



**Grading Policy and Procedures & Rules for State
Championships, State Age, Night Inter District
and Association Carnivals**

Adopted by NSW Netball Association Ltd
Council Meeting
On 5 November 2016

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1. GENERAL PROCEDURES

- 1.1 Except for Rule 1.2 only affiliated Associations are eligible to enter competitions or events conducted by Netball NSW.
- 1.2 All players and team officials entered into a Netball NSW competition must show as a financial registered member of Netball NSW or relevant State or Territory in the My Netball database prior to the commencement of that competition, or their participation in that competition.
- 1.3 The closing date for all competitions will be notified on the relevant entry form and on the Netball NSW website.
- 1.4 No changes shall be made to any rule for any competition after the November Council meeting in the year previous to any event.
- 1.5 Any changes to entry fees for competitions for the ensuing year will be approved at the November Council meeting.
- 1.6 All entries for competitions must be lodged on the official Entry and Team Registration forms and must be received by Netball NSW by the published time and date for close of entries. Late entries will only be accepted as detailed in Rule 1.7 below.
- 1.7 Where an entry is not received by Netball NSW by the published closing time for entries, upon the payment of the prescribed fee, a late entry will be accepted provided that the late entry is received by Netball NSW by 5.00pm on the next Tuesday after the close of entries for the relevant competition.
- 1.8 The late entry fee for Region 1 competitions shall be \$1,000.00. No late entry fee shall be applicable to competitions held in Regions 2 – 8.
- 1.9 The late entry fee for the State Championships and State Age Championships shall be \$500.00 for all Associations.
- 1.10 Where an Association, Region or ACT withdraws a team from any Netball NSW competition within three (3) weeks of the commencement of the particular competition the offending body will be fined \$500.00.

2. GRADING PROCEDURE FOR REGION 1 – NIGHT INTER DISTRICT

- 2.1 The closing date for the Night Inter District (NID) competition shall be notified on the Netball NSW website.
- 2.2 Each Association may enter a maximum of four (4) teams in NID.
- 2.3 An Association is permitted to have one team only in each division of NID.
- 2.4 A maximum six (6) teams will be graded in each division of NID. Teams who are unable to be graded into a division will be balloted out.
- 2.5 Associations shall register teams on the approved player entry form together with full details of a minimum of seven (7) and maximum of twelve (12) players' names and their relevant playing status, by the closing date for NID.
- 2.6 All grading shall be based on names submitted on the official entry forms and taking into account previous playing experience across competitions such as:
- Premier League;
 - Metro League;
 - State Championships;
 - State Age Championships;
 - Night Interdistrict; and
- all grading of teams will be made at the discretion of Netball NSW. The current ladder positions are not used for grading purposes in NID.
- 2.7
- a) Where a player's name appears on more than one team entry form the player will be contacted by Netball NSW personnel prior to grading and the player must then immediately nominate the Association that they will be playing with. The Associations concerned will be advised accordingly. The Association not nominated by the player will be given 48 hours from the time of advice to replace the player without penalty.
 - b) Where a player's name is removed from a team entry form by Netball NSW personnel prior to grading the Associations concerned will be advised accordingly. The Association will be given 48 hours from the time of advice to replace the player without penalty.
 - c) Associations will be allowed to move a single player up from lower divisions to fill this space. Associations will be allowed to nominate one (1) player (per player removed by Netball NSW personnel) who was not on the original entry forms.
- 2.8 No late registration of players will be accepted between the published date for the close of entries and one week before the commencement of NID. Late registrations are to be submitted on the appropriate form by an Association official to Netball NSW prior to the commencement of match.
- 2.9 For NID Netball NSW will, based on the number of entries received be responsible for determining:
- a) the number of rounds to be played
 - b) the number of teams to participate in each division
 - c) the format of the competition

3. PLAYING RULES FOR REGION 1 – NIGHT INTER DISTRICT

- 3.1 The commencing date for the Night Inter District (NID) competition will be notified on the Netball NSW website.
- 3.2 NID shall be conducted on a point score basis with the team scoring the highest number of points at the conclusion of NID being declared the winner. In the event of two or more teams being on equal points at the conclusion of the competition, a goal average will be used to decide the winner.
- 3.3 All matches will be played at a venue and night notified by Netball NSW.
- 3.4 Games abandoned or cancelled by Netball NSW are considered as games played by all players registered prior to that date.
- 3.5 Each team will be allowed a maximum of 2 forfeits throughout the competition without penalty. On the third occasion the forfeiting team will be fined \$100.00. Each subsequent forfeit the fine will increase by \$100.00. A team that withdraws from the competition after the commencement will be classed as forfeiting each match after this date.
- 3.6 Players may play up to two (2) matches in any given week subject to the following conditions:
- a) Games must be in alternate time slots if played on the same night.
 - b) One game must be in the team in which the player is registered.
 - c) Additional game must be in a higher graded team from the same association as the player is currently registered for.
- 3.7 The fixture for all divisions of NID will be posted on the Netball NSW website at least one (1) week prior to the commencement of NID where possible.
- 3.8 At no time is a team permitted to have more than 12 players registered. A maximum of four (4) players may be late registered in each team one week before the commencement of the competition until the end of the NID competition. Where a player moves from one division to another division by virtue of playing three games in the same higher graded team that player is counted as a late registration in that higher graded team.
- 3.9 A de-registered player may only be re-registered in the same team in the same division for the duration of the competition. A re-registered player is counted as a late registration.
- A “late registration” is defined as follows:
- (i) Where a player has not been registered in the current competition or has been de-registered and is to be re-registered in the same team in the same grade. The player entry fee is payable.
 - (ii) Where a player transfers from one division to a higher division by virtue of playing three (3) games in the same higher graded team that player is counted as a “late registration” in that higher graded team. In these circumstances no additional fees are payable.
- 3.10 Players may not play in a division lower than the division in which they were originally graded.

- 3.11 Each player must play in the identical playing uniform except where prior approval has been given by Netball NSW.
- 3.12 Any change to the name of a player already registered is to be advised in writing by an Association official to Netball NSW within seven (7) days. Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$100.00.
- 3.13 Late registrations are to be submitted on the appropriate form by an Association official to Netball NSW prior to the commencement of the match in which they are to play. The player must be a registered member of Netball NSW or relevant State or Territory.
- 3.14 After a team has been graded, any late registration should be of an equal playing standard. Netball NSW may reject a late registration where it considers the inclusion of the player would affect the grade of the team. In such circumstances the Association or player concerned has the right of appeal to the Appeals Tribunal.
- 3.15 Where a player plays three (3) matches in a division higher than that originally graded, on playing her third game in the same higher graded team the player will remain in that higher graded team for the remainder of the competition and cannot participate in any other game in any higher graded division for the remainder of the competition.
- 3.16 If an Association records the name of an unregistered or ineligible player on the score sheet, the Association will be required to prove within seven (7) days that the person who played under that name is registered with that team.
- This proof shall be in the form of a Statutory Declaration to Netball NSW. Failure to submit such proof within seven (7) days of notification shall result in the loss of two (2) competition points.
- 3.17 A team may claim a forfeit one (1) minute after the time set down for the commencement of the match, if the opposing team does not have five (5) players in full uniform on court and ready to play.
- 3.18 Injury time will be applied in accordance with INF rules.
- 3.19 Bench Officials
- a) Each team is to provide two approved Bench Officials who have completed the on line Bench Officials education course and the Netball NSW practical training workshop.
 - b) Where an Association fails to provide the appropriate number of approved Bench Officials a fine of \$50.00 will be imposed.
 - c) Netball NSW will remove any person who has not completed the on line Bench Officials education course and the Netball NSW practical training workshop from the bench and a fine of \$50.00 will be imposed on the offending Association.
- 3.20 Equipment
- a) Scorebooks, supplementary score sheets, substitution forms and team list pads, will be supplied by Netball NSW and will be available for each match on the score bench.
- 3.21 Score sheets shall be returned to central control at the conclusion of each match.

3.22 If in the opinion of Netball NSW matches are unable to be played due to the condition of courts, each team will be awarded one (1) point.

3.23 Points Table

Night Inter District Points Table					
Win	Loss	Draw	Forfeit	Bye	Abandoned
2	0	1	2	0	1*

* If game abandoned prior to half time - 1 point each team

* If game abandoned at or after half time - result as per score sheet

3.24 Goal Average

a) If two or more teams finish on equal points after the final round of matches, positions shall be decided on goal averages.

b) The goal average for each team shall be decided as follows:

Total number of goals scored by the team, divided by the total number of goals scored against the team, multiplied by 100 and divided by the actual number of matches played by the team.

$$\text{i.e.} \quad \frac{\text{goals scored}}{\text{goals scored against}} \times \frac{100}{\text{matches played}}$$

The number of matches actually played includes a match a team has forfeited, but does not include a match where the team has received a forfeit.

3.25 No disputes will be entered into regarding score sheets.

In circumstances where team officials of both teams involved testify that the score sheet submitted to Netball NSW is incorrect and further they agree on the correct score Netball NSW has the discretion to vary the official scores.

3.26 A trophy shall be presented to the winning and runner-up Association in each division.

3.27 Embroidered patches shall be awarded to the Manager, Coach, Assistant Coach, Primary Carer and players of the winning and runner up teams in each division.

3.28 Each team is to provide an approved match ball.

3.29 Each team is to have available two (2) sets of position patches of different colours.

3.30 Umpires:

- a) Each Association is to provide a National badged umpire or other approved umpire for each team entered.
- b) All umpires will be allocated to matches by Netball NSW.
 - (i) Unbadged umpires may be tested for practical badges:
 - after consultation with Netball NSW; and
 - games comply with all requirements stated in the National Umpire Development Framework book.
- c) If an umpire has not arrived 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the match, a replacement umpire may take the court.
- d) Associations whose umpires fail to fulfil their allocation by a non-attendance will be fined \$500.00 for each duty not fulfilled except in extenuating circumstances.
- e) Female umpires shall be dressed in white dress or skirt and top, male umpires shall be dressed in white shorts and shirt.
- f) Any qualified umpire may apply to Netball NSW to be allocated to matches.

4. GRADING PROCEDURES FOR STATE AGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 4.1 The closing date for the State Age Championships (State Age) will be notified on the Netball NSW website.
- 4.2 The minimum age for any player to play at State Age is turning 12 in the year of play.
- 4.3 Where an age qualification applies, players are to play in their correct age group, unless special permission is granted. Any request for players to play in a higher age group than that for which they are eligible must have the prior approval of Netball NSW.
- 4.4 Associations are to register teams on the approved player entry form together with full details of a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of twelve (12) players' names and their relevant experience by the closing date for State Age.
- a) Where a player's name appears on more than one team entry form the player will be contacted by Netball NSW personnel prior to grading and the player must then immediately nominate the Association that they will be playing with. The Associations concerned will be advised accordingly. The Association not nominated by the player will be given 48 hours from the time of advice to replace the player without penalty.
 - b) Where a player's name is removed from a team entry form by Netball NSW personnel prior to grading the Associations concerned will be advised accordingly. The Association will be given 48 hours from the time of advice to replace the player without penalty.

Team lists will be displayed on the Netball NSW website, one week prior to the commencement of the Competition and it is the Association's duty to check all players are listed.

- 4.5 A final team list will consist of those players from the original registration form who are available to compete and up to a maximum of four (4) late registrations. This list shall be lodged with control by 8.00am of the first playing day of State Age and checked against original entry.

Following the close of entries, players listed on an original team registration form are not permitted to de-register and re-register with another team or another Association.

- 4.6 At no time is a team permitted to have more than 12 players registered. Any team playing a non-registered player will be disqualified.
- 4.7 A team will be defined by having a minimum of five (5) players returning from the previous year.
- 4.8 Entries will be graded into divisions, being Championship Division, Division 2, Division 3 and Division 4 according to the number of entries received. There will be 20 teams in Championship Division and the remaining entries will be divided as far as is possible equally between Division 2, Division 3 and Division 4.

Where more than 80 entries are received in an age group, 22 teams will be graded into the Championship Division for that age group. In the year of this increase in Championship Division, grading will be done with the two bottom teams being moved down to Division 2 and the 4 top teams moved up from Division 2 to Championship Division.

- 4.9 a) For the 12 years age division, the Association can make a recommendation as to the preferred division for participation. Where it is not possible to place an Association in the Division requested the following procedures will be applied.
- b) Where nominations are received that recommends placement of more than 20 teams in Championship Division the placement of teams will be based on the Association's final result in the 12 years age Division in the preceding State Age Championship.
- c) Where nominations are received that recommends placement of less than 20 teams in Championship Division, Netball NSW reserves the right to grade no less than 20 teams in order to uphold the integrity and competitive nature of the 12 year age Division. The placement of teams will be based on the Association's final result in the 12 years age Division in the preceding State Age Championship.
- 4.10 For all other age Divisions grading will be undertaken having regard to the team's final placing from the previous year's State Age Championship results. An Association may submit a request to have their provisional grading varied from being based on the team's final placing from the previous year's State Age Championship result where it can show, on the balance of probabilities that the team under contest has less than 5 players from the previous year's competition. The final grading decision will be made at the discretion of Netball NSW.
- 4.11 For each year and for each division, at least the two bottom teams will be relegated to the lower division and at least the two top teams promoted to the next higher division. Placing for relegation and promotion shall be based on final point scores and where teams finish on equal point scores then goal averages will be used to determine both promotion and relegation.
- 4.12 Where a team did not enter in the previous year's State Age, the Association can make a recommendation as to the preferred division for participation but the final grading decision will be made by Netball NSW. The Association recommendation is to be by written submission detailing the reasons for recommending placement in a particular division.

5. PLAYING RULES FOR STATE AGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 5.1 State Age Championships (State Age) are held commencing on the first weekend of the second term school holidays.
- 5.2 State Championships are conducted in the 15 years, 14 years, 13 years and 12 years age groups.
- 5.3 The age of the players shall be determined by their ages as at December 31 in the year of play.
- 5.4 A player can only participate in State Age where they meet the respective age requirement as above. Refer also to Grading Procedures for State Age Championships, clause 4.3.
- 5.5 All players in all age groups must play the equivalent of 30% of the total number of available games over State Age. For the purposes of calculation of the 30% rule, two half games equals one full game.

Each team will receive with their score sheets, a spreadsheet to be completed for each game over the three days of State Age. The sheet will show each player's name and the games they have played. The completed sheet must be handed in at the end of each day and on the third day with the final score sheet of the Championships prior to the presentation. The sheet must be signed by an Association Official, Coach or Manager prior to being submitted at the end of State Age.

The penalty for a breach of the 30% rule is disqualification from any placing and the Association responsible will be fined \$2,000.00. Where a team is disqualified the team will have a 'DQ' designation next to the team name on the competition ladder and will retain their competition points and corresponding ladder position for the purpose of grading in the following State Age Championship only.

When entries for State Age Championships are forwarded, a declaration of commitment of the 30% game rule for all players is to be signed by an Association Official. If the form is not received, teams will not be accepted into State Age.

- 5.6 There shall be no finals or joint placing. To determine the final individual placing point scores will be used and then if required to separate one or more teams on the same points score goal averages will be used.
- 5.7 Umpires
 - a) One non-playing badged umpire for each team entered plus one additional non-playing badged umpire per Association, per day (i.e. an Association entering four (4) teams must supply a minimum of five (5) umpires per day)
 - b) The minimum qualification to umpire at State Age is a National 'C' badge.
 - c) Nominated umpires may not play, coach or manage a team during State Age.
 - d) At the time of lodging team nominations the Association is to provide the appropriate number of qualified umpires for the duration of the competition. This is to be lodged on the official form with umpires names and current qualifications.
 - e) Twenty one (21) days prior to the competition, umpires names and current qualification are to be confirmed by all Associations. Where umpire nominations are not confirmed by this date the Association will be fined \$500.00 and must nominate umpires as per Rule 2 (a) within 24 hours of notification of \$500.00 fine.

- f) Associations, withdrawing umpires after the confirmation date will be fined \$200.00 per umpire withdrawn unless a medical certificate is produced that certifies the umpire's unavailability due to illness or injury or other extenuating circumstances. If an umpire is not replaced with a badged umpire a further fine of \$200.00 is enforced.
 - g) Where an umpire withdraws on the day for other than medical reasons or other extenuating circumstances, or does not show that Association will incur a fine of \$200.00 per allocation per day.
 - h) All umpires must be dressed in white.
- 5.8 All teams will play each team in their division during State Age, except when more than 22 teams are graded in an age grouping in Division 2, 3, and 4.
- 5.9 Where there are more than 22 teams graded in Division 2, 3 or 4 a maximum of 21 games in that age group will be played.
- 5.10 The winners of the Championship Division of each age division shall be declared State Age Champions.
- 5.11 A trophy shall be presented to the winning and runner-up Association in each division.
- 5.12 Embroidered patches shall be awarded to the Manager, Coach, Assistant Coach, Primary Carer and players of the winning and runner up teams in each division.
- 5.13 Playing times of matches is at the discretion of Netball NSW but shall not exceed twelve (12) minutes per half. Where possible, there will be a half-time break of at least two (2) minutes and five (5) minutes between games.
- 5.14 Each player in the team must play in the identical playing uniform, except where prior approval has been given by Netball NSW.
- 5.15 Each team is to have available two sets of position patches, of different colours.
- 5.16 Each team is to provide an approved match ball.
- 5.17 Substitution of players is permitted in accordance with official rules.
- 5.18 Injury time may be taken according to official INF rules, but no additional time shall be added to the match.
- 5.19 The umpire's whistle shall start and finish games on the indication from the central timing device.
- 5.20 A team may claim a forfeit one (1) minute after the umpire's whistle to indicate commencement of play on the indication from the central timing device and if the opposing team does not have five (5) players in full uniform on court and ready to play. The umpires will sign the official score sheet attesting to the forfeit.
- 5.21 The method of distribution of score sheets will be determined Netball NSW.
- 5.22 Score sheets are to be returned by the winning team immediately after each match.

5.23 In circumstances where team officials of both teams involved testify that the score sheet submitted to Netball NSW is incorrect and further they agree on the correct score then Netball NSW has the discretion to vary the official scores.

5.24 One (1) official from each team is to sign the score sheet.

5.25 If, in the opinion of Netball NSW games are unable to be played due to severe inclement weather or adverse court conditions, each team fixtured to play will be awarded one (1) point. No points will be awarded for teams having the Bye.

5.26 Points Table

State Age Championships Points Table

Win	Loss	Draw	Forfeit	Bye	Abandoned
2	0	1	2	0	1*

* If game abandoned prior to half time - 1 point each team

* If game abandoned at or after half time - result as per score sheet

5.27 Goal Average

a) If two or more teams finish on equal points after the final round of matches, positions shall be decided on goal averages.

b) The goal average for each team shall be decided as follows:

Total number of goals scored by the team, divided by the total number of goals scored against the team, multiplied by 100 and divided by the actual number of matches played by the team.

$$\text{i.e.} \quad \frac{\text{goals scored}}{\text{goals scored against}} \times \frac{100}{\text{matches played}}$$

The number of matches actually played includes a match a team has forfeited, but does not include a match where the team has received a forfeit.

5.28 All matches shall be played on all weather hard courts or a combination of indoor courts and all weather courts.

5.29 Up to four (4) venues are to be used for State Age Championships.

6. GRADING PROCEDURES FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 6.1 The closing date for the State Championships (State) competition will be notified on the Netball NSW website.
- 6.2 Associations are to register teams on the approved player entry form together with full details of a minimum of seven (7) and maximum of twelve (12) players' names and their relevant playing status, by the closing date for the competition.
- a) Where a player's name appears on more than one team entry form the player will be contacted by Netball NSW personnel prior to grading and the player must then immediately nominate the Association that they will be playing with. The Associations concerned will be advised accordingly. The Association not nominated by the player will be given 48 hours from the time of advice to replace the player without penalty.
 - b) Where a player's name is removed from a team entry form by Netball NSW personnel prior to grading the Associations concerned will be advised accordingly. The Association will be given 48 hours from the time of advice to replace the player without penalty.
- Team lists will be displayed on the Netball NSW website, one week prior to the commencement of the Competition and it is the Association's duty to check all players are listed.
- 6.3 The minimum age of players eligible to participate in State Championships is 16 years. In extenuating circumstances, Association teams may apply to Netball NSW for consideration of players aged 15 years to be deemed eligible to participate in State Championships. The decision of Netball NSW is final and no appeal will be entered into.
- 6.4 Entries shall be graded into divisions where applicable, being Championship and Divisions 2 and 3 as required, according to the number of entries received.
- 6.5 A final team list will consist of those players from the original registration form who are available to compete and up to a maximum of four (4) late registrations. This list shall be lodged with Control by 8.00am of the first morning of State.
- Following the close of entries, players listed on an original team registration form are not permitted to de-register and re-register with another Association.
- 6.6 At no time is a team permitted to have more than 12 players registered.
- 6.7 A team will be defined by having a minimum of five (5) players returning from the previous year.
- 6.8 Grading shall proceed on the team's final placing from the previous year's State results. Where a team did not enter in the previous year's State, or where an Association loses its points/placing, the Association can make a recommendation as to the preferred division for participation but the final grading decision will be made by Netball NSW. The Association recommendation is to be by written submission detailing the reasons for recommendation placement in a particular division.
- 6.9 For the 17 years & Under Division grading will be determined from the previous year's State results and then if required the previous year's 15 years State Age results.

- 6.10 For the Open Division entries will be divided as far as is possible equally between Championship Division and Division 2.
- 6.11 For all age groups and where divisions apply grading will be undertaken having regard to the team's final placing from the previous year's State Championship results. An Association may submit a request to have their provisional grading varied from being based on the team's final placing from the previous year's State Championship result where it can show, on the balance of probabilities that the team under contest has less than 5 players from the previous year's competition. The final grading decision will be made at the discretion of Netball NSW.
- 6.12 Where divisions apply, in each year and for each division, at least the two bottom teams shall be relegated to the lower divisions and at least the two top teams promoted to the higher division. Placing for relegation and promotion shall be based on point scores and where applicable goal averages.

7. PLAYING RULES FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 7.1 State Championships (State) are held over the Queen's Birthday weekend except for Over 35 years and Over 40 years divisions, details of which are in Clause 7.3.
- 7.2 State Championships are conducted in five (5) sections:
- (i) Open – no minimum age qualification.
 - (ii) 21 and Under – for players who have not attained the age of twenty-two (22) years as at December 31 in the year of play.
 - (iii) 17 and Under – for players who have not attained the age of eighteen (18) years as at December 31 in the year of play.
 - (iv) Over 35 years – for players who have attained the age of thirty-five (35) years as at December 31 in the year of play.
 - (v) Over 40 years – for players who have attained the age of forty (40) years as at December 31 in the year of play.
- 7.3 The Over 35 years and Over 40 years section (Masters Division) of State Championships, as defined in clause 7.2 (iv) and clause 7.2 (v), are to be conducted in accordance with these competition rules, and held on a separate weekend as determined by Netball NSW.
- 7.4 There shall be no finals or joint placing. Placing will be decided on point scores and goal averages will be used, if required to determine final individual placing.
- 7.5 Umpires
- a) A minimum of one non-playing badged umpire for each team entered plus one additional non-playing badged umpire per Association, per day (i.e. an Association entering four (4) teams must supply a minimum of five (5) umpires per day).
 - b) The minimum qualification to umpire at State Championships is a National 'C' badge. National B badged umpires and above are preferred.
 - c) Nominated umpires may not play, coach or manage a team during the State Championships.
 - d) At the time of lodging team nominations the Association is to provide the appropriate number of qualified umpires for the duration of the competition. This is to be on the lodged on the official form with umpires names and current qualifications
 - e) Twenty one (21) days prior to the competition, umpires names and current qualification are to be confirmed by all Associations. Where umpire nominations are not confirmed by this date the Association will be fined \$500.00 and must nominate umpires as per Rule 2 (a) within 24 hours of notification of \$500.00 fine.
 - f) Associations, withdrawing umpires after the confirmation date will be fined \$200.00 per umpire withdrawn unless a medical certificate is produced that certifies the umpire's unavailability due to illness or injury or other extenuating circumstances. If an umpire is not replaced with a badged umpire a further fine of \$200.00 is enforced.
 - g) Where an umpire withdraws on the day for other than medical reasons or other extenuating circumstances, or does not show that Association will incur a fine of \$200.00 per allocation per day.
 - h) All umpires must be dressed in white.

- 7.6 All teams in each division shall play each team in their division during the competition where possible.
- 7.7 The winners of the Championship Division of each section shall be declared State Champions.
- 7.8 A trophy shall be presented to the winning and runner-up Association in each Division.
- 7.9 Embroidered patches shall be awarded to the Manager, Coach, Assistant Coach, Primary Carer and players of the winning and runner up teams in each division.
- 7.10 Playing times of matches is at the discretion of Netball NSW provided there are a minimum of one (1) minute half-time break and a minimum of two (2) minutes between games.
- 7.11 Each player in the team must play in the identical playing uniform, except where prior approval has been given.
- 7.12 Each team is to have available two sets of position patches, of different colours.
- 7.13 A player can only participate in a competition where they meet the respective age requirement for that particular competition.
- 7.14 Each team is to provide an approved match ball.
- 7.15 Substitution of players is permitted in accordance with official rules.
- 7.16 Injury time may be taken according to official INF rules, but no additional time shall be added to the match.
- 7.17 The umpire's whistle shall start and finish games on the indication from the central timing device.
- 7.18 A team may claim a forfeit one (1) minute after the umpire's whistle to indicate commencement of play on the indication from the central timing device and if the opposing team does not have five (5) players in full uniform on court and ready to play. The umpire will sign the official score sheet attesting to the forfeit.
- 7.19 The method of distribution of score sheets will be determined by Netball NSW each year.
- 7.20 Score sheets are to be returned by the winning team immediately after each match.
- 7.21 One (1) official from each team is to sign the score sheet.
- 7.22 In circumstances where team officials of both teams involved testify that the score sheet submitted to Netball NSW is incorrect and further they agree on the correct score then Netball NSW has the discretion to vary the official scores.
- 7.23 If, in the opinion of Netball NSW games are unable to be completed or played due to severe inclement weather or adverse court conditions, each team fixtured to play will be awarded one (1) point. No points will be awarded for the Bye.

7.24 Points Table

State Championships Points Table

Win	Loss	Draw	Forfeit	Bye	Abandoned
2	0	1	2	0	1*

* If game abandoned prior to half time - 1 point each team

* If game abandoned at or after half time - result as per score sheet

7.25 Goal Average

a) If two or more teams finish on equal points after the final round of matches, positions shall be decided on goal averages.

b) The goal average for each team shall be decided as follows:

Total number of goals scored by the team, divided by the total number of goals scored against the team, multiplied by 100 and divided by the actual number of matches played by the team.

$$\text{i.e. } \frac{\text{goals scored}}{\text{goals scored against}} \times \frac{100}{\text{matches played}}$$

The number of matches actually played includes a match a team has forfeited, but does not include a match where the team has received a forfeit.

7.26 All matches shall be played on all weather hard courts or a combination of indoor courts and all weather courts.

8. GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCT OF ASSOCIATION CARNIVALS

- 8.1 Each Association will be allocated one (1) official carnival which will be advertised on the Netball NSW website calendar each year after applications have been received and approval given by Netball NSW of the date the Carnival has been allocated. Applications for carnivals shall close on 30 September each year for the ensuing year. Late applications received after this date will only be considered for vacant dates after allocations have been completed.
- 8.2 Entries should be made on a standard entry form as recommended by Netball NSW and submitted by an Association official to reach the appropriate Association twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the carnival or the closing date as notified by the Association, whichever is the earlier.
- 8.3 Netball NSW advises the entry fee including GST is \$33.00.
- 8.4 Associations should apply the following rules:
- a)
 - i. players must be registered members of Netball NSW.
 - ii. players should wear the registered uniform of their Association or club.
 - iii. positional patches are to be worn.
 - iv. all umpires should wear white or playing uniform.
 - v. each team should supply a scorer and an umpire, preferably badged.
 - b) Associations may re-grade or withdraw any team found not playing in the correct age group or grade.
 - c) Associations should ensure that any umpire accompanying a team is capable of controlling that grade.
 - d) Where there is more than one division in any one grade or age group and play offs are necessary, a maximum of twelve (12) trophies are to be awarded to winners and runners up.
 - e) Where no semi-finals or finals are played, a maximum of twelve (12) trophies can be awarded to the winners of each division.
- 8.5 The inclusion of representative sections is at the discretion of the Association conducting the carnival.
- a) Associations are permitted to hold 'Representative' only carnivals prior to the State Age Championships.
 - b) Representative teams may be permitted to enter Association carnivals on an invitation only basis when there is no representative section.
 - c) Should Associations not wish to have representative teams enter a carnival, they should state this on their entry form.
 - d) Games for representative teams are to be played on a round robin basis. It is at the Association's discretion if they award a team trophy.
 - e) Fixtures should be organised so that teams play on a '1 on 1 off' basis. Halves should be between a minimum of eight (8) minutes and a maximum of twelve (12) minutes in duration.
 - f) Where an Association holds a 'Representative Section' carnival prior to the State Age Championships, the Association may, at its discretion, include a section for players 11 years of age known as 'Development Squads'. Games are to be played on a round robin basis and trophies may be awarded.

8.6 Players

- a) Where Associations have a multi team situation in the same group for representative selection purposes the host association is encouraged to allow players to interchange between teams.
- b) Players registered with representative teams should not play with a club team from Associations at the same carnival on the same day.

8.7 Age Groups

- a) Senior Players shall have reached the age of 18 years at December 31 in the year of play.
- b) Junior Players 11 to 17 years of age as at December 31 in the year of play.
- c) NetSetGo Players under 11 years of age as at December 31 in the year of play.

8.8 Umpires

- a) Teams qualifying for semi-finals and finals should provide a badged umpire who shall be allocated to a match by the host Association.

8.9 Matches

- a) In Representative sections, Associations are encouraged to have regard to the results of previous years' State Age Championships results when preparing draws.
- b) The draw for all carnivals should consist of a minimum of seven (7) games and a maximum of nine (9) games in each grade.
- c) Where an Association has arranged a draw where everyone plays one another or a minimum of seven (7) games are held, it is not be necessary to play quarter finals, semi finals and finals.
- d) Where possible, fixtures should be organised so that teams play on a '1 on 1 off' basis. Teams should not play more than two (2) games straight or have more than three (3) games straight off including a bye.
- e) Interchange of players during the match is only permitted during a stoppage for injury or illness or at an interval. Injury time may be taken according to the official INF rules, but no additional time needs to be added to the match.
- f) Winners and runners up are decided on a points score basis. Where teams finish on equal points, the goal average should be used to determine the winner.
- g) The format for the draw for quarter finals, semi finals and finals, if applicable should be printed on the information or fixture sheets.
- h) Fixtures should be arranged so that all matches are completed no later than 4.30pm.

8.10 Goal Average

- a) If two or more teams finish in equal points after the final round of matches, final positions or finals series shall be decided on goal averages.
- b) The goal average for each team shall be decided as under:

Total number of goals scored by the team, divided by the total number of goals scored against the team, multiplied by 100 and divided by the actual number of matches played by the team.

$$\text{i.e.} \quad \frac{\text{goals scored}}{\text{goals scored against}} \quad \times \quad \frac{100}{\text{matches played}}$$

The number of matches actually played includes a match a team has forfeited, but does not include a match where the team has received a forfeit.

8.11 Forfeits

- a) Associations entering teams that forfeit or withdraw after fixtures have been arranged, may be liable for a fine of up to \$100 per team, such fine shall be paid to the Association conducting the carnival within seven (7) days of receipt of the account, provided the account is forwarded to the offending association within twenty one (21) days of the date of the carnival. However, the host Association will be entitled to charge a \$100 fine on any team which does not appear on the day of the carnival. Such fine shall be paid to the Association conducting the carnival within seven (7) days of receipt of the account, provided the account is forwarded to the offending association within twenty one (21) days of the date of the carnival.

8.12 Cancellation of Carnivals or Balloting Out Of Teams

- a) At least seven (7) days written notification should be given in both instances, except in the case of extreme emergency.
- b) In the event of cancellation of a carnival or the balloting out of teams, all entry fees are to be refunded within thirty (30) days of the date of the carnival.
- c) Associations should not ballot out any team before the closing date for entries.
- d) Balloting out of teams whose entries have been received by the closing date is to be completed within seven (7) days.