test, that Player will be re-classified as a Fly-In Player.

- 3.13.9 No more than three (3) Fly-In Players (in aggregate) are permitted to participate across a Club's Men's Premier League and/or Men's Premier League Reserves team(s) in any given round.
- (a) If a Club's Men's Premier League and/or Men's Premier League Reserves team(s) has more than three (3) Fly-In Players (in aggregate) participating in a round, the match(es) will be deemed to be forfeited by that team.
- 3.13.10 A Club must have no outstanding debt over thirty (30) days owing to AFL Northern Territory or an agreed upon payment plan in order to be permitted to play fly-in players. Club's that do not meet these criteria and play fly-in players will be deemed to have breached these by-laws.
- 3.13.11 Each Club's Premier League/Men's Premier League Reserves squad must be submitted in accordance with these by-laws and must include all Fly-In Players selected for that match.
- (a) A Player must be added to a Club's Fly-In Player List before that Player can be named in the above-mentioned squad for any Men's Premier League and/or Men's Premier League Reserves match.
- (b) A Club may name more than three (3) Fly-In Players in the above-mentioned squad provided no more than three (3) Fly-In Players participate in that round.
- 3.13.12 AFLNT reserves the right to make the final ruling on any Player(s) residency status, including by:
- (a) using the AFLNT Residency Test which can be found under Appendix 6 to these by-laws;
- (b) having regard to a Player's particular circumstances.
- 3.13.13 AFLNT reserves the right to investigate breaches or suspected breaches of the Fly-In Player rules at its absolute discretion.
- 3.13.14 Where a Men's Premier League and/or Men's Premier League Reserves team breaches these Fly-In Player rules, that Club will be fined the sum of \$10,000.00.
- 3.13.15 Where a Men's Premier League and/or Men's Premier League Reserves team breaches these Fly-In Player Rules, that Club's Men's Premier League and/or Men's Premier League Reserves Coach will be suspended for a minimum of two (2) matches.
- 3.13.16 Where AFLNT determine that these by-laws have been breached, the penalty will be retrospectively back dated to include all matches affected by the breach of these by-laws.
- 3.13.17 Clubs are to submit Fly-In Complaints via Appendix 7 of the NTFL By-Laws.

3.14 Rules - Lights

- 3.14.1 The Football Operations Department and/or Match Managers may direct that flood lights be switched on during the progress of a match, at their discretion.

3.15 Scheduling - Run on Times

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

3.16 Support Staff - NTFL Approved Apparel

- 3.16.1 Senior and junior match day staff must wear their club polo shirt.
- 3.16.2 Match day officials, including Water Carriers, Team runners, Sports Trainers and Umpire escorts must wear the relevant AFLNT approved apparel as per AFLNT Rules and Regulations.

3.17 E-Points (Environment Points)

- 3.17.1 The purpose of the E-Point system is to weight game day behaviour with the same importance as winning a match and reward teams for displaying positive game day behaviour. The system deters players, coaches, and parents from engaging in negative game day behaviour prior to it taking place. The E-Point model is applied to all U12, U14 and U16 competitions.
- 3.17.2 A minimum of zero and a maximum of four E-Points will be awarded per team per game for each completed minor round match. The team's behaviour (including that of players, team officials, support staff or spectators) will determine the number of E-Points allocated.
- 3.17.3 E-Point allocations will be added to premiership points each round, such that a winning team may obtain up to an additional 4 premiership points for a winning game – giving 8 premiership points for the game. A losing team may be awarded up to 4 premiership points.
- 3.17.4 An E-Points committee will be formed for each season. That committee will determine the allocation of E-points, on a weekly basis, based on umpires' reports, match managers' reports and any reports arising from observations by NTFL officials.
- 3.17.5 A reduced number of points will be allocated where negative game day behaviour is reported. Negative game day behaviour includes, but is not limited to:
- (a) Yellow cards issued,
 - (b) Red cards issued,
 - (c) Inappropriate game day behaviour by Players, Coaches or club Officials,
 - (d) Reportable offences and Code of Conduct/Policy breaches,
 - (e) Failure of club officials to try to address inappropriate game day behaviour of club supporters and spectators,
- 3.17.6 As the E-Point is a reward-based system, E-Point allocations cannot be appealed. Any complaints being received about E-Point allocations will negatively affect E-point allocations for current or future rounds.

4 Club Requirements

4.1 Licence Agreements

4.1 All Clubs participating in the Competition are required to sign a licence agreement with AFLNT prior to the beginning of each season.

4.1.1 No Club shall be included in the program of Minor Round matches in any season unless it has entered into a licence agreement with AFLNT.

4.1.2 All Clubs must adhere and abide by the terms of the licence agreement.

4.2 Nominations - Teams

4.2.1 Clubs are required to nominate all teams they intend to enter into NTFL Competitions each season.

4.2.2 Team nominations are to be submitted in writing, to the AFLNT Football Operations Department prior to the 1st of September before the relevant season commences.

(a) Clubs may nominate a maximum of one (1) team to compete in each Senior Competition (one team per division).

(b) Clubs may nominate a maximum of two (2) teams to compete in each Junior Competition (Maximum of two teams per division).

4.2.3 Clubs may be asked to provide supporting evidence to confirm their capacity to field a team in a Competition.

4.2.4 A withdrawal of a team in a Competition will be dealt with in accordance with that Club's licence agreement.

4.3 Nominations - Club Coaches

4.3.1 Clubs are required to nominate all coaches (including assistant coaches) for all teams entered into any Competition each season.

4.3.2 Coach nominations are to be submitted in writing, to the AFLNT Football Operations Department prior to the 1st of September before the relevant season commences.

4.3.3 Clubs may be asked to provide supporting evidence to confirm their coaches are correctly accredited.

5 Player Eligibility

5.1 Player Eligibility - NTFL Finals Matches

5.1.1 NTFL amendments to the AFLNT Rules and Regulations:

- (a) A Player is eligible to play a Men's Premier League or Women's Premier League finals match for a Club if that Player has played a minimum of five (5) Minor Round matches for that Club.
- (b) A Player is eligible to play a Men's Premier League Reserves finals match for a club if that Player has played a minimum total of five (5) Minor Round matches for the club in any divisions or grades below Premier League, subject to age and gender qualifications.
- (c) A Player is eligible to play a Men's Division 1, Men's Division 2, U18 Males, Women's Division 1, Women's Division 2 and U18 Females finals match for a team if that Player has played a minimum total of four (4) Minor Round matches for that team and/or lower division or grade teams of the club, subject to age and gender qualifications.
- (d) A player who has qualified in a Senior or U18 grade is eligible to play finals at a higher grade, subject to the minimum games, age and gender qualifications of that higher grade.
- (e) A Player is eligible to play in a finals match for a lower grade or division team within the club without having played the minimum number of Minor Round matches to qualify for that team, subject to the age and gender qualifications and provided:
 - i. That Player is eligible to play a finals match for the higher grade or division team;
 - and
 - ii. Both of these teams are playing in that same round of finals matches.
- (f) A Player who is deemed eligible to play in a finals match for a team and has participated in that match, will remain eligible to play for that team for the duration of that finals series.

- 5.1.2 Where a player is unavailable to participate in matches during the season due to pregnancy and/or post childbirth, application may be made to AFLNT to allow finals participation eligibility, having played a reduced number of matches. Each application will be considered separately, but in general, participation in a minimum of 3 minor round matches and a Doctor's clearance will be required.

6 Transfers and Permits

6.1 NTFL Transfer Application Period

- 6.1.1 No transfer is to be lodged prior to 1 August 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.

6.2 Interchange Agreements

6.2.1 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 Club Interchange Agreement must be submitted to the AFLNT Community Football Department within ten (10) days of its execution.
- (c) Players entering into a Club Interchange Agreement will be deemed as participating in 'one club' in matters relating to finals eligibility.
- (d) Once a Club Interchange Agreement has been lodged with the AFLNT Community Football Department, it will be considered ongoing unless revoked by AFLNT.
- (e) Once the Club Interchange Agreement is in place, a Permit must be initiated by the Destination Club in PlayHQ.
- (f) 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 the AFLNT by-laws.

6.2.2 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 Senior Grade Division 2 Interchange Agreement must be submitted to the AFLNT Community Football Department within ten (10) days of its execution.

- (c) A Senior Grade Division 2 Interchange Agreement may be entered into at any time during a season at the discretion of the AFLNT Community Football Department.
- (d) Players entering into a Senior Grade Division 2 Interchange Agreement must meet all finals eligibility requirements in accordance with the NTFL and AFLNT by-laws.
- (e) Once a Senior Grade Division 2 Interchange Agreement has been lodged with the AFLNT 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 Senior Grade Division 2 Agreement is in place, a Permit must be initiated by the Destination Club in PlayHQ.
- (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 the AFLNT by-laws.

6.2.3 Player Interchange Agreements

- (a) A Player registered with a Club may enter into an agreement with another Club at the discretion of the AFLNT Community Football Department.
- (b) A copy of the Player Interchange Agreement must be submitted to the AFLNT Community Football 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 a Player Interchange 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 AFLNT Community Football Department, it will be considered valid until the conclusion of that season unless revoked by the AFLNT Community Football 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 Player Interchange Agreement is in place, a Permit must be initiated by the Destination Club in PlayHQ.
- (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 the AFLNT by-laws.
- (j) No more than two (2) Player Interchange Agreements are allowed between the same two Clubs in any one season.

6.2.4 Match Day Permits

- (a) NTFL amendments to the AFLNT Rules and Regulations:

In addition to Under 12 Competitions, Match Day Permits are available to the following competitions;

- i. Under 14 Females, and
- ii. Division 2 Competitions (Junior and Senior).
- iii. Division 1 Women

7 Special Provision

7.1 NTFL Season

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

7.1.2 Unless otherwise determined by AFLNT, the U12 to U16 junior grades will break for the whole end of year school holiday period.

7.2 Awards

7.2.1 Medals will be awarded for:

- (a) Grand Final Best Players;
- (b) Best and Fairest in each Grade (except Under 12); and
- (c) Leading Goal Kicker in each Grade (except under 12)

8 Appendices

1. Grand Final Awards
2. Grand Final Best Player Conditions
3. Best & Fairest Awards
4. Best & Fairest Conditions

5. Most Valuable Player Award Conditions
6. AFLNT Residency Test
7. NTFL Forms
8. Fines & Penalties

Appendix 1 Grand Final Awards

1. Grand Final Best Player Awards:
 - (a) Men's Premier League Chaney Medal
 - (b) Women's Premier League Brenda Williams Medal
 - (c) Senior Men's Division 1 Clark Medal
 - (d) Senior Men's Division 2 Gear Medal
 - (e) Under 18 Males Haritos Medal
 - (f) Under 18 Females Sharon Knight Medal
 - (g) Under 16 Males Div 1 Jeffrey Medal
 - (h) Under 16 Males Div 2 Cooper Medal
 - (i) Under 16 Females
 - (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. Grand Final Premiership Coach Awards:
 - (a) Men's Premier League KJ Taylor Medal
 - (b) Women's Premier League

1. Men's and Women's Premier League

- (a) A panel of three (3) members will be appointed by AFLNT.
- (b) Each member of the panel will award votes to the Players they judge to be the best and fairest Players participating in that match:
 - i. Five votes will be awarded to the best Player,
 - ii. Four votes will be awarded to the second-best Player,
 - iii. Three votes will be awarded to the third-best Player,
 - iv. Two votes will be awarded to the fourth-best Player, and
 - v. One vote will be awarded to the fifth-best Player.
- (c) All votes will be collated and the Player with the most votes will be declared the winner.
- (d) In the case of a tie, a count back will take place and the winner will be declared based on the most 'five-votes'. In the case that the result is still tied, the winner will be declared based on the most 'four-votes' and so forth.

2. All other Grades

- (a) At the conclusion of the match, the field umpires shall collectively award votes to the Player they judge to be the best and fairest Player participating in that match:

Appendix 3 Best & Fairest Awards

1. Best & Fairest Awards:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| (a) Men's Premier League | Nichols Medal |
| (b) Women's Premier League | |
| (c) Men's Premier League Reserves | Mitch Lee Medal |
| (d) Senior Men's Division 1 | Lancaster Medal |
| (e) Senior Women's Division 1 | |
| (f) Senior Men's Division 2 | |
| (g) Senior Women's Division 2 | |
| (h) Under 18 Males | Abala Medal |
| (i) Under 18 Females | |
| (j) Under 16 Males Div 1 | Hickman Medal |
| (k) Under 16 Males Div 2 | Leverence Medal |
| (l) Under 16 Females | Sharyn Smith Medal |
| (m) Under 14 Div 1 | Gundersen Medal |
| (n) Under 14 Div 2 | Lewfatt Medal |
| (o) Under 14 Females | |
| (p) Under 12 Div 1 | Not Applicable |
| (q) Under 12 Div 2 | Not Applicable |

2. Goal Kicking Awards:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| (a) Men's Premier League | Dennis Dunn Medal |
| (b) Women's Premier League | |

Appendix 4 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 field umpires must place the vote card in the envelope provided and hand the envelope to the Match Manager.
3. The votes will be read at the Nichols Medal Event and counted by a panel appointed by the Head of AFLNT.
 - (a) AFLNT reserve the right to vary the way votes and leaderboard tallies are disclosed for some or all Senior grades at 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 5 Other Awards

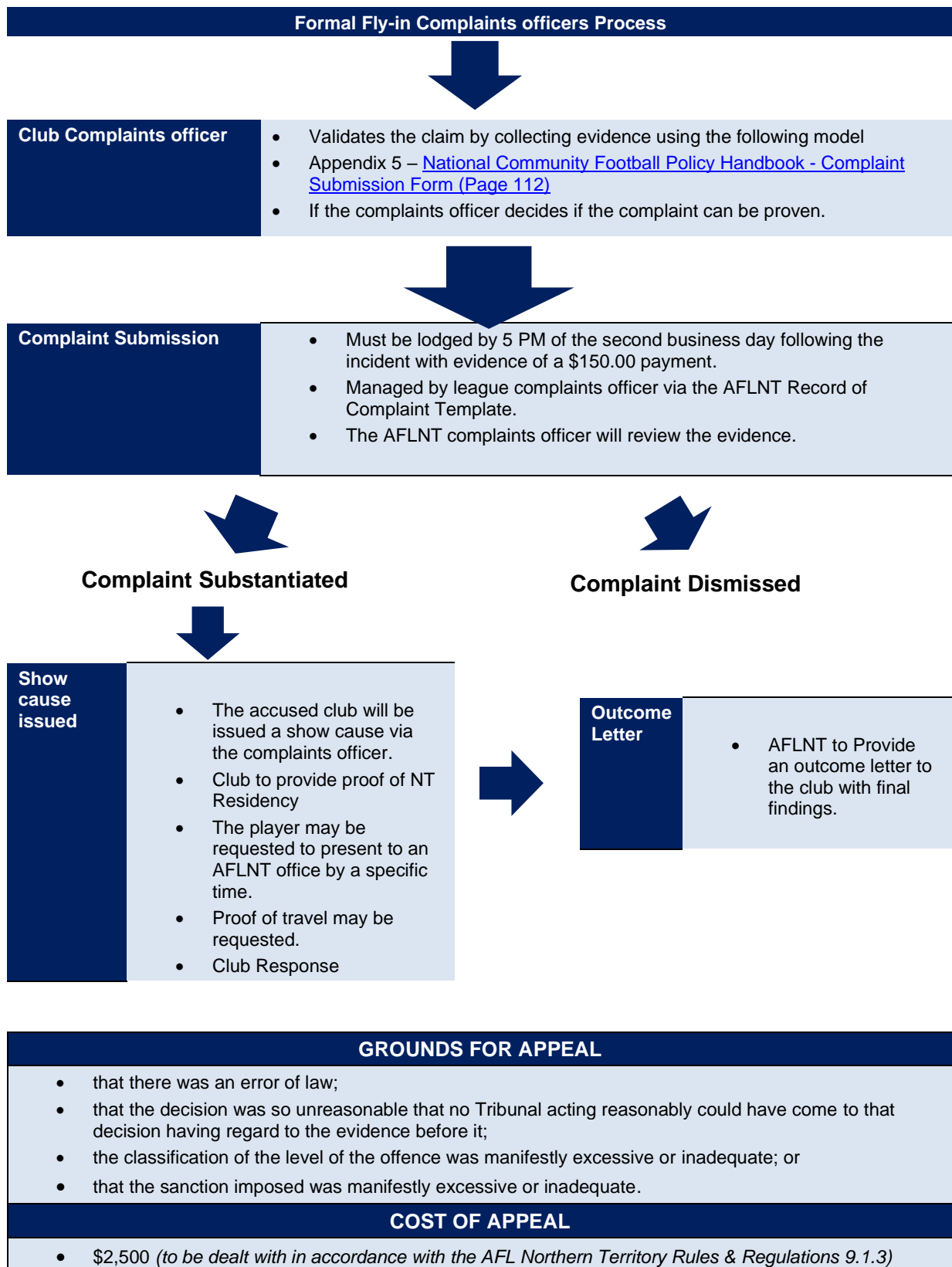
1. AFLNT may present other awards (including Club awards) at Nichols Medal and other events.

Appendix 6 AFLNT Residency Test

1. What is your current address?
2. Can you produce:
 - (a) Two recent household documents/bills with your name and current address listed on those documents/bills; or
 - (b) Two recent employment documents with your name and current address listed on those documents; or
 - (c) One recent household document/bill and one recent employment document with your name and current address listed on those documents.
3. Are you and your Club president prepared to sign a Statutory Declaration and/or Affidavit to support your responses to these questions?
4. AFLNT may request a player to present at an AFLNT office at a requested time.
5. AFLNT may require a player to submit geolocation photographs as, when, and how reasonably required.

Note: It is recognised that “residents” will occasionally have a need to travel for work and personal reasons. It is expected that clubs will advise, in advance, of any intended or foreseen absences from the NT of any player declared to have NT residential status, to enable ongoing determination of that status. Failure to notify may result in reconsideration of any player points concessions and/or fly-in player status.

Appendix 7 - Fly In Complaints Process



Appendix 8 NTFL Forms

All AFLNT Forms can be accessed at the following link:

<https://sites.google.com/view/ntfoperationshub/home>

Appendix 9 NTFL Playing Numbers & Match Times

All matches in the NTFL are to follow the following match lengths and playing numbers.

NTFL Grade	Playing Numbers	Quarter Lengths	Breaks
MPL	22 (18 +4)	20 min with time on	6/20/6 min
WPL	21 (16 + 5)	15 min with time on	6/15/6 min
MPLR	22 (18 + 4)	20 min	6/15/6 min
Men's Div 1	24 (18 +6)	18 min	6/15/6 min
Men's Div 2	24 (18 +6)	18 min	6/15/6 min
Women's Div 1	21 (16 + 5)	12 min	6/10/6 min
Women's Div 2	21 (16 + 5)	12 min	6/10/6 min
Under 18 Males	23 (18 + 5)	16 min	5/10/5 min
Under 18 Females	21 (16 + 5)	14 min	5/10/5 min
Under 14 & 16 Males	23 (18 + 5)	12 min	5/10/5 min
Under 14 & 16 Females	21 (16 + 5)	12 min	5/10/5 min
Under 12	19 (15 + 4)	10 min	4/5/4 min
Under 10	19 (15 + 4)	10 min	4/5/4 min

Appendix 10 Fines & Penalties Table

The following is a summary of the fines & penalties applied under these competition by-laws.

Any Club found to be in breach of these by-laws or the AFLNT Rules & Regulations, unless otherwise stated, will be liable to a penalty as specified by the relevant law breached.

Law/Breach (NTFL By-Laws)	Base Penalty	Third Offence & Thereafter
3.6 Competition – Consequences of Forfeiture		
<i>Forfeiture of a Premier League match</i>	\$10,000.00	
	All other senior grades deemed to have forfeited	
3.11 Rules - Player Points System		
<i>Failure to submit squad of 30 as per 3.11.1</i>	\$100	\$200
<i>Failure to notify AFLNT of a player playing their first MPL match as per 3.11.2</i>	\$100	\$200
<i>Club plays a player outside the squad of 30 as per 3.11.4</i>	\$250	\$500
<i>Club fields a team with a TPV greater than their allocation as per 3.12.5</i>	Forfeiture	Forfeiture
3.12 Rules – Fly-In Players		
<i>Failure to include a player on the fly-in player list prior to a match as per 3.12.3</i>	\$250	\$500
<i>Club exceeds the maximum allowable fly-in players for a season as per 3.12.4</i>	\$10,000	
<i>Club exceeds the maximum allowable fly-in players for a match as per 3.12.9</i>	Forfeiture	
Where a Men’s Premier League team breaches these Fly-In Player rules, that Club will be fined the sum of \$10,000.00.		
Where a Men’s Premier League team breaches these Fly-In Player Rules, that Club’s Men’s Premier League Coach will be suspended for a minimum of two (2) matches.		
Where AFLNT determine that these by-laws have been breached, the penalty will be retrospectively back dated to include all matches affected by the breach of these by-laws.		
5.1 Age and Gender Qualifications		
<i>Club found to have played a player in breach of the age and gender qualifications for a particular age group</i>	\$1,000	\$2,000
5.2 Player Eligibility – NTFL Finals Matches		
<i>Player plays in a finals match in breach of the eligibility requirements for that grade</i>	\$1,000	\$2,000
6.2.1 Club Interchange Agreements		
<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 the AFLNT Rules & Regulations</i>		
6.2.2 Senior Grade Division 2 Interchange Agreements		
<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 the AFLNT Rules & Regulations</i>		
6.2.3 Player Interchange Agreements		
<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 the AFLNT Rules & Regulations</i>		