

2026 APP (ALLOWABLE PLAYER PAYMENTS) – CLUB INFORMATION SHEET

KEY DATES & DEADLINES:

Timeframe	What's Due	Details
Feb – Apr	Player Declarations (PDF FILE FORMAT)	Lodged within 14 days of the clubs first match
	Payment Budget (EXCEL FILE FORMAT)	Lodged within 14 days of the clubs first match
Within 7 Days	New Declarations (for late players) (PDF FILE FORMAT)	Any new player receiving a benefit must sign and submit a declaration within 7 days of playing their first game.
Sept – Oct 31	Final Payment Declaration (EXCEL FILE FORMAT)	Includes total match payments, exemptions, awards, and coaching payments. Must be sorted alphabetically and reflect actual payments.

Upload all files to the [AFL Document Portal](#)

KEY DOCUMENTS CLUBS NEED TO COMPLETE:

Document	Purpose	Notes
Player Declaration Form	To record any payment or benefit offered to a player.	One per player. Must be signed by both club and player.
Player Payment Budget	Forecast of payments.	Must include <i>all</i> players, even if unpaid (\$0 entries).
Final Payment Declaration	Actual amounts paid, exemptions, and match awards.	Due October 31. Signed by President & Secretary.

Use AFL provided templates only. Available via [Play AFL](#)

BEING COMPLIANT – CORE EXPECTATIONS:

- Use only the **current official Player Declaration Form**.
- Ensure **rates match** between declaration forms and budget.
- **Record all players** in the budget, including those unpaid.
- Unpaid players' game tallies must still be included at **\$0**.

- **All benefits** (cash or non-cash) must be included – e.g.:
 - Hoodies, meals, memberships, fuel vouchers.
- **Avoid sign-on fees** or lump-sum upfront payments.
- **Mid-season players** must sign a declaration within 7 days.
- **Coaching exemptions** must be within guidelines (see below).

COACHING PAYMENTS – UNDERSTANDING EXCLUSIONS:

***Not all coaching payments are exempt.** Follow these rules carefully:

➤ **Playing Coach**

Type	Exclusion Limit	Example
Coaching Only	50% of total, up to \$20,000	<i>\$20K coaching = \$10K exempt</i>
Coaching + Match Pay	50% of total combined, up to \$20,000	<i>\$20K coaching + \$3.6K match = \$11.8K exempt</i>

➤ **Playing Co-Coaches (2 x playing)**

- Max 50% of total up to \$10,000 per co-coach can be excluded from APP
- Based on combined coaching and match payments

➤ **Non-Playing + Playing Coach**

- Max 50% of total up to \$10,000 of playing coach's total payment can be excluded

➤ **Coaching Other Teams**

- If a player coaches U18/U19 or other open-age teams
- Max **\$3,000** can be excluded, **for one coach only**
- Must be clearly itemised and included in declaration
- For **ANY OTHER** coaching arrangements (i.e. co-coaching) **clubs MUST seek a ruling** under 8(d) or the player payment rules from the region governing body/league

➤ **Assistant Coaches**

- No exemptions applicable
- **100% of assistant coach payments are included in APP**

COMMON ISSUES TO AVOID:

- ❌ Declaring player match payments but forgetting coaching fees
 - ❌ Not accounting for or reporting non-cash benefits (meals, travel, apparel, accommodation)
 - ❌ Using outdated standard player declaration templates
 - ❌ Not recording unpaid players in match tallies
 - ❌ Incorrect use of coaching exemption (e.g. assistant coaches), or missing 8(d) Rulings
 - ❌ Uploading documents late (after Player Payment Rule deadlines)
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CLUB COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

✅ PRE-SEASON (Within 14 days of clubs first match)

- Player Declarations completed (PDF) for all paid players and uploaded
- Player Payment Budget (Excel) uploaded and includes unpaid players
- Coaching roles reviewed – understand exemption rules
- Confirm Document Portal access

✅ IN-SEASON

- Declarations submitted for **new paid players** within 7 days of playing
- Total game tally monitored (e.g. 18 rounds × 21 players = **378 games**)
- Any coaching changes reported and assessed for exemption (*i.e. a non-playing coach unexpectedly plays a game/s*)

✅ POST-SEASON (BY OCT 31)

- Final Payment Declaration lodged (Excel)
 - All payments, awards, and exemptions fully declared
 - Digitally signed by both Club President & Secretary
 - Keep digital & hard copies of submitted documents
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HELPFUL LINKS & SUPPORT

AFL Document Portal [🔗 https://cfdp.web.afl.com.au/Login](https://cfdp.web.afl.com.au/Login)

PlayHQ Resources [🔗 https://play.afl/learning-resource/playhq#article-7](https://play.afl/learning-resource/playhq#article-7)

NEED HELP OR UNSURE?

Contact relevant Regional Governing Body or League for rulings or clarification – especially under Player Payment Rules Clause 8(d).