



NETBALL NSW SENIOR 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 with clause 9.1 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 Senior 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 Senior 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 Senior 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 Senior State Titles Rules when satisfied that extenuating circumstances exist.
- 2.1.5 Any request to waive compliance with the Senior State Titles 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 of the Senior State Titles rules of the competition.
- 2.1.7 Senior State Titles are held over the Queen's Birthday weekend, on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday.
***Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**
- 2.1.8 Senior State Titles are conducted in the 15 years, 17 years and Opens 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 Senior 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 Senior 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 Senior 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 clause 3.1.3 of this policy, only Netball NSW affiliated Associations are eligible to enter the Senior State Titles conducted by Netball NSW.
- 3.1.2 Any grouping of Netball NSW affiliated Associations can be admitted to enter the Senior 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 Senior 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 Senior 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 participate in the Senior State Titles is 15 years in the year of play. In extenuating circumstances, Associations teams may apply to Netball NSW for consideration of players aged 14 years to be deemed eligible to participate in the Senior State Titles. The decision of Netball NSW is final and no appeal will be entered into.
- 3.1.7 The age of the players shall be determined by their ages as at December 31 in the year of play.
 - a) Opens – the minimum age to qualify for the Opens Division is turning 16 in the year of play.
 - b) 17 and Under – the minimum age to qualify for the 17 and Under division is turning 15 in the year of play and for players who have not attained the age of eighteen (18) years as at 31 December in the year of play.
 - c) 15 and Under – the minimum age to qualify for the 15 and Under division is turning 15 in the year of play and for players who have not attained the age of sixteen (16) years as at 31 December in the year of play. Exception is given as stated in in clause 3.1.6.
- 3.1.8 The Senior State Titles is a sporting activity for female players only.
- 3.1.9 ***Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**

3.2 Team Nomination & Entry

- 3.2.1 The closing date for the Senior State Titles will be notified, on the relevant entry form and on the Netball NSW website.
- 3.2.2 The entry fee for the Senior State Titles will be notified at the November Council meeting.
- 3.2.3 All entries for competitions 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 Senior 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 Senior State Titles within three (3) weeks of the commencement of the Competition 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 the Senior 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 as required, according to the number of entries received.
- 3.3.2 Where divisions apply, 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.
- 3.3.3 For the Opens Division grading will be undertaken having regard to the team's final placing from the previous year's Senior State Titles results.
- 3.3.4 For the 17 years and under Division grading will be determined from the previous year's 15 years and under results together with consideration to the 17 years and under results from the Senior State Titles.
- 3.3.5 For the 15 years and under Division grading will be determined from the previous year's 14 years and under Junior State Titles results.
- 3.3.6 Netball NSW will endeavour to divide teams equally as far as possible to ensure equal number of teams across all divisions, therefore clause 3.3.2 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.
- 3.3.7 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.

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.

- 3.3.8 The final grading decision will be made at the discretion of Netball NSW.
- 3.3.9 Where a team did not enter in the previous year's Senior State Titles or Junior State titles for the purposes of grading, the Association can make a recommendation as to the preferred division for participation. The final grading decision will be made at the discretion of Netball NSW.

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 4.2.1. 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 rules.
- 4.1.2 All teams will play each team in their division during Senior State Titles, except when more than 22 teams are graded in an age grouping in Division 2, 3, and 4.
***Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**
- 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 Senior 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 Match Points

4.2.1 Points Table: Senior 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

4.2.2 Goal Average

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

- 4.2.3 Points from games contested against Invitational teams will be allocated as per clause 4.2.1. Invitational teams will be removed from the final ladder placings and the ladder will be re-ordered as required.

4.3 Cancellation

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.

4.4 Scoresheets

4.4.1 The method of distribution of score sheets will be determined Netball NSW.

4.4.2 Score sheets are to be returned to Event Control by the winning team immediately after each match.

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

4.4.4 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.

4.5 Awards

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

4.5.2 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.

4.5.3 The Pat Weston Cup will be awarded to the highest placed Regional team in the Open Championship 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 only enters 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 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**

5.2.5 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.

5.2.6 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.

5.2.7 All umpires must be dressed in white.

5.2.8 ***Refer to 2020 Competition rules addendum**