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1. ADMINISTRATION

1.1 VISION

The Netball WA Metro League is an underpinning competition structure to the WA Netball League, providing opportunities for players, coaches, umpires and officials a competition avenue preparing athletes for the WA Netball League and 17U & 19U state teams.

1.2 OBJECTIVE

- To produce WA Netball League players;
- To ensure the continued development of all participants by providing the highest standard of playing, coaching, umpiring and officiating;
- Profile netball in Western Australia;

Netball WA shall operate the Netball WA Metro League (“the Competition”), comprising of the following divisions – Open, 18U, 16U and 14U.

1.3 ADMINISTRATION

- a) Subject to these competition rules, the Netball WA Constitution and any other document, the NWA Sport Development Coordinator – Competitions 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 NWA Constitution or any other document, the NWA Sport Development Coordinator – Competitions may make any determination after consultation with the General Manager – Community Netball and/or with the NWA 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 NWA Sport Development Coordinator – Competitions may be excluded from the Competition for such a time as the NWA Sport Development Coordinator – Competitions, in consultation with the NWA Chief Executive Officer and/or with the NWA Board, shall determine;
- c) All relevant correspondence shall be addressed to and received at the Netball WA office by either post, hand delivery, email or facsimile marked attention to the NWA Sport Development Coordinator – Competitions;

- d) All outward correspondence shall be dispatched from the Netball WA 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;

1.4 COMPETITION RULES

- 1.4.1 Netball WA reserves the right at any time to change or update the Competition Rules in order to manage specific unplanned situations not otherwise captured in the Competition Rules, or other documents as required.
- 1.4.2 The International Netball Federation Rules (as amended from time to time) are the official playing rules of the competition, unless otherwise stated in this document.

International Rules of Netball 2018.

<http://netball.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/INF-Rules-of-Netball-2018-Edition-text.pdf>

1.5 UNIFORMS

- 1.5.1 Teams in all Divisions shall wear the same Association uniform with colours being that of the Association or as determined otherwise.
- 1.5.2 In the event of a clash of colours, the second-mentioned team shall change their bibs to an alternative colour. Each team **must** have a secondary colour bib and must nominate this colour of bib at the beginning of each season.

1.6 VENUES

- 1.6.1 Matches may be fixtured on Friday nights or Saturday afternoons depending on venue availability.
- 1.6.2 All matches will be played at the State Netball Centre and Perth Netball Association.
- 1.6.3 The allocated umpires for each match shall have the power to decide as to the standard of the court, in conjunction with the Match Delegate.

1.7 TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION & GROUND TRANSPORT

- 1.7.1 Travel to and from competition venues is the responsibility of the competing Association teams.

1.8 MEDICAL

- 1.8.1 All athletes and officials who participate in the 2019 Netball WA Metro League must be affiliated with Netball WA and are therefore covered under the National Risk Protection Program. All Netball WA affiliation fees are inclusive of the insurance premium. For more information on the National Risk Protection Program, click on the link <http://wa.netball.com.au/member-services/insurance-2/>
- 1.8.2 It is the Association Teams' responsibility to ensure athletes have gained clearance to play from the appropriate medical practitioner whose primary employment role is to diagnose the relevant injury/illness sustained by the athlete. Netball WA will from time to time request a copy of a player's clearance from major injury, but not limited to, for its records.
- 1.8.3 A First-aid officer will be in attendance at all Metro League rounds, supplied by Netball WA.

1.9 SPONSORSHIP

- 1.9.1 For all regulations concerning sponsorship, please contact Lacie Riseborough, Head of Partnerships & Philanthropy lacie.riseborough@netballwa.com.au

2. COMPETITION

2.1 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 2.1.1 The commencement dates for the Competition shall be advised to Associations by NWA via email and the NWA website.
- 2.1.2 Competition Matches are to be played as advised by Netball WA.
- 2.1.3 The fixture for all Division of the Competition will be posted on the Netball WA website at least 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the Competition, where possible.
- 2.1.4 The competition consists of Association Teams. There will be a maximum of eight (8) Teams per Division.
- 2.1.5 The competition will consist of seven (7) Minor Rounds followed by a two-week final series for each Division.
- 2.1.6 The Netball WA Sport Development Coordinator – Competitions will make the final decision as to the draw and the scheduling of Matches.

2.2 MATCH DURATION AND MATCH FORMAT

- 2.2.1 A match shall be played for a period of sixty (60) minutes divided into four (4) quarters, each of fifteen (15) minutes duration. The fifteen (15) minute duration for each quarter will be actual playing time and will not include stoppages in play.
- 2.2.2 An interval shall be taken between each quarter as follows:
- A maximum period of three (3) minutes between the end of the first quarter and the beginning of the second quarter;
 - A maximum period of five (5) minutes between the end of the second quarter and the beginning of the third quarter; and
 - A maximum period of three (3) minutes between the end of the third quarter and the beginning of the fourth.
- 2.2.3 Only the officiating Umpires may stop a Match (temporarily or indefinitely) due to an extraordinary circumstance that may be deemed an emergency. This may include but is not limited to equipment damage or failure, a seriously injured Player or any other reason deemed necessary by the officiating Umpires.
- 2.2.4 The officiating Umpires will determine if a match may continue to proceed or if that Match must be delayed, postponed or abandoned.
- 2.2.5 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 Netball WA Game Development Coordinator – Competitions shall direct accordingly.
- 2.2.6 A team may claim a forfeit five minutes after the 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.
- 2.2.7 Players must play in the identical playing uniform except where prior approval has been given by Netball WA.
- 2.2.8 Each team is to have available two sets of bibs, of different colours. In the event of a clash of colours, the second-mentioned team shall change their bibs to an alternative colour. Each team **must** have a secondary colour bib and must nominate this colour of bib at the beginning of each season.

2.3 COMPETITION POINTS

2.3.1 The official score sheet is the only true record of a match.

2.3.2 In the Minor Round Matches for all divisions, points will be allocated accordingly:

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

2.3.3 In the event that due to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances a match cannot be rescheduled (refer 5.8) for completion the following shall apply:

a) A drawn result will be declared if the game was stopped prior to or during half time and each team awarded one match point;

b) If the game has entered the third quarter a win and two (2) points will be awarded to the team with the highest score at the time in which the match was stopped;

c) In the event that the score is tied and the match has entered the third quarter, a drawn result will be declared and each team awarded one (1) match point, with score at that time recorded;

2.3.4 At the conclusion of the Minor Round Matches, Association Teams will be ranked according to:

a) Points awarded for a win, loss or draw etc. as outlined in 2.3.2

b) In the event of Association Teams having the same level of points at the end of the Minor Round Matches, the respective placing shall be determined by ranking the Association Teams according to the percentage achieved by each Association Team during the Minor Round Matches.

c) The percentage for each team shall be decided as follows:

a. Total number of goals scored by the team divided by the total number of goals scored against the Team, multiplied by 100.

d) If, after applying 2.4.1 and 2.4.2, two or more teams remain tied, the team having scored the greatest total number of goals across all matches in the preliminary rounds shall be awarded the higher placing.

2.5 FINALS SERIES

- 2.5.1 To be eligible to take part in the finals, players must have played in at least 4 Minor Round Matches, in the team they are registered with.
- 2.5.2 If there is a draw in any Finals match, a four-minute interval shall be taken.
- a) During the interval, the score will be verified and the Teams change ends. During the interval, there may be substitutions and/or Team changes.
 - b) The Umpire will indicate which Team has the next centre pass and play will commence. Then two seven-minute halves will be played to determine a winner. After the first seven minutes, there will be a one-minute interval and the teams will change ends. Substitutions and positional changes are allowed during the changeover.
 - c) If still a draw at the end of the second seven minutes, a visual signal will indicate that play continues and the first Team to score a two-goal advantage shall be declared the winner.
 - d) During extra time, normal injury or illness procedures shall apply, in accordance with INF rules.
- 2.5.3 A trophy shall be presented to the winning team in each division. Winning players and team officials shall be presented with medallions.

2.6 COMPETITION RESULTS

- 2.6.1 Each team shall provide a scorer and timer.
- 2.6.2 The first mentioned team shall provide the score card and a scorer for each game.
- 2.6.3 The second-mentioned team shall provide the timekeeper and timer (suitable timers must be used - not watches or phones).
- 2.6.4 **These two officials must stand together** (opposite the centre circle on the side line) throughout the match and compare scores and time to avoid any discrepancies. Second mentioned team is required to provide a backup when the timekeeper has to follow the umpire to avoid any discrepancies during this time frame. Should there be any issues, please advise the umpire immediately.
- 2.6.5 For records and insurance purposes, the names of participating players must be recorded on each scorecard prior to the commencement of the game. Penalty for adding a name after the commencement of the game shall be forfeiture of the game.
- 2.6.6 Scorecards must be filled out correctly and included the player's positions during each quarter of the match.

2.6.7 The home Association team is to hand the scoresheet to the NWA official. Scores will be entered in to MyNetball by Netball WA.

2.6.8 No disputes will be entered into regarding scoresheets.

3. ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION

3.1 APPLICATION

3.1.1 Only affiliated Member Associations are eligible to enter the Netball WA Metro League.

3.1.2 Any Netball WA Member Association can be admitted to enter the Competition subject to the approval of Netball WA.

3.1.3 Entry fees for the Competition for the ensuing year will be notified to Member Associations by Netball WA before 30 November 2018.

3.1.4 All entries for the Competition for the ensuing year must be lodged in accordance with procedures as determined by NWA and must be accompanied with supporting documentation where required and as requested by Netball WA from time to time. All Team entries must be received by Netball WA by the published time and date for close of entries.

3.1.5 Where an entry is not received by Netball WA 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 WA in accordance with the late closing date.

3.1.6 If a Member 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 a Member 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.

3.2 PLAYER REGISTRATION

3.2.1 All Players entered into the Competition must show as a financial registered member of Netball WA prior to the commencement of the Competition, or their participation of the Competition.

3.2.2 Associations shall register squads in accordance with procedures as determined by Netball WA with a minimum of ten (10) Players' names.

3.2.3 Players may only participate for the Member Association that they are registered to for the 2018 season (Winter or Spring competitions). Single game vouchers do not qualify for Metro League.

3.2.4 Players born in the years listed below must play in the following age groups;

AGE GROUP	PLAYER BORN IN YEAR
14 & Under	2005 & 2006
16 & Under	2003 & 2004
18 & Under	2001 & 2002
Open	2000 or years prior

3.3 PLAYING RESTRICTIONS

3.3.1 For the purposes of determining if a player has played in a quarter, this occurs once a player has taken the court, irrespective of the amount of time the player remains on the court during that quarter.

3.3.2 A player may not play for another team other than the team they are listed for.

3.3.3 For the 16U and 14U divisions, all players must take to the court for a minimum of a full quarter each game.

3.4 WEST COAST FEVER, WESTERN STING & WANL PLAYERS

3.4.1 West Coast Fever players will not be eligible to participate in the Metro League.

3.4.2 Western Sting players will not be eligible to participate in the Metro League.

3.4.3 WANL permanently listed players will not be eligible to participate in the Metro League. Should a player selected in Metro League, be then selected into a WANL squad, the Association will then be required to replace that player in their squad.

3.4.4 WANL training partners may play Metro League, however should they be placed in to a WANL squad they will then be required to withdraw form Metro League.

3.5 INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

3.5.1 A player will be deemed ineligible if:

- a) Not recorded on the team list prior to the commencement of the match.
[Penalty: Loss of two competition points to the offending team – goals for and against shall remain as scored for both teams].

b) A player may not participate in two games occurring at the same time. If a player is named on two team sheets for matches being played at the same time, both offending teams shall be penalised.

[Penalty: Loss of two competition points to both offending teams – goals for and against shall remain as scored for both matches]

c) The player has not been listed on the team list for any division and not participated in the minimum number of games as listed in 2.5.1.1 during the preliminary matches to qualify for finals.

[Penalty: Forfeiture of game. The forfeiting team may also be subject to a financial penalty, at the discretion of Netball WA]

d) The player is not affiliated or registered with the Member Association prior to being listed on the team list.

[Penalty: Loss of two competition points to the offending team – the goals for and against shall remain as scored for both teams]

3.5.2 The eligibility of any given player on any given occasion will be determined on the facts as they are outlined in this document and the evidence available. No exceptions will be made on any other grounds.

3.5.3 The Netball WA Sport Development Coordinator - Competitions shall maintain all records relating to the above.

4. MATCH OFFICIALS

4.1 COMPETITION REFEREE

4.1.1 The Competition Referee will be appointed by Netball WA prior to the commencement of the competition. Contact details will be published on the Netball WA website.

4.1.2 The Competition Referee will be the reference point for any issues or disputes that arise in respect of the Operations Manual or during an event, outside of the official rules, and in respect of which a prompt decision must be made.

4.1.3 The Operations Manual will be the first reference point where any dispute occurs.

4.1.4 The Competition Referee has the power to appoint or remove officials. (In the case of umpires, the Competition Referee will consult with the umpire's designated representative before formalising a decision).

- 4.1.5 The Competition Referee has the power to assign courts, start matches and excuse a team from playing for a definite period.
- 4.1.6 The Competition Referee can default a team that has not been excused from playing and is not ready to play when called upon to do so.
- 4.1.7 The Competition Referee may prevent a team playing a match where an ineligible player is listed on the team list.
- 4.1.8 The Competition Referee may, at any time, postpone play on account of the condition of the court or surrounds, or if a team, player or other person does not abide by the rules outlined in this document.
- 4.1.9 The Competition Referee may declare a forfeit by a team should it breach the rules outlined in this document and award competition points to the other team whatever the result of the match.
- 4.1.10 The Competition Referee may hear protests by either of the participating teams in a match and award competition points to one of the teams, irrespective of the result of the match.
- 4.1.11 The Competition Referee will not make decisions on the playing rules applied by the umpires.
- 4.1.12 There is no appeal against the Competition Referee's decision.

4.2 UMPIRES

- 4.2.1 Umpires shall be provided by each Association and must hold a minimum National C Badge and working towards a National B for 14U and 16U Divisions and a National B Badge for Open and 18U Divisions. They must also be registered to their Member Association by the specified date.
- 4.2.2 Each Association shall send in the names of their umpires for approval prior to the start of the season.
- 4.2.3 It is the responsibility of each umpire to upskill in the Official Rules of Netball 2018.
- 4.2.4 The decisions of umpires shall be final and shall be given without appeal.
- 4.2.5 Team Captains have the right to approach an umpire during an interval or after the game for clarification of any rule. Coaches may approach the Match Delegate at the end of the game to organise a meeting between the coach and the umpires at the best available time.

4.2.6 Teams concerned with umpire allocations may approach Netball WA for clarification.

4.2.7 Associations are responsible for the payment of umpires.

4.3 SCORING & TIMING

4.3.1 Each team shall provide a scorer and timer.

4.3.2 The first mentioned team shall provide the scorer. Scorecards are to be collected by the designated scorer from the Competitions Office located in the State Netball Centre no later than 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the match.

4.3.3 The second-mentioned team shall provide the timekeeper and timer (suitable timers must be used - not watches, stopwatches or phones).

4.3.4 **These two officials must stand together** (opposite the centre circle on the side line) throughout the match and compare scores and time to avoid any discrepancies. Second mentioned team is required to provide a backup when the timekeeper has to follow the umpire to avoid any discrepancies during this time frame. Should there be any issues, please advise the umpire immediately.

4.3.5 For records and insurance purposes, the names of participating players must be recorded on each scorecard prior to the commencement of the corresponding game. Penalty for adding a name after the commencement of the game shall be forfeiture of the game.

4.3.6 Team Managers are to inform the Scorer of any substitutions made so the changes can be recorded on the scorecard.

5. MATCH RULES

5.1 POLICIES

All participants will be bound by all relevant Netball WA Policies, including but not limited to:

- Member Protection
- Health and Pregnancy
- Netball Australia Integrity Framework

For a full list and copy of all policies please visit the Netball WA website

<https://wa.netball.com.au/policies/>

5.2 CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

- 5.2.1 All participants in the Netball WA Metro League will abide by the Netball Australia Codes of Behaviour.

These may be located at https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/netball-wp-assets/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/06132615/National-Codes-of-Behaviour_May-2015.pdf

- 5.2.2 Each club is responsible for the conduct and actions of its members including, but not limited to, players, coaches, managers and officials.
- 5.2.3 The team coach shall be responsible for the actions of their players and other team personnel on the court and team bench, and the implementation of appropriate strategies to promote a professional approach.
- 5.2.4 The actions and behaviour of participants on the court and team bench shall reflect an appropriate professional attitude toward umpires, score bench officials, opposition officials and players and Netball WA staff and representatives.

5.3 MATCH BALLS

- 5.3.1 Teams are to provide their own netballs for match use.

5.4 MATCH FORFEITURE

- 5.4.1 In the event of a forfeit match, for any reason, that team must provide notice to the Netball WA Sport Development Coordinator - Competitions no later than 24 hours before the scheduled commencement time for the match concerned.
- 5.4.2 Any team forfeiting a match for any reason shall have two Competition points and fifteen goals deducted from the totals listed for that team in official records. Two points and fifteen goals shall be awarded to the opposing team. The forfeiting team may also be subject to a financial penalty, at the discretion of Netball WA.
- 5.4.3 A team shall forfeit a match in the following circumstances:
- If the team advises of its intention to forfeit, as outlined in 5.5.1 above;
 - If fewer than five players in either competing team are ready to commence play five minutes after the scheduled match commencement time, as outlined in 5.6;
 - If a player participating in the finals series has not played minimum of requirement (refer to 2.5.1) of games during the preliminary matches.

5.5 FAILURE TO TAKE THE COURT

- 5.5.1 No team may take the court with less than five players.
- 5.5.2 In the event that, at the time scheduled for the commencement of a match, fewer than five players are present for either or both of the competing teams, a maximum period of five minutes shall be allowed for at least five players of a team to arrive.
- 5.5.3 If, at the end of this time, there are fewer than five players present for one team, the offending team shall forfeit the match.
- 5.5.4 Should five players arrive within the allowance of ten minutes; a ten-minute warm-up period shall be granted to both teams.
- 5.5.5 The match shall then commence fifteen minutes later than the scheduled commencement time.
- 5.5.6 Should notification of a delay be advised, the match may continue on arrival of the delayed players, provided that a ten-minute warm-up can still be undertaken without delaying the commencement of the match more than thirty minutes beyond the originally scheduled commencement time.
- 5.5.7 Should this not be possible; the offending team shall forfeit the match.

5.6 UMPIRE UNAVAILABILITY

- 5.6.1 Should one or both umpires allocated to a match not be in attendance at the commencement time for a match, a maximum period of five minutes shall be allowed for the umpire or umpires to arrive.
- 5.6.2 If, at the end of this time, two allocated or alternative umpires are not present, the match shall be rescheduled.
- 5.6.3 Should both umpires arrive within the allowance of five minutes; a ten-minute warm-up period shall be granted to both teams.
- 5.6.4 The match shall then commence fifteen minutes later than the scheduled commencement time.
- 5.6.5 Should notification of a delay be advised, the match may continue on arrival of two allocated or alternative umpires, provided that a ten-minute warm-up can still be undertaken without delaying the commencement of the match more than thirty minutes beyond the originally scheduled commencement time.

5.6.6 Should this not be possible; the match shall be rescheduled.

5.7 VENUE DISRUPTION

5.7.1 Should, for any reason, a venue disruption or breakdown occur resulting in a scheduled match not commencing on time or being stopped, and where the match is unable to commence or continue within thirty minutes of the scheduled commencement time or stoppage, the match shall be rescheduled. Should this not be possible refer to 2.3.3

5.7.2 Should, for any reason, an evacuation of a venue be required, venue staff in consultation with the Netball WA Competition Referee - or representative will give direction. Evacuated teams shall be kept informed of any situation via the Team Manager and/or public-address announcements.

5.7.3 Management of any venue disruption, breakdown or evacuation shall be under the direction of the Netball WA Sport Development Coordinator - Competitions or appointed representative, in consultation with venue management.

6. MATCH DAY PROCEDURES

6.1 WARM UP AREA

6.1.1 Due to limited space, teams participating in matches will have 10 minutes warm up time on the court to which their match is allocated.

6.2 COURT ENTRY

6.2.1 Teams will be permitted entry to the playing court area when the previous match has concluded or as otherwise advised by the match delegate.

6.2.2 All courtesies will be afforded to any match still in progress when a team enters the playing area.

6.3 PLAYERS' BENCH

6.3.1 Team benches will be placed at either end of the sideline nearest to the score bench. Seating will be provided for 10 participating and three officials, who are the coach, assistant coach and manager – State Netball Centre only. Spectators are not to be near the team benches or the field of play.

6.3.2 The first-mentioned team in the fixtures shall be seated to the right of the centre circle, the second-mentioned team to the left of the centre circle.

6.3.3 All players and officials be dressed in the club uniform. Failure to do so may result in being asked to leave the bench. Players must be dressed ready to take to the court.

6.4 TEAM LISTS & SCORE SHEETS

6.4.1 Associations are to select their team on MyNetball by no later than 12pm on the day of the game.

6.4.2 Designated scorers for each match are to go to the Competitions Office at the State Netball Centre no later than 15 minutes before the start of their match to collect the match scorecard.

6.4.3 The Team Manager will lodge a copy of the Team List, on the prescribed form, no later than 10 minutes (or time as advised) prior to the commencement of each match.

6.4.4 Team lists shall list up to 10 players and up to 3 officials participating in the match. Should any name changes need to be made to the scorecards, they must be performed by the scorer before the match commences.

6.4.5 Player additions after the commencement of the match are not permitted.

6.4.6 Prior to or during the match, any personnel or positional changes must be notified immediately to the Scorer. Notification to the opposing team or umpires is not required.

6.4.7 The home team is to return the completed scorecard to the Competitions Office located in the State Netball Centre immediately after the game.

7. AWARDS

7.1 NETBALL WA METRO LEAGUE AWARDS

7.1.1 Awards will be developed and implemented as deemed necessary. Please note that all Netball WA Awards including those relating to the Metro League will be reviewed during 2019 by the Netball WA Awards and Recognition Committee.

7.2 RECORDING

7.2.1 The Netball WA Sport Development Coordinator - Competitions shall maintain all records relating to the above awards.

