# Junior & Youth Player Transfer Policy

## 1. Purpose

Wynnum Vikings AFL Club is committed to providing a welcoming, inclusive and supportive environment for Junior and Youth footballers.

This policy outlines how the club will consider and prioritise incoming player transfer applications, while supporting balanced team numbers, sustainable age groups and fair opportunities for participation.

## 2. AFL Queensland Transfer Requirements

All player transfers must comply with the current AFL Queensland transfer rules, including the new 2027 Transfer Capping Rules.

AFL Queensland's rules and procedures take precedence over this policy in all matters relating to player eligibility, transfer limits, exemptions and approvals.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the relevant AFL Queensland requirements.

Acceptance of an Expression of Interest (EOI) does not guarantee a playing position or transfer approval.

## 3. Expression of Interest Process

All players seeking to transfer to Wynnum Vikings from another AFL club will be required to submit a Player Transfer Expression of Interest.

The club will review EOIs based on available team positions, AFL Queensland transfer restrictions and the priorities outlined in this policy.

Applications will be assessed by the relevant club coordinators and authorised club representatives.

## 4. Transfer Prioritisation

When assessing incoming transfer applications, Wynnum Vikings will consider the following factors:

### 4.1 AFL Queensland Transfer Limits

- All applications must comply with AFL Queensland's transfer limits, including restrictions on the number of players transferring from an individual club.
- Applications exceeding applicable limits will be managed in accordance with AFL Queensland requirements.

### 4.2 Age Group Numbers and Team Viability

- Priority may be given to transfers that assist the club in establishing, completing or maintaining viable teams.
- The club may limit transfers into age groups where existing player numbers are already at capacity or where additional players would create an unsustainable team structure.
- Consideration will be given to maintaining appropriate squad sizes and balanced playing opportunities.

### 4.3 Existing Club and Community Connections

Preference may be given to players who have an existing connection to Wynnum Vikings, including:

- Players who reside within the club's local catchment area.
- Players with siblings currently registered at the club.
- Players with existing friendships or family connections within the club.
- Players who have previously been registered with Wynnum Vikings.

These factors will be considered collectively rather than as an automatic entitlement to a position.

### 4.4 Player Ability and Team Requirements

- For Junior age groups, player skill or ability will not be a primary consideration in transfer acceptance decisions.
- For Youth age groups, where multiple divisions are involved, player experience and ability may be considered where relevant to the specific needs and appropriate placement of a team.
- The club will prioritise participation, player development and team sustainability over recruiting players solely on playing ability.

### 4.5 Family and Club Involvement

Wynnum Vikings is a volunteer-supported community sporting club and encourages all families to contribute to club activities where possible.

Families will be invited to indicate their interest in volunteering or supporting the club as part of the EOI process.

A family's inability to volunteer will not automatically disadvantage a player's application.

## 5. Priority Transfers for Teams Requiring Players

Where a Junior or Youth age group has an immediate need for additional players to establish or complete a viable team, the club may prioritise suitable transfer applications for that age group.

This may include situations where pre-season training has commenced or is approaching and additional players are required to support team participation.

Such applications may be reviewed and progressed outside the standard EOI assessment dates at the club's discretion, subject to AFL Queensland transfer rules and approvals.

## 6. EOI Opening, Review Dates and Communication

### 6.1 EOI Opening Date

Expressions of Interest for the 2027 season will open on **1 November 2026** for both junior and youth players.

EOIs will remain open throughout the season to accommodate transfers as permitted under AFL Queensland regulations.

### 6.2 Initial Review Dates

The club will conduct its initial EOI reviews as follows:

- **Youth age groups:** First review commencing 1 December 2026.
- **Junior age groups:** First review commencing 1 February 2027.

These dates allow the club to assess anticipated team numbers, existing player registrations and available transfer positions.

### 6.3 Ongoing Reviews

Following the initial reviews, outstanding and newly received applications will be assessed:

- On a fortnightly basis in the lead-up to the commencement of the season, where applications are pending.
- As required throughout the playing season, subject to team availability and AFL Queensland transfer regulations.
- Earlier where an age group has an immediate need for additional players to establish or maintain a viable team.

### 6.4 EOI Assessment and Prioritisation

Wynnum Vikings will not operate a strictly first-in, first-served transfer acceptance process.

Applications will be assessed primarily against AFL Queensland requirements, team availability and the club's transfer prioritisation criteria.

Where applications are otherwise comparable and limited positions remain available, the date an EOI was received may be used as a secondary consideration.

### 6.5 Communication of Outcomes

- Applicants will receive an acknowledgement following submission of their EOI.
- Outcomes may include acceptance in principle, placement on a waiting list, a request for further information or an unsuccessful application.
- Where an application remains pending, the club will advise the family of the next anticipated review date.
- All acceptances remain subject to AFL Queensland transfer requirements and approvals.

## 7. Transfer Decisions

All transfer applications will be reviewed by authorised Wynnum Vikings club representatives.

The club reserves the right to accept, defer, waitlist or decline transfer applications based on the criteria outlined in this policy, subject to AFL Queensland requirements and applicable club obligations.

Submitting an EOI does not guarantee acceptance, registration or allocation to a particular team or division.

All decisions will be communicated to applicants by the club.

## 8. Policy Authority

This policy operates in conjunction with the current AFL Queensland transfer rules and any applicable league or competition regulations.

Where any inconsistency exists, the applicable AFL Queensland rules and regulations will prevail.

The Wynnum Vikings Committee reserves the right to review and amend this policy as required.

**Approved by:** Wynnum Vikings Committee
**Effective:** 1 November 2026
**Review:** Annually or following changes to AFL Queensland regulations