



# VICTORIAN NETBALL LEAGUE

## COMPETITION REGULATIONS

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## INTRODUCTION

The Victorian Netball League Competition Regulations exists to ensure that the strategic objectives of Netball Victoria are achieved. These objectives include:

- Be the premier netball competition in Victoria that provides the best opportunities for elite netballers
- Ensure that the VNL provides an elite pathway for developing players, coaches, umpires and administrators throughout Victoria
- Provide the daily training environment expected for players, coaches and umpires
- Create strong links between VNL, National underpinning programs, ANL and National League Clubs
- Have formalised links between VNL Licensee's and netball associations to ensure longevity of the Licensee and a grassroots pathway
- Create a product, both as a club and as a competition to attract and provide successful sponsorship and media opportunities

## STATUS OF REGULATION

The VNL Competition Regulation is issued by the Board of Netball Victoria under Rule 36 of the Constitution and forms part of the Participation Agreement between Netball Victoria and the Licensees.

This Regulation may be changed from time to time by resolution of the Board.

Netball Victoria reserves the right to vary, waive or supplement the requirements of this Regulation if it deems necessary.



## DEFINITIONS

Throughout this Regulation the following definitions apply;

- **Affiliated Associations** – A not for profit incorporated association or company limited by guarantee, which has an interest in netball. Affiliated Associations must conduct competitions which should consist of four (4) or more teams
- **ANL** – Australian Netball League
- **Calendar Year** – The period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> January and ending 31<sup>st</sup> December inclusive
- **Clearances**  
**Partially Completed Clearance** – a clearance submitted on MyNetball by the player’s new club  
**Fully Completed Clearance** – a clearance approved on MyNetball by the player’s previous club
- **Competition** – The Victorian Netball League Pre-Season Competition and the Victorian Netball League Premiership Season Competition
- **Competition Manager** – The person appointed by Netball Victoria to manage the Victorian Netball League or their delegate
- **Competition Matches** - All fixtured matches of the Competition
- **Court Supervisor** – The person appointed to supervise the venue where a Competition game is played
- **Eligible Player List** – The list of all players eligible to play with a Licensee in the Competition. Players may be added to a Licensee’s list up to and including round 18 of the Competition
- **Field of Play (FOP)** - The designated area that includes the defined court area, team benches and score bench
- **Home Games** – matches played at a venue other than the SNHC
- **Home Game Operations Manual** – This document is prepared and issued by Netball Victoria and distributed to all Licensees prior to the start of a new Competition year
- **Licensee** – Any entity granted the right by Netball Victoria to participate in the VNL
- **NCAS** – National Coaching Accreditation Scheme
- **NV** – The Victorian Netball Association Incorporated (ABN 83 704 752 745) trading as Netball Victoria
- **Participation Agreement** – The signed agreement between Netball Victoria and a Licensee for inclusion into the VNL
- **Quarter** – A quarter of a netball game (or part thereof). For a player to be recorded as playing a “quarter”, the player does not have to play the full fifteen minutes of the quarter

- **Regulation** – This 2018 Victorian Netball League Competition Regulation, or any other Netball Victoria Regulation as the context requires
- **Rules of Netball** – The official Rule Book – “Official Rules of Netball”, revised 2016, subject to any variations approved by NV from time to time
- **Score Bench** – The designated area in the Field of Play (FOP) where the bench officials (Scorers and Time Keepers) are located at each game
- **SNHC** – State Netball Hockey Centre
- **SNN** – Suncorp Super Netball Competition
- **Team Bench** – The designated area within the FOP where all team players and team officials must be located during a game
- **Team Officials** – The Coach, Manager and up to (3) other personnel. At least (1) of whom must be the Primary Care Person who has a current qualification in First Aid (HLTFA311A) or equivalent.
- **VNL** – Victorian Netball League conducted by Netball Victoria
- **VNL Reference Group** – The VNL Reference Group is an operational group designed to provide support and advice to staff in matters of strategic development and operation of the VNL competition
- **VNLPF** – Victorian Netball League Player Form that players are required to complete online prior to playing in the Victorian Netball League
- **VIS** – Victorian Institute of Sport

## 1. ENTRY INTO THE COMPETITION

### 1.1 LICENSEE CONDITIONS

1.1.1 Licensees accepted into the VNL will have;

- (a) Completed the application process including:
  - (i) Submission of the Expression of Interest (EOI) Form;
  - (ii) Meeting the requirements of the VNL;
  - (iii) Paying the Application Fee;
  - (iv) Signed the Participation Agreement in which they agree to abide by the VNL regulations, rules and procedures governing participation in the VNL and cover the responsibilities in relation to, but not limited to player/coach/umpire movement, development, welfare, education, communication, marketing and penalties; and
  - (v) Agree to travel intrastate and play matches as required by the VNL fixture.
- (b) Licensees must be affiliated with Netball Victoria by paying the required annual affiliation fee four weeks prior to Round 1.
- (c) Agree to abide by the policy and rules of Netball Victoria as notified from time to time.
- (d) Agree to adhere to the requirements of the sponsor/s of Victorian Netball League.

1.1.2 In the event of a Licensee withdrawing from the VNL;

- (a) There will be no reimbursement of fees paid and any outstanding fees must be paid.
- (b) Subsequent entry into the future VNL may be jeopardised.
- (c) All teams will be immediately withdrawn from the VNL and the Licensee will not be permitted to apply for another License for a minimum of 2 years.

1.1.3 Only one team per License shall be permitted in a division of the Victorian Netball League.

1.1.4 Netball Victoria reserves the right to refuse entry to any Licensee into the Competition in its absolute discretion without reason.

1.1.5 For the avoidance of doubt, this Regulation is intended to supplement the Participation Agreement and all other rules and regulations of NV that are relevant to the Competition. If there is any inconsistency between this Regulation and the Participation Agreement, the Participation Agreement will take precedence.

## 2. PERSONNEL

### 2.1 COURT SUPERVISOR

2.1.1 The court supervisor shall be responsible for the functioning of all Competition matches.

2.1.2 The court supervisor shall be empowered to cancel any matches deemed unsafe in consultation with the VNL Competition Manager.

2.1.3 Netball Victoria has the right to appoint other officials and volunteers to enable the competition to run according to standards.

### 2.2 VNL COMPETITION MANAGER

2.2.1 The scheduling and rescheduling of all matches is the responsibility of the VNL Competition Manager.

2.2.2 The VNL Competition Manager will assist the Licensee to understand their obligations of the VNL Competition Regulations, so they are able to follow the correct administrative procedures and adhere to these Regulations.

2.2.3 The VNL Competition Manager shall be responsible to the General Manager –High Performance, Chief Executive and Board of Netball Victoria for the management of the Competition and for this purpose is responsible for upholding all rules and regulations of the Competition. The VNL Competition Manager (in consultation with the General Manager – High Performance, Chief Executive and Board of Netball Victoria where required) is authorised, if deemed necessary, to make decisions to ensure that:

- (a) All outcomes identified in the VNL strategic plan are achieved; and
- (b) Where the rules or regulations are silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the Competition is maintained at all times

2.2.4 Further to clause 2.2.3 above, the VNL Competition Manager, may in their absolute discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive any of the requirements set out in the rules and regulations relating to the Competition, including this Regulation. 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.

## **2.3 PLAYERS**

2.3.2 Players may be added to an Eligible Player List at any time during the Competition up to 12 noon Wednesday prior to Round 18 (to be eligible to play for their nominated Licensee).

2.3.3 All players participating in the VNL must be current members of Netball Victoria.

2.3.4 A player may only play in one division per round.

2.3.5 Once a player has played 24 quarters or more in a higher division the player will not be permitted to play in a lower division.

2.3.6 Players must be at least 15 years of age as at 31<sup>st</sup> December of the Competition year to participate in the VNL.

2.3.7 Players must be 19 years or under at 31<sup>st</sup> December in the competition year to compete in the 19 & under division.

2.3.8 Any new player wishing to play in the VNL will be subject to the approval of NV, in addition to any requirements of NV membership.

## **2.4 VICTORIAN NETBALL LEAGUE PLAYER FORM**

2.4.1 A player must complete the online VNLPF prior to playing their first Competition match for the season before 12 noon each Wednesday or 12 noon Friday for scheduled Home Games (Friday/Saturday/Sunday) prior to Round 18 and be approved by the VNL Competition Manager. No forms will be accepted by the court supervisor on match nights, unless under extreme circumstances and approved by the VNL Competition Manager.

2.4.2 All Licensees must educate their development squad members on what it means to sign a VNLPF. Development squad members of a Licensee are not required to sign a VNLPF unless they are given a position in a VNL division. Once a VNLPF is signed by a development squad member they are bound to that Licensee for the period of the VNL season.

2.4.3 Completed VNLPFs will make up a Licensee Eligible Player List.

2.4.4 Players must complete a new VNLPF each Competition year.

- 2.4.5 A player's electronic signature on the VNLPF shall confirm that the player:
- (a) Agrees to be registered for the competition year with the nominated Licensee;
  - (b) Understands they can only register with one VNL Licensee per competition year;
  - (c) Understands that they are registered with the named Licensee from the time they electronically sign and date the online VNLPF;
  - (d) Completes a Clearance Form and agrees to notify Netball Victoria in writing providing full details of circumstances, which may require a player after registering with a VNL Licensee to request to play for another VNL Licensee. Such a move would be subject to the approval of Netball Victoria and are not automatically granted;
  - (e) Agrees to comply with any other requirements set out in the online VNLPF.

## 2.5 CLEARANCES

2.5.1 Players are permitted to seek a clearance if they submitted an online VNLPF in the previous year and are looking to change Clubs for the upcoming season.

2.5.2 Players can complete the online VNLPF to their new club. The new club then has to enter the clearance on MyNetball. The club from the previous year has 10 days to either grant or refuse a clearance by accepting the MyNetball clearance. In circumstances of refusal, the club needs to notify the VNL Competition Manager of their decision and reasons for denying the request.

2.5.3 Clearances must be submitted to Netball Victoria by no later than 12 noon on the day of round 6. No clearances will be accepted after this time.

2.5.4 If a player has submitted an online VNLPF they are only permitted to change clubs at the discretion of Netball Victoria. Permission may be given providing that:

- (a) A secondary online VNLPF is submitted in full, in addition to the clearance, before 12 noon the day of round 6;
- (b) A detailed letter of explanation from the player accompanies the online VNLPF and clearance form, which must be received by the VNL Competition Manager seven days prior to the player wishing to take the court.

Players requesting a clearance when an online VNLPF has already been signed for the current competition year should note;

- (a) If the player's original club declares that the player is required, the clearance may not be granted;
- (b) The VNL Competition Manager will investigate to determine that clearances are granted within the spirit/integrity of the competition.

The VNL Competition Manager will liaise with the player and the club to determine if the clearance will be granted. The player and the club may be asked to provide supporting evidence.

Any player movement will be subject to the approval of Netball Victoria, which it may withhold in its absolute discretion.

## 2.6 COACHES

2.6.1 Licensees accepted into the Competition shall ensure that coaching staff adhere to the following:

- (a) They are current members of Netball Victoria;
- (b) Championship division coaches must hold a current, NCAS Advanced netball accreditation or above;
- (c) Division 1 and 19 & Under Coaches must hold a current, NCAS Intermediate netball accreditation or above.



## **2.7 ASSISTANT COACHES**

2.7.1 Assistant coaches in Championship Division must hold a current NCAS Intermediate netball accreditation or above.

2.7.2 Division 1 and 19 & Under Assistant Coaches must hold a current NCAS Development netball accreditation or above.

## **2.8 BENCH OFFICIALS (SCORERS & TIMERS)**

2.8.1 Each licensee will be responsible for providing bench officials for all matches. There must be one bench official per division with at least 2 back up scorers. Each licensee must have a minimum of four accredited bench officials across the three divisions.

2.8.2 Each licensee must provide a non-participating VNL accredited Scorer or Timekeeper for all matches

- (a) The first named team to provide the official scorer. The second named team to provide the timekeeper;
- (b) These people must sit together for the duration of the match at the official score bench,
- (c) No bench official can score 3 matches in a row;
- (d) All bench officials must be a Netball Victoria member;
- (e) All home game bench officials must be approved by Netball Victoria.

2.8.3 Names and Netball Victoria membership number of bench officials must be provided to the VNL Competition Manager two weeks prior to the start of the competition, including pre-season.

2.8.4 Bench Officials must wear the officials uniform provided by Netball Victoria to all games.

## **2.9 UMPIRES**

2.9.1 All VNL Umpire High Performance Coaching Panel members and VNL umpires must be current Netball Victoria members.

2.9.2 A VNL Umpire High Performance Coaching Panel will be appointed by the Netball Victoria appointments panel to allocate and supervise umpires during Competition matches.

2.9.3 VNL Umpire High Performance Coaching Panel members must be independent of Licensee affiliation.

2.9.4 AA badge, A badge currently endorsed and B badge umpires identified by testers, presenters or umpire supervisors will be allocated to Competition matches by the VNL Umpire High Performance Coaching Panel.

2.9.5 VNL umpires must register any conflict of interest with the Umpire Development Coordinator - HP as soon as they identify the possible conflict of interest.

2.9.6 All umpires must comply with Netball Victoria Competitions Umpire Uniform Code.

Please refer to the VNL Operations Manual for information regarding seeking feedback from umpires during or after matches.

### 3. VNL ORGANISATION

#### 3.1 GAME ORGANISATION

3.1.1 Competition matches shall be as per the “Official Rules of Netball” revised 2016.

3.1.2 Teams are required to complete a team list of up to twelve (12) players and five (5) team officials and submit to the Court Supervisor 30 minutes prior to the scheduled playing time.

3.1.3 The official score sheet is then completed by the official scorer and no players can be added to the list after ten (10) minutes before the commencement of the game.

3.1.4 The official scoresheet is the only true record of a match.

3.1.5 In the preliminary rounds, points will be awarded as follows:

Four (4) points for a win

Two (2) points for a draw

Zero (0) points for a loss

3.1.6 At the conclusion of Round 18 teams will be ranked;

(a) Points awarded for a win, loss, draw and goals for and against

3.1.7 Games shall be played at venues as directed by Netball Victoria:

(a) Netball Victoria must approve all venues, according to the stadium criteria proforma as determined by NV

3.1.8 Timing of games is as follows:

(a) 4 x 15 minute quarters, 3 minutes ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  time), 5 minutes ( $\frac{1}{2}$  time);

(b) Injury time as per the “Official Rules of Netball” revised 2016;

(c) Home Games - Clubs may choose to extend the half time break in Championship division only to 10 minutes. Both participating clubs need to agree to this and the VNL Competition Manager must be informed. Any changes to times must be communicated two weeks prior to the scheduled match.

3.1.9 Failure to take the court:

(a) All Competition games will commence at the time as listed in the fixture;

(b) The clock shall start when play commences indicated by the umpire;

(c) A team shall be required to take the court when requested to do so by the umpires at the start of the game and at intervals. Failure to do so will be considered;

i) Deliberately delaying play. Refer to Rule 8.1.1 “Official Rules of Netball” revised 2016;

ii) In extreme circumstances a forfeit – refer to Rule 3.5.

3.1.10 Notification of substitution changes:

a) Teams are required to complete a substitution form at any break during the match where players change position;

b) Substitution forms are to be handed to the official scorer immediately following a change

3.1.11 VNL blood policy is as outlined in Rule 9.3.1 in the “Official Rules of Netball” revised 2016.

## 3.2 FINALS

3.2.1 Finals will be played at the conclusion of the Round 18 in each division.

3.2.2 Teams qualifying for finals shall be determined by the number of points gained during the season:

- (a) In the event of teams being equal on points, positions shall be determined by the percentage of goals scored for and against;
- (b) In the event of teams being equal on percentage, positions shall be determined by the greater number of goals scored for.

3.2.3 Each division of the VNL shall play four (4) team finals series.

3.2.4 Players in Championship and Division One **must** play a minimum of 24 quarters to compete in a finals series, this can be as follows:

- (a) In one division to be eligible for that division or any higher division;
- (b) A combination of quarters across divisions with the player eligible for the division they have played the most quarters in or the division higher;
- (c) In the event the quarters are the same, the player / Club must select the division they play in for the finals series. If the lower division is selected, the player can move up, but cannot come down a division if a higher division is selected.

3.2.5 Players in 19 & Under Division **must** play a minimum of 16 quarters to compete in the finals series in the 19 & Under division.

- (a) 19 & Under players can be considered for the finals series in Championship and/or Division One by playing 24 quarters across combined divisions (Championship, Division One and 19 & Under) to be eligible for that division or any higher division

3.2.6 Teams found playing an ineligible player during finals will be deemed to have lost that match.

3.2.7 Matches shall be conducted for finals as for rounds, with the exception of starting time and drawn matches.

- (a) Netball Victoria will determine the starting time and dates of finals matches.
- (b) Drawn matches in finals:
  - (i) There shall be a two (2) minute interval at the end of full time;
  - (ii) Extra time shall consist of two (2) halves of seven (7) minutes each with an interval of one (1) 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;
  - (iii) During both of these intervals, substitutions and/or team changes may be made;
  - (iv) During extra time, normal injury or illness procedures shall apply;
  - (v) In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time, a visual signal shall be used to indicate that play shall continue until one team has a two (2) goal advantage.

3.2.8 Injured players who have not played the required quarters to qualify are not permitted to sit on the bench during the finals series.

## 3.3 SCORESHEETS

3.3.1 One official scoresheet will be used for each match;

- (a) This scoresheet must list the complete names (both given and surname) of all players intending to take the court prior to the commencement of play. Once the official scoresheet is completed by the official scorer no alterations can be made to this form in any way after the game has commenced;
- (b) This scoresheet shall also indicate the positions played each quarter, the centre pass taken, goals and misses, all injury stoppages and the final match score;
- (c) The final match score is calculated by the addition of the goals scored (strokes at the top of the

scoresheet) for the total match.

3.3.2 The official scoresheet is deemed to be conclusive evidence for further purpose of regulation of these competition rules.

3.3.3 The official scoresheet and all supplementary documentation must be returned:

- (a) By the officiating bench officials to the Court Supervisor after games at the SNHC;
- (b) By the Court Supervisor to the VNL Competition Manager at other venues as outlined in the home games operations manual.

3.3.4 Any player positional changes made during a game must be recorded on the team substitution sheets (referred earlier as Substitution Advice Forms) 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.

### **3.4 HOME GAMES**

3.4.1 All teams nominating to host "home games" must abide by the rules as set out in the Home Game Manual.

### **3.5 FORFEITS**

3.5.1 In the event that a team forfeits prior to the match clock starting, 28 quarters will be awarded to a maximum of twelve players to the non-offending team.

- (a) Four (4) points awarded to the non-offending team;
- (b) Ten (10) goals awarded to the non-offending team;
- (c) No quarters or games shall be awarded to players of the offending team.

3.5.2 A forfeit fine will be imposed, which must be paid before the next match of the offending team.

3.5.3 A forfeit in any division may result in the Licensee being refused entry into future VNL Competitions.

### **3.6 CANCELLATIONS**

3.6.1 When matches are cancelled due to an event which NV determines was beyond its control or beyond the control of either team prior to the start of the game (including, but not limited to, a strike, power loss, wet weather causing stadium damage) both teams will be credited with 2 points and 5 goals each and the Competition will continue as per the fixture, unless NV determines that alternate arrangements can be made to reschedule the match.

- (a) Prior to the completion of the first half teams will be awarded two (2) points and five (5) goals;
- (b) After the commencement of the second half the score stands as at the time of the stoppage;
- (c) In the event that a match is cancelled due to wet weather, quarters will be awarded to a maximum of twelve players totalling 28 quarters, for each team

3.6.2 Should circumstances occur in which successive rounds need to be cancelled, the VNL Competition Manager will consider the position and determine a suitable course of action which may include but is not limited to; rescheduling all or some of the matches or changing the day on, or order in, which matches are played.

### **3.7 PROTESTS AND APPEALS**

3.7.1 A Licensee wishing to protest against a match result must:

- (a) Not sign the official scoresheet and notify the Court Supervisor of the intention to protest;
- (b) Lodge the protest in writing with the VNL Competition Manager c/- Netball Victoria within 48 hours of the match being played.

3.7.2 A Licensee wishing to appeal a decision of Netball Victoria regarding a protest:

- (a) Must lodge the appeal using the official Netball Victoria Appeal Form (on request) with the VNL Competition Manager c/- Netball Victoria within 48 hours of notification of the decision;
- (b) Submit a cheque made out to Netball Victoria for \$200. This money will be refunded if the appeal is successful;
- (c) Supporting evidence may be considered by NV. This could include video evidence (at the discretion of NV) if available. Video evidence will not be used to verify the result of a match;
- (d) Appeal will be heard in accordance with the NV's Competition Regulations available on the VNL website (as varied from time to time) Appeals process.

### **3.8 DISCIPLINARY & GRIEVANCE DISPUTES**

3.8.1 Where a matter is not dealt with in accordance with the "Official Rules of Netball" revised 2016, it may be dealt with as a disciplinary matter in accordance with the Netball Victoria Participation Agreement and subject to the Netball Victoria Competition Regulations and/or the National Member Protection Policy

(See Appendix 1 for the link to Netball Victoria's Competition Regulations and National Member Protection Policy).

### **3.9 ANTI- DOPING POLICY**

3.9.1 Licensees and players must comply with the Netball Australia Anti-Doping Policy, revised December 2015 as amended from time to time which is available from Netball Victoria upon request.

### **3.10 UNIFORM/EQUIPMENT**

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

- (a) Regulation playing initials are reserved for the Competition sponsor,
- (b) All Licensees will be required to have clash bibs in predetermined matches by the VNL Competition Manager when the uniform is of similar colour. The away team will be required to wear the clash bibs.

3.10.1 Licensees must apply to Netball Victoria for ratification of any changes to uniform prior to ordering the uniform.

3.10.2 New Licensees entering the Competition must apply to Netball Victoria for ratification of design and colours prior to ordering new uniforms.

### **3.11 AWARDS**

3.11.1 The umpires will award "Most Valuable Player" votes as 3, 2 and 1 for every match in the VNL.

3.11.2 "Hot Shot Awards" will be presented to the goaler who has scored the highest number of goals in each division at the completion of the home and away season.

3.11.3 The votes and awards will be tallied at the end of the home and away season and will not include finals matches.

3.11.4 Team of the Year for each division will be decided by Head Coaches selecting 4 defenders, 4 midcourt and 4 goalers. Coaches may not select players from own team/club.

3.11.5 The Umpires will vote for the "VNL Umpire's Umpire Award" by casting a 3, 2 and 1 vote (for three umpires) at the end of the home and away season.

3.11.6 The VNL Umpire High Performance Coaching Panel will award the "Umpire of the Year" award at the

end of the home and away season.

3.11.7 Other awards may be implemented as determined by Netball Victoria or the VNL Competition Manager.

### **3.12 PLAYER RECRUITMENT WINDOW**

3.12.1 The purpose of the Player Recruitment Window is to regulate the movement of players between Licensees.

3.12.2 The Player Recruitment Window is a period of time in which Licensees are permitted to approach potential new recruits.

3.12.3 During the Player Recruitment Window, 19/U division players can only be signed once all 19/U division trials have occurred.

3.12.4 All Licensees must comply with the Player Recruitment Window.

3.12.5 The Player Recruitment Window will open after the re-signing period, with specific dates provided to Licensees by the VNL Competition Manager.

3.12.6 Licensees are not permitted to approach, directly or via proxy, players from another Licensee until the Player Recruitment Window is open specified in clause 3.12.5.

## **4. AUSTRALIAN NETBALL LEAGUE (ANL)**

4.1.1 An ANL player is any player who has been selected as part of the Victorian Fury or Tasmanian Magpies netball teams.

4.1.2 The VNL Competition Manager will be responsible for notifying VNL Licensees which players are ANL players in 2018. Amendments will be provided throughout the season as applicable.

4.1.3 ANL Players **must** play at least one third (1/3) of the VNL season, that they are available for as per their ANL Head Coach, to be eligible to compete in a finals series. A minimum of eight (8) quarters throughout the preliminary rounds must be played. For example, a player is available for eight (8) matches, therefore must play at least ten (10) quarters.

4.1.4 Licensees with ANL player(s), as stipulated by the VNL Competition Manager, will be exempt from rule 2.3.5, for that number of players. For example, a Licensee with two (2) ANL players will be able to use two (2) Division 1 players for more than 24 quarters in Championship Division and still be eligible to return to Division 1. And subsequently two (2) 19 & Under players will be able to play more than 24 quarters in Division 1 and still be eligible to return to the 19 & Under Division.

Note: a player may only play one division per round.

This does not limit clubs from rotating players into the higher divisions for experience, just the number of players going over 24 quarters.

## **5. NATIONAL NETBALL LEAGUE (NNL)**

5.1.1 A NNL player is any player who has signed a Standard or Temporary replacement player NNL Player contract.

5.1.2 The VNL Competition Manager will be responsible for notifying VNL Licensees which players are NNL players (See attachment 1 for NNL & VNL Player Policy).

5.1.3 VNL Licensees may have an unlimited number of NNL players assigned to their club as per the NNL & VNL Alignment Guidelines.

5.1.4 The NNL players are categorised as follows;

- (a) NNL Category 1 is an NNL player who has played 16 quarters or more in the current NNL Competition or the NNL competition in the previous year.;
- (b) NNL Category 2 is an NNL player who has played less than 16 quarters in the current NNL Competition or the NNL competition in the previous year;
- (c) Players are only categorised if they take the court.

5.1.5 Championship Division Licensees will be permitted to play the following combinations of NNL players in any one game (on the court at the same time);

- (a) One (1) NNL Category 1 player; or
- (b) A maximum of Two (2) NNL Category 2 players; or
- (c) One (1) NNL Category 1 player and one (1) NNL Category 2 player.

5.1.6 NNL players are eligible to play in Championship Division only.

5.1.7 NNL players who have played 36 quarters or more at the NNL are not permitted to play VNL in the current year.

5.1.8 NNL players must play at least 24 quarters in VNL to qualify for finals. Clubs may only qualify a maximum of two (2) NNL players.

5.1.9 Licensees must notify the VNL Competition Manager by 12 noon Wednesday or 12 noon Friday for scheduled weekend matches if an NNL player is playing in a Championship match.

## 6. PENALTIES

6.1.1 Any breach of these Competition Regulations may result in any one or more of the following penalties being imposed on a License by NV in its absolute discretion:

- (a) A fine;
- (b) Loss of premiership points;
- (c) Exclusion from the current Competition and future Competitions;
- (d) Any other penalty considered appropriate by Netball Victoria

6.1.2 Repeat instances shall be considered by Netball Victoria in its absolute discretion and may result in immediate exclusion from the current Competition and future Competitions.

6.1.3 Penalties will be determined and reviewed by Netball Victoria.

**Appendix 1 – Netball Victoria Competition Regulations & Member Protection Policy**  
Available at [www.netballvic.com.au](http://www.netballvic.com.au)

## **NATIONAL NETBALL LEAGUE PLAYERS & VICTORIAN NETBALL LEAGUE CLUBS ALIGNMENT GUIDLINES**

### ***Purpose***

The purpose of these guidelines is to outline the procedure in place for National Netball League (SSN) players to be selected into a Victorian Netball League (VNL) club.

### ***Scope***

This policy applies to all athletes that have signed a standard playing NNL player contract for the current year and all clubs contracted to the VNL.

The Policy will be guided by the following principles:

- A) To promote and alignment between the VNL, ANL and NNL (SSN) Competitions.
- B) Ensure athlete wellbeing and performance is considered at all times.
- C) Provide an opportunity for all clubs to have alignment to NNL (SSN) Athletes, with an even distribution when and where possible in the best interests of the competitions objectives.
- D) Ensure that within clause 5.1.5 of the Competition Regulations that court time can logically be facilitated if and when required by the NNL (SSN) team.

### ***Overview***

The focus of VNL Clubs is to produce athletes to a standard where they are selected in the Australian Netball League (ANL) competition and the SSN.

Athletes who have been with their current (2017) VNL club for three (3) or more years have the ability to nominate to stay with that VNL club for the upcoming season (2018).

If the athlete opts not to stay with that club, they will then be added to the 'athlete pool'.

VNL clubs may fill out an Athlete Request Form and provide information as to how that athlete listed in the 'athlete pool' would benefit their club or the club can provide benefit to that athlete.

Athletes in the "athlete pool" will have an opportunity to nominate a VNL club if they so desire. The athlete's request will be considered in consultation with both clubs High Performance Manager (or equivalent position). The VNL Competitions Managers decision will be final.

Please note, that all clubs may not be allocated an NNL (SSN) player for the season. Those clubs that are not allocated an athlete will still be given the opportunity to have a one (1) hour appearance from Melbourne Vixens athlete.

### ***Process***

Step 1.	NNL Athletes notified of the policy & time spent at VNL clubs.
Step 2.	VNL clubs notified of which athletes have spent 3 or more years at their club
Step 3.	VNL clubs given the opportunity to fill out request forms
Step 4.	Each NNL club to liaise with athletes with each clubs High Performance Manager (or equivalent) to provide athlete VNL Club Request to the VNL Competitions Manager. Competitions Manager to review, Liaise and allocate athletes.
Step 5.	VNL Competition Manager to provide allocations to each club for final review and discuss as required.
Step 6.	VNL Clubs and Athletes notified of final Alignments.