



NETBALL NSW JUNIOR STATE TITLES

Competition Rules

Updated May 2020

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1 Definitions

Association means any Affiliated Member Association deemed as an Association in accordance of the Netball NSW Constitution and any association of Members who have applied for membership to the Board in accordance with clause 9.4 of the Netball NSW Constitution and such application has been approved by the Council.

Board means the Board of Netball NSW.

Constitution means the constitution of the New South Wales Netball Association Inc. whose trading name is Netball NSW.

Competition means the Netball NSW Junior State Titles.

Competition Rules means the rules of the Competition as articulated within this document.

Council means the Council as constituted in accordance with the Netball NSW Constitution.

Divisions mean the competition divisions at the Junior State Titles called Championship Division, Division 2, Division 3 and Division 4.

Invitational Team means a team that has requested to enter the Competition and has been approved to play in the Competition, but will not be eligible for a placing.

Match means any netball match or game, excluding training matches, played by or between Association Teams within the Competition.

Netball NSW (NNSW) means the New South Wales Netball Association Limited.

Player means any person who has a current financial registration with NNSW and who has been registered with the relevant Association Team.

Team means each of the Associations netball teams granted the right to compete in the Competition by Netball NSW.

Team List means the list of players registered to play in the Competition for an Association.

Team Officials mean officials involved with the management, preparation and participation of the Team, including the coaches, manager, doctor, physiotherapist and other support staff.

Umpire means an umpire appointed by Netball NSW to officiate in a Match.

2 Event Information

2.1 General Information

- 2.1.1 The Netball NSW Junior State Titles are conducted under the authority of Netball New South Wales, in partnership with the Host Association.
- 2.1.2 The Netball NSW appointed Competitions Manager has the overall responsibility for the day to day operation and management of each Event.
- 2.1.3 Netball NSW staff will work with the Host Association to manage the format, structure and conduct of the event.
- 2.1.4 Netball NSW has the power to waive compliance with the Junior State Titles Competition Rules when satisfied that extenuating circumstances exist.
- 2.1.5 Any request to waive compliance with the Junior State Titles Competition rules must be submitted in writing, addressed to the Netball NSW Competitions Manager or their appointed delegate.
- 2.1.6 Netball NSW may impose a five hundred (\$500) penalty or deduct points from any team if they are found to have contravened or disregarded any rules of the Junior State Titles Competition Rules.
- 2.1.7 Junior State Titles are held on the first weekend of the second term school holidays, on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday.
***Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**
- 2.1.8 Junior State Titles are conducted in the 14 years, 13 years and 12 years age groups.
- 2.1.9 All matches shall be played on all weather hard courts or a combination of indoor courts and all weather courts.

2.2 Venue

- 2.2.1 Netball NSW appoints Netball NSW Affiliated Association venues to host the Junior State Titles, with the overall management of the event falling under Netball NSW.
- 2.2.2 Up to two (2) venues may be used for the Junior State Titles.
***Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**

2.3 Uniforms and Equipment

- 2.3.1 Players in an Association team must play in identical playing uniform unless extenuating circumstances exist, in which case a letter of request must be sent to the Netball NSW Competitions Manager providing an explanation and giving as much notice as possible. If the difference in uniform is due to a medical issue, a signed letter from the Medical Practitioner must be attached or advice from medical support during the event provided to verify the need for an alteration to uniform.
- 2.3.2 Each team is to have available two sets of position patches, of different colours.

- 2.3.3 Each team is to provide an approved match ball.
- 2.3.4 Associations may identify a sponsor's logo on the playing uniform up to a maximum length of 16cm and maximum height 16cm. Sponsor logos may only appear once on any one (1) garment.

2.4 Appeal on a Grading Decision

- 2.4.1 An Association may request a review of their provisional grading that has been actioned as per clause 3.3 of this policy, by submitting a request for an appeal including the grounds for a review to the Netball NSW Competition Manager within five (5) working days of the announcement of the relevant grading decision.
- 2.4.2 The request for the appeal must state the grounds for review, or why the grading decision should be changed. It must specifically address issues regarding how the team was evaluated under situations that put them at a distinct disadvantage to other teams being evaluated.
- 2.4.3 The Netball NSW Competition Manager shall appoint an Appeals Panel to determine the appeal.
- 2.4.4 All requests for appeals must be submitted in writing by email to the Competitions Manager at competitions@netballnsw.com.
- 2.4.5 It should be remembered that in general an appeal will only be considered if clause 3.3 of the Junior State Titles Competition Rules was not adhered to.
- 2.4.6 An Association can only lodge an appeal regarding a decision made which directly affects their Association. An Association cannot lodge and appeal for or on behalf of another Association or Associations.

2.5 Complaint Handling

- 2.5.1 All complaints lodged with Netball NSW in relation to the Competition will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures of Netball NSW Policies.
- 2.5.2 All registered Players, Umpires, and Team Officials are required to abide by the Code of Behaviour, as published from time to time within the Netball NSW Member Protection Policy.
- 2.5.3 All participants of the Competition including but not limited to Players, Umpires, and Team Officials, who have breached the Code of Behaviour, Netball NSW Member Protection Policy and/or the Netball NSW Disciplinary Policy, may be subject to disciplinary action as listed within the corresponding policy.

3 Competition Structure

3.1 Eligibility

- 3.1.1 Except for clause 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 only Netball NSW affiliated Associations are eligible to enter the Junior State Titles conducted by Netball NSW.
- 3.1.2 Any grouping of Netball NSW affiliated Associations can be admitted to enter the Junior State Titles subject to approval of Netball NSW. For the purpose of these Rules, Association means Netball NSW affiliated Associations and any other teams admitted to the various competitions in accordance with clause 3.1.1.
- 3.1.3 Netball NSW may admit teams to the Junior State Titles on an invitation basis as required. Invitational teams will be charged a Netball NSW invitational fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) in addition to the Competition entry fee to enter the competition.
- 3.1.4 An Association, Grouping of Associations or Invitational teams may only enter one team per age category in the Junior State Titles.
- 3.1.5 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 MyNetball database prior to the commencement of that competition.
- 3.1.6 The minimum age for any player to play at the Junior State Titles is turning 12 in the year of play.
- 3.1.7 The age of the players shall be determined by their ages as at December 31 in the year of play.
- 3.1.8 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 be submitted on the designated form published on the Netball NSW website and submitted for approval by the Competitions Manager prior to the Competition.
- 3.1.9 A player can only participate in Junior State Titles where they meet the respective age requirement as above.
- 3.1.10 The 13 and 14 and under age categories at Junior State Titles are sporting activities for female players only.

3.2 Team Nomination & Entry

- 3.2.1 The closing date for the Junior State Titles will be notified, on the relevant entry form and on the Netball NSW website.
- 3.2.2 The entry fee for the Junior State Titles will be notified at the November Council meeting.

- 3.2.3 All entries for the competition must be lodged as directed by Netball NSW 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 clause 3.2.4 below.
- 3.2.4 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.
***Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**
- 3.2.5 The late entry fee for the Junior State Titles shall be \$500.00 for all Associations.
***Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**
- 3.2.6 Where an Entity withdraws a team from the competition within three (3) weeks of the commencement of the Junior State Titles the offending body will be fined \$500.00.
***Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**
- 3.2.7 Associations are to register teams as directed by Netball NSW, the entry will include details of a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of twelve (12) players' names and must include their relevant experience by the closing date for Junior State Titles.
- 3.2.8 For a team nomination to be accepted, the following needs to be completed:
- a) The team Nomination is lodged through MyNetball – you must login as an Association and follow the instructions on the “How to” document provided.
 - b) The team entry form completed and submitted along with the MyNetball Grading report.
 - c) All players and team officials are to be financial registered members on the MyNetball database.
- 3.2.9 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.
- 3.2.10 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.
- 3.2.11 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.
- 3.2.12 *Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**

3.3 Competition Grading

- 3.3.1 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 teams will be graded into Championship, Division 2, Division 3 and Division 4, based on the previous year's final ladder results and by taking clause 3.3.7, 3.3.8, 3.3.9, 3.3.10, 3.4.1 into account.
- 3.3.2 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.
- 3.3.3 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 (refer to clause 3.3.2 for an exception to this rule). 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.
- 3.3.4 Netball NSW will endeavour to divide teams equally as far as possible to ensure equal number of teams across all divisions, therefore clause 3.3.3 may be overridden. Netball NSW needs to take into consideration the number of entries received, new team entries and non-returning teams when grading each year.
- 3.3.5 For all age Divisions grading will be undertaken having regard to the team's final placing from the previous year's Junior State Titles results.
- 3.3.6 An Association may submit a request to have their grading for the upcoming Titles varied where it can show that the team under contest has less than 5 players from the previous year's competition, or in the case of the 12 years division where an Association deems the teams ability is significantly different to the previous years 12U team that the grading has been based on.
- The Association recommendation is to be by written submission detailing player experience with evidence to support the request and must be provided at the time of the team entry submission.
- 3.3.7 The final grading decision will be made at the discretion of Netball NSW.
- 3.3.8 Where a team did not enter in the previous year's Junior State Titles, the Association can make a recommendation as to the preferred division for participation but the final grading decision will be made at the discretion of Netball NSW.
- 3.3.9 For the 12 years age division, the following will be applied:
- a) Where 20 teams are graded into the Championship Division, as per clause 3.3.1 the placement of teams will be based on the Association's final result in the 12 years age Division in the preceding Junior State Titles.
 - 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 Junior State Titles.

3.4 Invitational Teams

- 3.4.1 Invitational teams admitted to the Competition as per clause 3.1.3, may make a recommendation as to the preferred division for participation, however final grading will be at the discretion of Netball NSW.
- 3.4.2 A limit of 2 invitational teams only will be accepted into each Age/Division. Invitational teams will not be graded into Championship Division.
- 3.4.3 Points from games contested against Invitational teams will be allocated as per clause 4.3.1. Invitational teams will be removed from the final ladder placings and the ladder will be re-ordered as required.

3.5 Late Registrations

- 3.5.1 At no time is a team permitted to have more than 12 players registered.
- 3.5.2 A maximum of four (4) players may be late registered in a team. Late registrations and de-registrations will be accepted from one week prior to the commencement of the competition up until 8.00am on the first day of play where it can be lodged with Event control.
***Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**
- 3.5.3 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.
***Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**
- 3.5.4 Late registration requests are to be completed and submitted as directed by Netball NSW, by an Association official. The player must be a registered member of Netball NSW or relevant State or Territory.
- 3.5.5 Any team playing a non-registered player will be penalised as per clause 2.1.6.

4 Competition Rules

4.1 General Rules

- 4.1.1 All Competition Matches will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Netball, unless where otherwise stated within these competition rules.
- 4.1.2 All teams will play each team in their division during Junior State Titles, except when more than 22 teams are graded in an age grouping in Division 2, 3, and 4.
- 4.1.3 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.
- 4.1.4 Playing times of matches is at the discretion of Netball NSW provided there is a minimum of one (1) minute half-time break and a minimum of two (2) minutes between games.
- 4.1.5 Substitution of players is permitted in accordance with official rules.

- 4.1.6 Injury time may be taken according to official INF rules, but no additional time shall be added to the match.
- 4.1.7 The umpire's whistle shall start and finish games on the indication from the central timing device.
- 4.1.8 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.
- 4.1.9 The winners of the Championship Division of each age division shall be declared the Junior State Title Champions.
- 4.1.10 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.
- 4.1.11 Any team playing a non-registered player will be penalised as per clause 2.1.6.

4.2 Player Minimum Requirements

- 4.2.1 All players in all age groups must play a minimum of 40% of the total number of available games over the Junior State Titles ('40% rule'). For the purposes of calculation of the '40% rule', two half games equals one full game
- 4.2.2 Where a player is unavailable for games for a medical reason, a medical certificate from a registered Medical practitioner or Physiotherapist or the on-site medic should be submitted with the 40% recording sheet, 40% of games will be determined from the games the player was available for.

ie: if a player is ruled out for only 2 games of a total of the 19 games by a medical officer, then the 40% rule will be taken from only 17 games that they are available to play.
- 4.2.3 Each team will receive with their score sheets, a recording sheet to document the games each player has played over the three days of the Junior State Titles.
 - a) The sheet will include all eligible players names
 - b) The games each player has played must be recorded on the record sheet.
 - c) At the end of each day the completed sheet must be signed by the Head Coach, the Team Manager and the Association Liaison Officer and submitted as directed by Netball NSW..
- 4.2.4 The penalty for a breach of the '40% 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 year Junior State Titles only.

- 4.2.5 When entries for the Junior State Titles are forwarded, a declaration of commitment of the '40% rule' for all players is to be signed by an Association Official. If the form is not received, teams will not be accepted into the Junior State Titles Competition.
- 4.2.6 Any dispute in relation to the '40% rule' must, in the first instance, be referred by the party alleging a breach of the rule to the Player's nominated player's Association Liaison Officer for Junior State Titles. Suitable attempts to resolve the dispute should be made by both parties prior to completion of the competition
- 4.2.7 If any dispute in relation to the '40% rule' is unable to be resolved within 24 hours of being referred to the player's Association Liaison Officer, the dispute may then be referred by either party to Netball NSW. This must happen no later than 5pm on the Tuesday following the completion of Junior State Titles.
- 4.2.8 Any dispute in relation to the '40% rule' that is not referred to the player's Association Liaison Officer and/or Netball NSW within the time frames stipulated in clause 4.2.6 & 4.2.7 above will not be dealt with. At no time will any anonymous complaint in relation to the '40% rule' be dealt with or considered.

4.3 Match Points

4.3.1 Points Table: Junior State Titles 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

4.3.2 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.

4.3.3 Points from games contested against Invitational teams will be allocated as per clause 4.3.1. Invitational teams will be removed from the final ladder placings and the ladder will be re-ordered as required.

4.4 Cancellation

- 4.4.1 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.

4.5 Scoresheets

- 4.5.1 The method of distribution of score sheets will be determined Netball NSW.
- 4.5.2 Score sheets are to be returned to Event Control by the winning team immediately after each match.
- 4.5.3 One (1) official from each team is to sign the score sheet.
- 4.5.4 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.

4.6 Awards

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

5.1 Team Officials

- 5.1.1 Coaches must:
- a) Hold a current Working with Children Check which Associations are responsible for verifying.
 - b) Be a current registered financial member of Netball NSW or relevant State or Territory in the MyNetball database prior to the commencement of the Competition.
 - c) Head Coaches must hold a current 'Development' Coaching Accreditation.
***Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**
 - d) Assistant Coaches must hold a current 'Foundation' Coaching Accreditation.
***Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**
- 5.1.2 Managers and Primary Carers must:
- a) Hold a current Working with Children Check, which Associations are responsible for verifying
 - b) Be a current registered financial member of Netball NSW or relevant State or Territory in the MyNetball database prior to the commencement of the Competition.

5.2 Umpires

- 5.2.1 Associations must provide umpires with their teams as follows;
- a) Where an Association enters two (2) teams or more, one (1) non-playing badged umpire for each team entered plus one additional non-playing badged umpire per Association, per day (i.e. an Association entering three (3) teams must supply a minimum of four (4) umpires per day).
 - b) Where an Association has only entered one (1) team, only one (1) non-playing badged umpire per day.
- *Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**
- 5.2.2 Umpires must at a minimum, hold a current National C accreditation. Umpires must have received the C badge prior to being included on the submission.
- *Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**
- 5.2.3 Nominated umpires entered into a Netball NSW competition must show as financial registered members of Netball NSW or relevant State or Territory in the MyNetball database prior to the commencement of that competition.
- 5.2.4 Nominated umpires may not play, coach or manage a team during Junior State Titles.
- 5.2.5 Twenty eight (28) days prior to the competition, umpires names and current qualification are to be submitted by all Associations. Where umpires are not submitted by this date the Association will be fined \$500.00 and must nominate umpires as per clause 5.2.1 within 24 hours.
- *Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**
- 5.2.6 Associations, withdrawing umpires after the 28 days submission 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.
- 5.2.7 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.
- 5.2.8 All umpires must be dressed in white.