



***netball***  
NEW SOUTH WALES

# Netball NSW

## Guidelines for Conduct of Association Carnivals

5 November 2021

As at: 5 November 2021  
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## Association Carnivals Vision and Purpose

### Vision

To provide athletes, coaches and umpires with a multi-game competition experience that is low key, positive, fun, supportive and inclusive.

### Purpose

Association Carnivals should provide an opportunity for athletes to:

- Have fun and learn to love the game.
- Develop strong ball skills, good footwork, attacking and defensive strategies.
- Take challenges and risks to develop strong netball intuition.
- Increase compliance with nutrition, hydration, sleep, recovery and injury management protocols.
- Gradually build tolerance to match play loads.

Association Carnivals should provide an opportunity for coaches to:

- Develop a team culture that promotes and instils values of goal setting, commitment, teamwork, leadership and growth mindset.
- Give players the confidence to take risks, to think creatively, trust their intuition and then reflect on it.
- Deliver error correction feedback in match play to help the athlete identify what is going wrong and how they can fix it.
- Developing coaching cues that resonate with each athlete.
- Take time to connect with each athlete.
- Build a coaching network, share ideas and collaborate generously.
- Provide an opportunity for all players to be rotated equally and to work with varying on-court combinations.

Association Carnivals should provide an opportunity for umpires to:

- Have fun and learn to love the game.
- All have high levels of court time.
- Develop strong techniques in the skills of umpiring.
- Develop a strong understanding of players skills and patterns of play.
- Increase compliance with nutrition, hydration, sleep, recovery and injury management protocols.
- Gradually build confidence in decision making.
- Provide the opportunity for Associations attending to provide training and feedback to their umpires.

## Guidelines for Conduct of Association Carnivals

It should be noted that provided below are guidelines only for the conduct of an Association Carnival. Association Carnivals are conducted under the authority of the Host Association who manage the format, structure and conduct of the event, and may choose to change any procedure or format where necessary at their absolute discretion.

### 1. Team Entries

- 1.1 Entries for Association Carnivals should be submitted as directed by the Host Association, with a recommended closing date of twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the carnival.
- 1.2 The team entry fee for an Association Carnival will be determined by the Host Association.

### 2. Representative Divisions

- 2.1 Associations are permitted to hold 'Representative' only carnivals prior to the State Titles.
- 2.2 The inclusion of representative sections is at the discretion of the Association conducting the carnival.
- 2.3 When there is no representative section representative teams may be permitted to enter Association Carnivals on an invitation only basis.
- 2.4 Should Associations not wish to have representative teams enter a carnival, they should state this on their entry form.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 Players registered with representative teams should not play with a club team from Associations at the same carnival on the same day.

### 3. Age Groups – as per Netball NSW Membership

- 3.1 **Senior:** Have reached or will reach the age of 18 by December 31 in the year of play.
- 3.2 **Junior:** Have reached or will reach the ages of between 10 and 17 years by December 31 in the year of play.
- 3.3 **NetSetGo:** Have reached or will reach the ages of between 3 and 10 years by December 31 in the year of play.
- 3.4 **All Abilities:** Players are defined as any person who holds a valid concession card for a disability pension and/or a member of Sports Inclusion Australia. In the case of children under the age of 18 years who are defined within this category, it is permissible for the parent / guardian to hold the concession card on their behalf.

### 4. Players

- 4.1 Participants entered into the carnival must be a financial registered member of Netball NSW or any other Member Organisation prior to the commencement of the Carnival. A Member Organisation is an organisation affiliated to Netball Australia, being the peak body for the game in their respective State or Territory.

### 5. Uniforms

- 5.1 Players should play in matching playing uniforms. ie: matching uniforms may be different styles, (dress, shorts and singlet), however the design (colours, patterns) must be matching across all pieces. Refer to the [Netball NSW Inclusive Uniform Guidelines](#).
- 5.2 Positional patches are to be worn.

## 6. Umpires and scorers

- 6.1 Each team should supply a scorer and an umpire.
- 6.2 All umpires should wear white clothing or playing uniform.
- 6.3 It is recommended that the umpire provided is badged.
- 6.4 Competing Associations should ensure that umpires accompanying teams to a carnival are capable of controlling the grade they will be allocated to.

## 7. Competition format

- 7.1 When planning the draw for Association Carnivals the Vision and Purpose of Association Carnivals as outlined in this document should be considered.
- 7.2 In Representative sections, Associations are encouraged to have regard to the results of previous years' Junior State Titles and Senior State Titles results when preparing draws.
- 7.3 When determining fixtures the following should be considered:
  - a) Organise fixtures so that teams play on a one (1) game on, one (1) game off basis.
  - b) Teams should not play more than two (2) games straight or have more than three (3) games straight off, including a bye.
  - c) Consider the start and finish times of the carnival, splitting a carnival into 2 sessions could be considered.
  - d) The draw for all carnivals should consist of a minimum of four (4) games and a maximum of eight (8) games in each grade.
- 7.4 Match timings should be two (2) halves of a minimum of eight (8) minutes and a maximum of twelve (12) minutes in duration.
- 7.5 It is recommended that 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.
- 7.6 Associations may re-grade or withdraw any team found not playing in the correct age group or grade.
- 7.7 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 Rules of Netball , but no additional time needs to be added to the match.

## 8. Goal Average

- 8.1 If two or more teams finish on equal points after the final round of matches, final positions or finals series shall be decided on goal averages.
- 8.2 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.

## 9. Forfeits

- 9.1 The introduction of any fines for a forfeit is at the discretion of the host association.

## **10. Cancellation of Carnivals or Balloting out Teams**

10.1 In the event of cancellation of a carnival or balloting out of teams:

- a) At least seven (7) days written notification should be given, except in the case of extreme emergency.
- b) All entry fees are to be refunded within thirty (30) days of the date of the carnival.

10.2 Associations should not ballot out any team before the closing date for entries.

10.3 Balloting out of teams whose entries have been received by the closing date is to be completed within seven (7) days.

## **11. COVID Restrictions**

Consideration must be given to any COVID restrictions that are in place at the time of the carnival. Refer to the Association Carnival COVID guide as published and updated from time to time by Netball NSW.