

TO: NPLW CLUBS
FROM: FOOTBALL VICTORIA
DATE: WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2025
SUBJECT: REQUIRED PLAYER ROSTER COMPOSITION CATEGORIES FOR NPLW IN VICTORIA



Dear NPLW Clubs,

Football Victoria has reviewed the Player Roster Composition Categories in anticipation of the 2026 Season. Below we have provided the requirements for all NPLW Clubs.

Category	Requirements
Matildas	Each Team is permitted to have no more than 2 current FA contracted Matildas on their player roster in any one season
A-League Women's Players	Each Team is permitted to have no more than 4 A-League Women's Players on their player roster in any one season
Loyalty Players	Each Team must have a minimum of 7 Loyalty Players on their roster in any one season.
Visa Players	Each Team is permitted to have no more than 4 Visa Players (3+1 AFC/OFC) registered on their roster in any one season. You may only have four visa players (3+1 AFC/OFC) on a senior fixture match record.

Competition Requirements

- At all times during a NPL Women's season, a Club must include a minimum of 20 Players on its Player Roster and may include a maximum of 23 Players on its Player Roster.
- A minimum of two (2) Goal Keepers must be listed on the Senior PRC Roster.
- All professionally contracted players must be listed on the Club's Senior PRC at all times.
- Player Roster Composition only applies to the NPL Women's (Senior) team only.
- All Players are required to be registered in-line with the Advanced Rules of Competition and FV Registration Regulations.

General

- A player may fulfil multiple categories simultaneously. I.e., A player may be classified as a Matilda, an A-League Women's Player and a Loyalty Player on a Player Roster. Clubs must take this into consideration when constructing their Player Roster.
- A player's age is based on their age as at 31st December in that NPLW competition season.
- All Players on the Player Roster and competing in the NPLW competition must be 15 years old by January 1, 2026, to be eligible to participate in the Senior NPLW Competition. Should a player be under the age of 15 years old as of January 1, 2026, the Club must seek dispensation from Football Victoria (FV) as per the player eligibility ruling in the Rules of Competition.
- Any player registered with a Club who would be classified as an A-League Player must be included on the Senior PRC at all times.

- Where an A-League Women's Player changes Clubs from one NPLW team, to another NPLW team, such player will retain their A-League Women's Player status for the remainder of the competition season.
- All players included on the PRC for A-League Clubs competing in the NPL must be turning no older than 23 years of age in 2026.

Player Roster

A NPLW Clubs Senior PRC Roster must be submitted as advised by Football Victoria prior to specified deadline dates.

Clubs can promote players from their Youth Teams into their Senior Women's team on a match day (e.g., a Club may play a player listed on the Under 20's or Under 17's roster up into the senior team as many time as required). There is no limit as to how many games a player can play up into the Senior Team (only if the player is age eligible based on the Rules of Competition).

PRC CATEGORIES DEFINED

Loyalty Player

- A loyalty player is a player that has registered for an NPL Club for the second consecutive season.
- Should a player move from their NPLW Club to an A-League Women's Club, and then return to their original NPLW Club, they will still be classified as a Loyalty Player for the purpose of the PRC. Note, this does not exclude the player from being classified as an A-League player as well as a Loyalty Player.
- Should a player move from their NPLW Club and register with another Club (inclusive of a Club Overseas) during the same competition season then return to their original NPLW Club, for the purpose of the PRC they will not be considered a Loyalty Player (further example below):
 1. If a player was registered to their NPLW Club at the beginning of the season, transferred to an Overseas Club, and then returned to their original NPLW Club (during the same FV season), that player would NOT be classified as a Loyalty Player for the purposes of the PRC.
 2. If a player was registered to their NPLW Club for a season, transferred to an Overseas Club at the conclusion of the NPLW Victoria season, then returned to the same NPLW Club the following season, as there is no cross over of Clubs during the same NPLW season, the player would be classified as a Loyalty Player.
- Each Team must always have a minimum of 7 Loyalty Players on their roster throughout the season.
- Where a player was registered with a Club in 2025 and returns to the same Club in 2026, such player will be classified as a Loyalty Player.
- If a player was registered with a Club in the 2024 season, did not register to any Club (Victoria, Interstate or Overseas) in 2025, and re-registers to the same Club in 2026, the player will be classified as a Loyalty Player for the purposes of the PRC.
- A-League Clubs (Melbourne City FC & Melbourne Victory FC) will be exempt from the Loyalty Player requirement in in 2026 season. This exemption will be reviewed in advance of the 2027 season.

A-League Women's Players

- An A-League Women's Player is defined as: a player who has entered into a playing contract with a Club that competes in the A-League Women's competition as defined by Australian Professional Leagues (APL).
- For the avoidance of doubt, train-on players and trial players are not A-League Women's Players for the purposes of the PRC.

- A Player, who would otherwise be classified as a A-League Women's Player under the PRC will not be considered as a A-League Women's Player for the purposes of an NPLW Club's Player Roster for the 2026 season in the following circumstances:
 1. If the Player has registered for 3 years or more as a junior at the Club (U12's – U17's), or
 2. If the Player has registered and been listed on the NPLW Club's Senior PRC Roster and/or Under 20's Roster for 3 consecutive seasons (inclusive of season 2026).
- To confirm, this limit of no more than 4 A-League Players does not apply to the A-League Clubs participating in the NPL. All players must still be registered on PlayFootball, age eligible and included on the Club's PRC.

Australian Player

An Australian Player is any Player who is:

- a citizen of Australia;
- a Permanent Resident of Australia (where Permanent Resident means a person resident in Australia on a "permanent" visa class issued by the Australian Government, evidenced by either the person's Visa Grant Notice or as a listed entitlement on the person's online Visa Entitlement Verification); or
- the holder of a subclass 200 refugee visa or a subclass 866 protection visa issued by the Australian Government. For further details see : <http://www.border.gov.au>

Visa Player

- A Visa Player is any Player who does not meet the above definition of Australian Player.
- NPL Clubs are encouraged to refer to the following website for further clarification regarding visas: <http://www.border.gov.au/>
- For the purposes of the PCR, a New Zealand Citizen is classified as a Visa Player unless she satisfies the definition of an Australian Player. Please refer to the Department of Immigration website for further clarification regarding the status of New Zealand Citizens in Australia: <http://www.border.gov.au>

Registration Periods/Player Registrations

Each team must submit a Senior PRC Roster and Under 20's Roster by the deadline as specified by Football Victoria.

All senior players must be registered on Play Football during the NPLW registration period as specified by Football Victoria to be eligible to play in the NPLW competition.

Players registered to a Club's U20 team after the closure of the first registration window may play up in the Club's senior team. Any players registered to a Club's U20 team after the closure of the second registration window are not permitted to participate in matches for the senior team.

U20 Player Roster

Clubs must submit an U20 Player Roster at the deadline set out by Football Victoria. The Under 20's Roster must have a minimum of 16 players and a maximum of 20 players. A minimum of two (2) Goal Keepers must be listed and nominated on the Under 20's roster.

Selection of match day U20 squads are not limited to players solely listed on the U20 Player Roster. Clubs may still select 'overage' players from the Senior team to play down (maximum of 4 players as per the Rules of Competition) or players from their U17's team to play up.