



# **Winter Competition Handbook 2026**

**Competition Rules for the 2026 Winter Netball Season**

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## 1. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this document is to provide competition rules for the Winter Competition conducted annually by Fremantle Netball Association Inc.

## 2. TERMS USED

In this document, unless the contrary intention appears:

**Association** means Fremantle Netball Association Inc.;

**Association Development Officer** or **ADO** means the person appointed to that role by the Association;

**Association Umpire Development Officer** or **AUDO** means the person appointed to the role by the Association;

**Boarding Team** means a team that the Association has approved as a Boarding Team for the current Winter Competition, based on eligibility criteria in **clause 4.2**;

**Cancel** or **Cancellation** means the removal of a Member's PlayHQ registration and membership for the current season, both for their Club and for the Association;

**Clearance** means the approval of a Member moving from one Club to another after registration has occurred for the Winter Competition by the Club where that Member was first registered;

**Club** means any netball club or Entity Team affiliated and financial with the Association, and as otherwise defined in **Rules 11(8)(a)** and **11(9)(a)** of the Constitution;

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

**Competition Committee** means the subcommittee of the Association responsible for Winter Competition tasks such as Grading;

**Constitution** means the constitution of Fremantle Netball Association Inc.;

**De-register** means removing a Member from the membership list of Netball WA;

**Division** means a Graded group of teams who play against each other in the Winter Competition;

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

**Finals Match** means any Match played during a Finals Round;

**Finals Round** means a week of finals competition such as the Semi, Preliminary, and Grand Finals;

**Fixtures** means the list of scheduled Matches between teams for a Division of the Winter Competition;

**Grade** means the team nomination categories within a competition that are subsequently split into Divisions;

**Grading** means the process used by the Competition Committee to allocate Club teams into Divisions;

**Grounds** means the Frank Gibson Park netball courts and associated facilities;

**Junior** (as it relates to a Player) means any Player who is under the age of 18 at 31 December of the current year;

**Match** means a game of netball played between two teams on a scheduled fixture date of the Winter Competition;

**Match Day** means the day on which official Matches of the Association are played;

**Member** means an affiliated, financial member of the Association or Club, including Players, coaching and umpiring officials, volunteers, Clubs, and Club members;

**NetSetGo** means Netball Australia's pre-junior entry netball program available to 5 to 10-year-old Players and endorsed by Netball WA;

**Netball WA** means the incorporated association Netball WA (Incorporated), the governing body of netball in Western Australia;

**Open or Senior** (as it relates to a Player) means any Player who is, or will be, 18 years or older at 31 December of the current year;

**Player** means a person who is a registered and financial Club member and who is eligible to play in the Winter Competition;

**PlayHQ** means the national netball database used for recording registrations and facilitating competition management;

**Points** means the scoring system applied for winning or drawing Matches during the Winter Competition, with the total points gained during a season determining a team's relative position on the ladder;

**Premiership** means the winning of the Grand Final Match in any Division;

**Regular Season** means any Rounds that take place prior to Finals Rounds;

**Round** means a fixtured series of Matches where teams in a Division are scheduled to play, usually on a single day;

**Rules of Netball** means the current published edition of World Netball's Rules of Netball;

**Single Game Voucher or SGV** means a voucher purchased by a Player without a current Association membership to enable them to play a Match at the Association;

**Technical Officials** means the Scorer and Timekeeper of a Match;

**Transfer** means the transfer of a Member's membership and data from one Club to another within PlayHQ for the purpose of participating in the Winter Competition;

**Winter Competition** means the winter netball competition run by Fremantle Netball Association;

**Withdraw** means to remove a Member from the team lists of a Club;

**World Netball** means the worldwide governing body for netball, previously known as the International Netball Federation or INF.

## 3. AFFILIATION

### 3.1. CLUB AFFILIATION

- i. All Clubs who enter teams into the Winter Competition must affiliate with the Association.
- ii. Clubs will be required to apply for affiliation annually.
- iii. Each Club affiliating with the Association shall be required to complete any affiliation documentation required by the Association, including the Club Affiliation Agreement.
- iv. All individuals participating in the Winter Competition with the Association, whether as a playing or non-playing member, must be affiliated via a Club or the Association to Netball WA.
  - a. Affiliation fees may vary from year to year and between Clubs.
  - b. Affiliation fees may be levied at multiple levels of administration, including by Netball Australia, Netball WA, the Association, and Clubs.
  - c. Affiliation will not be accepted from individual members who are non-financial with Clubs, the Association and/or Netball WA.

### 3.2. INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AFFILIATION

#### 3.2.1. PLAYER REGISTRATION

- i. The registration of all Players, whether pre-season or after the commencement of the Winter Competition, must be made via PlayHQ, and can only be completed online by the individual member, or their parent or guardian.
- ii. Players must be registered in PlayHQ, or have purchased an SGV or CFV, before they can be placed into a team entered into the Winter Competition.
- iii. Unless an exemption has been agreed to by the Association prior to registration occurring, Players must be registered into a competition in which they are eligible to participate, based on **clauses 4.1.1(iii)** and **9.1**.

#### 3.2.2. LATE REGISTRATIONS

- i. Clubs shall notify the Association of the details of any Player requesting to be added or moved into a nominated team after the closure of the team nomination period [via email](#) prior to the change occurring. The changes must be submitted on the [form designated by the Association](#) and include all details requested in the form.
- ii. Players registering after the closure of the team nomination period must be approved by the Competition Committee or their delegate prior to being added or moved into a nominated team.
- iii. Players registering after Round 10 of the Winter Competition may be eligible for a reduction in the Association portion of the Player fees. Strict criteria will apply, as determined by the Association. Clubs must apply [via email](#).
- iv. No Players are permitted to be registered after Regular Season Matches have concluded for the Team into which they would be registered.
- v. All Players must be registered in PlayHQ, or otherwise have a valid Single Game Voucher or Casual Fill-in Voucher where applicable, prior to taking the court.
- vi. The Club is responsible for organising the addition of the Player to the team list in PlayHQ, however must notify the Association prior to doing so.



### **3.2.3. MOVEMENT, WITHDRAWAL, AND DE-REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

- i. After the submission of team nominations to the Association, Clubs shall notify the Association of the details of any Player:
  - a. being moved between nominated teams after being approved in accordance with clause 3.2.2, or;
  - b. being Withdrawn from the Club's team lists, or;
  - c. seeking a Cancellation, or;
  - d. seeking De-registration;

[via email](#) prior to the change occurring. The changes must be submitted on the [Team Registration Changes Form](#) (player movements and transfers) or the [De-registration Request Form](#) (player de-registrations and refunds) and include all details requested in the form, including whether a refund is being sought.
- ii. The movement of players between teams must comply with the eligibility rules in **clauses 3.2.2, 9.1.1, 9.1.3, and 9.1.4.**
- iii. Clubs are permitted to Withdraw a Player providing that the Player does not subsequently take the court for any team in a lower division than the one into which they were originally nominated.
- iv. Clubs are permitted to Cancel a Player's registration providing that the Player has been Withdrawn and will not be taking any further part in the current Winter Competition as a Player.
- v. A Player cannot be De-registered if they have taken the court for training or Matches in that season, not including Matches considered played due to a forfeit, or if Netball WA's De-registration lock-out date has passed.
- vi. Withdrawing a Player, Cancelling their registration in PlayHQ at the Club level, or requesting a Player's De-registration, does not automatically qualify them for a refund of the Association or Netball WA fees.
  - a. If a refund is sought, then a specific written request must be made to the Association that meets the requirements of the [Refund Policy](#).
  - b. If a refund request is not made correctly to the Association prior to Netball WA's De-registration lock out date, then the Player is not entitled to a refund of the Netball WA fee.
  - c. It is strongly recommended that Clubs set their Player registration forms in PlayHQ to close prior to the lock out date to ensure that they don't receive additional registrations that will not be eligible for De-registration and refund.

## **4. COMPETITION MANAGEMENT**

### **4.1. WINTER COMPETITION STRUCTURE**

#### **4.1.1. COMPETITION OVERVIEW**

- i. The Association will conduct a Winter Competition, to generally be run during Term 2 and Term 3 of school, with competition dates determined by the Committee.
- ii. The Winter Competition will consist of the following competitions:
  - a. Senior competition
  - b. 18 & Under competition
  - c. Junior competition
  - d. Set & Go competitions

- iii. The following table details the Grades within the competitions in **clause 4.1.1.(ii)**, with ages to be calculated at 31 December of the year of competition:

Competition	Grade	Primary Eligible Age	Minimum Eligible Age	Gender
Senior	Open	19 years or older	15 years	Female
18 & Under	18 & Under	17 or 18 years	13 years	Female
Junior	16 & Under	16 years	11 years	Female
	15 & Under	15 years	11 years	Female
	14 & Under	14 years	11 years	Female
	13 & Under	13 years	11 years	Female
	12 & Under	12 years	11 years	Mixed
	11 & Under	11 years	10 years	Mixed
	Junior Mixed	13 to 16 years*	12 years	Mixed
Set & Go	10 & Under Go	10 years	9 years	Mixed
	9 & Under Go	9 years	8 years	Mixed
	8 & Under Set	7 & 8 years	7 years	Mixed

*\*If enough interest is obtained for this competition, and where teams are suitably nominated by age, it may be split into separate 13 & 14 division and a 15 & 16 division.*

#### **4.1.2. COMMON BYES**

- i. There will be three common byes during the 2026 season:
  - a. Saturday 1 June 2026 (WA Day long weekend)
  - b. Saturday 5 July 2026 (July school holidays first weekend)
  - c. Saturday 12 July 2026 (July school holidays middle weekend)

#### **4.1.3. DIVISION STRUCTURE**

- i. There will be six teams per Division where practical.
- ii. The first mentioned team is the scoring team and the second mentioned team is the timing team.
- iii. Points will be allocated for all Matches on the following basis:
  - a. 2 points for a win
  - b. 1 point for a draw
  - c. 0 points for a loss
  - d. Goals for and against will be recorded
- iv. Ladders will be kept in PlayHQ for each Division based on weekly Match results.
- v. During the Regular Season, teams are ranked within their Division on points gained and percentage achieved (total goals scored divided by total goals scored against).
- vi. Ladders will be produced but will not be published for Set & Go Divisions.
- vii. Finals based on ladder position attained in the Regular Season for Open, 18U, and Junior Divisions will be played as follows:

Finals Round	Match Code	Match Name	Team 1		Team 2
1	A	Semi Final 1	Rank 1	v	Rank 2
	B	Semi Final 2	Rank 3	v	Rank 4
2	C	Preliminary Final	Loser A	v	Winner B
3	D	Grand Final	Winner A	v	Winner C

#### **4.1.4. ASSOCIATION AND CLUB OFFICIALS**

- i. To ensure a smooth-running competition, the Association will have Officials available on Match Days to resolve any issues that may arise.

- ii. Officials can be contacted via the Association office. The following roles (and their delegates) are considered Match Day Officials:
  - a. Competition Coordinator;
  - b. Association Umpire Development Officer;
  - c. Association Development Officer, and;
  - d. All other Members of the Association Committee and Umpire Committee.
- iii. Clubs are required to have at least one Club official available at each time slot during which they have a team playing on Match Days to discuss any matters pertaining to the Club during the Winter Competition.

## **4.2. TEAM NOMINATIONS**

- i. Clubs will be required to nominate teams for the Winter Competition via PlayHQ and in the manner prescribed by the Association.
- ii. Each team nominated must have a minimum of seven (7) Players and a maximum of twelve (12) Players.
- iii. Clubs should supply reasons for their nominated Grade for each team, which can include a general description of the skills/ability of the overall team and an indication of Players lost or gained to the team since the previous Winter Competition and the anticipated impact.
- iv. If a Club chooses to not submit reasons when nominating a team, Grading will be at the absolute discretion of the Competition Committee.
- v. After the closure of the team nomination period, all team changes must be approved by the Competition Committee in accordance with clause 3.2.2(iii).
- vi. The Competition Committee may change the Grade of a nominated team at their absolute discretion as part of an approval of a team change.
- vii. Boarding Team nominations:
  - a. A team in a Junior or 18 & Under Division is eligible to be considered for the status of Boarding Team if five or more of their Players reside in a school Boarding House during the Winter Competition at the time of team nomination.
  - b. Clubs must indicate if they wish for a team to be considered a Boarding Team at the time of the team nomination, in the manner prescribed by the Association, including which Players on the team reside in a Boarding House.
  - c. A team will not be considered a Boarding Team until they have had that status approved by the Association for the current Winter Competition; a Club request does not automatically confer the status.
  - d. Boarding Teams are eligible to have certain matches, as specified by the Association, automatically rescheduled to the Rescheduled Boarders Match evening, with the related rule amendments in **clause 4.7.3(ii)** applying.

## **4.3. GRADING**

### **4.3.1. GRADING GUIDELINES**

- i. The Association completes its Grading of Divisions manually. The following guidelines are used by the Competition Committee when they convene to Grade a competition:
  - a. For Finals-eligible competitions:
    - 1. Teams are Graded on ability.

2. A team with five or more Players from the previous year is considered to constitute a returning team.
  - I. A returning team that won a Premiership the previous year or finished first on the ladder is considered with the view to being promoted up a Division.
  - II. A returning team that finished last in a Division the previous season is considered with the view to dropping down a Division.
  - III. A returning team that finished between second and fifth in a Division the previous season will usually remain as Graded the previous year.
3. Where variation to these guidelines is required due to changes in circumstances in the competition, such as team withdrawals within the Grade, or a drop in total team nominations in the competition, best efforts will be made to create competitive Divisions.
- b. For the 9 & Under Go and 10 & Under Go competitions:
  1. Grading on the basis of ability and level of development may occur.
  2. Teams with five or more Players from the previous year are considered to constitute a returning team.
  3. For returning teams, Points scored and position finished in Grade from the previous season may be used to assist in the Grading process.
- c. For the 8 & Under Set competition:
  1. Grading on the basis of ability and level of development will only occur where it is expected that it will significantly impact Player enjoyment.
  2. Grades of similarly aged teams will be the preference.
  3. Divisions in the Set competition will be listed neutrally and without numbers, e.g. using colours, animals, nature concepts.
- d. Where there is a team with Players that have a mix of years of birth in the Junior, 10 & Under Go, or 9 & Under Go competitions:
  1. Depending on the composition of the team, the team will usually be Graded towards the bottom Divisions of the oldest aged child.
- ii. Once the initial Grading process has taken place:
  - a. A full draft of the Grading will be circulated to Clubs.
  - b. It is a requirement that the draft Grading document is kept confidential and only made available to essential Club officials and not circulated to the Club membership.
  - c. Clubs are invited to view the draft Grading and provide any essential comments and feedback.
  - d. The feedback from Clubs will be taken into consideration as the Competition Committee reviews the Grading.
- iii. Once the final Grading process has taken place:
  - a. The final Grading will be circulated to Clubs.
  - b. Clubs will be advised of the Division time slots.
  - c. No further feedback or requests will be accepted from Clubs.
- iv. Each season it will be determined by the Competition Committee whether regrading will be considered after Round 5. Regrading will generally not be considered for Open Divisions, Divisions that do not contain six teams, and grading resulting in time slot changes.

#### **4.3.2. PROCEDURES FOR CLUBS**

- i. Grading will be completed by the Association according to the Club rankings provided, which should be done using the following:
  - a. Clubs must Grade their Players into teams according to ability.
  - b. Clubs must rank and label their teams from strongest to weakest in each competition, with A being the highest ranking; for example:
    - 1. Club Senior A, Club Senior B, etc.
    - 2. Club 18 & Under A, Club 18 & Under B, etc.
    - 3. Club 13 & Under A, Club 13 & Under B, etc.
    - 4. Club Go A, Club Go B, etc.
  - c. Clubs must nominate the Division into which they would like each team Graded, for example:
    - 1. Club Senior A – Open Division 4
    - 2. Club Senior B – Open Division 10
    - 3. Club 16 & Under A – 16 & Under Division 3
    - 4. Club 15 & Under B – 15 & Under Division 5
    - 5. Club Go A – 9 & Under Go Division 2
- ii. When Grading Set & Go teams:
  - a. Clubs should be mindful of these competitions being introductory;
  - b. Teams may be loosely Graded based on the level of development;
  - c. Clubs should be aware of the different levels of development and growth in these age groups;
  - d. Clubs should consider placing Players into teams in these competitions to encourage enjoyment and continued participation.
- iii. Clubs are required to nominate a Club Grading Contact who will be the immediate contact for any Grading or team queries during the Grading period for the Winter Competition. The Club Grading Contact needs to be:
  - a. Available by phone during the Grading period;
  - b. Knowledgeable about requests made by their Club;
  - c. Able to give a quick response to any queries from the Competition Committee.
- iv. Requests for a team to be graded based on a time slot will not be accepted, for example:
  - a. Coaches, umpires, or players in Open teams based on other Club or personal commitments.
  - b. Timeslots for Set teams based on other Club or personal commitments.

#### **4.4. WITHDRAWAL OF A TEAM**

- i. The withdrawal of a team from the Winter Competition is managed by the [Team Withdrawal Policy](#).

#### **4.5. INSURANCE**

- i. Membership with Netball WA includes cover under the Netball Australia National Insurance Program. This program is handled by Howden Group as the insurance broker.
- ii. Registration via PlayHQ and full payment of fees, where applicable, is required for the personal accident insurance coverage to be engaged for individual Members.

- iii. Players who are not Members can obtain insurance for individual games, as managed by the [Playing Voucher Policy](#).
- iv. Clubs are covered for public liability insurance through the Netball Australia National Insurance Program.
- v. If an injury or accident occurs to a Member, or an individual using a Single Game Voucher or Casual Fill-in Voucher, they should report to the First Aid room so the injury can be assessed and recorded for insurance purposes. If an injury occurs that is not reported to First Aid, it may not be possible to verify the claim.
- vi. More information on the products and coverage available under the Netball Australia National Insurance Program is available on the [Howden Group website](#).

## 4.6. MATCH TIMES

- i. All Matches in the Winter Competition will be played on a Saturday unless otherwise specified by the Association, such as rescheduled Matches.
- ii. Except in the case of rescheduled Matches, all Matches will be played across the following time slots at the Association during the Winter Competition:
  - a. 7:45am
  - b. 9:10am
  - c. 10:35am
  - d. 12:00pm
  - e. 1:25pm
  - f. 2:50pm
  - g. 4:15pm
- iii. All Finals Round Matches will be played at the same **clause 4.6(ii)** time slot that each Division played during the Winter Competition, unless otherwise specified by the Association, such as per **clause 4.7.3(ii)**.

## 4.7. CHANGES TO MATCHES

### 4.7.1. FORFEITS

- i. Matches may be forfeited by Clubs.
- ii. Matches may be forfeited by the Association where a breach of a rule or policy of the Association incurs a forfeit as the penalty.
- iii. Any team intending to forfeit a Match must have a Club Official contact the Association by email no later than 12pm on the Friday prior to the fixtured Match.
- iv. Should a Club forfeit a Match after 12pm on the Friday prior to the fixtured Match, this will be deemed a Late Forfeit and will incur a penalty of \$50, which will be payable by the Club before the next fixtured Match.
- v. If a team has already forfeited one Match in the current season, other than in accordance with **clause 4.7.1(ii)**, any subsequent forfeit will be considered a Penalised Forfeit and a fine of \$100 will apply, regardless of the notice given, and which will be payable by the Club before the next fixtured Match.
- vi. In the event of a team forfeiting two or more Matches in the same season, the Club shall show cause to the Association for each forfeiture.
- vii. In the event of a forfeit, the following rules shall apply to Junior, 18 & Under, and Open Division Matches:
  - a. To the non-forfeiting team:
    - 1. Two Points shall be awarded;

2. Twenty (20) goals shall be credited, and;
  3. All Players on the team list will be deemed as having played the Match.
- b. To the forfeiting team:
  1. No Points shall be awarded;
  2. No goals shall be credited, and;
  3. No Players on the team list will be deemed as having played the Match.
- viii. For forfeits in a Set or Go Division:
  - a. To the non-forfeiting team:
    1. Two Points shall be awarded;
    2. No goals shall be credited, and;
    3. All Players on the team list will be deemed as having played the Match.
  - b. To the forfeiting team:
    1. No Points shall be awarded;
    2. No goals shall be credited, and;
    3. No Players on the team list will be deemed as having played the Match.
- ix. As it relates to umpiring:
  - a. Where Clubs provide their own umpires for their Matches, it is each Club's responsibility to inform their umpire of the forfeit.
  - b. Where a different Club is scheduled to umpire the Match, the Association will inform the Club scheduled to supply the umpire.
- x. In the event of a team in a Junior, 18 & Under, or Open Division forfeiting after the commencement of a Match, including as the result of breach of a rule or policy, the result will be recorded as:
  - a. The score on the scorecard, or;
  - b. A twenty to nil score line;

whichever is greater, in favour of the non-forfeiting team.

#### **4.7.2. CANCELLATION**

- i. The Association may cancel Matches.
- ii. The cancellation of Matches due to adverse weather is managed by the [Adverse Weather Policy](#).
- iii. The cancellation of Matches for any other reason is at the discretion of the Association.
- iv. Where a Match has been cancelled, the Association will determine how the results of the Match will be recorded for the purposes of ladder rankings, with the aim of ensuring equity across all Matches in a Grade.

#### **4.7.3. POSTPONEMENT & RESCHEDULING**

- i. The Association may postpone or reschedule Matches.
- ii. The Association may choose to reschedule Matches for Boarding Teams where those Matches occur during a scheduled closure of school Boarding Houses.
  - a. Where a Match is rescheduled by the Association, those teams involved are required to attend the rescheduled Match.
  - b. Forfeits must abide by the rules relating to forfeits under **clause 4.7.1**.
- iii. Unless otherwise advised by the Association:
  - a. Teams playing in rescheduled Matches are responsible for providing an umpire for the Match on the rescheduled playing date;

- b. 18 & Under, Junior, and Set & Go teams are not required to provide an umpire on the original Saturday Match Day fixtures;
    - c. Open teams are still required to complete their allocated umpiring duties for the original Saturday Match Day fixtures.
  - iv. Clubs may seek permission from the Association to postpone or reschedule Matches.
  - v. Where a Club wishes to postpone or reschedule a Match during the Winter Season:
    - a. The Club must approach the opposition Club to seek an agreement to change the date and/or time of the Match.
    - b. Unless otherwise permitted by the Association:
      - 1. The Match must be played at the Grounds, and;
      - 2. The Match must take place in the week either directly before or after the originally scheduled playing date.
    - c. If a rescheduled Match is agreed to by the opposition Club:
      - 1. The requesting Club must apply to the Association for approval for the Match to be played at the agreed date, time, and location (if not the Grounds).
      - 2. Each team must provide an appropriate umpire and scorer or timer for the Match, unless otherwise notified by the Association.
      - 3. The first named team shall score, and the second named team shall time.
      - 4. The requesting team is responsible for collecting the scorecard from the Association office, and which must be by arrangement with the Association.
      - 5. The winning team, or, in the event of a draw, the first named team, is responsible for communicating the result to the office within 24 hours, including a clear and legible photograph of the scorecard and results, and returning the scorecard to the Association during the next Match Day.
    - d. The Association reserves the right to refuse a request to reschedule a Match if it is felt that doing so would be detrimental to the Winter Competition or is not being arranged in good faith.
    - e. If the opposition team does not agree to reschedule the Match, then the requesting team must either play the Match at the originally scheduled time or forfeit the Match.

#### **4.7.4. REPLAYS**

- i. The Association may require a replay of a Match.
- ii. In all cases where a replay of any Match is necessary, such replay shall be regarded as a new Match and any Players eligible to play in the teams concerned may be included, irrespective of whether or not the Player was included in the team on the day on which the original Match was played.

#### **4.7.5. MUTUAL ABANDONMENT**

- i. If teams agree during, or prior to the commencement of, a Match to a mutual abandonment, then the Match shall be recorded as a nil all draw.
- ii. Unless both teams mutually agree to abandon the Match, it becomes the responsibility of one of the teams to forfeit the Match.



- iii. Where teams agree to the mutual abandonment of a Match on the day of the Match, the captain (or equivalent representative) of each team, along with a committee representative from each Club, must jointly attend the Association office to inform the Association.
- iv. The Association reserves the right to decline a request for a mutual abandonment where it has not been approved by a committee representative from each Club. Where a mutual abandonment has been declined by the Association:
  - a. The Match should be continued where possible, or;
  - b. The Match may be forfeited by one team, or;
  - c. The Association may determine that the Match has been forfeited by one team.
- v. Where a Match has been started and then mutually abandoned, all Players marked on the scorecard or included in the team list in PlayHQ prior to the Match taking place will be considered to have taken the court.
- vi. Where teams agree to the mutual abandonment of a Match prior to the day of the Match, both of the Clubs involved must contact the Association in writing.

## **4.8. FIRST AID**

- i. The Association aims to have First Aid services available during each Match Day in the First Aid room.
- ii. Charges may apply to the use of consumables.
- iii. All Members and participants using a Single Game Voucher or Casual Fill-in Voucher requiring First Aid should attend the First Aid room to ensure that the injury is recorded correctly for any later claim on insurance.
- iv. The injured person must attend First Aid for assessment prior to ice being made available.
- v. Strapping services may be available for a fee from the First Aid room.
- vi. Any individual requiring First Aid will be given priority over an individual attending the First Aid room for the purposes of strapping.
- vii. Wheelchairs can be collected from the First Aid room for the purpose of transporting an injured participant to the First Aid room for treatment.

## **4.9. UMPIRES**

### **4.9.1. UMPIRING PROCEDURES**

- i. For all Winter Competition Matches, Clubs shall be required to supply umpires based on the structure of allocation provided by the Association.
- ii. Umpires must be registered to their Club or the Association via PlayHQ for the current Winter Season.
- iii. If an umpire:
  - a. is not registered in PlayHQ with the Association for the current season as an Official, Player, Coach, Team Manager, or Volunteer, and;
  - b. takes the court to officiate a Match at the Association, and;
  - c. has not otherwise received clearance to umpire by the Association
 then a fine of \$20 applies to the Club that is listed to supply the umpire.
- iv. The Association must supply umpires for all Open Division 1 Matches.
- v. During the Regular Season, Clubs are required to provide one umpire per team for each Match Day in which they are scheduled to play.

- a. For all teams participating in the 18 & Under, Junior, and Set & Go competitions:
  1. Each Club is responsible for providing a competent and capable umpire for each Match in which they have a team participating during the Winter Competition, unless otherwise notified by the Association.
  2. The coach of a team is not permitted to umpire that team unless authorised by the Association prior to the Match.
  3. The Club and the team are considered collectively responsible for the provision of an umpire under **clause 4.9.1(iii)(a)(1)**.
  4. A failure to supply an umpire will result in the responsible team being deducted two Points and their Club being issued with a \$100 fine.
  5. Umpires for the 8 & Under Set competition should be capable umpires. If the umpire is under 17 years, written approval to umpire this Grade must be obtained from the AUDO.
  6. Failure of a Club to provide an umpire according to the requirements listed in **clause 4.9.1(iii)(a)(5)** is considered a failure to provide an umpire and the Club will be issued with a \$100 fine, however no Points will be deducted.
  7. Umpires for the 9 & Under Go and 10 & Under Go competitions will preferably be an experienced umpire. Learning umpires may umpire these Grades, but they must be suitably supervised by an umpire coach.
- b. For all teams participating in the Senior competition:
  1. Each Club is responsible for providing one competent and capable umpire for a Match in the opposite Open time slot to each team's playing time slot for each Round, as allocated by the Association, unless otherwise notified by the Association. For example, a Club with a team in Open Division 1 will be required to provide an umpire for an Open Division 2 Match.
  2. Umpires scheduled to umpire their own Club are encouraged to change with the nearest court of the same or approximate Grade, or may be directed to do so by the Association or its Match Day Officials.
  3. The Club and the team are considered collectively responsible for the provision of an umpire under **clause 4.9.1(iii)(b)(1)**.
  4. A failure to supply an umpire will result in the responsible team being deducted two Points and their Club being issued with a \$100 fine.
- vi. During Finals Rounds, the allocation of umpires will be managed under **clause 10.3.1**.

#### **4.9.2. UMPIRING RESPONSIBILITIES**

- i. Clubs are responsible for allocating umpires to suitable Divisions. This includes the supervision of new, less experienced, or less skilled umpires, who should be supported and developed through the use of an appropriately skilled mentor or coach.
- ii. Clubs are required to accept the Association Umpire Squad, Academy, Junior Umpire Development Program, and other Association-allocated umpires on Matches as and when advised by the AUDO or Association.
- iii. Where the Association is supplying Squad or Academy umpires to a particular Division, the Association may invoice the Clubs with teams participating in that Division, as long as:
  - a. The Association agrees to supply umpires for that Division for the full season;

- b. The Clubs are provided with no less than three weeks' notice of the intention to supply umpires and invoice for the cost, and;
  - c. The amount for which the Association invoices the Clubs is no greater per Match than the umpire payment guidelines for that Division issued by the Association for that season.
- iv. Where Clubs have not been given the notice required under **clause 4.9.1(vi)(a)**, then the Association may still request to supply the umpires to the Division and invoice for the umpiring costs, however a Club may decline the arrangement and therefore be responsible for supplying an umpire under **clause 4.9.1(v)**.
- v. Umpires relieved from a Match by Association-allocated umpires must report to the Association office as soon as they are notified of their release, and stay for the duration of the match unless otherwise released by the Association, with failure to do so being treated as a failure to umpire under **clauses 4.9.1(i)(a)(3)** and **4.9.1(i)(b)(3)**.
- vi. Umpire uniform requirements are managed via the [Uniform Policy](#).
- vii. The AUDO or Association may request that Clubs communicate with one or more of their umpires in relation to suitable umpire attire if it becomes an area of concern.

#### **4.9.3. UMPIRING PAYMENTS**

- i. An umpiring payment guideline has been produced by the Association for use by Clubs.
- ii. The Association requests that Clubs seriously consider applying the guidelines.
- iii. The Club who has been allocated the responsibility of supplying an umpire to a particular Match is responsible for the payment of the umpire who completes that Match.

## **5. GROUNDS AND FACILITIES**

### **5.1. GENERAL**

#### **5.1.1. FUNDRAISING**

- i. The Association offers the opportunity for Clubs to operate a cake stall as a fundraising activity, which is managed via the [Cake Stall Policy](#).
- ii. The Association offers the opportunity for Clubs with Open Division teams to assist at the hall bar with set up, pack down, food sales, and other similar duties as a fundraising activity, which is managed at the direction of the Association.
- iii. The Association believes that it is important that Members and patrons are not unduly approached to participate in fundraising activities, such as purchasing chocolates or raffle tickets.
- iv. No raffle tickets, fundraising chocolates or similar are to be sold on the grounds or at cake stalls, without prior approval from the Association, except as outlined by the [Cake Stall Policy](#).

#### **5.1.2. DOGS AT THE GROUNDS**

- i. Dogs at the Association have caused tripping hazards both on the side of the court and by entering the field of play during Matches and Club training.
- ii. The Association requests that Clubs strongly urge their members to not bring their dogs to activities at the Grounds.

- iii. The City of Fremantle requires that dogs are kept on a leash if a sporting event is in progress. All dogs that are brought to the Grounds must be kept on a leash at all times during competitions and other Association activities.
- iv. No dogs are permitted between the sidelines of the courts.
- v. No dogs are permitted within three metres of the goal lines of the courts or between the goal lines of two adjacent courts.

#### **5.1.3. BIKES, SCOOTERS AND SKATEBOARDS**

- i. The Association requests that Members do not use skateboards, scooters, rollerblades, and other micromobility devices at the Grounds.
- ii. No micromobility devices are permitted between the sidelines of the courts.
- iii. No micromobility devices are permitted within three metres of the goal lines of the courts or between the goal lines of two adjacent courts.

#### **5.1.4. CHAIRS**

- i. The Association does not permit chairs, stools, prams, or wheelchairs to be placed or used between the sidelines or within three metres of the goal lines of the hard courts.
- ii. Members and spectators may be asked to move these items to a safer position by an umpire or Match Day Official.
- iii. Any team official requiring wheelchair access to the team bench should contact the Association to discuss appropriate management.

#### **5.1.5. LITTER**

- i. The Association provides bins for general rubbish and recycling around the Grounds.
- ii. All Members and other visitors to the Grounds are expected to dispose of all rubbish appropriately.

#### **5.1.6. LOCKERS**

- i. Visitors to the Association are encouraged to leave valuables at home and to keep all personal belongings on their person or in sight at all times.
- ii. A limited number of lockers with programmable combinations are available in the female changeroom.
- iii. All lockers should be cleared of personal belongings before Members leave the Grounds.
- iv. The Association clears the lockers weekly.

#### **5.1.7. SUNSCREEN**

- i. The Association aims to make sunscreen available at the Match office window during Association competitions and events.

#### **5.1.8. BALL PUMP**

- i. An electric ball pump is available for use in the goalpost protector storage room, adjacent to Court 16.
- ii. It is not recommended for use by persons under the age of 13 years old, and the Association asks that children using the electric ball pump are supervised by an adult.

#### **5.1.9. EFTPOS**

- i. The Association aims to make EFTPOS available in the canteen, kiosk, barista & the Match office window.
- ii. Fees may apply to payments made via EFTPOS.

- iii. No cash withdrawals are available.

#### **5.1.10. ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE**

- i. The Association aims to make essential Match Day products available for purchase, including whistles, coach Match Day handbooks, some rain wear, and FNA branded socks. All merchandise sales are subject to availability.

## **5.2. MATCH DAY COURT SPECIFICATIONS**

### **5.2.1. THE BALL**

- i. Clubs are responsible for supplying each team with a suitable ball for Match day, which should have sufficient grip and be pumped up.
- ii. The Match ball should be checked by the umpires before play commences.
- iii. 8 & Under Set and 9 & Under Go Division Matches must be played with a size 4 netball.
- iv. All Matches other than those specified in **clause 5.2.1(iii)** must be played with a size 5 netball.

### **5.2.2. THE COURT**

- i. Should there be any concern over the surface of a court, please advise the Association immediately.
- ii. Brooms & court sweepers may be made available where suitable to sweep debris or water from the playing area.
  - a. These items must be returned to the designated position following use.
  - b. These items should not be used on a court where a Match is in progress.
  - c. These items should not be used in a manner that risks damaging the court surface.
- iii. Members and spectators are asked to refrain from sweeping debris or water into the court surrounds that are used by the umpires.

### **5.2.3. THE GOAL POST AND NET**

- i. Should there be any concern over the goal posts or nets, please advise the Association immediately.
- ii. For the safety of all participants, goal post padding is required on all courts during Matches.
- iii. Goal post pads are located in the storage room at the corner of the main building adjacent to Court 16.
- iv. The first teams to use a court on a Match Day will be required to collect the goal posts pads and ensure they are fitted on both goal posts prior to commencement of the Match.
- v. The teams playing last on each court should each return one goal post pad to the storage area at the end of the Match.
- vi. Failure to return the goal post pads to the shed as required results in a \$25 fine per pad not returned for both teams who played the last Match on that court.

### **5.2.4. THE SIDELINES**

- i. Spectators on the hard courts are requested to view the Match from behind the yellow lines painted on the court surrounds.

- ii. Spectators on the grass courts must stay off all in-use marked court surfaces and ensure that there is sufficient room off the court for the umpires to use during Match play.
- iii. No spectators may view a Match from a position behind a goal line on any court, including the green surface directly behind the goal lines of the hard courts.
- iv. Moving along the sidelines or goal lines while coaching or spectating is not permitted, except as noted in the Set & Go Competition Rules.
- v. Umpires, Association Officials, and Club officials may request that spectators move to another area to spectate if they believe that the spectator's current location is an impediment to the umpires or the Match play.

#### **5.2.5. THE ADJUSTABLE GOAL POSTS**

- i. Goal posts on the grass courts will be adjusted by authorised Association personnel at appropriate times during competition days unless otherwise specified by the Association.
- ii. To prevent possible damage to the post hydraulic systems, no unauthorised or non-upskilled person should attempt to adjust the posts.
- iii. The Association may upskill Club-affiliated adults accessing the grass courts on how to correctly raise and lower the goal posts.
- iv. The Association may revoke permission given under **clause 5.2.5(iii)** at any time.

## **6. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR AND COMPLAINTS HANDLING**

### **6.1. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR**

- i. The Association has **Codes of Behaviour** that apply to all Members and spectators, including when playing, training, or taking part in any Association-sanctioned activities.
- ii. Clubs are expected to ensure that their Members and spectators display appropriate behaviour on Match Days and throughout the Winter Competition.
- iii. All Members are expected to display appropriate behaviour on social media in relation to Fremantle Netball Association, its competitions, and its Members.
- iv. The Association's **Codes of Behaviour** can be found on [the website](#).

### **6.2. COMPLAINT AND DISPUTE MANAGEMENT**

#### **6.2.1. COMPLAINT AND DISPUTE PROCEDURES**

- i. Disputes between Members that are not competition-related shall be dealt with under **Constitution Part 5, Division 3**.
- ii. Complaints relating to competition-related offences and disputes shall be dealt with under the [Competition Related Offences and Disputes Policy](#).
- iii. Complaints that come under any topics covered by [Netball Australia's Member Protection Policy](#) shall be dealt with under that policy.
- iv. Any other complaints or disputes will be dealt with under the most relevant policy, as determined by the Association.

#### **6.2.2. MEMBER PROTECTION INFORMATION OFFICER**

- i. The Association has a Member Protection Information Officer who may be available to assist Members with navigating the complaints handling process.

## 7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

### 7.1. WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

- i. The Association complies with its obligations under the [Working with Children Act 2004 \(WA\)](#).
- ii. Clubs are expected to comply with the relevant requirements under the [Working with Children Act 2004 \(WA\)](#).

### 7.2. ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

- i. No alcohol is permitted at the Grounds, unless under circumstances compliant with requirements under the [Liquor Control Act 1988 \(WA\)](#).
- ii. No illegal substances are permitted during netball activities at the Grounds.
- iii. No Player may take the court whilst under the influence of alcohol or any illegal substance.
- iv. No person may participate, or act in any official capacity, with any Club, or represent the Association, whilst under the influence of alcohol or any illegal substance.
- v. Players or officials suspected of acting under the influence of alcohol or any illegal substance while participating in Matches will be asked to leave the Grounds immediately.

### 7.3. SMOKING & ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

- i. For the purposes of this rule, smoking includes the use of electronic cigarettes.
- ii. In alignment with Netball WA, the Grounds are a smoke-free zone at all times during Association, Club, and third party activities.
- iii. Smoking is only permitted in areas designated by the Association.
- iv. Members and spectators may be asked to move if they are smoking anywhere on the Grounds that is not a designated area.

### 7.4. INTEGRITY FRAMEWORK POLICIES

- i. The Association and Clubs have obligations to protect and maintain the integrity of netball, as well as the health and wellbeing of athletes.
- ii. All Members are required to abide by all Netball Australia policies relating to integrity in netball, including, but not limited to:
  - a. [Netball Integrity Policy Framework, Conduct & Disciplinary Policy](#);
  - b. [Safeguarding Children & Young People policies](#);
  - c. [Corruption policies](#);
  - d. [Sports Science and Sports Medicine policies](#);
  - e. [Concussion policies](#).

### 7.5. NETBALL AUSTRALIA'S MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

- i. All Members are required to abide by the [Netball Australia Member Protection Policy](#).
- ii. Members should contact the Association if they need assistance from the Member Protection Information Officer.

## **8. AWARDS**

### **8.1. SERVICE AWARDS**

#### **8.1.1. CLUB COACHING SERVICE AWARDS**

- i. Club Coaching Service Awards may be presented annually to Club coaches who are nominated by their Clubs and meet the criteria for nomination.
- ii. Criteria for this award is determined by the ADO and set out on the nomination form.
- iii. Clubs can nominate coaches by completing the Club Coaching Service Award nomination form and submitting it to the ADO by the due date.
- iv. The Association may apply a limit to the number of Awards presented annually.

#### **8.1.2. OUTSTANDING COACH AWARD**

- i. One Outstanding Coach Award may be presented annually to a Club coach who is nominated by their Club and meets the criteria for nomination.
- ii. Criteria for this award is determined by the ADO and set out on the nomination form.
- iii. Clubs can nominate a coach by completing the Outstanding Coach Award nomination form and submitting it to the ADO by the due date.

#### **8.1.3. FNA COACHING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

- i. FNA Coaching Achievement Awards may be presented annually to all grand final-winning Association Representative Team coaches.

#### **8.1.4. CLUB UMPIRE SERVICE AWARDS**

- i. Club Umpire Service Awards may be presented annually to Club umpires who are nominated by their Clubs and meet the criteria for nomination.
- ii. Criteria for this award is determined by the AUDO and set out on the nomination form.
- iii. Clubs can nominate an umpire by completing the Club Umpire Service Award nomination form and submitting it to the AUDO by the due date.
- iv. The Association may apply a limit to the number of Awards presented annually.

#### **8.1.5. JUNIOR UMPIRE SCHOLARSHIP**

- i. One Junior Umpire Scholarship may be awarded annually.
- ii. This is a discretionary award and criteria is determined by the AUDO.
- iii. The recipient will be an umpire selected by the AUDO, Umpiring Coordinator, and members of the Umpiring Committee.

#### **8.1.6. SENIOR UMPIRE SCHOLARSHIP**

- i. One Senior Umpire Scholarship may be awarded annually.
- ii. This is a discretionary award and criteria is determined by the AUDO.
- iii. The recipient will be an umpire selected by the AUDO, Umpiring Coordinator, and members of the Umpiring Committee.

#### **8.1.7. FNA UMPIRING SERVICE AWARDS**

- i. FNA Umpiring Service Awards may be awarded annually.
- ii. This is a discretionary award and criteria is determined by the AUDO.
- iii. The recipient(s) will be selected by the AUDO and Umpiring Coordinator.



## **8.2. COMPETITION AWARDS**

### **8.2.1. LYN LENDRUM PERPETUAL TROPHY**

- i. The Lyn Lendrum Perpetual Trophy is awarded to the winning team in the Open Division 1 Grand Final.
- ii. The award consists of a perpetual trophy which is presented at the conclusion of the Open Division 1 Grand Final.
- iii. Clubs will be asked to return the trophy at a time determined by the Association, not being later than the start of the Finals Rounds of the next year.

### **8.2.2. THE 18 & UNDER DIVISION 1 PERPETUAL TROPHY**

- i. This is awarded to the winning team in the 18 & Under Division 1 Grand Final.
- ii. The award consists of a perpetual trophy which is presented at the conclusion of the 18 & Under Division 1 Grand Final.
- iii. Clubs will be asked to return the trophy at a time determined by the Association, not being later than the start of the Finals Rounds of the next year.

### **8.2.3. THE 16 & UNDER DIVISION 1 PERPETUAL TROPHY**

- iv. This is awarded to the winning team in the 16 & Under Division 1 Grand Final.
- v. The award consists of a perpetual trophy which is presented at the conclusion of the 16 & Under Division 1 Grand Final.
- vi. Clubs will be asked to return the trophy at a time determined by the Association, not being later than the start of the Finals Rounds of the next year.

### **1.1.2 MOST VALUABLE PLAYER MEDALS**

- i. An MVP Medal is awarded to the player considered to be the most valuable player on court during the following Grand Final Matches:
  - a. Open Division 1;
  - b. 18 & Under Division 1;
  - c. 16 & Under Division 1.
- ii. The Player is selected by a panel of independent selectors appointed by the Association who view the relevant Grand Final and vote on a 3, 2, 1 basis.
- iii. The President of the Association, or their delegate, will collate the votes
- iv. The winning Player for each of the above teams will be announced at the Presentation following the relevant Grand Final Match and will receive a medal in a presentation box.

### **8.2.4. UMPIRES OF OPEN DIVISION 1, 18 & UNDER DIVISION 1, AND 16 & UNDER DIVISION 1 GRAND FINALS**

- i. The umpires involved in officiating or reserving in the following Grand Final Matches, to a maximum of three umpires per Division listed, will receive an inscribed commemorative medal:
  - a. Open Division 1;
  - b. 18 & Under Division 1;
  - c. 16 & Under Division 1.
- ii. The medal will be presented following the relevant Grand Final Match.

### **8.2.5. PREMIERSHIP BANNERS**

- i. The team that wins the Grand Final Match in each Open, 18 & Under, and Junior competition Division will receive a Premiership Banner inscribed with the Division and year, and medals inscribed with the Division and year for each Player in the team.
- ii. These are presented following the Grand Final of each Division.

#### **8.2.6. COACHES MEDALS**

- i. Medals may be presented to coaches of the winning team of Grand Final matches in Junior, 18 & Under, and Open Divisions, provided that each coach is correctly registered as a coach in PlayHQ and allocated to that team prior to the cut-off date specified by the Association.

## **9. COMPETITION RULES - REGULAR SEASON**

### **9.1. GENERAL PLAYER ELIGIBILITY RULES**

#### **9.1.1. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- i. All Players must be either registered as a Player in PlayHQ with a Club or playing on a Single Game Voucher or Casual Fill-in Voucher, as well as being listed on the team list on the score card, to be eligible to take the court in Matches in the Winter Competition.
- ii. An individual may only take the court as a Player at one Club during the Winter Competition.
  - a. If an individual has taken the court as a Player in a nominated team for a Club during the season, they are not eligible to take the court for a different Club under any circumstances, including with the use of Playing Vouchers, regardless of whether their original registration has been Cancelled or they have been Withdrawn from their original Club.
  - b. An exception to this is instances covered under **clauses 9.1.5 and 9.1.6**.
  - c. This clause should be read in conjunction with **clauses 9.1.8 and 9.1.9**.
- iii. In addition to **clauses 9.1.1(i) and 9.1.1(ii)**, the following Player eligibility rules apply to the Winter Competition:
  - a. Senior competition:
    - 1. Intended as the primary open-age competition at the Association, including the preeminent Open Division 1 competition.
    - 2. The primary age of eligibility is turning 19 years or older in the year of competition.
    - 3. The minimum age of eligibility is turning at least 15 years of age during the year of competition.
    - 4. Male Players are not eligible for this competition.
  - b. 18 & Under competition:
    - 1. Intended as a continuance of the pathway from the Junior competition.
    - 2. The primary age of eligibility is turning 17 or 18 years of age in the year of competition.
    - 3. The minimum age of eligibility is turning at least 13 years of age during the year of competition.
    - 4. Players must not turn 19 or older in the year of competition.
    - 5. Male Players are not eligible for this competition.

c. Junior competition:

1. Intended as the primary junior-age competition at the Association, including the preeminent 16 & Under Division 1 competition.
2. This competition is primarily split into Divisions based on year of birth, with the ages of eligibility being:
  - I. 16 & Under: turning no older than 16 years
  - II. 15 & Under: turning no older than 15 years
  - III. 14 & Under: turning no older than 14 years
  - IV. 13 & Under: turning no older than 13 years
  - V. 12 & Under: turning no older than 12 years
  - VI. 11 & Under: turning no older than 11 years
  - VII. Junior Mixed: turning between 13 and 16 years
3. Players must be turning at least 10 years to participate in a Junior competition Division.
4. Players who are turning 10 years of age during the year of competition are not eligible to be nominated in a team for any Junior competition Division other than 11 & Under.
5. 12 & Under and 11 & Under Divisions are gender-neutral competitions.
6. Open, 18 & Under, 16 & Under, 15 & Under, 14 & Under, and 13 & Under Divisions are female-only competitions.
7. Junior Mixed Divisions are open to all genders, and:
  - I. Teams must include a minimum of one (1) male Player and a maximum of four (4) male Players.
  - II. Teams may include age-eligible Players who are also registered to participate in another competition in the Winter Competition.
  - III. Teams must ensure that the correct balance and positioning of male players is maintained throughout each game, being a maximum of three (3) males on court at any time, with maximum of one (1) male player per third at any time (i.e. one shooter, one midcourt, one defence).
  - IV. There is no minimum number of male players required on the court at any time.
8. Male Players who are eligible to participate in the 12 & Under or 11 & Under Divisions may play up into the female-only Divisions of the Junior competition.
9. Male Players who are turning 13 or older are not eligible to play in any female-only Divisions or competitions in the Winter Competition.

d. Set & Go competitions:

1. Intended as the primary pre-junior competitions at the Association.
2. These are modified rule competitions based on NetSetGo.
3. These competitions are split into Divisions based on year of birth, with the ages of eligibility being:
  - I. 10 & Under Go: turning no older than 10 years.
  - II. 9 & Under Go: turning no older than 9 years
  - III. 8 & Under Set: turning 7 or 8 years
4. Players must be turning at least 7 years to participate in a Set & Go competition Division.

5. Players who are turning 7 years of age during the year of competition are not eligible to be nominated in a team other than in the 8 & Under Set Divisions.
6. These are gender-neutral competitions.
- iv. Exemptions:
  - a. Clubs may seek exemptions for Players to participate in Divisions in which they are not eligible according to **rule 9.1.1** in accordance with the [Exemption Policy](#). Exemptions should be sought prior to the Player's placement in, or participation with, the team subject to the request.

#### **9.1.2. 16 & UNDER GRADE PLAYER POLICY**

- i. A Player who was a member of a team in the 16 & Under 1 Division is not eligible to play the following year in any 16 & Under Division, even if they are age-eligible.
- ii. Clubs may apply to the Permit & Protest Committee for an exemption to this rule for an individual Player in extenuating circumstances.

#### **9.1.3. PLAYERS PLAYING UP**

- i. Players may play for their Club teams in a higher Grade, Division, or competition during the Winter Competition where they are eligible to participate.
- ii. The fill-in Player must not enhance the performance of a team to such an extent that they influence the outcome of the Match. The Association will provide guidelines to assist Clubs with making decisions about fill-in Players.
- iii. It is the expectation of the Association that Clubs manage this appropriately during the season.
- iv. It is the Club's responsibility to select suitable fill-ins from its available eligible Players, and with reference to the [Athlete Eligibility Policy](#).
- v. Players may play for their Club teams in a higher Grade, Division, or competition during the Winter Competition any number of times in that season during Regular Season Matches, however noting **clauses 10.3.3(d) and (e)** in relation to Finals eligibility.
- vi. Where a Club has more than one team in the same Division:
  - a. A Player from the team ranked lower during Grading may play in the higher ranked team;
  - b. A Player from the team ranked higher during Grading cannot play in the lower ranked team without an exemption from the Permit & Protest Committee, which will only be approved in the event of extreme circumstances.

#### **9.1.4. PLAYERS PLAYING DOWN**

- i. Players are not permitted to play in a lower Grade, Division, or competition during the Winter Competition.
- ii. Exemption requests for Players to play down into a lower Grade, Division, or competition, or for interchange of Players within a Grade, shall be lodged in writing with the Association at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the Match concerned.
- iii. Any Player granted permission to play down for the whole season of the Winter Competition may not subsequently play up into a higher Grade during that season, including during Finals Matches.

#### **9.1.5. SINGLE GAME VOUCHERS**

- i. The use of Single Game Vouchers is managed under the [Playing Voucher Policy](#).
- ii. For the 2026 Winter Competition, Single Game Vouchers will cost \$15.00.

#### **9.1.6. PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER – PENALTIES**

- i. In the event of a team playing a Player who is not eligible and has not received an exemption under the [Exemptions Policy](#), the offending team shall forfeit the Match.
- ii. For any further instances where a team who has been penalised under **clause 9.1.7(i)** in the current season plays a Player who is not eligible, the offending team shall forfeit the Match and shall be penalised a further two (2) points.

#### **9.1.7. PLAYER CLEARANCES**

- i. At the conclusion of the Winter Competition in the previous season, Clubs may advise the Association of any Players that they have not cleared to play with another Club, and reasons for such refusal.
- ii. Where no information has been supplied by a Club under **clause 9.1.8(i)** within the timeframe specified, unless exceptional circumstances apply, it will be assumed by the Association that all players at that Club are cleared to play with another Club.
- iii. Where an entire Club or Entity Team withdraws from the Winter Competition during the season, transfers are to be managed in accordance with **Constitution rule 14(5)**.
- iv. No clearances are required from Clubs that disband at the conclusion of a season unless that Club is non-financial with the Association, when the Association may require the Player to pay their portion of the debt of their previous Club.
- v. Any Club has the right to request an appeal meeting with the Association regarding a Player who Transfers to another Club and still has some financial obligation to their former Club.
- vi. At any appeal meeting, both Clubs concerned are entitled to have up to two representatives in attendance to present their case.
- vii. The Association may refuse or grant a clearance depending on the merits of the cases presented, and their decision will be final.

#### **9.1.8. ETHICS AND MEMBER TRANSFERS**

- i. Players who are registered in a nominated team may not Transfer between Clubs once they have taken the court for a Club during the Winter Competition or when they have not been cleared by their previous Club under **clause 9.1.8**.
- ii. The Permit & Protest Committee may consider an exemption request where exceptional circumstances exist, which must accord with the [Exemptions Policy](#).
- iii. Clubs are expected to conduct themselves ethically when dealing with the movement of Players between Clubs, and to avoid Player poaching.
- iv. Clubs are expected to encourage their coaches and other volunteers to avoid approaching Players from other Clubs for the purpose of recruiting them.
- v. Where a Player chooses to change Clubs of their own volition, this is not considered Player poaching.

### **9.2. MATCH DAY**

#### **9.2.1. SET & GO MATCHPLAY RULES**

- i. The modified rules used for all Set & Go competition Matches during the Winter Competition are published on the [Association website](#).

#### **9.2.2. COACHING FROM THE SIDELINES**

- i. In all Open, 18 & Under, and Junior Divisions:
  - a. Coaches are required to remain within the team bench area during play, as per the Rules of Netball.

- b. Coaches may provide verbal coaching from the bench.
  - c. Moving along the sidelines or goal lines while coaching or spectating is not permitted.
- ii. Coaching on the sideline in Set & Go Divisions is managed by the Set & Go competition rules that are published on the [Association website](#).

### **9.2.3. MATCH LENGTH AND TIMING**

- i. Matches shall consist of four quarters.
  - a. All Set & Go grades will have 10-minute quarters.
  - b. All other grades will have 15-minute quarters.
- ii. The quarter breaks will be as follows:
  - a. Two (2) minutes at quarter time and three-quarter time.
  - b. Four (4) minutes at half time.
- iii. Any changes to Match length must be approved by the Match Day Officials.
- iv. Matches are not centrally timed, and it is the responsibility of the teams to ensure that their Match is suitably timed, with reference to **clause 9.2.5(ii)**.

### **9.2.4. NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND PUNCTUALITY**

- i. Matches must start on time.
- ii. A team must take the court if there are at least five (5) Players present, one of whom must play Centre.
- iii. Any team failing to take the court with five or more Players, or failing to field five (5) or more Players, within five minutes of the start of the scheduled Match time must forfeit the Match.

### **9.2.5. MATCH OFFICIALS AND TECHNICAL OFFICIALS**

- i. The Match Officials of the Match are the two umpires.
- ii. Technical Officials are the Scorer and Timekeeper.
  - a. The Timekeeper must use a time clock that is not a mobile phone and that has an audible alarm to signify the end of time.
  - b. The Technical Officials must be positioned together next to the sideline on the same side of the court as the team benches, outside the playing and umpire area, and in line with the centre circle.
  - c. The Technical Officials are both responsible for checking both the time and the scores with each other.
  - d. All Technical Officials should be over 18 years of age, and must not be the coach of the team.
  - e. Where possible, Technical Officials should remain the same person for the entire Match.
  - f. Both teams taking part in a Match should bring a time clock, to ensure that there is support for the umpires during held time for Injury/Illness/Blood and suspensions, or in case the primary time clock fails.

### **9.2.6. SCORECARDS**

- i. The scoring team shall collect the official scorecard from the Association office.
- ii. The completed score card with the results of the Match, including the names of the Players and positions played, the grade of the teams, and the date of Match, must be returned to the Association office by the winning team, or, in the event of a draw, the first named team.

- iii. All players participating in the match should be listed in their respective team lists on the scorecard with the starting 7 of each quarter marked with their starting position.
- iv. Should a player be left off a team list, it will be managed under **clause 9.1.7**.

#### **9.2.7. CONDUCT OF MATCHES**

- i. The Rules of Netball will apply to all Winter Competition Matches, unless otherwise stated.
- ii. The Association reserves the right to disallow a Player to participate in Matches when their presence may be detrimental to other Players, including where disciplinary action has occurred.
- iii. During a Match, the umpires are the sole judges of fact and of the Rules.
- iv. Players are not restricted to playing in one Match per day, however any additional Matches played must be within the Association rules and with consideration given to athlete loading.
- v. Extra time is not played during any Matches during the Regular Season.

#### **9.2.8. ROLLING SUBSTITUTIONS**

- i. No Tactical Time (Rules of Netball rule 10.2) will be used in the Winter Competition.
- ii. Rolling substitutions will be utilised in all Junior, 18 & Under, and Open Divisions in the Winter Competition.
- iii. During the play in Matches eligible under **clause 9.2.8(i)**:
  - a. There is no limit to the number of rolling substitutions that can be made during a Match.
  - b. Only one rolling substitution action may be made at once, which may involve either:
    - 1. One Player from the interchange bench and one on-court Player, or;
    - 2. Two on-court Players, who must transition via the substitution zone.
  - c. Teams may make rolling substitutions during play, including during stoppages and at intervals.
  - d. Time is not held for rolling substitutions, and umpires do not need to be notified that a rolling substitution is taking place.
- iv. Court set-up for rolling substitutions:
  - a. A designated substitution zone will be marked or otherwise designated at the location of each team bench during an eligible Match.
  - b. Each Club is responsible for setting up their substitution zone for each Match.
  - c. Spectators must allow room for the rolling substitution zones.
  - d. Team benches must be located on the same side of the court as the Scorer and Timekeeper, per **clause 9.2.5(ii)(b)**.
- v. Rolling substitution competition rules:
  - a. The substitute Player must wait in the designated substitution zone.
  - b. The Player leaving the court must arrive at the designated substitution zone before the substitute Player may enter the court.
  - c. The Player leaving the court must return directly to the team bench, unless they are seeking medical treatment.
  - d. Players cannot change positions while on the court.
  - e. Players must observe the offside rule when completing rolling substitutions.
  - f. Players must not interfere with the movement or vision of the umpires when completing rolling substitutions.

- g. Teams must not delay play through the use of rolling substitutions.
- h. There must be at least five players from each team on the court at all times.
- vi. Breaches of the rolling substitution competition rules:
  - a. If a Player enters an area of the court not designated for their playing position, or interferes with the movement or vision of an umpire, a sanction will be awarded whether the Player was in contact with the ball or not. *Sanction: free pass where the interference or offside entry/exit occurred.*
  - b. If the play is delayed, such as by taking too long after a goal is scored to roll on a centre who will be taking a centre pass, the normal sanction for delaying play will be applied. *Sanction: penalty pass which is advanced (unless the non-infringing team is disadvantaged) against the infringing player.*
  - c. In the instance of a breach of any of the other rolling substitution rules in **clause 9.2.8(iv)**, a sanction will be awarded. *Sanction: free pass where the ball was when the infringement occurred.*

#### **9.2.9. PLAYER SAFETY MANAGEMENT**

- i. Injury and illness on court is managed under the Rules of Netball.
- ii. The Association recognises that Clubs may not have one single primary care person for their teams, and requests that any incidents occurring on court that would require the attendance of a primary care person is managed sensibly and with no more people attending the Player(s) involved than is necessary.
- iii. All instances of concussion, or suspected concussion, should be dealt with under the [Concussion Policy](#) and the related concussion protocols.
- iv. Clubs are encouraged to have spare sets of bibs and spare uniforms available in the event that a Player or team is impacted by blood.
- v. Where blood has affected the uniform of a Player, that Player:
  - a. May continue the Match with only one position bib on, until a suitable interval where alternative bibs can be sourced.
  - b. May finish the Match in an alternative uniform item or equivalent.

#### **9.2.10. UNIFORMS**

- i. Clubs must comply with the [Uniform Policy](#).
- ii. All Players must wear the registered uniform of their Club or they will not be permitted to take the court, except where:
  - a. **Clause 9.2.9(iv)** has been engaged, or;
  - b. **Clause 9.2.10(iii)** has been engaged, or;
  - c. An exemption has been approved under the [Exemptions Policy](#).
- iii. In the Junior Mixed competition:
  - a. Where possible, Clubs should comply with the [Uniform Policy](#) when entering teams into the Junior Mixed competition.
  - b. Where a Club does not have a uniform suitable for all Players in their Junior Mixed team, all Players must be in the same uniform, which must be approved by the Association prior to the start of the Match.

#### **9.2.11. PERSONAL ADORNMENTS**

- i. The Association follows the Rules of Netball with regards to personal adornments on Players, including jewellery, splints, and other items that may impact on-court safety, as managed by the [Uniform Policy](#).
- ii. Players seeking to compete in Matches while wearing prohibited personal adornments must obtain an exemption through the [Exemptions Policy](#).



### **9.2.12. MATCHES PLAYED AND MATCH POINTS CALCULATION**

- i. Divisions of 6 teams will play each other three times (15 Matches) during the Regular Season.
- ii. Divisions of 4 will play each other five times (15 Matches) during the Regular Season.
- iii. Divisions of 5 will play each other three times, plus each team will have three byes (12 Matches).
- iv. Divisions of 7 will play each other twice, plus one game and two byes (13 Matches) during the Regular Season, except:
  - a. One team will have three byes instead of the extra game (12 Matches), and;
  - b. For Finals-eligible Divisions, any points or percentage gained in Round 15 of the competition will not be used to calculate the final ladder positions.
- v. Divisions of 8 will play each other twice plus one Match (15 Matches) during the Regular Season, however:
  - a. For Finals-eligible Divisions, any points or percentage gained in Round 15 of the competition will not be used to calculate the final ladder positions.

### **9.2.13. FINES AND PENALTIES**

- i. All fines are monetary and must be received by the Association before the next playing date.

	<b>Reason for Fine/Penalty</b>	<b>Penalty</b>	<b>Fine</b>
<b>1</b>	Failure to return post pad to storage at completion of Match	Fine to the Club of each team that played the last Match on the court.	\$25.00
<b>2</b>	Failure of an umpire to be registered according to <b>clause 4.9.1(iii)</b>	Fine to the Club allocated to supply the umpire.	\$20.00
<b>3</b>	Failure to provide an umpire (including an adult or approved umpire for Set divisions)	Fine and loss of two (2) Match Points to the team allocated to umpire. For Clubs allocated to umpire their own team (e.g. Junior Divisions), the team playing will lose the Points. Set divisions will not lose points.	\$100.00
<b>4</b>	Failure to provide an umpire (including reserve umpire) for a Finals Match	Fine	\$100.00
<b>5</b>	Forfeiting a Match without giving the required notice (Late Forfeit)	Fine	\$50.00
<b>6</b>	Forfeiting a second or subsequent Match, regardless of timing (Penalised Forfeit)	Fine, and Club must provide reasons for the forfeit to the Association.	\$100.00
<b>7</b>	Playing an ineligible Player – first instance and during Finals Matches	Forfeit of Match	N/A
<b>8</b>	Playing an ineligible Player – further instances	Forfeit of Match and loss of two (2) Match Points.	N/A

## **10. COMPETITION RULES – FINALS**

### **10.1. FINALS STRUCTURE**

- i. At the conclusion of Matches under **clause 9.2.11**, Finals Rounds shall commence for all Divisions that are eligible for Finals.

- ii. Where teams in a Division finish the season with equal number of Points, the relative positions on the ladder shall be arrived at by using the goal percentage.

## **10.2. EXTRA TIME**

### **10.2.1. FINALS ROUNDS MATCHES**

- i. In the event of a draw in Finals Matches, extra time shall be played.
- ii. The following structure will apply to extra time:
  - a. At the end of the Match when scores are tied, there is a three-minute break, during which:
    - 1. The teams may make substitutions and team changes, and;
    - 2. The teams change ends, and;
    - 3. The Match is restarted by the team entitled to the next centre pass.
  - b. The extra time periods shall be:
    - 1. Two 7-minute halves, and;
    - 2. A one-minute interval between the two halves.
  - c. The teams must change ends at the end of the first 7 minutes.
  - d. The teams may make substitutions and team changes during the one-minute interval.
  - e. After the one-minute interval, the Match is restarted by the team entitled to the next centre pass.
  - f. At the conclusion of the second 7 minutes, the Timekeeper will advise the umpire that it is time.
  - g. The umpire should blow their whistle and note where the ball is and who has it in their possession.
  - h. The umpires should keep all players on court whilst they check the scorecard with the Scorer.
  - i. If the Match is still drawn at the end of the second 7 minutes, play will continue on the umpire's whistle from where the ball was when time was called until one team has a two-goal advantage.
  - j. The Scorer and Timekeeper must advise the umpire when a two-goal advantage has been achieved, at which point the umpire's whistle stops the game.
  - k. All other rules of the game remain the same.

## **10.3. FINALS ROUNDS RULE VARIATIONS**

### **10.3.1. UMPIRES**

- i. The Association will allocate umpiring duties to Clubs that the Clubs must fill.
- ii. Where possible, Clubs will not be allocated to umpire their own Club, and it is the Association's preference that Clubs do not allocate umpires to Matches where the umpire's Club is participating.
- iii. Best efforts will be made by the Association to avoid allocating Squad and Academy umpires to Matches where that umpire's Club is participating.
- iv. Clubs must provide their strongest available umpires.
- v. All umpires are required to have a current certificate of completion for the Rules of Netball Theory Exam.

- a. A copy of the certificate of completion should be given to the umpire's Club umpiring coordinator.
  - b. Each Club umpiring coordinator shall collate results and provide an excel spreadsheet containing names, date completed and result of the exam to AUDO by the date specified by the AUDO.
- vi. Should a Club-affiliated umpire be named by the Association on a Finals Match, this will count as a Club commitment and will be traded off the Club's allocated umpiring commitments.
- vii. Due to the limited time between Matches, and the possibility of drawn Matches going into extra time, where possible:
  - a. No umpire should be rostered on back-to-back Finals Matches, and;
  - b. No Player should be rostered on to umpire immediately before or after a Match in which they are involved in as a Player.
- viii. No umpire should be involved as an athlete in more than three total Matches during a day, including umpiring and playing.
- ix. Umpires should adhere to the [Uniform Policy](#).
- x. If a Club fails to supply an umpire during Finals, a fine of \$100.00 will apply per Umpire, including reserve umpires if they fail to report in to the office.
- xi. Clubs should check the reserve umpire lists in addition to the umpires allocated to Matches at each time slot.

### **10.3.2. PLAYERS**

- i. All Players must comply with the Rules of Netball, the Winter Competition Handbook, and the policies and procedures of the Association.

### **10.3.3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- i. In addition to **clause 9.1.1**, the following eligibility rules apply to all Finals Matches:
  - a. The Player must be fully financial with their Club, the Association, and Netball WA.
  - b. The Player must have played in five (5) Matches during the Regular Season with the Club with which they intend to play Finals, during five (5) separate Rounds.
  - c. The Player must be registered via PlayHQ, prior to the conclusion of Regular Season Matches per **clause 3.2.2(iv)**, with the Club for whom they are playing Finals Matches.
  - d. Where concerns are held by the Club about qualifying a Player under **clause 10.3.3(i)(c)**, such as when a Player is injured early in the season and intends to return, or where a Division has fewer Matches than a Division of six, then the Club may apply for an exemption under the Exemptions Policy.
  - e. The Player will be considered to be registered in the team, Grade, and Division in which they have played the most Matches during the Regular Season.
  - f. Should the Player have played an equal number of Matches in more than one team, the team in the higher Grade or Division will be deemed to be the team in which the Player is registered.
  - g. A Player may not participate in Finals Matches for any team other than the one in which they are registered, unless a Finals Permit has been obtained.
  - h. A Club may apply for a Finals Permit to replace an existing Player for a Finals Match, provided that the Player has met all other eligibility requirements in **clause 10.3.3**.

#### **10.3.4. PERMITS**

- i. Requests for Finals Permits for Players must comply with the [Finals Permit Policy](#).

#### **10.3.5. FINALS PROCEDURES**

- i. All Matches will be scored on the official scorecard which the umpires will bring to the court and return to the Association office at the end of the Match.
- ii. All Finals Matches will be played on hard courts.
- iii. Scorers and Timekeepers must be adults and comply with **clause 9.2.5(ii)**.
- iv. All Clubs must be financial with the Association for their teams to be permitted to participate in the Finals Rounds.
- v. No requests from Clubs or teams for time slot changes during Finals will be accepted.