



**Finals Player Eligibility Policy
Clause 10.7 of the By-Laws**

This policy underpins the State-wide By-Laws by specifying the eligibility requirements for participation in the Finals Series of the AFL North Coast competition. Local rules are shown below embedded within the By-Law and identified by italics.

10.7 Player Eligibility

- (A) The League will determine the eligibility provisions prior to the commencement of the home and away season.
- (i) *Junior Competition – a player must have played a minimum of three (3) competition matches in that age group during the home and away season.*
 - (ii) *First Grade – a player must have played the equivalent of 50% of the number of scheduled home and away rounds in the Senior Grade. Such matches can have been completed in First Grade, Reserve Grade, or under age competition matches, including matches won on forfeit.*
 - (iii) *Reserve Grade – a player must have played whichever is the greater number of either a minimum of three (3) competition matches OR 25% of completed home and away Reserve Grade or under age competition matches, including matches won on forfeit.*
 - (iv) *Women’s – a player must have played whichever is the greater number of either a minimum of three (3) competition matches OR 25% of completed home and away Women’s competition matches, including matches won on forfeit.*
 - (v) *Women’s – a Youth Girls registered player must have played a minimum of six (6) competition matches in their own age group during the home and away season, and a minimum of one (1) competition match in the Women’s competition during the home and away season to be deemed eligible for the Women’s Finals Series.*
 - (vi) *Under Age Grade (i.e. Under 17) – a player must have played whichever is the greater number of either a minimum of three (3) competition matches OR 25% of completed home and away under age competition matches, including matches won on forfeit.*
 - (vii) *Under Age Grade (i.e. Under 17) – an Under 15 registered player must have played a minimum of six (6) competition matches in their own age group during the home and away season, and a minimum of one (1) competition match in the Under 17 grade during the home and away season to be deemed eligible for the Under 17 Finals Series.*



- (viii) *For the avoidance of doubt, when calculating 25% of completed home and away competition matches, all fractions of numbers will be rounded down to the whole number.*
- (B) A player is only permitted to play in one Finals match for his club on any given weekend unless determined otherwise by the League pursuant to this By-Law 10.7.
- (i) *Junior Competition – This rule does not apply to players in the AFL North Coast Junior Competition. A player may play in multiple age groups as long as they have satisfied the eligibility requirements for each age group.*
- (ii) *Senior Competition – This rule does not apply to under age players. For the avoidance of doubt, under age players who meet the eligibility requirements may play a Final for their club in under age grade and either Reserve or First Grade on the same weekend.*
- (iii) *This rule does not apply to players who are registered with both the AFL North Coast Junior and Senior competitions. A player can play in Finals matches across both competitions (e.g. Under 15 and Under 17, Youth Girls and Women’s) on the one weekend as long as they have met the eligibility requirement of both competitions.*
- (C) Any player who has played in a total of 50% or more of home and away competition matches of a higher grade or grades in the relevant season will not be eligible to play final competition matches in a lower grade unless the matches in the higher and lower grades are played on the same day (as defined by the League).
- (i) *Players deemed by the League to be Reserve Grade players who are required to play both grades on occasion and, as a result, exceed the maximum number of higher grade competition matches will be considered eligible provided the number of lower grade games exceeds 75% of the number of higher grade competition matches played during the home and away season.*
- (D) On application by a player’s club, the Administration Committee may vary the number of qualifying competition matches required where Services personnel are posted a significant distance away during the home and away competition matches or where a player misses a significant number of competition matches due to serious injury (more than six (6) matches) or pregnancy, transfers in employment, or under other exceptional circumstances as determined by the Administration Committee. Such transfer in employment should follow three (3) calendar months of continuous employment preceding the transfer date with the existing employer, unless otherwise approved by the League.
- (i) *Applications must be received by the League in writing by 5:00pm on the Monday following the third last round of the Home and Away season. Applications received after this time will not be considered.*
- (ii) *The application must contain documentary evidence of the exceptional circumstances under which the application is made. For example, in the case of*



Services personnel, evidence of the posting by the Department of Defence must be proffered. In the case of serious injury, a medical certificate from a qualified doctor must be proffered. Applications received without appropriate evidence will not be considered.

- (iii) Any player that has not met the Finals eligibility requirements and has not been granted an exemption under rule 10.7 will be deemed to be an ineligible player and will be dealt with under rule 4.6.*
- (iv) For the avoidance of doubt, exemptions will not be granted on the following grounds:*
- Registering late within the current season if there were sufficient rounds remaining to establish eligibility following receipt of the registration.*
 - Long service with a club.*
 - The requirement to perform shiftwork, other than in the instance of a fly-in, fly-out worker where an exemption may be granted if the individual is able to provide copies of rosters that demonstrate they were away from their primary residence on enough match days as to be unable to achieve eligibility.*