



## **By-Laws of the Association**

Wyndham Netball Association Inc.

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These By-Laws are the operating procedures that govern the conduct and operation of netball competitions conducted by the Wyndham Netball Association.

Under rule 81 of the Association's Constitution the Board may from time to time make By-Laws for the conduct and operation of netball competitions and alter, amend or rescind the same as occasions may require, and enforce penalties for their breach.

Such By-Laws will have the same force and effect as the Association's Constitution, but shall not in any way oppose or be in conflict with the Association's Constitution.

Amendments, alterations, interpretation or other changes to By-Laws will be advised to members within 10 working days by means of notice approved by the Board. Notices will be binding upon all members.

Teams will be notified when the By-Laws are finalised, revised or replaced.

**WYNDHAM NETBALL ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED**

**BY-LAWS**

**APPROVED May 2021**



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# **BY-LAWS**

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Effective: May, 2021

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Amendments, alterations, interpretation or other changes to By-Laws shall be advised to members within 10 working days by means of notice approved by the Board. Notices shall be binding upon all members.

From time to time the Association may need to resolve an issue that is not contemplated or fully addressed through these By-Laws. Not all situations, circumstances and events can be foreseen at the time of drafting By-Laws. To resolve any such issues the Association will in the first instance draw upon the knowledge and experience of its Board members. Additional reasonably available resources may also be utilised, with particular reference to the resources, policies, model by-laws and guidelines produced by Netball Victoria.

## Definitions

**Affiliated Team (Team)** means a team which has submitted an application for team registration for the succeeding competition season and such application has been accepted by the Board. A netball club can make application to register one or more teams in a season and each team of that netball club where the application for team registration is accepted will be a Team.

**Board** means the Board having management of the business of the Association.

**Delegate** means an adult representative of an Affiliated Team or in their absence an adult nominee of that representative. The Delegate (or their nominee) is the only person who may represent the Affiliated Team at general meetings.

**Divisions** means the sections each Competition is divided into based on skill level and/or age

**General meeting** means a general meeting of the members of the Association convened in accordance with Part 4 of the Association's Constitution and includes an annual general meeting, a special general meeting and a disciplinary appeal meeting.

**Home and away season** means the competition prior to commencement of the final series.

**Junior Competition** means a netball competition conducted for participants from the ages of 6 and 18 inclusive. Six year old players must be turning seven during the current home and away season.

**Member** means an Affiliated Team, a Life Member, a Player Member or such other class of member that may be created from time to time through the Association's Constitution.

**Netball Victoria** means the Victorian Netball Association Incorporated.

**Open Age Ladies Competition** means a netball competition that is open only to women from the age of 14 and above.

**Open Age Mixed Competition** means a netball competition that includes the participation of males and females and is open to players from the age of 14 and above.

**Single Game Voucher** is a one-play voucher that can be purchased by players who have not paid VNA membership fees to play in the game with coverage equivalent to that provided by VNA fees.

**Schedule of Fines and Penalties** means a schedule produced by the Association that lists all fines and penalties that can be applied to a Team, Club or Player who has contravened the Association's Constitution, By-Laws, Rules or conditions of play.

**Unfinancial Player** means a Player who has not paid their VNA fees for the current playing season.

**Unregistered Player** means a Player who is not registered to play in that team or club or for the Association. This includes players who are unfinancial, have not correctly registered with a team or do not meet age restrictions.

**VNA fees** are membership fees paid by players in accordance with Netball Victoria's schedule of fees.

# **1. All Competitions**

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The following By-Laws apply to all netball competitions conducted by the Association unless otherwise specified.

## **1.1 Penalties**

- a) The Association will publish a Schedule of Penalties for each competition season
- b) These By-Laws will identify when a Penalty applies
- c) A Penalty can include a monetary fine imposed on a Team

## **1.2 Delegates**

- a) A minimum of two (2) General Meetings will be held annually
- b) The Board will determine a Penalty for non-attendance at a General Meetings.

## **1.3 Correspondence**

- a) All correspondence to the Board from Clubs or Teams must be in writing via email from the Club Secretary or Team Delegate.

## **1.4 Information to Teams**

The Association will make available to each Team:

- a) Association contact details
- b) Association venue address
- c) Association Constitution
- d) Association By-Laws
- e) Fixture information (subject to the Association's processes of confirming and finalising fixtures)
- f) Association calendar of Events, Closing Dates
- g) Details of forthcoming Special Events, Courses, Seminars etc
- h) A Schedule of Fines and Penalties

## **1.5 Reimbursement/Payments**

- a) The Board members shall be entitled to request reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred whilst acting in an official capacity. Receipts must be supplied when requesting reimbursement
- b) The Board members must gain prior approval from the Board for the expenses to be incurred
- c) Umpires will be paid per game. The amount of the per-game payment and the frequency of the payments will be determined by the Board prior to the commencement of each season

## **1.6 Team Registration**

- a) The Board will determine a Registration process for each forthcoming season
- b) Clubs wishing to enter Teams must:
  - (i) Complete and submit the Team Registration Form, including the initial Team List of players
  - (ii) Submit the Team Registration Payment if required

The Board will determine a penalty for a late team registration

- c) Teams failing to complete all registration requirements by the due date set by the Association are not assured of registration even if they have competed in previous seasons. The acceptance of late or incomplete registration requirements is at the Board's discretion
- d) Teams must list at least five (5) players on their Team Registration Form for the Team Registration to be accepted
- e) Additional players may be added to a Team List by adding players' details to the weekly score sheet
- f) The Board will determine a Penalty for playing an unregistered player.

## **1.7 Netball Victoria Membership and Single Game Vouchers**

- a) Netball Victoria membership fee is set annually by the Victorian Netball Association Inc.

- b) All players and umpires participating in an Association competition or program must be current Netball Victoria members
- c) No player will be permitted to take the court without Netball Victoria membership or a Single Game Voucher
- d) If Netball Victoria membership is not paid online then the player must provide proof of payment to the Association
- e) Single Game Vouchers may be used as follows:
  - (i) A player who does not have valid Netball Victoria membership must purchase a Single Game Voucher from the Association prior to taking the court for the Team
  - (ii) A Single Game Voucher may be used by the player for one game only and used on the day of purchase only
  - (iii) A player playing under a Single Game Voucher is required to abide by all relevant Rules and By-Laws of the Association
  - (iv) Games played under a Single Game Voucher will count towards qualifications for finals provided that the player purchases Netball Victoria membership before completion of the home and away season
  - (v) A player playing under a Single Game Voucher will not receive votes towards best and fairest or other awards of the Association
  - (vi) A player playing under a Single Game Voucher is to be clearly noted on the Scoresheet.
- f) The Board will determine a Penalty for playing an unregistered player, an Unfinancial Player or an incomplete scoresheet.

### **1.8 Competition Seasons and Divisions**

- a) The Association will offer multiple competition seasons in a calendar year
- b) The Association may offer Divisions of competition within each competition season
- c) In the Junior Competition, Divisions will be based on age level first and then skill level
- d) In the Open Age competition, Divisions will be based on skill level
- e) All Junior Competition Divisions will be offered in each season but will only be conducted if sufficient Teams are registered for the season to make the Division viable, as determined by the Board.

### **1.9 Grading**

- a) A Grading sub-committee will be appointed by the Board to evaluate and grade all Teams
- b) The Board will be the adjudicator of all grading decisions
- c) All Divisions will be assessed for regrading at the conclusion of the first three rounds of any season, and/or such other time that the Board deems appropriate
- d) If a Team is re-graded, premiership points and goals for and against will be transferred into the new Division

### **1.10 Uniform**

- a) Each Team must register its uniform with its application for team registration
- b) The Board may approve or reject all uniform colours and designs
- c) Teams must notify the Board in writing of any proposed changes to their approved uniform. The Board must approve all changes before the Team takes the court
- d) The Board may seek guidance from Netball Victoria in accepting or rejecting a proposed uniform from a Team
- e) Where the Board or umpires determine that a uniform clash exists in a fixtured game, the first named Team on the fixture will be required to wear a neutral and distinctive bib for that game. The Association will provide the bibs for such games
- f) Players will not be permitted to take to the court if they are not in full uniform, unless approval has been granted by the appointed competition supervisor prior to taking the court.



- (i) Team colours and registered uniforms must be consistent
- (ii) Style of uniform is up to the individual player (club dress/T-Shirt/shorts/leggings etc)
- g) All players are required to wear sport briefs or under shorts under the team uniform:
  - (i) Under shorts must be no longer than the player's uniform
  - (ii) Undershorts must be either black or the colour registered by the Team
- h) Players may wear full length leg coverings and full length arm coverings provided this clothing meets the following requirements:
  - (i) The coverings must be either black or the colour registered by the Team
  - (ii) The coverings must be of a single colour. There are to be no observable branding, logos or advertising printed upon them
  - (iii) The coverings must be worn underneath the regular uniform of the Team
  - (iv) The coverings cannot contain any zips, ties, trims or fastenings that protrude beyond the regular uniform of the team
  - (v) Thin strap singlet tops are not acceptable as a uniform and players wearing such tops will not be permitted to take the court
- i) Teams using velcro bibs must have them securely fastened to their uniforms. If a player's bib comes off with no interference from any other player, the player will be given a warning about being out of uniform. If a bib comes off a second time, from the same offending Team not necessarily the same player, the player will be required to step off the court until the bib is attached properly and will not return to court unless a goal is scored or an injury stoppage has occurred
- j) If team bibs continue to come off without interference from any other player, the umpire or competition manager may enforce that the Player is out of uniform and cannot return to play unless they provide alternative bibs. If the offending Player is the Centre then the Team must use alternative bibs and penalties may apply
- l) See also By-Law 4.3 for requirements for Mixed Competition

### **1.11 Clearances**

- a) In between Competition seasons any player may transfer between Teams free of a clearance
- b) Where a player is registered with more than one Team at the commencement of a Competition season, the registration will apply to the Team that the player first plays with in that Competition season
- c) During a Competition season no player may transfer between Teams other than where the Board approves a clearance application
- d) The Board will determine the form of any clearance application
- e) Where the two Teams involved in the clearance of a player agree on the clearance application the application must be signed off by the coach or other such person that the Teams have authorised for the signing of clearances. Irrespective of the Teams agreeing to the clearance, the clearance must be approved by the Board before the player can commence playing with the new Team
- f) Where the two Teams involved in the clearance of a player cannot agree on the clearance, the Board will rule on the clearance request at a properly convened meeting of the Board
- g) The Board's decision on clearances during a Competition season will be communicated to old and new Teams
- h) A player that plays for a Team without approval from the Board will be deemed to be an unregistered player for that Team
- i) The Board will determine a Penalty for playing an unregistered player.

### **1.12 Conduct of Games**

- a) The Association adheres by the rules as stated in Netball Australia's Official Rule Book, as well as Netball Victoria's regulations, except:
  - (i) Timing (if games are less than one hour) then:
    - a. 4 x 10 minute quarters

- b. Change ends for the start of each new quarter
  - c.  $\frac{1}{4}$  time and  $\frac{3}{4}$  time, a changeover time of one (1) minute is allowed
  - d.  $\frac{1}{2}$  time provides a two (2) minute break
  - e. No injury time except in finals
  - f. A game may be stopped without stopping the time clock (except during finals) by the umpires in extenuating circumstances to ensure player welfare and a safe playing area are maintained
- b) A Team must take the court with a minimum of five (5) players, with a minimum of four (4) players being their own registered players. Refer to By-Law 1.14 for rules on borrowing players
  - c) In the event that a Team does not commence the game with a minimum of five (5) players within 5 minutes of the fixtured start time of the game, the game will be awarded as a forfeit to the non-offending Team. Refer to By-Law 1.15 for rules on forfeits
  - d) During the Grading Period:
    - (i) No points will be awarded for results of a win, loss or draw to any team.
    - (ii) No goals scored for or against will be recorded to calculate a percentage for a team.
    - (iii) Penalties for playing an Unregistered player will be applied. The offending team will carry a 4 point penalty into the Competition period. No points are awarded to the non-offending team.
    - (iv) Games played by registered players during the Grading Period will be counted towards finals qualification.
    - (v) Best and Fairest player votes will not be awarded
  - e) During the Competition Period:
    - (i) Four (4) points will be awarded to the winning Team of a game
    - (ii) Two (2) points will be awarded to each Team in the event of a draw at the completion of normal time in a home and away season
    - (iii) No points are awarded to the Team losing the game
    - (iv) Goals scored for and against will be recorded for every team to calculate the percentage for each team. Refer to By-Law 1.21 b)
    - (v) Games played by registered players will count towards finals qualification. Refer to By-Law 1.21 e) – 1.21 i)
    - (vi) Best and Fairest player votes will be awarded. Refer to By-Law 1.18
  - f) Extra time is not played in home and away season games. Refer to By-Law 1.21 for the requirements on extra time in drawn finals
  - g) The Association may shorten the time of play and/or lengthen the time of breaks between quarters when games are played in extreme weather conditions
  - h) Fixtures will be arranged for all competitions indicating courts and times.

### **1.13 Scoring**

- a) Each Team must provide a scorer for their game. A game cannot commence or proceed unless two (2) scorers are in attendance: one from each Team
- b) The scorers must sit together for the duration of the game. Where a score bench is provided the scorers must sit at the score bench
- c) Teams that fail to provide a scorer within five (5) minutes of the game's commencement will be forced to forfeit the game
- d) Scorers must be aged 13 or over
- e) The Association will provide the Official Scoresheet for the game as follows:
  - (i) The Scoresheet cannot be collected before both Teams have paid their game fee for that game
  - (ii) The Team that pays their game fee last is responsible for collection of the Scoresheet

- (iii) Where both Teams have prepaid their game fees, the first Team on the Scoresheet is responsible for collection of the scoresheet
- (iv) A representative of the Team is to list all registered Players, new Players, Borrowed Players and Single Game Voucher Players on the Scoresheet
- f) One official Scoresheet will be used for each game. This Scoresheet will list the complete names (both given and surname/family name) of all players intending to take the court, prior to the commencement of play
- g) The Scoresheet will clearly indicate the positions played each quarter for each player
- h) The Scoresheet will clearly indicate any Borrowed Player or Single Game Voucher Player
- i) The Scoresheet will clearly indicate the quarter by quarter and total score for each Team for the game.
- j) A new player must complete their registration details at the bottom of the Scoresheet prior to the taking the court
- k) The official score will be the total amount of strokes recorded for each goal for each team
- l) If one or both scorers, umpires or captains dispute the accuracy of the Scoresheet, they may, prior to signing the Scoresheet, refuse to sign the Scoresheet and lodge a dispute with the Association in accordance with the timeframes outlined in By-Law 1.17. Until the dispute is resolved, the outcome on the Scoresheet is deemed to be accurate
- m) In the event that a Scoresheet is not signed by all parties and/or a dispute is not received within the required timeframe (see By-Law 1.17), the scores on the Scoresheet are deemed to be accurate
- n) At the conclusion to the game, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the Scoresheet is correct, the Scoresheet is to be signed by:
  - (i) The captains of both competing Teams; and
  - (ii) The officiating umpires; and (iii) The scorers
- o) The umpires will return the Scoresheet to the Association
- p) The Board will determine a Penalty for inaccurate or incomplete Scoresheets
- q) Refer to By-Law 1.22 for information regarding scoring responsibilities for Teams participating in finals

#### **1.14 Borrowing Players**

- a) Teams may borrow players from other Teams of the same Club to ensure sufficient players are available for the conduct of regular season games
- b) Teams can play a maximum of three (3) Borrowed Players in a game to ensure they have sufficient players to field a Team of seven (7) players
- c) Teams cannot borrow players to field a Team of more than 7 players except where:
  - (i) A Team playing in the Mixed Competition has only 3 female and 4 male players. In this case, the Team may borrow 1 additional female to make 8 players to allow 7 players to take the court
- d) Borrowed Players must satisfy the age requirements for the Division in which they are playing
- e) A player cannot be borrowed by a team playing at a lower age level than that which the player is currently registered for
- f) A player cannot be borrowed by a team playing in a lower Division than that in which the player is currently registered
- g) A borrowed Player may play up to two games on any one day of competition, and the second game may only be played for the club where they are registered for that competition
- h) A borrowed player cannot play more than four (4) games as a borrowed player in a season
- i) Games played with a Borrowed Player will not be registered as qualifying for finals for any Team

- j) Borrowed Players must as near as possible, wear the correct uniform for the team they are representing, and gain prior approval for any uniform variation. Refer to uniform requirements in By-Law 1.10
- k) Any person participating in a game as a Borrowed Player will not receive votes towards best and fairest or other Association awards in that Competition
- l) The game scoresheet must clearly identify all Borrowed Players
- m) A player that is borrowed incorrectly will be deemed to be an unregistered player
- n) The Board will determine a Penalty for playing an unregistered player.

### **1.15 Forfeits**

- a) In the event that a Team forfeits a game, the game will be counted as a fixtured game but players of the offending team will not have the game recorded towards finals qualification
- b) All registered players of the non-offending Team, at the date of the game, will be awarded a game towards finals qualification
- c) If a Team notifies the Association a minimum of 12 hours prior to the fixtured commencement time of their game of its intent to forfeit, a penalty for an early forfeit will be imposed
- d) If a Team forfeits a game with less than 12 hours' notice to the Association, a penalty for a late forfeit will be imposed
- e) Information on the process for forfeits is available on the Association website
- f) In the event that a Team has not taken the court within five (5) minutes of the scheduled start time of the game, that Team will be deemed to have forfeited the game as a late forfeit
- g) Forfeit penalties, as determined by the Board, must be paid before the next fixtured game by the offending Team
- h) A history of forfeits may result in a Team being excluded from entry into future competition seasons
- i) The Board will determine the Penalties for early and late forfeits

### **1.16 Cancellations**

- a) When a game or games are cancelled by the Association before any play commences both Teams will be credited with two (2) points and no goals and the competition will continue as per the fixture
- b) In the event that a game is cancelled by the Association, all registered players for the competing Teams will be awarded a game towards finals qualification
- c) Where a game is in progress and terminated or abandoned by a Team, by both Teams or by an Association official, the Board will investigate the circumstances and determine:
  - (i) The result for the game
  - (ii) The points and score that will be recorded for the game; and
  - (iii) The finals eligibility of players participating in the game, as per the players listed on the scoresheet
- d) Should circumstances occur in which successive rounds need to be cancelled, the Board will consider the position and determine a suitable course of action for the fixture

### **1.17 Penalties, Protests, Complaints and Dispute Resolutions**

- a) The Board will impose a Penalty on any Team that fails to adhere to the By-Laws of the Wyndham Netball Association
- b) A Team wishing to protest or dispute the result of a game must lodge a complaint on the official complaint form which is available on the Wyndham Netball Association website and send via email to the Wyndham Netball Association within 72 hours of receiving the penalty notice. If a team fails to protest or dispute the penalty to the Association within 72 hours of a penalty notice being received the penalty will stand
- c) A Team wishing to protest a Penalty must lodge the protest on the Penalty Appeal Form to the Association within 72 hours of the Penalty being received

- d) A person, official or Team wishing to protest the misconduct of officials, players or Teams must lodge a complaint on the official complaint form which is available on the Wyndham Netball Association website and send via email to the Wyndham Netball Association within 72 hours of the incident occurring. If the complaint form is not received within 72 hours, the Board will not consider the complaint
- e) Upon receiving a protest, dispute, complaint or appeal the Board or its representatives will consider the matter which may include:
  - (i) Discussing the issue with the relevant Team or Teams
  - (ii) Informal meetings with the parties involved
  - (iii) Gaining any and all information that the Board considers relevant to the matter
- f) The Board will advise the result of the protest, complaint, appeal or dispute and this decision will be final

### **1.18 Awards**

- a) The following player awards will be presented in each Division that competes for finals for each season:
  - (i) Best and Fairest player (excludes Mixed Competition [see By-Law 4.2])
  - (ii) Runner Up Best and Fairest player (excludes Mixed Competition [see By-Law 4.2])
  - (iii) Most Valuable player in the Grand Final
- b) Voting for the Best & Fairest player shall be as follows:
  - (i) The game umpires shall award votes for the best and fairest three players in each home and away season game
  - (ii) Voting shall be three (3) votes for the best and fairest player, two (2) votes for the second best and fairest player and one (1) vote for the third best and fairest player
  - (iii) Borrowed, Single Game Voucher and unregistered players are not eligible for Best and Fairest votes
  - (iv) Votes shall be clearly recorded by the umpires on the game Scoresheet that is retained by the Association
- c) In the event of a tie at the end of the home and away season, two (2) or more awards shall be presented
- d) Voting for the Most Valuable Player in a Grand Final will be determined by a panel appointed by the Board
- e) From time to time the Board may deem it appropriate to award other forms of recognition, e.g. service awards, recognition of special achievement, recognition of appreciation

### **1.19 Representative Teams**

The Board will from time to time determine if Representative Teams will be fielded and if so, the following will apply:

- a) The Board will appoint a Representative Team Coordinator
- b) The Representative Teams Coordinator will organise the Representative Team selection trials
- c) The Representative Teams Coordinator will report to the Board on a regular basis and seek approval from the Board for the Representative Team schedule of games for the year
- d) Selection trials will be conducted under the following conditions:
  - (i) A general notice of selection trials will be posted/published by the Association
  - (ii) Players must register their interest in the Representative Team in the manner prescribed by the Board
  - (iii) Players must be registered with a Team and actively participate in the current season of competition to hold their place on the Representative Team
  - (iv) Players must trial in their own age group
  - (v) Males may trial in the 11 and 13 and under age groups only

- (vi) The Board will call for coaches for Representative Teams. Prospective coaches must register their interest in coaching in the manner prescribed by the Board. The Board will appoint Representative Team coaches
- e) The Board will appoint a Representative Team Selection Panel/s as follows:
  - (i) The Board will appoint a Selection panel consisting of a minimum of three (3) selectors for each team
  - (ii) Selectors may be appointed to more than one panel
  - (iii) Players will be notified in writing of the team in which they have been selected within seven (7) days of the completion of selection trials
- f) Upon accepting a position within a Representative Team, players must agree to participate in training and tournaments as required by their team, without exception in The Central West Zone Association Championships
- g) The Selection panels' decision is not open to appeal by players but may be reviewed by the Board prior to player notifications
- h) Captain and Vice-Captain may be appointed by the coach after approval by the Board
- i) Representative Team responsibilities may include fundraising activities to support the costs of conducting Representative Teams

### **1.20 Fundraising**

- a) From time to time the Board may determine that the Association engage in fundraising activities
- b) All Teams are required to apply their best endeavours to any Association fund raising activities
- c) Teams must gain approval from the Board before conducting fund raising activities that are directly or indirectly associated with the activities of the Association

### **1.21 Finals and Qualifying Players**

- a) Finals will be played at the conclusion of the home and away season in each Division, other than 9 and under
- b) The number of points gained during the season will determine Teams qualifying for finals. In the event of Teams being equal on points, positions will be determined by the percentage of goals scored for and against across the home and away season. In the event of Teams being equal on percentage, finals placings will be determined by the greater number of goals scored for
- c) All Divisions that participate in finals with the exception of the Day Women's Competition will play a four-team finals series as follows:
  - (i) Week 1 (Semi Finals): Team 1 versus Team 2 (winner progresses to the Grand Final); Team 3 versus Team 4 (loser is eliminated)
  - (ii) Week 2 (Preliminary Final): Loser of the Team 1 versus Team 2 game plays the winner of the Team 3 versus Team 4 game. Winner progresses to the Grand Final; (loser is eliminated)
  - (iii) Week 3: (Grand Final): Winner of Week 1 Team 1 versus Team 2 plays the winner of the Week 2 Preliminary Final game
- d) In the event of a shorter season, the Board may determine that the Association runs a shorter final series as follows:
  - (i) Week 1 (Preliminary Finals): Team 1 versus Team 4 (winner progresses to the Grand Final and loser is eliminated); Team 2 versus Team 3 (winner progresses to the Grand Final and loser is eliminated)
  - (ii) Week 2 (Grand Final): Winner of Week 1, Team 1 versus Team 4 game plays the winner of the Week 1, Team 2 versus Team 3 game
- e) Players in all Divisions except for the Women's Day Competition (see 5.5(a)) must play at least 40% of the games fixtured for their Team throughout the home and away season to be eligible to participate in that Division's final series. The percentage will round up to the next positive integer
- f) Games played as a Borrowed Player do not count towards finals qualification
- g) Forfeiting a game does not count towards finals qualification for the players of the forfeiting Team

- h) Once a player has played the required number of games for a Team in a Division to qualify for finals, they are not eligible to compete in finals for any other Team in any other Division of that home and away season, even if a clearance for that player has been approved by the Board
- i) Teams found to be playing an ineligible player during finals will be considered to have lost that game
- j) Separate clocks will be used in finals with stoppages for injury (see By-Law 1.22.7) or extenuating circumstances (see By-Law 1.12 a) (i) f.) subject to timing and court constraints per competition
- k) For instances of injury/illness or blood, refer to By-Law 1.22.7 and Netball Victoria rule book
- l) Drawn games in finals:
  - (i) There is a two minute time allowance to enable Teams to change ends and scores to be verified on the Scoresheet by an Association official
  - (ii) Positional changes and substitutions may be made during change over time
  - (iii) Two (2) x 5 minute halves will be played
  - (iv) At the end of the first half Teams change ends
  - (v) Positional changes and substitutions may be made during change over time
  - (vi) Should there still be a draw at the end of the 2 x 5 minute extra time period, play continues until one Team has a two goal advantage
  - (vii) In the event of injury or illness during extra time, positional changes and/or substitutions may be made
- m) Teams may be requested to provide a scorer for an independent game during their round of the finals
- n) The Board will determine the penalty for not providing scorers during finals.

## **1.22 Risk Management, Health and Safety**

Netball Victoria publishes a range of materials to assist and guide Associations and Affiliated Teams with matters of Risk Management, Health and Safety during netball activities. The Association will refer to these materials, and other relevant resources, for guidance on the administration and conduct of all competitions, programs and events. Affiliated Teams are advised to also be familiar with these materials for the risk management, health and safety of their players.

It is strongly recommended that Affiliated Teams report all injuries to stadium staff at the time of the injury and retain their own record of the injury. The Association website provides forms for recording Injuries and Incidents during competition.

Affiliated Teams, players and their officials are required to observe the policies and directions of the Association with regards to Risk Management, Health and Safety

### **1.22.1 Injury Reporting**

- a) Affiliated Teams are responsible for recording injuries at the discretion of the injured player or players' guardian (for players under 18)
- b) It is recommended that Teams adopt the Injury & Incident Report Form provided by the Association.

### **1.22.2 Incident Reporting**

- a) All incidents that require reporting to the Association and investigation should be recorded on the Injury and Incident Report Form which is available on the Association's website. Refer to By-Law 1.17 where an Affiliated Team wishes to lodge a Complaint

### **1.22.3 Match Day Checklist**

- a) The Association will complete a match day checklist before competition commences on any day

- b) Any hazards identified will be:
  - (i) Documented
  - (ii) Rectified immediately, if possible
  - (iii) Reported to the appropriate agency (local council, venue management, Board) if a major hazard exists

#### **1.22.4 Pregnancy**

- (a) Pregnant players and their coach should refer to information from Netball Victoria for guidance on participation in sport whilst pregnant

#### **1.22.5 First Aid**

- a) The Association will ensure that a First Aid Kit is available at all locations where it participates in and/or conducts external tournaments. The First Aid Kit will be provided by the Association, the venue manager or the body conducting the games
- b) The First Aid Kit is to assist with injury treatment and is not to assist teams and their players with injury prevention or preventative strapping of players

#### **1.22.6 Weather**

- a) In the case of extreme weather conditions the Association will refer to Netball Victoria's guidelines and policies for appropriate guidance in instances of:
  - (i) Hot weather
  - (ii) Wet weather

#### **1.22.7 Blood, Injury and Illness During a Game**

- a) A player who is bleeding or has blood on their clothing must leave the court
- b) The bleeding must be stopped, the injury dressed and any blood on the player's body or clothing cleaned off before they can return to the court
- c) Play is to be halted until any blood on the court or equipment is cleaned off
- d) Umpires may hold time for blood upon appeal from an on-court player or at their own discretion and may hold time for an emergency or such other circumstance as they consider appropriate.  
During a stoppage:
  - (i) For injury/illness of a player or blood, all players not affected remain on the court
  - (ii) In an emergency or other circumstances, the umpires or Association officials decide whether the players leave the court or not
  - (iii) For injury/illness or blood, the game is stopped at the instruction of the umpires – the clock is not stopped when centralised timeclock is being used

#### **1.22.8 Smoke Free**

- a) The Association is a smoke free environment and smoking is not permitted at indoor venues and outdoor court surroundings

#### **1.22.9 Working with Children's Check**

- a) All officials and staff within the Association are required to have a valid Working with Children's Check
- b) All Coaches and Team Managers of Teams in the Junior Competition are required to have a valid Working with Children's Check

### **1.23 Photography Consent**

- a) All Members of the Association are required to respect the rights and wishes of others with regards to privacy, and in particular, that photography, video and digital transmission in any form is not



taken during a game unless prior approval has been sought from Western Leisure Services and officials from the Association and granted by everyone associated with the game. In addition:

- (i) Umpires and the competition supervisor must be notified that consent has been granted prior to the commencement of the game
- (ii) If notification is not provided to the umpires and competition supervisor then no photography, video or digital transmission may proceed.

#### **1.24 Codes of Conduct**

- a) All Members of the Association and associated supporters and spectators are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the Codes of Conduct issued by Netball Victoria.

#### **1.25 Special Circumstances**

- a) Where a By-Law is silent on a particular issue, the Board will use its reasonable discretion in deciding upon the treatment of that issue
- b) The Board may in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in these By-Laws
- c) The Board will draw guidance from the resources of Netball Victoria in using its reasonable discretion to resolve an issue

### **1A Inclusive Environments**

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- a) The Association is committed to providing a safe, fair and inclusive sporting environment where all people can contribute and participate.
- b) The Association will endeavour to provide opportunities for males to participate in mixed and male competitions.
- c) The Association may conduct cultural awareness training & inclusive workshops to ensure your club is providing a welcoming environment and creating awareness around cultural views and barriers.
- d) The Association supports participation in netball on the basis of the gender with which a person identifies. If issues arise, the Association will seek advice on the application of the applicable Victorian discrimination laws for the particular circumstances.
- e) All competitions will be clearly labelled in regard to age group and gender. This includes additional references to all genders that are permitted to play. All competition labelling will be clear and transparent.
- f) The Association observes the Netball Victoria Gender Regulation in regard to male participation:
  - (i) Males who are 13 years (and older) are not permitted to participate in female competition.  
This means that males must be less than 13 years of age (actual age) as at the first day of the competition or season; and
  - (ii) males that turn 13 during that competition or season will be permitted to participate for the duration of that competition or season.
- g) The Association observes the Netball Victorian Gender Regulation in regard to mixed competition:
  - (i) Mixed competition for the 11&U and 13&U age groups will have NO restrictions applied on the basis of gender.
  - (ii) Mixed competition for the 15&U and above age groups will observe the following rules:
  - (iii) The minimum number of males in a team is ZERO, and
  - (iv) A mixed team must only have a maximum of 3 males on court at any one time, and
  - (v) A mixed team must only have up to one male in each third on court. For the avoidance of doubt this means:

- A. One male is permitted in the defence third occupying the position of Goal Defence or Goal Keeper, and
- B. One male is permitted in the mid third occupying the position of Centre, Wing Attack or Wing Defence, and
- C. One male is permitted in the goal third occupying the position of Goal Attack or Goal Shooter.

(vi) 20&U - Refer Mixed Competition rules

## **2. Junior Competitions**

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The following By-Laws apply to all junior netball competitions conducted by the Association.

Junior Competition means a netball competition conducted for participants from the ages of 6 and 18 inclusive. Six year old players must be turning seven during the current home and away season.

### **2.1 Age Requirements**

- a) Participant age is determined as at 30 June of that year for the Autumn season
- b) Participant age is determined as at 31 December of that year for the Spring season
- c) Players aged between 5 and 9 years old are encouraged to participate in the Net Set Go! (or similar) program for their first season of netball
- d) Minimum age requirements for junior players are as follows:
  - (i) 19 and under – 15 years at the time of participation
  - (ii) 18 and under – 14 years at the time of participation
  - (iii) 17 and under – 14 years at the time of participation
  - (iv) 15 and under – 12 years at the time of participation
  - (v) 13 and under – 10 years at the time of participation
  - (vi) 11 and under – 8 years at the time of participation
  - (vii) 9 and under – players must be turning seven years old during the current season
- e) Board approval is required for a player wanting to register with a Team, where the player's age is below the minimum age requirements set out above

## **3. Open Age Ladies Competitions**

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The following By-Laws apply specifically to all Open Age Ladies netball competitions conducted by the Association.

Open Age Ladies Competition means a netball competition that is open only to women from the age of 14 and above.

The Open Age Ladies Competition is a separate and distinct competition from the Junior Competition and Open Age Mixed Netball Competition.

### **3.1 Age Requirements**

- (a) Only women and girls currently aged 14 and over are allowed to play in the Open Age Ladies Competition

## **4. Mixed Netball Competition**

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The following By-Laws apply specifically to all Open Age mixed netball competitions conducted by the Association.

Open Age Mixed Competition means a netball competition that includes the participants of males and females and is open to players from the age of 14 and above.

### **4.1 Player Restrictions**

- a) Teams must have no less than one male on court and no more than three males on court throughout the duration of the game
- b) In the event that a Team does not commence the game with a minimum of one male player within 5 minutes of the fixtured start time of the game, the game will be awarded as a forfeit to the non-offending Team. Refer to By-Law 16 for the rules on forfeits
- c) If during the game any males are injured which results in the team being left with no males on court, the team may continue playing provided that the team has five players on court
- d) Each team can only have one male playing in positions listed against each third at a centre pass. The thirds are divided as follows:
  - (i) The Goal third, which comprises the positions of Goal Attack and Goal Shooter
  - (ii) The Centre third, which comprises the positions of Wing Attack, Wing Defence and Centre
  - (iii) The Defence third, which comprises the positions of Goal Defence and Goal Keeper

### **4.2 Awards**

The following player awards will be presented in each Division that competes for finals for each season:

- a) Male Best and Fairest player
- b) Female Best and Fairest player
- c) Most Valuable player in the Grand Final (either male or female) For more information about awards refer to By-Law 1.18(b)

### **4.3 Uniform**

- a) All uniform By-Laws (see By-Law 1.10) apply to the Mixed Competition except that players may wear full length leg coverings or shorts provided they are of solid colour with no prominent branding as per the uniform information provided in the registration form

## **5. Women's Day Competition**

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The following By-Laws apply specifically to the Women's Day Competition.

Women's Day Competition means a social netball competition run during the day that includes female only participants. It is open to players from the age of 14 and above.

### **5.1 Finals**

- (a) The two top teams in each grade will play off in the final
- (b) All other teams will play off in an official match in the timeslot prior to the final
- (c) All teams participating in the competition will be invited to the morning tea following the final match

### **5.2 Awards**

- (a) The winning Team will have their name engraved onto the Premiers perpetual shield kept by the Association
- (b) Two Best and Fairest Awards will be awarded in each season:
  - (i) Best and Fairest; and
  - (ii) Runner Up Best and Fairest

Awards can be trophies, medallions, glasses or as determined by the Board

### **5.3 Borrowing Players**

Teams can borrow Players from other Teams even if they have already played that day provided that:

- (a) The Player is not from a higher grade
- (b) The Player accords with uniform requirements (see By-Law 5.4)
- (c) The borrowed Player must be recorded on the scoresheet as per By-Law 1.14
- (d) Players are not borrowed to field a Team of more than 7 players

### **5.4 Uniform**

- (a) Players must accord with the uniform requirements set out in 1.10.

### **5.5 Eligibility for Finals**

- (a) Players must play at least 33.33% (one third) of the games fixtured for their Team throughout the home and away season to be eligible to participate in that Division's final series. The percentage will round up to the next positive integer.
- (b) Games played as a Borrowed Player do not count towards finals qualification