



Regional League Competition Rules

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3. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

3.1 DEFINED TERMS

Association means any Affiliated Member Association deemed as an Association in accordance with clause 9.1 of the Netball NSW Constitution and any association of Members who have applied for membership to the Board in accordance with clause 9.4 of the Netball NSW Constitution and such application has been approved by the Council.

Bench Officials comprises two (2) scorers and one (1) time keeper who are to be present on the Score Bench for each Match.

Board means the Board of NSW Netball.

Constitution means the constitution of the New South Wales Netball Association Inc. whose trading name is Netball NSW.

Competition means the Netball NSW Regional League.

Competition Rules means the rules of the Competition as articulated within this document.

Council means the Council as constituted in accordance with the Netball NSW Constitution.

Divisions mean the two competition divisions within the Regional League called Opens and 17 & Under as per 4.2.3; each of which will contain a minimum of four teams.

Finals Series means the Major Semi Final, Minor Semi Final, Preliminary Final and Grand Final of the Competition.

Match means any netball match or game, excluding training matches, played by or between Association Teams within the Competition.

Netball NSW means the New South Wales Netball Association Inc.

Player means any person who has been registered with the relevant Association Team.

Score Bench means the official bench for the scoring of Matches.

Team means each of the Associations netball teams granted the right to compete in the Competition by Netball NSW.

Team Officials mean officials involved with the management, preparation and participation of the Team, including the coaches, manager, doctor, physiotherapist and other support staff.

Umpire means an umpire appointed by Netball NSW to officiate in a Match.

3.2 ADMINISTRATION

- a) Subject to these Competition Rules, the Netball NSW Constitution and any other document, the Netball NSW Competitions Manager shall have the authority to enquire and adjudicate all questions and disputes arising out of the Competition. If a matter is not provided for in the Competition Rules, the Netball NSW Constitution or any other document, the Netball NSW Competitions Manager may make any determination after consultation with the Netball NSW Head of Netball, and/or the Chief Executive Officer, where appropriate, and the decision shall be final;
- b) Any participating Team refusing or neglecting to abide by a decision of the Netball NSW Competitions Manager may be excluded from the Competition for such time as the Netball NSW Competitions Manager, in consultation with the Netball NSW Chief Executive Officer and Netball NSW Board, shall determine;
- c) All relevant correspondence shall be addressed to and received at the Netball NSW Office by either post; hand delivery; email or facsimile marked attention of the Netball NSW Competitions Manager;
- d) All outward correspondence shall be dispatched from the Netball NSW Office and directed to the Association Secretary by either mail or such other means unless the Association nominates another person to also receive the correspondence;
- e) All Competition Rules and supporting documents will be reviewed by Netball NSW representatives at the conclusion of each Season.
- f) All Players, umpires, coaches and officials entered into the Competition must show as a financial registered member of Netball NSW or relevant State or Territory in the Netball NSW Member database prior to the commencement of the Competition, or their participation in the Competition.
- g) An Association can only lodge an appeal regarding a decision made which directly affects that Association. An association cannot lodge an appeal for or on behalf of another Association or Associations. Such appeals are to be undertaken in accordance with the Appeals Tribunal Procedures set out in Clause 5 of Attachment E – Hearings and Appeals Tribunal Procedural Requirements of the Netball NSW Member Protection Policy (or in accordance with the netball NSW Member Protection Policy as amended from time to time). The decision of the Appeals Tribunal is final and binding on the parties.

4. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

4.1 RULES OF NETBALL

4.1.1 The Competition will be conducted with reference to the International Netball Federation Official Rules of Netball and International Netball Federation Regulations (INF Rules) as published by the INF from time to time, unless where modified in these Competition Rules.

4.2 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

4.2.1 The Regional Development Manager or Netball NSW representative is responsible for convening a meeting of participating Associations to decide dates, venues and the format for the ensuing year.

4.2.2 The format shall be a minimum of two (2) days and a maximum of four (4) days plus finals.

4.2.3 The format for the Competition shall be divisional. Up to eight (8) Divisions shall be used as required, according to the number of entries received. Teams will be graded into Divisions based on two age classifications.

a) Open Division(s) – with a minimum age of 15 years as at the 31st December in the year of play. Netball NSW can use discretion in extenuating circumstances.

b) 17 and Under – for players who have not attained the age of eighteen (18) years as at December 31 in the year of play. With a minimum age of 14 years as at the 31st December in the year of play.

4.2.4 The commencement dates for the Competition shall be advised to Associations by Netball NSW via email and the Netball NSW website.

4.2.5 The Netball NSW Regional Development and Pathways Unit Manager will make the final decision as to the draw and the scheduling of Matches.

4.2.6 The fixture for all Divisions of the Competition will be posted on the Netball NSW website at least one (1) week prior to the commencement of the Competition where possible.

4.2.7 The name, address and telephone number of the Regional Development Manager and all Association Secretaries names, addresses, telephone numbers and the location of each Association's courts and telephone numbers will be listed.

4.3 MATCH DURATION AND MATCH FORMAT

- 4.3.1 Matches should be played on hard courts.
- 4.3.2 Players must play in the identical playing uniform except where prior approval has been given.
- 4.3.3 Each Team is to provide up to two (2) scorers/timekeepers according to the draw. Associations are to provide an approved stopwatch.
- 4.3.4 Each Team is to have an approved match ball.
- 4.3.5 Each Team is to have available two sets of position patches, of different colours.
- 4.3.6 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 equipment damage or failure, a seriously injured Player or any other reason deemed necessary by the officiating Umpires.
- 4.3.7 The officiating Umpires will determine if a Match may continue to proceed or if that Match must be delayed, postponed or abandoned.
- 4.3.8 In the event that a Match is delayed, postponed or abandoned, that Match must be resumed as soon as is conveniently possible as directed by the officiating Umpires or if prolonged delaying occurs, the Regional Development Manager or Netball NSW Representative shall direct accordingly.
- 4.3.9 If in the opinion of the Regional Development Manager or Netball NSW Representative and the host Association matches are unable to be played due to inclement weather or the condition of courts, each Team will be awarded one (1) point. By mutual agreement, Teams may transfer the Match to another venue. Points shall be awarded for all other Matches played on that day.
- 4.3.10 Under extreme circumstances if a Team is unable to fulfil their playing commitments, arrangements may be made with the Regional Development Manager or Netball NSW Representative to have the Match(s) played within the next fourteen (14) days.
- 4.3.11 A Team may claim a forfeit one (1) minute after the time set down for the commencement of the Match, if the opposing Team does not have five (5) players in full uniform on court and ready to play.
- 4.3.12 Any Team forfeiting three (3) consecutive Matches will be excluded from the remainder of the Competition, a penalty will be incurred as described in clause 5.1.11
- 4.3.13 The winning Team shall be responsible for forwarding score sheets to be received by the Regional Development Manager or Netball NSW Representative within five (5) days following each Match. Failure to do so will result in no points being awarded to any Team.

4.4 MATCH POINTS

4.4.1 The Competition shall be conducted on a points score basis.

4.4.2 Regional League Points Table:

Win	Loss	Draw	Forfeit	Bye	Abandoned *
2	0	1	2	0	1

* If Match abandoned prior to half time - 1 point each team

* If Match abandoned at or after half time - result as per score sheet

4.4.3 Goal Average

a) If two or more Teams finish on equal points after the final round of Matches, positions for Finals Series shall be decided on goal averages.

b) 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 Matches played by the Team.

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

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

4.5 FINALS SERIES

4.5.1 Players need to have taken the court in two (2) Matches with the relevant Team, to qualify for Finals Series in single round (i.e. each Team plays each other once) Competitions. Exemption to this rule may be granted where Associations are able to provide a medical certificate outlining a Players reasoning for not meeting this Match requirement.

4.5.2 If double or more rounds are played (i.e. Teams play each other twice or more), Players must have taken the court at least three (3) Matches to be eligible for the Finals Series. Exemption to this rule may be granted where Associations are able to provide a medical certificate outlining a Players reasoning for not meeting this Match requirement.

4.5.3 The format for the Final Series is to be decided at the regional meeting, prior to the commencement of the Competition.

4.5.4 If there is a draw in semi- finals, finals or grand finals, a two (2) minute interval shall be taken. During the interval the score will be verified and the Teams change ends. During the interval there may be substitutions and/or Team changes.

- 4.5.5 The Umpire will indicate which Team has the next centre pass and play will commence. Then two (2) seven minute halves will be played to determine a winner. After the first seven (7) minutes there will be a one (1) minute interval and the Teams will change ends. Substitutions and positional changes are allowed during the changeover.
- 4.5.6 If still a draw at the end of the second seven (7) minutes, a visual signal will indicate that play continues and the first Team to score a two (2) goals advantage shall be declared the winner.
- 4.5.7 During extra time, normal injury or illness procedures shall apply, as per the INF rule book.
- 4.5.8 Any Team found playing an ineligible Player in the Finals Series will be considered to have lost that Match in which the ineligible Player has taken part.
- 4.5.9 Any Player found to be ineligible to take part in the Finals Series will not be permitted to take any further part in the Finals Series.
- 4.5.10 A trophy shall be presented to the winning and runner-up Association in each Division.
- 4.5.11 Embroidered patches shall be awarded to the Manager, Coach, Assistant Coach, Primary Care and Players of the winning and runner up Teams in each Division.

4.6 COMPETITION RESULTS

- 4.6.1 A score sheet having been signed by both Captains and Umpires and lodged with the Regional Development Manager or Netball NSW Representative will not be returned to any Team for any correction. No disputes will be entered into regarding score sheets.
- 4.6.2 In circumstances where Team Officials of both Teams testify that the score sheet submitted to the Regional Development Manager or Netball NSW Representative is incorrect and further they agree on the correct score then the Regional Development Manager or Netball NSW Representative has the discretion to vary the official scores.
- 4.6.3 Score sheets are to be returned to the Regional Development Manager or Netball NSW Representative at the conclusion of each Match.
- 4.6.4 If an Association records the name of an unregistered Player on the score sheet, the Association will be required to prove within seven (7) days that the person who played under that name is registered with that Team.

This proof shall be in the form of a Statutory Declaration to the Regional Coordinator. Failure to submit such proof within seven (7) days of notification shall result in the loss of two (2) Competition points.

- 4.6.5 Final results of each Competition will be forwarded to Netball NSW.

5. ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION

5.1 APPLICATION

- 5.1.1 Only affiliated Associations are eligible to enter competitions or events conducted by Netball NSW.
- 5.1.2 Any Netball NSW affiliated Association, ACT and Regional Academy of Sport can be admitted to enter the Competition as an invitational team subject to the approval of the Netball NSW Competitions Manager.
- 5.1.3 The closing date for Team applications into the Competition will be notified to affiliated Associations by Netball NSW. The closing date will also be included on the relevant entry form and promoted on the Netball NSW website.
- 5.1.4 Team entries are to be received by the Regional Development Manager or Netball NSW representative by the published closing date as agreed by the Region.
- 5.1.5 Entry fees for the Competition for the ensuing year will be notified to affiliated Associations by Netball NSW before 30 November in the previous year.
- 5.1.6 Associations shall register Teams on the approved Player entry form together with a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of twelve (12) Players' names and their relevant experience as detailed in Rule 5.2.2, by the closing date of entries for the Competition.
- 5.1.7 All entries for the Competition must be lodged in accordance with procedures as determined by Netball NSW and must be accompanied with supporting documentation as required by these Rules and as requested by Netball NSW from time to time. All Team entries must be received by Netball NSW by the published time and date for close of entries.
- 5.1.8 Where an entry is not received by Netball NSW by the published closing time for entries, a late entry may be accepted. A late entry will only be considered if the prescribed fee has been paid and the late entry is received by Netball NSW in accordance with the late entry closing date.
- 5.1.9 The late entry fee for the Competition shall be \$500.00.
- 5.1.10 If an Association Team withdraws from the Competition prior to the draw being finalised at the commencement of the Minor Round Matches, the draw will be reconstructed. If an Association Team withdraws from the Competition after the draw has been finalised and released to all participating Associations, the withdrawing Association Team will be replaced with a bye in the draw.
- 5.1.11 Where an Association Team withdraws from the Competition within three (3) weeks before or after the commencement of the Competition the offending Association will be fined \$500.00.
- 5.1.12 An Association is permitted to enter one Team only in each Division, unless additional Teams are required to ensure the viability or continuation of the Competition.
- 5.1.13 Teams must play in the Regional League in their designated Region as outlined by Netball NSW. In extenuating circumstances, Association teams may apply to Netball NSW for consideration to play as a competitive team in a Regional Competition that is out of their own designated region.

- 5.1.14 An Association may enter two (2) regional Competitions in the one (1) calendar year where:
- The Competition that is out of the team's designated region can only be entered as an invitational team.
 - Nominations from Associations to play in a region other than their own designated region must be approved by the Regional Manager.
 - Associations who play as an invitational team in a Competition out of their own designated region must also play in the Competition in their region.
 - Teams that do not play in the Competition in their designated region but play in a region out of their region, without approval from Netball NSW will be fined \$500.00.

5.2. GRADING PROCEDURE

- 5.2.1 A minimum of four (4) Teams and a maximum of eight (8) Teams shall participate in each Division. Exception will only be made with the prior permission of Netball NSW.
- 5.2.2 Teams shall be graded according to the information detailed on the official entry form and as detailed in the Netball NSW Player Database.
- 5.2.3 Associations have seven (7) days from the date of notification of provisional grading to lodge an appeal with the Appeals Tribunal in relation to a grading decision.
- 5.2.4 After a Team has been graded, any late registration should be of an equal playing standard. The Regional Development Manager may reject a late registration where it is considered the inclusion of the Player would affect the grade of the Team. In such circumstances the Association or Player concerned has the right of appeal to the Appeals Tribunal.

5.3. PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 5.3.1 All Players entered into the Competition must show as a financial registered member of Netball NSW or relevant State or Territory in the Netball NSW Member database prior to the commencement of the Competition, or their participation in the Competition.
- 5.3.2 At no time is a Team permitted to have more than twelve (12) Players registered. A maximum of four (4) Players may be late registered in each Team after the commencement of the Competition.
- 5.3.3 A "late registration" is defined as follows:
- Where a Player has not been registered in the current Competition or has been de-registered and is to be re-registered in the same Team in the same grade.
 - Where a Player transfers from one Division to a higher Division by virtue of playing three (3) Matches in the higher graded Team that Player is counted as a "late registration" in that higher graded Team.
- 5.3.4 A de-registered Player may only be re-registered in the same grade for the duration of the Competition. A re-registered Player is counted as a late registration.
- 5.3.5 Players may not play in a grade lower than the grade in which they were originally graded.

- 5.3.6 Any change to the name of a Player already registered is to be advised in writing by an Association official to the Regional Development Manager within seven (7) days. Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$100.00.
- 5.3.7 Late registrations are to be submitted on the appropriate form by an Association official to the Regional Development Manager or Netball NSW representative prior to the commencement of the Match in which they are to play.
- 5.3.8 There shall be no registration of Players accepted between the published date for the close of entries and one week before the commencement of the Competition.
- 5.3.9 A maximum of four (4) Players may be “late registered” in each Team any time from one week before the commencement of the Competition until the end of the Competition.

6. REGIONAL ALLOCATIONS TEAM

- 6.1 A Regional Allocations Team will be established within each Region 2-8 League competition to assist the Regional Development Manager or Netball NSW representative with Umpire allocations and to provide opportunities for Umpires to gain experience in allocating Umpires.
- 6.2 The Regional Allocations Team within each region shall:
 - a) Allocate Umpires to all Matches, including reserve Umpires.
 - b) Allocate Umpires to finals Matches based on performance of each Umpire throughout the entire Competition.
 - c) Be available and present for all rounds of Competition.
 - d) Brief all Umpires at the start of the Competitions in regards to guidelines and expectations for the Competition.
 - e) Where appropriate provide coaching and panelling opportunities for Umpires within the Competition.
 - f) Liaise with the Regional Development Manager or Netball NSW representative who will contact Umpires and send out allocations.
 - g) The Head of the Allocations Panel must not be umpiring or actively participate in the current Competition.
- 6.3 The Head of Allocations and Regional Allocations Team member positions will be called for by an expression of interest process. Candidates seeking to be a part of the panel will need to complete an expression of interest form and lodge this with Netball NSW. The Technical Officials Coordinator, respective Regional Development Manager and the Regional Development and Pathways Unit Manager will appoint the Head of Allocations and Regional Allocations Team Members for each region.

7. UMPIRES

- 7.1 One non-playing badged Umpire for each Team entered plus one additional non-playing badged Umpire per Association, per day (i.e. an Association entering two (2) Teams must supply a minimum of three (3) Umpires per day).
- 7.2 All Umpires will be allocated by the Regional Allocations Team in conjunction with the Regional Development Manager or Netball NSW representative.
- 7.3 With the approval of the Regional Allocations Team and in conjunction with the Regional Development Manager unbadged Umpires may be accepted as part of an Association's quota provided that they hold a current Rules of Netball Theory exam pass (70%) and a current Foundation Umpires Education Course Accreditation at the time of nomination.
- 7.4 Where an Association fails to forward the names of the approved Umpires by the due date a fine of \$100.00 will be imposed on the offending Association. Changes made to the Umpire Nomination Form must be submitted to the Regional Development Manager by 5pm Tuesday prior to the round being played. Any late changes received after this will result in a \$100.00 fine. The repeated failure to supply umpires may result in withdrawing the Associations team from the competition.
- 7.5 Umpires must be dressed in a white.
- 7.7 Unbadged Umpires may be tested for practical badges:
- a) after consultation with the Regional Manager, or Netball NSW Representative ; and
 - b) Matches comply with all requirements stated in the National Umpire Development Framework.
- 7.8 If an Umpire has not arrived thirty (30) minutes prior to the commencement of the Match, a replacement Umpire may take the court, providing that Umpire meets the provisions laid down.
- 7.9 Associations whose Umpires fail to fill their allocation by non-attendance will be fined \$100.00 for each allocation not fulfilled except in extenuating circumstances.
- 7.10 Any qualified Umpire may apply to the Regional Allocations Team to be allocated to Matches.

8. COMPLAINT HANDLING

- 8.1 All complaints lodged with Netball NSW in relation to the Competition will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures of the Netball NSW Member Protection Policy.
- 8.2 All registered Players, Umpires, Bench Officials and Team Officials are required to abide by the Code of Behaviour, as published from time to time within the Netball NSW Member Protection Policy.
- 8.3 All participants of the Competition including but not limited to Players, Umpires, Bench Officials and Team Officials, who have breached the Code of Behaviour or Netball NSW Member Protection Policy may be subject to disciplinary action as listed within the Member Protection Policy.