



## FREMANTLE NETBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

### ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY POLICY

#### 1. INTENT OF POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the eligibility of athletes in the winter netball competition at Fremantle Netball Association Inc. ('FNA') who participate in one or more high level netball competitions.

#### 2. HOW THE POLICY WORKS

The policy sets out the steps to be followed by Clubs, coaches, and athletes to deal with athlete eligibility at FNA competition level.

The FNA Permit & Protest Committee will consider applications for exemption under this policy.

#### 3. THE POLICY

- a) An athlete who is a current playing member of:
  - i. a Suncorp Super Netball ('SSN') team;
  - ii. an Australian Netball Championship ('ANC') team;
  - iii. a West Australian Netball League ('WANL') team;
  - iv. a National Netball Championship ('NNC') team, or;
  - v. a team in an equivalent competition to those listed above in another State, Territory, or country;shall have their participation in the FNA winter competition restricted. For the purpose of this policy, these athletes will be defined as **Identified Athletes**.
- b) An **Identified Athlete** who is turning 16 or older is not eligible to participate in any division during the FNA winter competition except:
  - i. 17 & Under 1 (where age eligible);
  - ii. Senior A1, or;
  - iii. Senior A2.
- c) Clubs with multiple **Identified Athletes** registered are required to place the majority of these athletes in their highest graded Senior team (e.g. Senior A1), or, where age eligible and at the discretion of the Club, in a 17 & Under 1 team.
- d) Where a Club does not have any teams graded into the divisions specified in **clause 3(b)**, then **Identified Athletes** at that Club must be placed into the highest graded Senior team at that Club, or, where age eligible, the highest graded 17 & Under team.
- e) Clubs are required to indicate on their FNA Team Nomination Forms the status of any **Identified Athletes** that they are nominating in a team.
- f) Clubs shall be responsible for advising FNA of any alteration to the status of an athlete with involvement at any level included in **clause 3(a)** during season. This might include, but is not limited to:
  - i. a promotion from training partner or train-on to the playing squad of a competition, or;
  - ii. being selected into a competition during the FNA winter season.



- g) It is an **Identified Athlete's** responsibility to notify their Club of their selection into a team in any of the competitions listed in **clause 3(a)**, including any change in their status, such as those in **clause 3(f)**.
- h) Should the Permit & Protest Committee be made aware of an **Identified Athlete's** change in playing circumstances that impact their eligibility under this policy, then the Permit & Protest Committee may choose to review the grading of that player in the FNA competition.
- i) A Club may apply in writing to the Permit Committee to consider an exemption to this policy due to extenuating circumstances applicable to an **Identified Athlete**.
- j) Clubs must provide the following information on any application for an exemption:
  - i. The competition and division in which the **Identified Athlete** is participating, including the relevant club (e.g. East Freo Sharks Netball, Western Sting, West Coast Fever);
  - ii. The **Identified Athlete's** FNA Club, Club team, and Grade nominated for the team.
  - iii. The division(s) that the **Identified Athlete** has played in previous years for any level of competition included in **clause 3(a)** and at FNA;
  - iv. The **Identified Athlete's** current pathway or progression (e.g. athlete returning from pregnancy; athlete returning after extended absence)
- k) Applications for exemption must be lodged with FNA:
  - i. With Club Team Nomination Forms to be considered for the forthcoming season, or;
  - ii. At least 3 days prior to the first match in which it is intended that the **Identified Athlete** take the court, to cover a change of circumstances after the FNA season has commenced.
- l) All decisions made by the Permit & Protest Committee in relation to this policy are final and there is no right of appeal.
- m) This policy applies to the usage of Single Game Vouchers and Casual Fill-in Vouchers by **Identified Athletes**.

#### 4. PENALTY

In the event of a team playing a player who is not eligible to play for that team, the offending team shall forfeit the match and shall be penalised a further two (2) points.