



MEMORANDUM

To: NQ Member Associations, Sapphire Series License Holders, Regional Presidents, All NQ Staff
Date: 24 October 2018
From: GM High Performance and Sport Entertainment **Pages:** 2
Re: 2019 NQ Competitions Update

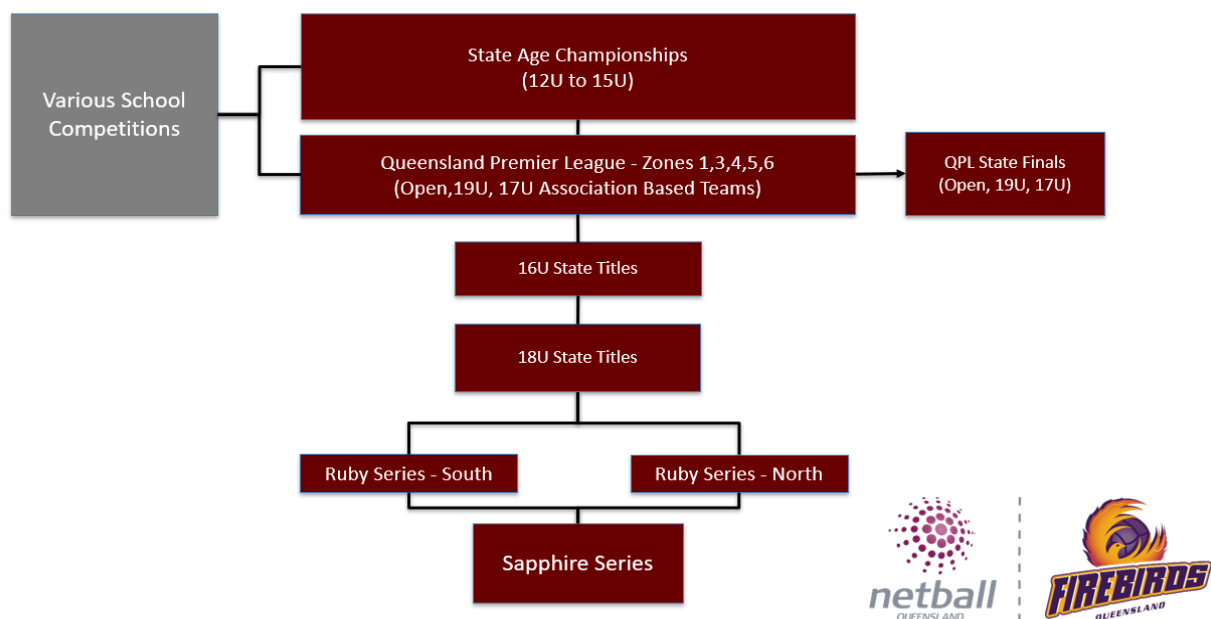
Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide a high-level summary of key dates, formats and refinements relating to the Netball Queensland competitions for 2019. Over the past 2 years Netball Queensland via its Competitions Implementation Working Group have sought to enhance the delivery of all NQ competitions to maximise the participant experience and to provide affordable, accessible netball to all Queenslanders in a financially sustainable way. This process is on-going and while there is a need to now consolidate, it is imperative that as a sport we continue to fine tune our offerings. This document does not include full details of each competition, these will be contained in the respective Competition Manuals, however any significant changes which will impact on your planning have been included.

1. Competition Framework Overview

The graphic below depicts the overall NQ Competition framework and how a player, coach or official can progress through to find the level appropriate to the ability, willingness and availability. Section 17 of this paper contains this same graphic customised to each region of Queensland, providing greater clarity for each Association.

NQ 2019 Competition Framework Summary



2. Sapphire Series (SS)

- Round 1: June 22 & 23 – Grand Final Weekend of Oct 19 & 20 (Dates are subject to SSN Draw to be released in December 2018)
 - Each week there will be at least two Sapphire Series and two Ruby Series games played at the Brisbane Arena and on other weekends there will be three of each. Games will be played on either Saturday afternoon/evening or Sunday lunchtime/ afternoon
 - Seven Teams – play each other twice before three games finals series
 - Games to be played at new Brisbane Arena on either Saturday evening or Sunday afternoon
 - Southern based Clubs will be able to play 2 games per year at home while Northern Rays will play half their games in North Queensland
 - All Clubs committed to spend 400 hours per year with Aligned Associations building connections with local junior players
 - All games live streamed
 - Competitions Rules to be released by end of October
 - Webpage: <https://sapphireseries.com.au/>
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3. Ruby Series – South (RS-S)

- Round 1: June 22 & 23 – Grand Final Weekend of Oct 19 & 20 (Dates are subject to SSN Draw to be released in December 2018)
 - Six teams aligned to southern based Sapphire Series teams plus Darling Downs Panthers to make a 7-team competition
 - Played alongside Sapphire Series matches at the Brisbane Arena or Club's home venue if Clubs are hosting
 - Seven Teams – play each other twice before three games finals series
 - There is no age restriction on Ruby Series Teams
 - Full competition rules to be available by December 2018
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4. Ruby Series – North (RS-N)

- A minimum of three rounds to be played across July, August and September on dates suitable to the three teams
 - Ownership of the licenses to remain with incumbent owners (Cairns Netball Association, Magnetic North and Whitsunday Regions respectively) therefore participating teams will be Marlin Coast Marlins, Magnetic North Steelcats and Whitsunday Sharks.
 - Proposed that teams will be play each other multiple times across the season with the exact format and number of rounds to be determined in conjunction with Clubs.
 - Currently proposed to be Open level teams, however scope exists to add an 18U Division to serve as player and coach development opportunity and selection platform for Northern Rays 18U team (see section 6 of this document). Given the capacity to reduce or eliminate flights this may be financially viable and will be discussed with Clubs.
 - All three teams will align to the Northern Rays Sapphire Series Club providing a clear player progression opportunity for North Queenslanders
 - QPL Zone 1 competition to be run through May and June as part of preparation and trials for the Ruby Series North competition. Venues, dates and times to be coordinated by the local organizing committee. See more details about QPL below.
 - No material changes in format from QNSL Div. 2 Country in 2018 except Claws and Thundercats have chosen not to participate in this competition.
 - Ruby Series - North Clubs will receive subsidy from Netball Queensland, commensurate with NQ investment in Ruby Series – South
 - Full competition rules to be available by December 2018
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5. Queensland Premier League (QPL)

| Zone | Dates | Format |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| North Queensland (Zone 1) | April to June | Cluster weekends |
| Central Coast (Zone 3) | April to August | Cluster Weekends |
| Darling Downs (Zone 4) | April to August | Cluster Weekends |
| SEQ (Zone 6) | April to September | Weekly |
| Stroud Homes Cup (Zone 5) | April to September | Weekly |

• Key Changes from 2018

- Change in age groups from 16U and 18U to 17U and 19U following request from Associations and survey which indicated overwhelming support for this change. The rationale for change is based on:
 - Increasing retention of 16 and 17-year old players through reducing risk of burnout of 15-year old players who play State Age and QPL in the same year.
 - Provides a two-year catchment window where QPL will be a priority event for players, to assist in retaining players through year 11 and 12 at school.
 - Equally the two-year window for 19U competition may assist in retaining player as they transition from school to University or work.
 - Provides an opportunity for 18 and 19-year old players to play Rep netball who are not quite up to Ruby Series or Sapphire Series level yet.
- Introduction of a 2-week gap in the season for the June/ July School holidays to provide opportunities for families to take holidays, injured players to freshen up and to reduce the burden on our match officials, coaches and parents who often are covering multiple events and competitions during the holiday period.
- All QPL competitions will be opened to University teams to increase the retention rate of school leavers in netball. While it is acknowledged there is a small risk that some Association players may have to choose between playing for their University or their Association, it is expected the benefit of attracting or retain more players in this age group will outweigh this disadvantage.
- QPL competitions with large numbers of participating teams will play Pool games before being allocated to Divisions for the balance of the season to ensure competitiveness of games across the season. The format will be like State Age, with teams seeded into pools based on previous year's performance and the allocated to a Division based on performance in Pool games.
- Teams from the Capricorn region have decided to play in the QPL Zone 3, rather than in the Ruby Series North in 2019. The long-term goal for both Claws and Thundercats is that as they become strong enough to enter the Ruby Series - South competition.

• QPL Divisions:

- 17U – Eligible players born 2002 and 2003 – special exemption possible for players born 2004 from small Associations who do not have enough players to form a team.
- 19U – Eligible players born 2001 and 2000 – special exemptions may apply as above
- Open – no restrictions
- Expressions of Interest will be called for Men's and for Master's (over 35's)

• Notes/Reminders

- Associations may enter multiple teams in the same Division to ensure opportunities for all players who wish to play.
- Associations may enter teams across different zones as per 2018 regulations
- Full competition manual to be circulated early in 2019
- NQ will have oversight role with Zone 1, 4 and 5
- NQ will continue to manage Zone 6 – SEQ

- NQ will manage Zone 3 in year 1 to establish this expanded competition
 - Webpage: <https://qld.netball.com.au/queensland-premier-league-2/>
 - **QPL State Finals**
 - Location: Brisbane Arena from Oct 5 to 7, 2019
 - Changes from 2018
 - Accommodation and flights for teams and umpires will be covered by NQ for teams that require accommodation. Brisbane based teams will not be accommodated.
 - NQ will not be covering ground transport costs in 2019 for any team.
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6. 18U State Titles (18UST)

- This competition will undergo changes in 2018 as suggested in previous forums.
 - This competition will expand from a two-team City and Country Series into a 7-team competition to provide more representative opportunities for players, coaches and officials.
 - Teams will be aligned with the SS Clubs to reinforce this connection
 - Available incumbent State team players will also play in this competition in 2019.
 - The event will be cost equalised and subsidised by Netball Queensland so cost neutral to SS Clubs.
 - NQ will work with SS Clubs to appoint team staff
 - Dates: Sept 29 to Oct 1, 2019
 - Location: Brisbane Arena in conjunction with 16U State Titles
 - Some games to be live streamed
 - Selection process to be confirmed in collaboration with Sapphire Series Clubs
 - Competition will form part of selection process for 2020 Qld 19U squad (see section 14)
 - Costs and details to be confirmed early in the new year.
 - Coach and Umpire Development opportunity
 - Webpage: <https://qld.netball.com.au/18u-city-country-series/>
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7. 16U State Titles (16UST)

- Dates: Sept 29 to Oct 1, 2019
 - No significant changes from 2018 – some teams will change names to reflect new Sapphire Series club names, others will retain their current names.
 - Some games to be live streamed
 - Teams selected through the Emerging Talent Program as per 2018
 - State Titles will form platform for selection of 2020 Qld 17U squad (see section 14)
 - Coach and Umpire Development opportunity
 - Costs and details to be confirmed early in the new year.
 - Webpage: <https://qld.netball.com.au/elite-development-program/queensland-16-u/>
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8. Vicki Wilson Cup (VWC)

- Round Games
 - Proposed
 - Sunshine Coast 6th June at Sunshine Coast Netball Association
 - Southern South Coast 17th July Hinterland Netball Association
 - Northern South Coast 17th July & 31st July Northern Gold Coast Netball Association
 - Met East 19th July Redlands Netball Association
 - Met West 22nd July Ipswich Netball Association
 - Met North 15th August Pine Rivers Netball Association
 - Wide Bay 1st Aug Gympie and Hervey Bay Netball Associations
 - Northern 25th July Townsville Netball Association
 - Darling Downs 18th August Toowoomba Netball Association
 - Confirmed
 - Capricornia 13th August Rockhampton & Mackay Netball Association
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- Peninsula 26th June Cairns Netball Association
 - Finals
 - Proposed Dates: September 14 & 15
 - Venue: Brisbane Arena (Proposed but not confirmed)
 - No significant changes for 2019
 - Webpage: <https://qld.netball.com.au/vicki-wilson-cup/>
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9. Primary Schools Cup (PSC)

- Dates: Proposed September 21 and 22, 2019
 - Venue: tbc – currently negotiating with local councils
 - Webpage: <https://qld.netball.com.au/primary-schools-cup/>
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10. State Age Championships (SAC)

- Dates: July 6 to 9, 2019
 - Venue: Pine Rivers Netball Association
 - Pine Rivers will also host in 2021 with dates to be confirmed.
 - No other significant changes from 2018 rules and regulations.
 - Boys competition will run again, possibly in 2 age divisions, so we would encourage Associations to seek to host boys' games in lead up carnivals as well.
 - Webpage: <https://qld.netball.com.au/state-events-2/state-age-championship/>
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11. Marie Little Shield (MLS)

- Dates: Oct 12 to 19, 2019
 - Venue: TBC
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12. Queensland Cup

- Due to low team nominations in 2017 and 2018 the Queensland Cup event will not run in 2019.

13. Proposed Association Alignment with Sapphire Series Clubs

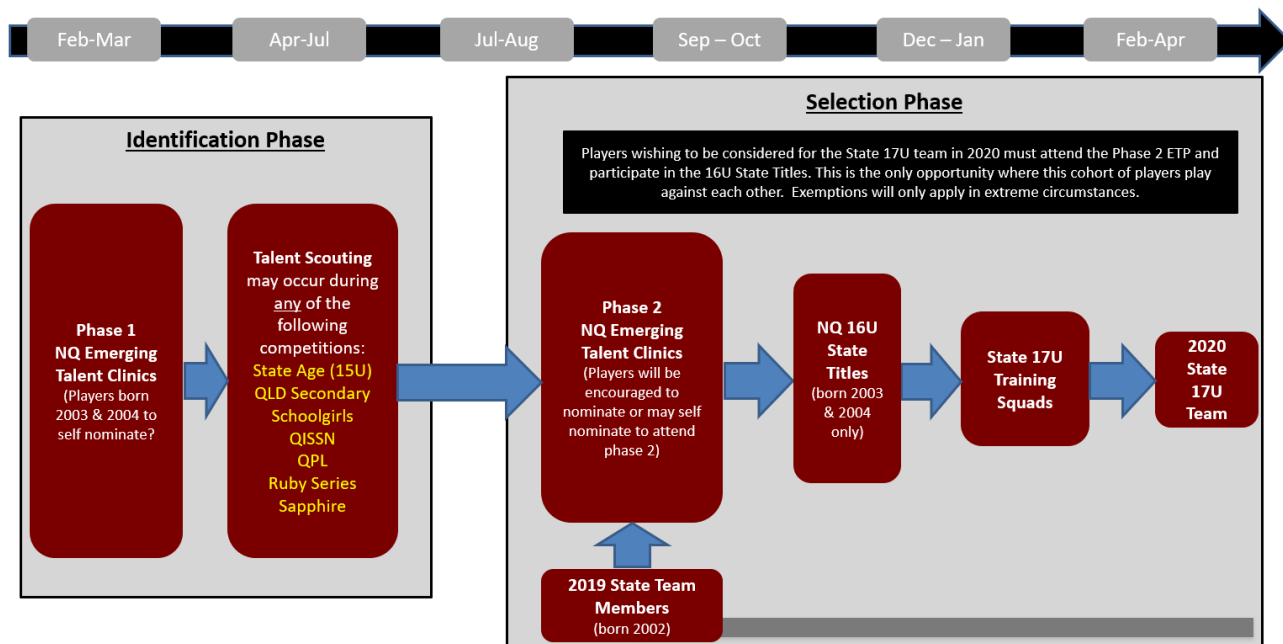
The table below outlines a geographic alignment of NQ member Associations with Sapphire Series Clubs. Associations may choose to align with a different Club if they wish through writing to Netball Queensland by November 30, 2018

| SAPPHIRE SERIES CLUB | RUBY SERIES CLUB | 18U STATE TITLES TEAM | 16U STATE TITLES TEAM | ALIGNED ASSOCIATIONS |
|------------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Northern Rays | Marlins Steelcats Sharks | Northern Rays | Marlins Steelcats Sharks | Bowen Netball Association Burdekin Netball Association Cairns Netball Association Charters Towers Netball Association Douglas Netball Association Inc. Evelyn Netball Association Herbert River Netball Association Hughenden Netball Association Innisfail Netball Association Mackay Netball Association Mareeba Netball Association Moranbah Netball Association Mount Isa Amateur Netball Association Sarina & District Netball Association Tableland Netball Association Townsville City Netball Association Tully Netball Association Whitsunday Netball Association |
| Thunder | Thunder Claws* Thundercats* <i>*Associations from these areas to play in extended QPL Zone 3 from 2019 with view to becoming involved in Ruby Series South upon demonstration of competitiveness in QPL Zone 3</i> | Thunder | Thunder Claws Thundercats | Barcaldine Netball Association Biloela Netball Association Blackwater Netball Association Bundaberg Netball Association Inc. Caboolture Netball Association Caloundra District Netball Association Capricorn Coast Netball Association Coolum District Netball Association Emerald Netball Association Inc Gayndah & District Netball Association Gladstone Netball Association Inc. Gympie & Districts Netball Association Hervey Bay Netball Association Inc. Longreach Netball Association Maleny Netball Association Inc Maryborough Netball Association Middlemount Community Sports Association Monto Netball Association Mundubbera Netball Association Nambour & Districts Netball Association Inc Nanango & District Netball Association Noosa District Netball Association Rockhampton Netball Association Sunshine Coast Netball Association |
| Brisbane North Cougars | Brisbane North Cougars | Brisbane North Cougars | Brisbane North Cougars | Brisbane Netball Association Downey Park Netball Association Pine Rivers Netball Association Queensland Catholic Netball Association Redcliffe Leagues Netball Association |

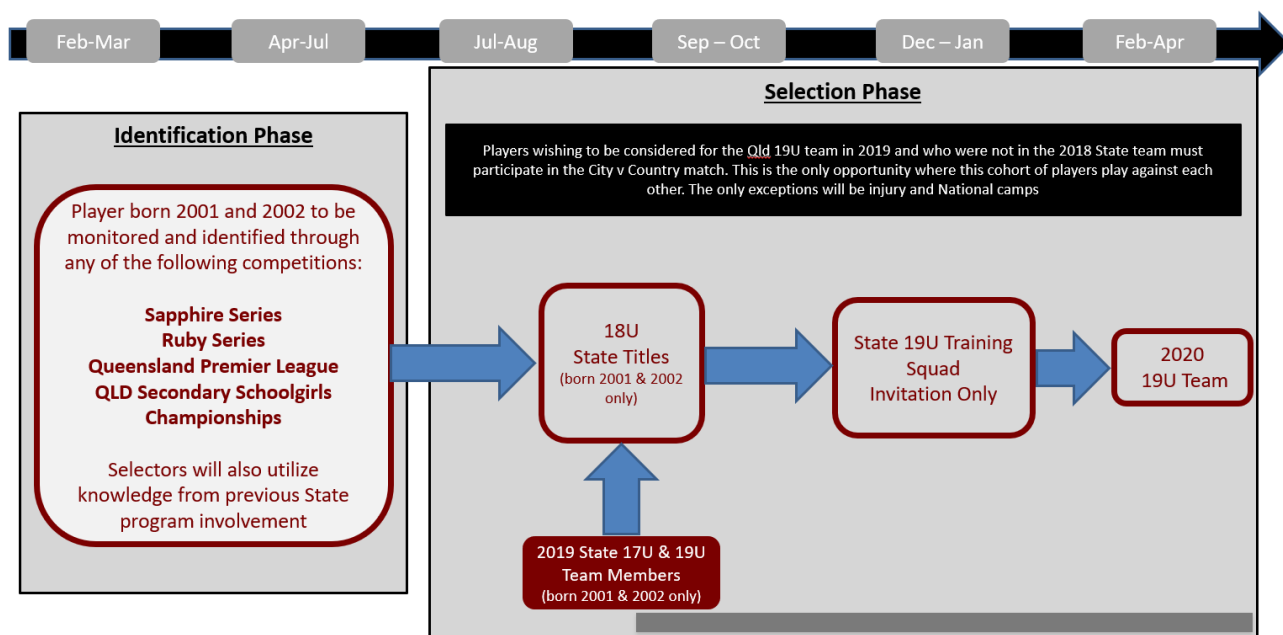
| SAPPHIRE SERIES CLUB | RUBY SERIES CLUB | 18U STATE TITLES TEAM | 16U STATE TITLES TEAM | ALIGNED ASSOCIATIONS |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Carina Leagues Club Tigers | Carina Leagues Club Tigers | Carina Leagues Club Tigers | Carina Leagues Club Tigers | Metropolitan Districts Netball Association Redlands Netball Association Inc |
| The Jets | The Jets Darling Downs Panthers | The Jets | The Jets Darling Downs Panthers | Chinchilla Netball Association Inc. Dalby Netball Association Fassifern Netball Association Goodna Netball Association Goondiwindi Netball Association Highfields Netball Association Ipswich Netball Association Kingaroy Netball Association Laidley & Districts Netball Association Lockyer Valley Netball Association Maranoa Netball Association Stanthorpe Netball Association Toowoomba Netball Association Warwick & District Netball Association Inc. Western Districts Netball Association |
| QUT Wildcats | QUT Wildcats | QUT Wildcats | QUT Wildcats | Beaudesert & District Netball Association Beenleigh Netball Association Jimboomba Netball Association Logan City Netball Association MacGregor Netball Association Inc Cornubia Park Netball Association Underwood Park Netball Association Inc |
| Bond University Bull Sharks | Bond University Bull Sharks | Bond University Bull Sharks | Bond University Bull Sharks | Hinterland District Netball Association Murwillumbah Netball Association Northern Gold Coast Netball Association South Coast Netball Association Southport Carrara Netball Association Tweed Netball Association Inc. |

14. 2020 State Team Selection Process

Appendix 2: 2019→20 State 17U Team Identification & Selection Process



Appendix 3: 2019→2020 State 19U Team Identification & Selection Process



- These can also be found on the NQ webpage at <https://qld.netball.com.au/netball-queensland-pathway/>

15. Attachment A: NQ Competitions Calendar

- 2019 Competition Calendar as at October 23, 2018. From time to time changes are required or additions are made to the Calendar so prior to any planning please refer to the online Competitions Calendar to ensure you are working with current information. For example, the SSN draw is due to be released in December 2018 and several events, hinge on this draw, including the ANL draw, the SS and RS-S draws as well as Coach Accreditation programs.
- The current competitions Calendar can also be found on the NQ webpage at XXXXXXXX

16. Attachment B: Player, Coach and Official Progression Framework (by region)

- This attachment allows members to identify how they can progress through the various competitions to reach their appropriate level.
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