

APPENDIX A: Senior Player Points Policy

Purpose

This amendment to the Player Points System is designed to support competitive balance, club sustainability, and continued growth of the competition.

It responds to feedback gathered throughout the season from WMDCA clubs which indicated that:

- the current system is easy to work within but is not sufficiently tight in moderating internal player movement, and
- would benefit from targeted refinement without blanket cuts to points caps

This amendment aims to:

- promote an even spread of established players across the competition
- protect bottom six clubs from losing multiple established players at once
- maintain strong player mobility and recruitment flexibility
- preserve a simple and transparent points system

Tier Total Points Cap

Tier	Total Points Cap
Premier	23
Championship	24

All other provisions within the Player Points System remain unchanged unless specified below.

Definitions

Top Six Club

A club that finished in the top six of the previous season's Premier home and away ladder.

- Finals results do not impact this classification
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Bottom Six Club

- A club that finished 7th–12th on the previous season's Premier home and away ladder
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Eligible Player

A player who:

- played five (5) or more First XI matches in the previous season; and
 - is transferring between WMDCA clubs
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Non-Top Six Player

A player who:

- played for a Premier club that finished outside the top six, and/or
- played in the Championship Division for a **First XI team**

Championship Division first XI players are deemed to have finished below all Premier clubs for the purpose of this policy.

Internal Recruitment Premium

Core Rule

For clubs that finished in the **top six** of the previous season's Premier home and away ladder:

- Eligible Players recruited from a WMDCA club that finished **below them** will be classified as a **six (6) point player**

- Eligible Players recruited from a WMDCA club that finished **above them** will be classified as a **four (4) point player**

Example: If a team finished in (5) fifth place on the previous seasons' home and away ladder, a first XI recruit (eligible player) from the (8) eighth placed team would carry a six point value.

If they recruited an eligible player from the team which finished second (2) it would carry a four-point value.

Application

- Ladder position is determined by the previous season's home and away ladder only
- Finals results do not impact classification
- Championship Division first XI players are deemed to have finished below all Premier clubs
- This rule applies only to Eligible Players (5+ First XI matches)

All Other Internal Recruits

- Clubs that finished outside the top six will continue to have all internal recruits classified as **four (4) point players**
- All other player categories remain unchanged under the existing Player Points System

Ranking System

Player points classification

Player Type	Points	Notes	
Same club, five seasons service	1	Rewards long-term loyalty	
Returning player (missed last season)	2	Encourages past players to return	
Other league (community comp, regional Victoria and suburban Melbourne)	2	Encourages quality new recruits from outside WMDCA	
Other WMDCA Club – Lower XI	3	Encourages fringe/second XI players to pursue higher grade	
International player	3	Encouraged	
Other WMDCA Club – 1st XI (recruited by Bottom Six club)	4	Maintains flexibility for clubs finishing 7th–12th to build and improve lists	
Other WMDCA Club – 1st XI (recruited by Top Six club from a higher-ranked club)	4	Allows competitive movement between leading clubs	
Other WMDCA Club – 1st XI (recruited by Top Six club from a lower-ranked club)	6	Internal recruitment premium applied to protect developing clubs	
Victorian Premier Cricket 1st XI / 2nd XI	6	Recognises high-level external talent and aligns with premium recruitment value	

Policy Intent

This amendment is designed to influence recruitment behaviour, not restrict it.

Clubs retain full ability to:

- recruit players within the WMDCA
- improve and strengthen their lists

However, this model ensures:

- stronger clubs face greater points pressure when recruiting from lower-ranked clubs
- developing clubs retain the flexibility to rebuild
- player movement remains active across the competition

Modelling and Evidence

This amendment has been extensively modelled using current Premier playing lists and player points positions from the 2025–26 season across the competition.

The modelling demonstrates that:

- all Premier clubs remain well and truly capable of operating within the 23-point cap
- top six clubs retain the ability to recruit and improve their lists
- the adjustment introduces measured equalisation, rather than restriction
- bottom six clubs retain flexibility to rebuild and remain competitive

The WMDCA is confident this amendment strikes the right balance between:

- maintaining recruitment flexibility, and
 - providing protection for developing clubs
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Summary

In simple terms:

- Bottom six clubs recruiting internal First XI players = **4 points**
 - Top six clubs recruiting from lower-ranked clubs = **6 points**
 - Top six clubs recruiting from higher-ranked clubs = **4 points**
 - Championship First XI players are treated as below all Premier clubs
 - Victorian Premier Cricket players = **6 points**

 - Premier cap = 23 points
 - Championship cap = 24 points
 - Based on home and away ladder only
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Review

The WMDCA will monitor the impact of this amendment across:

- player movement trends
- club list composition
- competition balance

A formal review will be undertaken after one (1) season.