



COMPETITION REGULATIONS

FOR

NETBALL NSW PREMIER LEAGUE COMPETITION

as at

5 December 2017

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Netball NSW Premier League (NNSWPL) Competition Regulations exists to ensure that the strategic objectives of NNSW are achieved. These objectives include:

- 1.1 To be the premier netball competition in New South Wales that provides the best opportunities for elite netballers, Licensees and their partner Associations.
- 1.2 To provide an elite pathway for developing players, coaches, officials and administrators throughout NSW in an effort to increase the depth and quality of these persons at the elite level within NNSW.
- 1.3 To create a seamless link in the high performance pathway between Metro League, the Premier League Competition, national underpinning programs, Australian Netball League (ANL) and Suncorp Super Netball League (SSN) Teams.
- 1.4 To have formalised partnerships between Licensees and Associations to ensure longevity and financial stability of all Licensees and a grassroots pathway.
- 1.5 To develop and promote a financially sustainable competition that will increase commercial and sponsorship opportunities for the competition and Licensees.
- 1.6 To raise and enhance the profile of netball across NSW through increased media and promotional opportunities.
- 1.7 To enhance the reputation of netball in the community.
- 1.8 To increase the engagement of fans and current and future participants and enhance the connection with the wider NSW netball community.

Together with the INF Rules and Regulations, these Competition Regulations govern the conduct and management of the Competition and provide a system of regulating player eligibility and registration.

2 STATUS OF REGULATIONS

- 2.1 These Competition Regulations are issued by the Commission.
- 2.2 These Competition Regulations may be changed from time to time by resolution of the Commission.
- 2.3 The Commission with the authority of NNSW reserves the right to vary, waive or supplement the requirements of these Competition Regulations if it deems necessary.

3 DEFINITIONS

Allocations Panel means a panel of personnel as appointed by NNSW responsible for coordinating and appointing umpires to Matches.

ANL means the Australian Netball League.

Association means any affiliated association that is a member of NNSW pursuant to clause 9.3 of the NNSW Constitution.

Board means the Board of Directors of NNSW.

Calendar Year means the period commencing 1st January and ending 31st December inclusive.

Commercial Guidelines means the Netball NSW Premier League Commercial Guidelines as published from time to time by NNSW.

Commission means the Premier League Commission of NNSW appointed by the Board to manage and administer the Competition on behalf of NNSW.

Competition means the NNSW Premier League Competition conducted by NNSW.

Competition Matches means all matches of the Competition be they pre-season, minor rounds or Final Series.

Competition Regulations means these Netball NSW Premier League (NNSWPL) Competition Regulations as developed, varied and promulgated by the Commission from time to time.

Competitions Manager means the person appointed by NNSW to manage the Competition or their delegate.

Council means the Council of NNSW described in clauses 12 and 13 of the NNSW Constitution.

Court means the designated area that includes the defined court area, team benches and score bench.

Division means one of the two competition divisions within the Competition called either Open Division or Under 20 Division.

Finals Series means the semi-finals, preliminary final and grand final of the Competition, or any other configuration as determined by NNSW from time to time.

Key Personnel means appropriate personnel or staff required for the effective administration of the Licensee.

INF means the International Netball Federation.

Licensee means a party who has entered into a Participation Agreement.

Matches means Competition Matches and Other Matches.

Metro League means the Metro League Competition conducted by NNSW between teams representing the Associations across a number of divisions.

NCAS means National Coaching Accreditation Scheme.

NNL means the National Netball League currently known as SSN, whether known by this name or any other name.

NNSW means the New South Wales Netball Association Ltd.

Other Events mean events or functions organised or controlled by NNSW other than Matches relating, directly or indirectly, to the Competition.

Other Matches means any match played between Teams other than Competition Matches including but not limited to training or exhibition matches.

Participation Agreement means the agreement between NNSW and a Licensee by which the Licensee is entitled to have Teams participating in the Competition.

Personnel means any person engaged by a Licensee in respect of its Teams and whether paid or unpaid, including Key Personnel and Team Officials, but excluding Players.

Player means any person who has a current financial registration with NNSW and has been formally listed with the Licensee to play for its Team and in respect of whom the Licensee has lodged the appropriate NNSW Premier League Player Registration Form with NNSW.

Player List means the list of all Players who have agreed to play for a Licensee in the Competition during a particular Season lodged with the Competition Manager under regulation 7.1.5 and approved under regulation 7.1.6.

Replacement Player means any person who validly joins a Team from time to time in accordance with regulation 7.4.

Rules of Netball means the INF "Rules of Netball", 2016 Edition as amended from time to time by the INF.

Score Bench means the designated area on the Court where the bench officials (Timers and Scorers) are located at each game.

Season means the period NNSW sets aside for the Competition within any 12 month period, including the Finals Series and any pre or post season tournament or knockout competition or matches organised

and/or sanctioned by NNSW.

SSN means the National Netball League currently known as Suncorp Super Netball (SSN), whether known by this name or any other name.

Team means a Licensee's netball team entitled to compete in either Division of the Competition.

Team Bench means the designated area within the field of play where all Players of the Team and Team Officials must be located during a game.

Team List means the list of Players to participate in a Match as provided by a Licensee to the Competition Manager or their delegate pursuant to regulation 9.1.3.

Team Officials mean officials involved with the management, preparation and participation of the Team, including but not limited to the coaches, manager, doctor, physiotherapist and other support staff.

Venue means Genea Netball Centre or any other venue as approved by NNSW.

Venue Operations Manager means the person employed by NNSW, or their delegate to manage the Venue and assist the Competitions Manager in the daily operations and event management of the Competition.

4 NSW PREMIER LEAGUE PERSONNEL

4.1 NSW PREMIER LEAGUE COMMISSION

- 4.1.1 The Commission will consist of up to four persons appointed by the Board on a biannual basis and will include at least one person independent of NNSW.
- 4.1.2 The Board may appoint persons to the Commission for shorter periods than 2 years in order to fill casual vacancies.
- 4.1.3 The Commission has the right to co-opt relevant personnel as required.
- 4.1.4 The Commission will be responsible to the Board for the conduct of the Competition.

4.2 NSWPL COMPETITIONS MANAGER

- 4.2.1 The Competitions Manager will be responsible for the conduct of all Competition Matches.
- 4.2.2 After consultation with the Venue Operations Manager or the Commission, the Competitions Manager may cancel or postpone any Match where there are concerns as to Player or spectator safety or wellbeing.

- 4.2.3 The scheduling and rescheduling of all Competition Matches is the responsibility of the Competitions Manager.
- 4.2.4 The Competitions Manager will reasonably assist each Licensee to understand their obligations under the Competition Regulations so they are able to follow the correct administrative procedures and adhere to the Competition Regulations.
- 4.2.5 The Competitions Manager is responsible to the Head of Netball and the Commission for the conduct of the Competition, and for this purpose, is responsible for upholding all rules and regulations of the Competition.
- 4.2.6 Further to regulation 4.2.5, the Competitions Manager, may, with the approval of the Commission and in extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive any of the requirements set out in these Competition Regulations. The primary, but not exclusive, purpose of the exercise of such discretion is to ensure that the integrity of the Competition is maintained at all times.

4.3 **NNSWPL UMPIRES**

- 4.3.1 Umpires who hold an A badge or higher may be allocated to Matches by the Allocations Panel. Other umpires may be appointed to Matches at the discretion of the Allocations Panel, subject to the approval of the appropriate NNSW staff member.
- 4.3.2 Umpires participating in the Competition may not be a Team Official or Player.
- 4.3.3 All Allocations Panel members and umpires allocated to Matches must be current financial members of NNSW.
- 4.3.4 A NNSW staff member will be appointed by NNSW to communicate umpire allocations for the Competition.

4.4 **COMPETITION BENCH OFFICIALS**

- 4.4.1 Accredited bench officials (timers and scorers) will officiate at all Matches. Bench officials will be appointed by NNSW. NNSW will allocate those who hold a National Level Accreditation to Matches as first preference.
- 4.4.2 All bench officials (timers and scorers) must be current financial members of NNSW.
- 4.4.3 All Licensees must provide two persons who hold a minimum of a current Bench Official State Level accreditation who are not in the NNSW Premier League Bench Official pool. State Bench Officials may be allocated as required. National Accredited Bench Officials will be allocated by NNSW and are not available to be nominated by licensees.

- 4.4.4 A NSW staff member will be appointed by NSW to communicate bench official allocations for the Competition.

5 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 5.1 The Competition will operate according to the scheduled dates published by NSW, and will be played at the Venue.
- 5.2 The Competition is a sporting activity for female players only.
- 5.3 The Competition will consist of two divisions – Open Division and Under 20 Division. Each division will include eight teams as determined by the Commission. The Commission may increase the number of teams per division for subsequent Seasons.
- 5.4 Each Licensee will be required to submit a Team for each division of the Competition.
- 5.5 Only one Team will be permitted in each division of the Competition, per Licensee.
- 5.6 The Competition will consist of minor rounds and a finals Series. The number of minor rounds and the competition draw will be determined by NSW.
- 5.7 Each Team will be scheduled one Competition Match per week during the minor rounds. This may be changed at the discretion of the Commission.

6 LICENSEE REQUIREMENTS

6.1 ENTRY INTO THE COMPETITION

- 6.1.1 Licensees accepted to field Teams in the Competition will have completed the application process including:
- (a) Submission of the Expression of Interest (EOI) Form as well as paying the initial deposit.
 - (b) Meeting the criteria and other requirements of NSW relevant to the Competition.
 - (c) Payment of the annual License Fee as stated in the Participation Agreement.
 - (d) Signed the Participation Agreement, in which they agree to abide by the rules, regulations and procedures governing participation in the Competition and cover the responsibilities in relation to, but not limited to, player/coach/official movement, development, welfare, education, communication, marketing and penalties.

- 6.1.2 Entry into the Competition will be granted by NNSW on the recommendation of the Commission.
- 6.1.3 As part of the application process, the Licensee must submit its proposed Key Personnel appointments for approval by NNSW, which approval will not be unreasonably with-held. Where the Licensee and NNSW cannot agree to the appointment of the Licensee's Key Personnel, the dispute resolution procedure outlined in the Participation Agreement must be followed.
- 6.1.4 Following approval of initial Key Personnel by NNSW, any future changes thereto must be advised to the Competitions Manager in writing in a timely manner. All changes to Key Personnel are subject to the approval of NNSW in the same manner as described in regulation 6.1.3.
- 6.1.5 Licensees must always be affiliated with NNSW by paying the required annual affiliation fee, unless they are already controlled or are partly controlled by at least one other entity who is already an affiliated Association of NNSW in which case affiliation of the Licensee will not be required.
- 6.1.6 Licensees agree to abide by the policy and rules of NNSW and the Competition Regulations, as notified from time to time.
- 6.1.7 Licensees agree to adhere to the commercial requirements of the sponsor/s of the Competition as defined in the Commercial Guidelines.
- 6.1.8 In the event of a Licensee withdrawing from the Competition, or the termination of the Participation Agreement by NNSW:
- (a) There will be no reimbursement of fees paid, and any outstanding fees must be paid.
 - (b) Subsequent re-entry into the future Competition may be jeopardized.
 - (c) Both teams will be immediately withdrawn from the Competition and the Licensee will not be permitted to apply for another license for a minimum of one year.
- 6.1.9 For the avoidance of doubt, these Competition Regulations are intended to supplement the Participation Agreement and all other rules and regulations of NNSW that are relevant to the Competition. If there is any inconsistency between these Competition Regulations and the Participation Agreement, the Participation Agreement will take precedence.

7 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

7.1 GENERAL

- 7.1.1 A Licensee (or anyone on behalf of a Licensee) may not make any offer to a Player to play for its Team or Teams in a Season within 42 days after the Premier League Competition Grand Final in the year preceding that Season.
- 7.1.2 A Licensee may make an offer to a current player to continue to be on their player list in the ensuing year at any time in the current season.
- 7.1.3 All offers made to players must remain open for acceptance by the Player for at least one week.
- 7.1.4 In addition to the requirement under regulation 7.1.1, a Licensee (or anyone on behalf of a Licensee) may not make any offer to a person to be associated with its playing or training regimes other than as a Player unless the offer is open for acceptance by the person for at least one week.

Without limiting the application of this regulation, a person is associated with a Licensee's playing or training regimes if that person is a Premier League training partner or a member of a Premier League development squad (however described).

- 7.1.5 A Player wishing to participate in the Competition must be:
 - (a) at least 16 years of age as at 31st December of the year in which she so participates;
 - (b) a current financial member of NNSW;
 - (c) available for NSW representative team selection into 17/19 & Under State Teams, ANL, teams competing in the SSN , where applicable, unless exceptional circumstances apply; and
 - (d) must have completed and signed a NNSW Premier League Player Registration Form.

Exceptional circumstances must be approved by the Commission.

A Licensee is responsible for providing the signed NNSW Premier League Player Registration Forms for its Players to the Competitions Manager.

All NNSW Player registration Forms are subject to approval by the Competitions Manager.

- 7.1.6 Each Player List must list all Players who have agreed with a Licensee to play for that Licensee's Teams in the applicable Season to a maximum 30 in number, regardless of which division of the Competition in which the Players will be participating. Each Player List must not contain more than 15 Players who are over 19 years of age as at 31 December in the year of that Season.

For the avoidance of doubt but subject to regulation 7.5.5, provided a Player satisfies the age restriction applicable to the Under 20 Division of the Competition, that Player may be selected by a Licensee to play in the Open Division as well as the Under 20 Division. It is each Licensee's responsibility to manage its selection of Players ensuring their welfare, skills, ability and availability for Matches in the minor rounds and Final Series.

- 7.1.7 All Licensees must lodge their Player List for a Season with the Competitions Manager at least eight (8) weeks prior to the commencement of minor rounds for that Season. Player Lists are not effective unless and until approved by the Competitions Manager.
- 7.1.8 Once received and approved by the Competitions Manager, the only additions permitted to that Player List are:
- (a) in respect of Replacement Players pursuant to regulation 7.4, and/or
 - (b) where (subject to the limit stated in regulation 7.1.5) a Playing List contains less than 30 Players.
- 7.1.9 The removal of a player from a player list is to be in writing to the Competitions Manager.
- 7.1.10 Once the Competitions Manager has received and approved a completed NNSWPL Player Registration Form for a particular Season, the Player concerned will be unable to be registered or play for any other Licensee for that particular Season. Approval will be dependent on approval of the applicable Player List.
- 7.1.11 Once a player has been recorded on the scoresheet as having taken the court in seven (7) matches in the minor rounds or final series of a Season in either the U20s or opens division they are ineligible to play in the Metro League Competition.

7.2 **OPENS DIVISION**

- 7.2.1 Licensees must select their best available Players as their Open Division Team for any Match in the minor rounds and Final Series.
- 7.2.2 A maximum of 12 players may sit on the Team Bench for each Competition Match.

7.3 UNDER 20 DIVISION

7.3.1 The Under 20 Division Team for each Licensee will consist of Players aged between 16 – 19 years as at 31st December of the year in which they participate in the Competition.

7.3.2 A maximum of 12 players may sit on the Team Bench for each Competition Match.

7.4 REPLACEMENT PLAYERS

7.4.1 Replacement Players may be Permanent Replacement Players or Temporary Replacement Players.

7.4.2 Any Replacement Player must be eligible to participate in the Competition and also meet all specific eligibility requirements for the relevant Division.

7.4.3 Replacement Player

(a) All applications for a Permanent Replacement Player or a Temporary Replacement Player must be made to the Competitions Manager and must state the reason for the replacement sought. The Competitions Manager may require the Licensee applicant to provide NNSW with sufficient information to assess the application which information may include, but not necessarily be limited, to:

(i) Written confirmation from the player to be replaced that the grounds for replacement apply;

(ii) The results of any medical examination that the Player to be replaced has undergone or is required by NNSW to undergo (examination to be at the Team's cost) and all other relevant medical or supporting certificates.

(b) Except in exceptional circumstances, all replacement player applications must be received by the Competitions Manager no later than 24 hours before the scheduled start time of the relevant Match. NNSW will then notify the outcome no later than 4 hours prior to the scheduled start time of the relevant Match.

The Competitions Manager will be the sole arbiter on whether exceptional circumstances exist.

(c) Once a player has been approved by the Competitions Manager as either a Permanent Replacement Player or a Temporary Replacement Player for a Licensee, they cannot be a Permanent Replacement Player or Temporary Replacement player for any other Licensee during the same Season.

- (d) A Temporary Replacement Player becomes a Permanent Player after being recorded on the scoresheet as having taken the court in seven (7) matches in the minor rounds of a Season. If this would result in the Licensee having more than 30 Players on its Player List or more than 15 Players who are over 20 years of age as at 31 December in the that year, then the Licensee must amend its Player List to conform.

7.4.4 Permanent Replacement Players

- (a) A Licensee may only permanently replace a Player in its Player List if:
 - (i) The player to be replaced is no long available to play in the Competition due to serious injury/illness or for other reason(s) acceptable to NNSW. This may include but is not limited to, pregnancy, moving overseas or work commitments;
 - (ii) The Player's conduct or lack of fitness does not justify keeping them on the Player List; or
 - (iii) The Player's agreement with the licensee has been terminated.

7.4.5 Temporary Replacement Players

- (a) A Licensee may apply to the Competitions Manager to temporarily replace one of its Players:
 - (i) In the event of injury and/or illness to a player;
 - (ii) Where a player requires a release to fulfil her obligations with NNSW State and ANL Teams during the Season; or
 - (iii) For other reason(s) acceptable to NNSW including but not limited to injury, bereavement, work commitments, illness of a dependent, or sitting an exam.
- (b) NNSW reserves the right to investigate applications if necessary and appropriate, so that Licensees are prevented from replacing Players for non-genuine or illegitimate reasons.

7.5 **SUNCORP SUPER NETBALL**

- 7.5.1 To ensure competitive balance between all Licensees, the Commission has decided to limit the number of SSN players each licensee can register so as to provide a seamless pathway between competition tiers.

7.5.2 For the purposes of these Competition Regulations, a SSN player is any player who is committed to play for a team competing in the SSN other than as a training partner or temporary replacement player. This assessment will be determined on at the last day by which Player Lists are required to be lodged with the Competitions Manager pursuant to regulation 7.1.6.

The official list of all registered SSN Players can be accessed from the Netball Australia or the SSN website. Licensees with any queries regarding the status of any player can contact the Competitions Manager.

7.5.3 Licensees may include up to two SSN players at any one time on their Player List.

7.5.4 Once a SSN player has been included on a Licensee's Player List for a Season, they must remain with that Licensee for that Season, or if registered during a Season under regulation 7.4, for the balance of that Season.

7.5.5 SSN players are eligible to play in the Open Division only.

8 TEAM OFFICIAL ELIGIBILITY

8.1 As a minimum, a Licensee's Team Officials must consist of a Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager and Primary Carer. All Team Officials must wear full team uniform for every Match.

8.2 All primary care personnel must hold one of the following qualifications:

- Senior First Aid Certificate
- Level 2 Sports Trainer
- Physiotherapy Degree
- Doctor (Medical Practitioner)

8.3 The Licensee must disclose all details of Team Officials' positions 8 weeks prior to the commencement of minor rounds, or as otherwise agreed to by NNSW. Any changes to Team Official positions must be notified in writing to the Competitions Manager for approval.

8.4 A maximum of 5 Team Officials may sit on the Team Bench for each Competition Match and those so entitled in priority to any other Team Official are the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager and Primary Carer.

NNSW may appoint an observer or assessor who is assessing or observing a coach for training or selection purposes, and they may sit on the bench in addition to the 5 Team Officials.

- 8.5 All Team Officials must be current financial members of NNSW, unless exceptional circumstances apply and prior approval has been granted by NNSW.

Where sub-contractors are appointed by a licensee to fulfil roles of a Team Official, and this person is not a financial member of NNSW, it is the licensee's responsibility to ensure the person has suitable insurance coverage as per clause 17.2 of the Participation Agreement.

- 8.6 Each Licensee will ensure that its coaching staff adhere to the following:
- (a) They are current financial members of NNSW.
 - (b) Open Division Head Coach must hold a current NCAS Advanced netball accreditation or above.
 - (c) Open Division Assistant Coach must hold a minimum current NCAS Intermediate netball accreditation and have commenced the NCAS Advanced accreditation.
 - (d) Under 20 Division Head Coach must hold a minimum current NCAS Advanced netball accreditation.
 - (e) Under 20 Division Assistant Coach must hold a current NCAS Intermediate netball accreditation or above.
- 8.7 Licensees must ensure their Coaches agree to work with the NNSW High Performance personnel to enhance the development opportunities for their players.
- 8.8 Licensees must ensure their Coaches agree to comply with injury management protocols for any State / National / SSN players as determined by NNSW medical personnel.

9 COMPETITION MATCH PROCEDURES

9.1 GENERAL

- 9.1.1 All Competition Matches will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Netball.
- 9.1.2 Timing of Competition Matches is as follows:
- (a) 4 x fifteen minute quarters, with four minutes breaks after the first and third quarters ($\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ time) and an eight minute break after the second quarter ($\frac{1}{2}$ time).
 - (b) Injury time as per the Rules of Netball.
- 9.1.3 Licensees are required to complete a Team List of up to twelve players per Competition Match (including listing the starting seven players and starting positions) and to

provide this to the Competitions Manager at least forty five (45) minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of that Competition Match. The Team List provided will be available to the opponent's team manager on request prior to the Competition Match in question.

Once submitted no changes can be made to the Team List except in exceptional circumstances as approved by the Competitions Manager. Where changes are approved the Team Manager must immediately notify the opposing team and Bench Officials of these changes.

Failure to provide the Team List forty five (45) minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of the match or to promptly advise of changes thereto will incur a fine of \$100.00. If the Team List is not provided to the Competitions Manager by fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of the Competition Match in question, the Team concerned will be deemed to have forfeited that Competition Match.

- 9.1.4 The official score sheet is to be completed by the official scorer.
- 9.1.5 The official scoresheet is the only true record of a Competition Match.
- 9.1.6 All Competition Matches will commence at the time as listed in the fixture.
- 9.1.7 The Match clock shall start when requested by the umpire at the start of the scheduled Match. A running clock will be started 15 minutes prior to the introduction of Teams.
- 9.1.8 Notification of substitution changes:
 - (a) Teams are required to complete a substitution form at any break during a Competition Match, where players change position.
 - (b) Substitution forms are to be handed to the official scorer immediately following a change.

9.2 **MINOR ROUND MATCHES**

- 9.2.1 The Competition draw for the minor rounds will be posted on the NNSW website a minimum one (1) month prior to the commencement of the Season.
- 9.2.2 In Competition Matches during the minor rounds, competition points will be awarded as follows:
 - (a) Two points for a win.

- (b) Zero points for a loss.
- (c) Two points for a forfeit (pursuant to regulation 9.5)
- (d) Zero points for a Bye.
- (e) One point each for a drawn Competition Match.
- (f) One point for an abandoned Competition Match*.

Note: *If the Competition Match is abandoned prior to half time, one point will be allocated to each team.

Note: *If the Competition Match is abandoned at or after half time, the result as per the scoresheet will apply.

9.2.3 At the conclusion of Competition Matches of the minor rounds, Teams will be ranked:

(i) If two or more teams finish on equal points after the final Competition Match of the minor rounds, positions for the Finals Series will be decided on goal averages.

(ii) The goal average for each Team shall be decided as follows:

Total number of goals scored by the Team, divided by the total number of goals scored against the Team, multiplied by 100 and divided by the actual number of Competition Matches played by that Team.

$$\frac{\text{i.e. goals scored}}{\text{goals scored against}} \times \frac{100}{\text{matches played}}$$

The number of Competition Matches actually played includes a Competition Match a Team has forfeited, but does not include a Competition Match where the team has received a forfeit.

9.2.4 Any Team found playing an ineligible player in a Competition Match during the minor rounds will be considered to have lost the Competition Match in which the ineligible player has taken part and:

- (a) The points for winning the Competition Match will be awarded to the opposing Team (provided the opposing team itself has not played an ineligible player),
- (b) The Team playing the ineligible player will lose two competition points.

- (c) Goal averages for the match will be adjusted. The team playing the ineligible player will have their goals scored adjusted to zero and the opposing team will have the goals scored against them adjusted to zero.

Any Licensee found playing an ineligible player in a Competition Match will incur a penalty of \$1,000 for each match where the ineligible player took part.

9.3 **FINALS SERIES**

9.3.1 Finals will be played at the conclusion of the minor rounds in each Division.

9.3.2 The top four teams (based on points) will qualify for the Finals Series.

9.3.3 The format for the Finals Series will be as follows:

Semi Finals:	Major Semi Final:	Ladder Position 1 v Ladder Position 2
	Minor Semi Final:	Ladder Position 3 v Ladder Position 4

Preliminary Final: Loser of Major Semi Final v Winner of Minor Semi Final

Grand Final: Winner of Major Semi Final v Winner of Preliminary Final

*Any abandon Finals Series matches will be re-scheduled at the discretion of NNSW.

9.3.4 In the event of Teams being equal on points at the conclusion of the minor rounds, positions shall be determined by the Goal Average, as per regulation 9.2.3(ii).

9.3.5 In order to be eligible to compete in a Finals Series of any Division, a Player must have played in a minimum of 5 Matches in the minor rounds in that Division during the Season in question.

For the avoidance of doubt:

- (a) In order to have played in a Match the Player must be recorded on the scoresheet for that match as having taken the court; and

- (b) This regulation also applies to Temporary Replacement Players.

9.3.6 Any Team found playing an ineligible player in the Final Series will be considered to have lost that Match in which the ineligible player has taken part and the Match will be awarded to the opposing team. Any player found to be ineligible to take part in the Final Series will not be permitted to take any further part in that Final Series.

9.3.7 NNSW will determine the starting time and dates of Final Series Matches.

9.3.8 In the event of drawn Matches in the Finals Series, and as per the “Rules of Netball”:

- (a) There will be a four minute interval at the end of full time.
- (b) Extra time will consist of two halves not exceeding seven minutes each with an interval of one minute at half time. Teams shall change ends at half time. The centre pass is taken by the Team entitled to the next centre pass.
- (c) During both of these intervals, substitutions and/or team changes may be made.
- (d) During extra time, normal injury or illness procedures will apply.
- (e) In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time, a visual signal is given from the bench and will be used to indicate that play will continue until one team has a two goal advantage.

9.4 SCORESHEETS

9.4.1 One official (A3) scoresheet will be used for each Match.

9.4.2 Prior to the commencement of play each scoresheet must list the complete names (both given and surname) of all Players listed on the Team List, playing positions of players nominated to take the court in the first quarter, as advised under clause 9.1.3. Once the official scoresheet is completed by the bench official no alterations can be made to this form in any way after the Match has commenced.

9.4.3 This scoresheet will also indicate the players positions played each quarter, the centre pass taken, goal attempts, all injury stoppages and the final Match score.

9.4.4 The final Match score is calculated by the addition of the goals scored for the total match.

9.4.5 At the conclusion of a Match:

- (a) The bench officials must sign the scoresheet to indicate they have officiated on this match;
- (b) Each team’s manager must sign the scoresheet to verify that the scorer has correctly recorded the names of the team’s Players nominated prior to the Match to take the court and player participation in the Match, as has been provided to the scorer and;

- (c) Unless a team proposes to protest against a Match result, the team's manager must sign the scoresheet to record the team's agreement with the result.

9.4.6 Once signed, the official scoresheet is deemed to be conclusive and no further dispute will be entered into.

9.4.7 The official scoresheet and all supplementary documentation must be returned by the Bench Officials to the Competition Manager after the Match.

9.4.8 Any player positional changes made during a Match must be recorded on the team substitution sheets and handed to the Score Bench prior to play recommencing. The quarter break changes and/or injury stoppage changes must be clearly written on these sheets.

9.4.9 A copy of the scoresheet will be circulated to each Team listed on the scoresheet, by email within 24 hours of the conclusion of the match.

9.5 **FORFEITS**

9.5.1 In the event that a team forfeits prior to the Match clock starting:

- (a) Two competition points will be awarded to the non-offending team;
- (b) Players in the non-offending team will be considered to have played the Match forfeited, a licensee should nominate between 7 and 12 players to be recorded as having played the match; and
- (c) Players in the offending team will not be considered to have played the Match.

9.5.2 A forfeit fine of \$500.00 will be imposed for each forfeit which must be paid by the offending team before the next Match of the Competition. Teams will have the option to appeal this fine in extenuating circumstances.

9.6 **CANCELLATIONS**

When Matches are cancelled due to an event which NNSW determines was beyond its control or beyond the control of either Team (including, but not limited to, a strike, power loss, wet weather that causes stadium damage), in consultation with the Teams concerned NNSW may reschedule the Match. If the Match is not rescheduled, the Match will be deemed to be a draw and each Team will receive one (1) competition point each.

9.7 **NOISE MAKERS**

No noise makers will be permitted for use inside the Venue during competition. This includes but is not limited to drums, horns, clappers etc. Any person found to be using a noise maker

may be asked to leave the Venue and have the noise maker confiscated.

10 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

10.1 PROTESTS AND APPEALS

10.1.1 A Licensee wishing to protest against a Match result must:

- (a) Not sign the official scoresheet and promptly notify the Competitions Manager of the intention to protest.
- (b) Lodge the protest in writing with the Competitions Manager within 48 hours of the Match being played.
- (c) Submit a cheque made out to NSW for \$200.00. This money will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- (d) NSW will advise the result of the protest within 14 days of receipt of the written protest.

10.1.2 A Licensee wishing to appeal a decision of NSW:

- (a) Must lodge the appeal using the official NSW Appeal Form with the Competitions Manager within 48 hours of notification of the decision.
- (b) Submit a cheque made out to NSW for \$200.00. This money will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.
- (c) NSW will advise the result of the appeal within 14 days of receipt of the NSW Appeal Form and this decision shall be final.

10.1.3 Appeals will be heard in accordance with the NSW's Appeals Committee procedure.

10.2 PENALTIES

10.2.1 Except where these Competition Regulations provide that a specific penalty is to apply, any breach of these Competition Regulations may result in any one or more of the following penalties being imposed on a Licensee by NSW in its absolute discretion:

- (i) a fine;
- (ii) loss of competition points;
- (iii) exclusion from the current Season of the Competition and future Seasons; or

(iv) any other penalty considered appropriate by NNSW.

10.2.2 Repeat instances shall be considered by NNSW in its absolute discretion and may result in immediate exclusion from the current season of the Competition and future Seasons.

10.2.3 Penalties will be determined and reviewed by the Commission.

10.3 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

10.3.1 The parties agree to all Player, Team Official and Personnel disciplinary matters being dealt with in accordance with the Netball NSW Member Protection Policy.

10.3.2 All matters relating to anti-doping are governed by the Anti-Doping Policy of the Netball Australia, which is WADA compliant.

10.3.3 NNSW reserves the right to develop its own WADA compliant Anti-Doping Policy and will notify the Licensee if it exercises such right to develop its own policy.

11 COMPLIANCE WITH POLICIES

Licensees and Players will comply with the NNSW Member Protection Policy, Anti-Doping Policy and any other policies as described in the Participation Agreement, which are available from the NNSW website.

12 UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

12.1 All players must wear their Licensee's registered playing uniform.

12.2 Each Licensee is to provide 2 sets of playing initials (bib) in a clash situation.

12.3 Licensees must comply with the requirement of the Commercial Guidelines for the Competition in reference to any uniform issue.

12.4 Only non-marking sports shoes will be permitted to be worn.

12.5 NNSW will supply all match balls for all matches during the competition.

12.6 NNSW will provide each Team with six warm up balls to be used courtside. No other balls will be permitted courtside.

13 AWARDS

The NNSW Volunteer Recognition and Awards Policy will be observed and applied in respect of all awards associated with the Competition.