



ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Updated August 2023
Approved by Committee August 2023

1. **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Policy is to clarify the eligibility of athletes in the winter netball competition at Fremantle Netball Association who participate in one or more high level netball competitions.

2. **APPLICABILITY**

- a. This Policy applies to all Clubs, Entity Teams, and playing Members.
- b. This Policy applies during the Winter Competition, and any other competitions run by the Association when specified in that competition's handbook.

3. **DEFINITIONS**

In this Policy, unless otherwise stated:

Association means Fremantle Netball Association;

Club means any netball club or Entity Team affiliated and financial with the Association, and as otherwise defined in **Rule 11(8)(a)** of the Constitution;

Committee means the management Committee of the Association as determined by the Constitution;

Constitution means the constitution of Fremantle Netball Association Inc.;

Entity Team means a single team entering the competition at the Association that is not affiliated with a Club;

Identified Athlete means an athlete who is turning 16 years or older in the year of competition and is currently, or has recently been, a playing member of:

- a) a National netball team of any country (not including underage teams);
- b) a Suncorp Super Netball ('SSN') team;
- c) an Australian Netball Championship ('ANC') team;
- d) a West Australian Netball League ('WANL') team, not including underpinning program squads and teams;
- e) a WA National Netball Championship ('NNC') team, or;
- f) a team in the same or an equivalent competition to those listed above in another State, Territory, or country;

Junior Identified Athlete means an athlete who is turning 15 years or younger in the year of competition and is currently, or has recently been, a playing member of:

- a) a School Sport Australia Championships ('SSAC') interstate netball team, or;
- b) a team in the same or an equivalent competition to those listed above in another State, Territory, or country;

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

Permit & Protest Committee means that subcommittee of the Association;



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Policy means this Policy;

Winter Competition means the winter netball competition run by the Association.

4. THE POLICY

- a. Identified Athletes and Junior Identified Athletes shall have their participation in the Winter Competition restricted.
 - i. An Identified Athlete who is, or has recently been, a player in a National netball team of any country (not including underage teams) is not permitted to participate in the Winter Competition.
 - ii. An Identified Athlete who is, or has recently been, a player in an SSN team is not permitted to participate in the Winter Competition.
- b. An Identified Athlete not specified in **clause 4(a)(i)** or **(ii)** is not eligible to participate in any division during the Winter Competition except:
 - i. 17 & Under 1 (where age eligible only);
 - ii. Senior A1, or;
 - iii. Senior A2.
- c. Clubs with multiple Identified Athletes registered are required to:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Seek an exemption for any Identified Athletes who the Club wishes to place into a division below Senior A2.
- d. Where an Identified Athlete is being placed into a team after grading has been completed by the Association for that season, an exemption must be sought for them to participate in any division.
- e. Where their status is known prior to the start of the Winter Competition, a Junior Identified Athlete is only eligible to participate in:
 - i. Their Club's highest graded team in the usual junior division in which they are age-eligible to participate (e.g. Junior A grade for a 15 year old), or;
 - ii. If the Club does not have a suitable division for that player in their own age group, then a suitable division in an older age-group.
- f. When using Identified Athletes and Junior Identified Athletes as fill-in players for other teams during the Winter Competition, Clubs and Entity Teams are expected to use discretion and aim to only include them in teams of a suitable level of competition.
- g. This Policy applies to the usage of Single Game Vouchers and Casual Fill-in Vouchers by Identified Athletes and Junior Identified Athletes.
- h. An Identified Athlete or Junior Identified Athlete is considered to have played in a match if they have taken the court at any point during the match.

5. PROCEDURES

- a. Clubs are required to indicate on their Team Nomination Forms the status of any Identified Athletes or Junior Identified Athletes that they are nominating in a team.
- b. 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 competition.



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- c. A Club may apply in writing to the Permit & Protest Committee to consider an exemption to this Policy due to extenuating circumstances applicable to an Identified Athlete or Junior Identified Athlete, with particular consideration to be given to:
 - i. Junior Identified Athletes not selected into an SSAC team in the year of competition;
 - ii. Identified Athletes who are, or have been, selected into a 21 & Under WANL team only;
 - iii. Identified Athletes or Junior Identified Athletes who have had an absence from netball for greater than two years.
- d. Clubs must provide the following information on any application for an exemption:
 - i. The competition, division, and year in which the Identified Athlete or Junior Identified Athlete is, or was, participating, including the relevant club if applicable. For example:
 - 1) WANL, East Freo Sharks Netball, 21 & Under team, 2022
 - 2) SSAC, School Sport WA, 12 & Under team, 2021
 - 3) ANC, West Coast Fever Reserves, 2022
 - ii. The Identified Athlete's, or Junior Identified Athlete's, Association Club, Club team, and Grade nominated for the team.
 - iii. The division(s) that the Identified Athlete or Junior Identified Athlete has played in previous years for any level of competition included in **clause 3 (Definitions)** and at the Association;
 - iv. The Identified Athlete's, or Junior Identified Athlete's, current pathway or progression (e.g. returning from injury, returning from pregnancy; returning after extended absence, differentiation in skill development from peers).
- e. Applications for exemption must be lodged with the Association:
 - i. With the Team Nomination Forms to be considered for the forthcoming season, or;
 - ii. At least three days prior to the first match in which it is intended that the Identified Athlete or Junior Identified Athlete take the court, to cover a change of circumstances after the Winter Competition has commenced.
- f. All decisions made by the Permit & Protest Committee in relation to this Policy are final and there is no right of appeal.

6. MANAGING BREACHES OF THE POLICY

- a. If a Club fails to acquire an exemption for an Identified Athlete or Junior Identified Athlete as required by this Policy, and that athlete takes the court in breach of this Policy, the matter will be dealt with by the Committee or an approved delegate by:
 - i. Contacting a Club official to determine whether an exemption can be applied, and;
 - ii. Where the breach is considered significant or deliberate by the Association, using the rules managing playing an ineligible player in the Competition Handbook.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The Permit & Protest Committee are responsible for considering applications for exemption to this Policy.
- b. Clubs are responsible for advising the Association of any alteration to the status of an athlete with involvement at any level that would make them an Identified Athlete during season. This might include, but is not limited to:

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- 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.
- c. Identified Athletes and Junior Identified Athletes are responsible for notifying their Club of their selection into a team in any of the competitions that would cause them to become an Identified Athlete or Junior Identified Athlete, including any change in their status, such as those in **clause 7(b)**.

8. 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.

Signed

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sondra'.

08/08/2023

Sondra Anderson
PRESIDENT
Fremantle Netball Association

Date