



FREMANTLE NETBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

EXEMPTIONS POLICY

1. PURPOSE

The policy provides the process by which a Club, on the behalf of a playing Member, may apply for a variation to a current policy of Fremantle Netball Association Inc. ('FNA').

It outlines the process involved in the application and the minimum requirements for any variation to current policy to be considered. This may apply to any FNA policy including, but not limited to, those relating to:

- Age eligibility (playing up or down)
- Playing uniform
- Jewellery (medical or religious)
- Splints and other wearable medical items
- Finals eligibility

2. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all Clubs and Members affiliated with FNA.

3. DEFINITIONS

In this Policy, unless otherwise stated:

Association means Fremantle Netball Association;

Committee means the management Committee of the Association as elected under the Constitution;

Constitution means the constitution of Fremantle Netball Association Inc.;

Decision-maker means the individual or committee that has the power to make a decision under this Policy, as determined by **clause 6** of the Policy;

Member means all affiliated members of the Association, including players, coaching and umpiring officials, volunteers, Clubs, and Club members;

4. CHANGES TO THE POLICY

This Policy may be cancelled, amended, or supplemented by the Association as and when it sees fit. Any variation will be given to Members in writing by the Association.

The Association will review this Policy on a regular basis to ensure that it remains effective in supporting the objectives and strategic direction of the Association, and to ensure ongoing best practice governance.

5. THE POLICY

- a. Any Club who wishes to apply for an exemption to current policy must do so in writing to the Association.
- b. The request should come from a Club official and be sent through the prescribed form (where applicable), and must include:
 - i. The exemption being requested, and;
 - ii. The reasons for the exemption.



- c. All applications must be accompanied by supporting documentation where relevant, such as:
 - i. A letter from a medical professional (where applicable);
 - ii. Images of the uniform, splint or wearable medical item, or jewellery item to be considered for exemption, and;
 - iii. Actions that will be taken to minimise related risk.
- d. Where an exemption is being requested relating to Netball Australia's NetSetGO participant categories, additional information may be required to support the application, as determined by the Association.
- e. All applications must come from the participant's Club, and not from an individual Member.
- f. All applications for an exemption must be submitted to the Association prior to the cut-off for team nominations prior to the commencement of the season.
- g. A short notice exemption may be considered by the Association in the following circumstances:
 - i. Where the application relates to a change of circumstances that has occurred to the relevant participant who previously did not require an exemption, or;
 - ii. Where the application relates to a new player to a nominated team, or;
 - iii. Where the application does not relate to age eligibility, or;
 - iv. At the discretion of the Association.
- h. All short notice exemption applications must be made as soon as possible after the Club becomes aware of the circumstances, or the Association may decline to consider the application.
- i. The Association cannot guarantee the provision of a decision on a short notice exemption application prior to the next match day or to the next match in which the participant wishes to play.
- j. Verbal short notice exemption applications may only be made on a match day.

6. PROCEDURE

- a. The decision-maker for exemption requests will be as follows:
 - i. For age eligibility, the Competitions Coordinator;
 - ii. For playing uniform, the Uniform Coordinator;
 - iii. For jewellery (medical or religious), the Association Umpire Development Officer ('AUDO') or Umpiring Coordinator;
 - iv. For splints and other wearable medical items, the AUDO or Umpiring Coordinator;
 - v. For finals eligibility, the Permit & Protest Committee;
- b. For anything else, a decision-maker will be determined by the Committee.
- c. Where a decision-maker requires assistance with their decision, they may seek guidance from the Permit & Protest Committee or the Committee.
- d. A decision-maker may delegate their power to another member of the Committee or FNA Staff.
- e. On receipt of an application:
 - i. The Association will forward a copy of the letter and the accompanying documents to the decision-maker.
 - ii. The decision-maker will consider the application in a reasonable timeframe.



- iii. The decision-maker will inform the Association of the decision and any relevant information to be communicated to the applying Club.
 - iv. The Association will inform the applying Club of the decision in writing.
 - v. If the application is approved, a notation will be made on the appropriate team card reflecting the approval of a permit, along with the date that the permit was approved.
- f. On receipt of a short notice application:
- i. A decision will be made on whether to consider the application, with consideration being given to:
 - 1) The level of urgency related to the application;
 - 2) How soon the Club was aware of the need for the exemption, and;
 - 3) The availability of the decision-maker to provide a decision within the time required.
 - ii. If it is decided that the application will be considered:
 - 1) Where the application is made in writing:
 - a) The Association will forward a copy of the letter and the accompanying documents to the decision-maker.
 - b) The decision-maker will consider the application.
 - c) The decision-maker will inform the Association of the decision and any relevant information to be communicated to the applying Club.
 - d) The Association will inform the applying Club of the decision in writing.
 - e) If the application is approved, a notation will be made on the appropriate team card reflecting the approval of a permit, along with the date that the permit was approved.
 - 2) Where the application is made verbally:
 - a) A reasonable effort will be made to convene the decision-maker to consider the application.
 - b) The decision-maker will consider the application.
 - c) The decision-maker will inform the Association of the decision and any relevant information to be communicated to the applying Club.
 - d) The Association will inform the applying Club of the decision verbally at the time of the request, and subsequently in writing.
 - e) If the application is approved, a notation will be made on the appropriate team card reflecting the approval of a permit, along with the date that the permit was approved.

7. PRIVACY

Since the information in any supporting documentation may be of a sensitive nature, all efforts will be made to limit access to this information.

8. BREACHES OF THE POLICY

If a Club fails to acquire an exemption for a player and that player takes the court in breach of this Policy, the matter will be dealt with by the Committee or an approved delegate, by:



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- a. Contacting a Club official to determine whether an exemption can be applied, and;
- b. Where player safety is of concern, having the relevant player leave the court and not return to play until the breach has been resolved, and;
- c. Where the breach is considered significant by the Association, using the rules managing playing an ineligible player in the Competition Handbook.

Signed _____

Sondra Anderson
PRESIDENT
Fremantle Netball Association

Date