

Allowable Player Payment

How to Manage Coach Payments

For Season 2025

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General Information on Coaches

The guidelines allow for the exclusion of certain parts of payments to coaches from Player Payments where:

- (a) all payments to the coach have been specifically detailed in the Player Declaration and the Declarations lodged by the Club under Rule 4(a);**
- (b) the relevant playing coach or other team coach holds a current AFL Coaching Accreditation;**
and
- (c) the relevant playing coach or other team coach is specifically identified on the team sheet for the relevant Match to which the payment applies.**

Any amount not excluded from the calculation of the Club's Player Payments will be included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.

Non-Playing Coach Payments

Payments made to Non-playing coaches and non-playing coaching staff are not a Player Payment and are not included in the calculation of a Club's Player Payments.

Should a Non-Playing coach be required or chooses to play games at any level during the season, the club must seek a ruling under 8(d) from their governing body to determine what if any payments shall be included in the Player Payment Calculations.

Should a ruling not be received, the coach shall be considered a Playing Coach, and the relevant Player Payment Calculations shall apply.

Playing Coach Payments

Coaching Only Payment

If the playing coach is paid for coaching, regardless of the number of games played, this payment should be listed as a **Coaching fee** on the Player Declaration.

Example:

A playing coach receives \$20,000 for coaching and \$0 per match. The declaration should state:

- Coaching Fee: \$20,000
- Match Payment: \$0
- **Exclusion from Player Payment Calculation**

The total coaching payment and match payments are combined to determine the amount that can be **excluded** from the club's Player Payment calculation.

Clubs can exclude **50% of the combined payments**, up to a maximum of \$20,000.

- Exclusion: \$10,000

Playing Coach Payments (cont)

Coaching and Match Payments

If the playing coach is paid for both coaching and playing matches, each payment must be listed separately in the relevant sections of the Player Declaration.

Example:

A playing coach receives \$20,000 for coaching and \$200 per match. The declaration should state:

- Coaching Fee: \$20,000
- Match Payment: \$200 x 18 games = \$3,600
- Combined: \$23,600
- **Exclusion from Player Payment Calculation**

The total coaching payment and match payments are combined to determine the amount that can be **excluded** from the club's Player Payment calculation.

Clubs can exclude **50% of the combined payments**, up to a maximum of \$20,000.

- Exclusion: \$11,800

Playing Co-Coach Payments

Playing Co-Coaching Only Payment

Where a Club appoints two coaches of the Club's Senior Team who are both Players (in a co-coach arrangement), the amount paid to the coaches is combined for the purposes of calculations.

Example - Two playing co-coaches are paid:

- Coaching and playing fee (combined) : \$15,000 each
- **Exclusion from Player Payment Calculation**

The total coaching payment and match payments are combined to determine the amount that can be **excluded** from the club's Player Payment calculation.

- \$7,500 per coach (total of \$15,000) would not be a Player Payment and would not be included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.
- Clubs can exclude **50% of the combined coaching playing payments**, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per co-coach.

Playing and Non Playing Co-Coaches

Co-Coaching Only Payment

Where a Club appoints one Non-Playing coach and one Playing coach to the senior team, the amount paid to the Playing coach and excluded from Player Payment calculations shall be no more 50% of their total remuneration, to a maximum of \$10,000.

Example - Non-Playing and Playing co-coaches are paid:

- Non-Playing Coaching fee: \$15,000 each (not included)
- Playing Coach Coaching fee: \$15,000 plus \$5,000 match payments (Total \$20,000)
- **Exclusion from Player Payment Calculation**

The total coaching payment and match payments are combined to determine the amount that can be **excluded** from the club's Player Payment calculation. (50% to a maximum of \$10,000)

- \$10,000 of Playing Coach payments would not be a Player Payment and would not be included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.
- **Exclusion: \$10,000**

Players Coaching other Teams

Players Coaching Other Team Payment

Where a Player coaches any open age team, (other than the Club's Senior Team) or the oldest under age team at the Club (e.g. Under 19, Under 18 or Under 17 team), the payment to the Player for coaching this team must be specifically identified in the Player Declaration, and any payment, to a maximum of \$3000, will not be considered a Player Payment and may be excluded in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.

Example - Player Coaches Under 19 team:

- Other Team Coaching fee: \$5,000
- Player Payments: \$100 per game x 18 games = \$1,800
- Combined: \$6,800

Exclusion from Player Payment Calculation

- \$3,000 of coaching payment would not be a Player Payment and would not be included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.
- Clubs can exclude a maximum of \$3,000 total for coaching payments of other teams.

Players Coaching other Teams (cont)

Players Coaching Other Team Payment

Where a Player coaches any open age team, (other than the Club's Senior Team) or the oldest under age team at the Club (e.g. Under 19, Under 18 or Under 17 team), the payment to the Player for coaching this team must be specifically identified in the Player Declaration, and any payment, to a maximum of \$3000, will not be considered a Player Payment and may be excluded in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.

Example - Player Coaches Under 19 team:

- Other Team Coaching fee: \$2,000
- Player Payments: \$100 per game x 18 games = \$1,800
- Combined: \$3,800

Exclusion from Player Payment Calculation

- The \$2,000 coaching payment would not be a Player Payment and would not be included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.
- Clubs can only exclude the coaching payment up to a maximum of \$3,000

Assistant Coach Payments

Assistant Coaching Payment

All payments to Players in relation to services to the Club as an assistant coach will be a Player Payment and included in the calculation of the Club's Player Payments.

Example:

A playing Assistant coach receives \$10,000 for Assisting coaching and \$200 per match. The calculations would be:

- Assistant Coaching Fee: \$10,000
- Match Payment: \$200 x 18 games = \$3,600
- Combined: \$13,600
- **Total to be included in Player Payment calculations: \$13,600 (100%)**

