



## FREMANTLE NETBALL ASSOCIATION (Inc)

### COMPETITION RELATED OFFENCES and DISPUTES

Reviewed 2018

#### A) INTENT OF POLICY

1. to deal with domestic Fremantle Netball Association (Inc) [hereafter referred to as FNA] competition related offences and disputes which may arise in the conduct of netball competitions, programs and events under the jurisdiction of FNA.
2. the policy sets out the procedures to be followed in dealing with competition related offences and disputes in an effective, appropriate and timely manner.
3. This policy is based on the Netball Australia Member Protection Policy and any complaint not covered by the general policy below will be dealt with in accordance with the Netball Australia Policy

#### B) HOW POLICY WORKS

The policy applies to the following members and individuals:

1. Players, Coaches (including assistant coaches), Umpires and other officials, Clubs or organising bodies who enter any FNA competition, program or event.
2. Spectators who are not members of FNA, do not fall within FNA jurisdiction, however any incident relating to them will be referred to the relevant club.

#### C) REPORTS

##### How a report is made

1. All complainants should refer to the complaint management flowchart to determine the appropriate course of action.
2. Only serious complaints will be referred to the FNA Member Liaison Officer (MLO) for action.
3. If mediation fails to resolve any complaint that is referred to the Member Liaison Officer the MLO will decide; in conjunction with the complainant; whether the complaint will be escalated to an "offence" or "dispute" and will be dealt with according to this policy.
4. A report shall be lodged in the FNA office with the Administrator on the Written Complaints Form C1 as soon as possible on the day, or within 48 hours following the alleged offence.
5. The report can be lodged by a player/ coach/official/parent/spectator or administrator.
3. The offence may have occurred before, during or after the competition, program or event.
4. It is a requirement that the "Report Form" be signed and endorsed by a Club Official (i.e. Club President or Secretary) before it will be accepted by the office.

##### How the report is dealt with

1. A Hearing Panel shall be appointed comprising of three people, the President, the Member Liaison Officer and the third member being one of the following: Umpiring Co-ordinator, Coaching Coordinator, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President or the Permit and Protests Co-ordinator.
2. The Convenor of the Hearing Panel shall be the President.
3. Should any member of the Hearing Panel have a 'conflict of interest' in the dispute, a member/s of FNA Executive will be co-opted as a replacement panel member.
4. The Administrator of FNA shall be responsible to:
  - i. Advise parties involved, in writing, via Club Secretaries the hearing date, time and place.
    - a. the person alleging the offence
    - b. the person charged with the alleged offence
    - c. umpires involved if applicable
    - d. other parties if applicable
  - ii. Request confirmation from Club Secretaries that arrangements are suitable.

4. At the hearing, parties involved (ie. a, b, c and d) shall be interviewed separately.
5. At the hearing, all players shall be accompanied by an official of their Club and players under the age of 18 may also be accompanied by a parent.
6. The purpose of the hearing shall be to determine whether the alleged offence has been established on the balance of probabilities (ie more probable than not). If the Hearing Panel is of the view that the offence has been proven a penalty may be imposed otherwise the offence shall be dismissed.
7. The Hearing Panel is not obliged to provide written reasons for any decision made.

#### **D) PENALITIES**

Penalties may be imposed in accordance with the degree of the offence and may arise as a result of:

- Abuse of an umpire
- Gross breach of code of behaviour
- Unsportsmanlike behaviour
- Dangerous physical contact

#### **E) APPEAL**

There is no right of appeal from a decision of the Hearing Panel. All decisions of the Hearing Panel are final and binding.

#### **F) REGULATION DEFINITION**

**“Competition Related Offence or Dispute”** means an action or actions that are not permitted within the rules and causes intentional harm (physical, emotional or verbal).

#### **G) RECORD OR REPORT**

A record of the hearing shall be recorded “In-Committee” in the following month’s Executive Meeting minutes. A Confidential Record of Complaint C2 will be completed by the MLO and retained in the complaints file.

