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NETBALL ACT

COMPETITION RULES

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1. OBJECTIVES

The Netball ACT State League is the premier netball competition in the ACT consisting of a number of Divisions played across two competitions. Teams that compete in the Netball ACT State League are representative of Netball ACT Districts and invitational Districts from around the region.

The following Competition Rules have been provided to ensure the objectives of the Netball ACT State League Competition are met. These objectives are to:

- a) provide a competitive pathway for athletes;
- b) form part of the elite pathway for developing Players, coaches, umpires and administrators;
- c) enhance skill development;
- d) be the elite competition in the ACT;
- e) provide the best opportunity for elite netballers and officials to compete at a higher level;
- f) showcase the highest level of netball in the ACT;
- g) build community and the Districts;
- h) provide media attention, opportunities and secure sponsorship; and
- i) build a strong Player base.

2. DEFINITIONS

“Competition” Netball ACT State League staged by NACT and run annually at a time and duration as stated by NACT;

“Competition Rules” Netball ACT State League Competition Rules as amended by NACT from time to time;

“Competition Points” points awarded to a Team based on the outcome of their Match which is used to determine the Teams position in the Competition

“Division” Separation of the competition offered

“District” an organisation or association formed to promote netball in an area of the Australian Capital Territory with objects similar to the objects of the Association;

“Competition & Facility Manager” refers to the NACT employee responsible for promoting and implementing the Competition in line with the Competition Rules the specific title of which may be amended from time to time;

“INF” International Netball Federation

“Match” means all netball matches played between the Teams as part of the Competition and all netball matches between some or all of the Teams in respect of other events;

“NACT” ACT Netball Association Incorporated trading as Netball ACT, the governing body for netball in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT);

“Player” any person who is named on the NACT Team Form;

“Round” a series of matches that occupies a specified times, contains a certain number of teams, and allows each team to play each other

“Team” any entity granted the right by NACT to participate in the Competition

“Team Form” Official NACT document to register in the Competition

“Score Sheet” NACT approved document for scoring

“Tier 1” Division 1, 2 and 3 (Open age) Competition

“Tier 2” Division 4, 5 and 6 (19u) Competition

3. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

3.1. Rules of Netball The game rules will be in accordance with the INF Rules of Netball and INF Regulations as amended from time to time unless modified in the Competition Rules. **Competition Structure**

3.2.1. All games are to be played at the ACT Netball Centre or as scheduled by NACT.

3.2.2. At the discretion of the Competitions Manager, matches may be delayed, postponed or abandoned for any reason deemed justifiable including but not limited to poor conditions in the field of play, equipment damage or failure and recommendations made by the Umpire.

a) Where a delayed Match is unable to be resumed within 30 minutes of the scheduled start time, the Match will be postponed;

b) When a Match is postponed, it will be re-schedule at the discretion of the Competitions Manager at a time and place deemed suitable; or

c) Where a postponed Match is unable to be re-scheduled, the Match will be abandoned in which case the following will apply:

i. Teams will receive 3 Competition Points; and

ii. All players listed on the Score Sheet at the time of the abandoned round will be credited with playing 4 quarters.

3.2.3. There will be no deferment of games: teams will play their games as set down in the draw. If a District is unable to field a team they must forfeit their game and pay the appropriate forfeit fee.

3.2.4. A forfeit fee of \$100 will be incurred when a team forfeits.

3.2.5. Each Player must play in the identical playing uniform.

3.2.6. Each team is to have second set of patches in an alternate colour.

3.2.7. The competition structure will comprise six divisions to be named:

- a) Division 1
- d) Division 2
- e) Division 3
- f) Division 4 (19 & under)
- g) Division 5 (19 & under)
- h) Men's League

3.2.8. The Competition will be played in a home and away series comprising of the following Rounds:

- a) for Tier 1, ten (10) Rounds plus the finals
- b) for Tier 2, ten (10) Rounds plus the finals

3.2.9. The NACT Competitions Manager will make the final decision as to the draw and the scheduling of Matches.

3.2.10. The top four (4) Participating Teams from the Minor Round Matches for each of the Divisions will advance to the respective Finals Series for Division 1, 2, 3, 4 and Mens League

3.3. Match Duration and Match Format

3.3.1. A Tier 1 and Tier 2 match shall be played for a period as follows:

- a) sixty (60) minutes divided into four (4) quarters, each of fifteen (15) minutes duration;
- b) the fifteen (15) minute duration for each quarter will be actual playing time and will not include stoppages in play.

3.3.2. For Tier 1 and Tier 2 an interval shall be taken between each quarter as follows:

- a) the quarter time intervals will be a maximum period of three (3) minutes;
- b) the half time interval will be maximum period of five (5) minutes.

3.3.3. Only the officiating Umpires may stop a Match (temporarily or indefinitely) due to an extraordinary circumstance that may be deemed an emergency. This may include but is not limited to failure of equipment or facilities, a seriously injured Player, or any other reason deemed necessary by the officiating Umpires.

3.4. Point Score

3.4.1. The official score sheet is the only true record of the Match.

3.4.2. In the event that due to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances a Match cannot be rescheduled or completed, the teams involved will receive 3 Competition Points.

3.4.3. In the preliminary rounds, Competition Points will be awarded as follows:

- a) five (5) Competition Points for a win or forfeit to;
- b) three (3) Competition Points for a draw;

- c) one (1) Competition Point for a loss; and
 - d) zero (0) Competition Points for a forfeit by.
- 3.4.4. The team forfeited to will also be awarded a 15 to nil goal difference.
- 3.4.5. The finals format for Division 1, 2, 3, 4 and Mens League will be as follows, unless otherwise formally advised in writing at the start of the Competition by the Competitions & Facility Manager:
- a) 1st Semi Final 3rd v 4th
 - b) 2nd Semi Final 1st v 2nd
 - c) Preliminary Final Loser of 2nd Semi Final v winner of 1st Semi Final
 - d) Grand Final Winner of 2nd Semi Final v winner of Preliminary Final
- 3.4.6. The top four positions will be decided on by the Competition Points after the final Round of matches.
- 3.4.7. Where two teams are on the same Competition Points, positions for Semi Finals shall be decided on the goal percentages calculated by the NACT nominated competition software package.
- 3.4.8. The number of games actually played includes games a team has forfeited, or where a team has received forfeits.
- 3.4.9. No disputes will be entered into regarding score sheets where the two team score bench representatives have signed the score as final.
- a) if there is a dispute about the score on the score sheet, then the dispute will be raised with the Competitions Manager who in consultation with the score bench will ascertain to the best of their ability the situation, and will decide the outcome of the game;
 - b) no further disputes will be entered into.

4. ELIGIBILITY

4.1. Player Eligibility

- 4.1.1. Players can only play for one District in each Competition.
- 4.1.2. To be eligible to participate in the Competition, Players must be a registered member of their District and appear as financial on the MyNetball database or such database as amended for time to time.
- 4.1.3. Districts are to fully complete and lodge the Team lists on the MyNetball database by the nominated date by NACT.
- 4.1.4. All District entries must list on the MyNetball database a minimum of seven (7) Players for each team entered as at the closing date of entries.
 - a) any new Player after the closing date must be a registered member and entered into the MyNetball database before taking the court.

- 4.1.5. New Player registration regulations will be:
- b) in Tier 1 and Tier 2, will not be accepted after Round 6 of the Competition;
 - a) any exemption requests are to be submitted in writing to NACT for consideration;
- 4.1.6. In Tier 2 Players in Division 4 and Division 5 must not be older than 19 years of age as at 31 December in the year of play.
- 4.1.7. The minimum playing age for any Division is 15 as at 31 December in the year of play.
- 4.1.8. A Player may only play in a team one division lower than the team in which they are registered, regardless of age eligibility.
- 4.1.9. In Tier 1 and Tier 2 once a Player takes the court in twelve (12) full quarters in a higher Division, on taking the court in the 13th quarter that Player will remain in the higher Division for the remainder of the season.
- 4.1.10. In Tier 1 and Tier 2 League once a Player takes the court in eight (8) full quarters in a lower Division, on taking the court in the 9th quarter will remain in the lower Division for the remainder of the season.
- 4.1.11. Any Player who participates in State League Tier 1 will be ineligible to participate in the ACT Junior Championships.

4.2. Finals Eligibility

- 4.2.1. In Tier 1 and Tier 2 to be eligible for finals a Player must play a minimum of twelve (12) full quarters in the Division they are registered.
- a) If a Division has a Bye round each player registered on the team list prior to the Bye round will receive 4 automatic quarters.
- 4.2.2. A Player will only be permitted to play in a higher Division – i.e. Division 1 and Division 4 Players will not be permitted to participate in Division 2 and Division 5 respectively.
- 4.2.3. With regards to Division 3 and Division 5 and Mens League, exemptions will be considered on application in writing to the Competitions Manager.
- 4.2.4. Any team found to be playing an ineligible Player in the final series for a Division will be disqualified in that game in which the ineligible Player has taken part.
- 4.2.5. An eligible Player may participate in more than one Division in a final series, however they are not permitted to play in a Division lower than the Division they are qualified in.
- 4.2.6. If there is a draw in the final series the game shall be continued to a result in accordance with the INF Rules of Netball.

5. MATCH OPERATIONS

5.1. Umpires

- 5.1.1. All State League umpires are required to be registered and financial with a District.
- 5.1.2. NACT State League Umpires Panel will be responsible for the allocation and supervision of umpires during matches.
- 5.1.3. NACT is to be notified of all State League umpire coach/mentors that will be coaching/mentoring umpires at State League matches.
- 5.1.4. If an Umpire has not arrived 20 minutes prior to the commencement of the Match, a replacement Umpire may take the court, providing that they meet the allocation requirements of the match.
- 5.1.5. An NACT staff member will be appointed by NACT to communicate umpire allocations for the Competition.

5.2. Score Benches

- 5.2.1. It is compulsory for teams to provide bench officials for the scheduled games:
 - a) the first named team in the draw is to provide two (2) bench officials for the game; and
 - b) the second named team is to provide one (1) bench official.
- 5.2.2. NACT will provide the bench with stopwatches, umpire alerts. Teams will submit Team Lists prior to commence of the Match and substitution forms as required.

5.3. Primary Carer

- 5.3.1. All teams are required to provide a Primary Carer for the matches and record them on the Team List.
- 5.3.2. It is compulsory that lanyards be worn by the Primary Carer for each team. Primary Carers will not be permitted on the court without this identification.
- 5.3.3. The Primary Carer cannot perform the role of any other Team Official during the Match (e.g. a Primary Carer cannot be a team Manager and Primary Carer for the same Match).

6. DISCIPLINARY RULES

6.1. Application

- 6.1.1. NACT may enforce the terms of these Competition Rules and impose sanctions only if it has given the party alleged to have breached these Competition Rules reasonable notice of the alleged breach; and the opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in relation to that alleged breach and possible sanction
- 6.1.2. All participants of the Competition including but not limited to Players, Umpires, Coaches and Team Officials who have breached the Code of Behaviour or [Netball Australia Member Protection Policy](#) may be subject to disciplinary action as listed within the Netball Australia Member Protection Policy

- 6.1.3. The incident of potential misconduct may have occurred before, during or after the Match. The incident must have occurred within the confines of the Match venue or it's immediate surrounds, or elsewhere if directly related to Competition activity of any sort, and may be made regardless of any action taken by the Umpires during the Match

6.2. Codes of Behaviour

- 6.2.1. All participants taking part in the Competition are required to act in accordance with the National Codes of Behaviour published as part of the Netball Australia Members Protection Policy as amended from time to time (Appendix One)

6.3. Reporting Process

- 6.3.1. All complaints lodged with NACT in relation to the Competition will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures of the Netball Australia Member Protection Policy.

- 6.3.2. An incident must be reported to the Competitions Manager within 2 business days (48 hours) of the incident occurring

Appendix One:

The following information has been extracted from the Netball Australia Codes of Behaviour. The National Codes of Behaviour should be read in its entirety, the following excerpts have been supplied for convenience of players, umpires and spectators. For a full copy of the Netball Australia National Codes of Behaviours – [Click Here](#)

Player Code of Behaviour

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow players, coaches, officials and spectators.
2. Refrain from conduct which could be regarded as sexual harassment, discrimination, bullying or victimisation.
3. Respect the talent, potential and development of fellow players and competitors
4. Participate fairly and safely
5. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner relating to language, temper and punctuality
6. Abide by the rules and respect the decision of the umpires. Be courteous and use the correct process when seeking rule clarification
7. Applaud all good play, by your own team, and opponents.
8. Co-operate with your coach, team mates, opponents and officials at all times
9. Respect and acknowledge the contribution of those who create the opportunity for you to play

Umpire Code of Behaviour

1. Umpire in accordance with the Official Rules of the Game
2. Treat all players, coaches, bench officials, and other umpires with respect
3. Place the safety and welfare of the players above all else, including by:
 - Ensuring the court and its surrounds are compliant with the rules.
 - Taking appropriate action to manage dangerous play
4. Maintain a high standard of personal behaviour at all times

5. Be a positive role model through behaviour and personal appearance projecting a favourable image of netball and umpiring at all times
6. Refrain from conduct which could be regarded as sexual harassment, discrimination, bullying or victimisation
7. Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction with other netball participants
8. Be honest and do not allow your qualifications/ accreditation to be misrepresented

Spectator Code of Behaviour

1. Remember that most players (in particular children) participate in netball activities for fun. They are not participating for entertainment of spectators only.
2. Applaud good performance and efforts of all players. When watching a game congratulate both teams on their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
3. Respect the decision of the umpires. Encourage players to play according to the rules and the official decisions, and develop your own knowledge of the rules
4. Never ridicule or abuse a player for making a mistake during a competition
5. Refrain from conduct which could be regarded as sexual harassment, discrimination, bullying or victimisation
6. Do not use foul language, sledge or harass administrators, coaches, players, umpires or other spectators
7. Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by administrators, coaches, players, umpires or other spectators.
8. Be honest and do not allow your qualifications/ accreditation to be misrepresented