

Tips on how to run a Social Competition

Offer Something Different

Social competitions are a great opportunity to create a different and relaxed netball experience for your local community. These can be run at different times and days to the regular Saturday competition.

Netball NSW can help Associations who are looking at running social competitions. We have a range of ways we can alleviate the workload for your volunteers. Please see the end of this document for different options.

In this document are some ideas that may assist with creating a fun environment and engaging with our loyal netballers but opening your courts to potential new players.

Social vs Competition

Whether you are putting together a spring comp, another alternative format, or even your winter competition, you can offer a social competition or a competitive and a social competition.

1. **Social** – a competition that anyone can play no matter their ability, which makes netball a game for everyone. This division should always be about fun first with relaxed rules, options for fill ins and less whistle blowing. Consider flexibility in rules. If a team is winning by large margins consistently, move them into the competitive division. Consider not playing finals and results are based on first past the post. Any grading for social competitions should be very loose.
2. **Competitive** – a competition for teams that are hungry for the win and want that fierce competition. Consider flexibility in rules so that if a team is struggling in the competitive division they can move to a social competition. (if you are running both at the same time)

Mix Up the Competition

Offer an Opens, Teens and/or Mixed Competition to increase male participation in the local community. Suggestions on how to engage male players to your competition may include:

- Advertise to local Co Ed and Boy Schools in the local area & ask to be put in their newsletter
- Connect with local sporting clubs that are predominantly males to advertise the mixed comp
- Existing female netballers to bring a male friend, boyfriend or family member

- Dad's (male figure) and Daughters
- Make it a Family Affair

Mixed competition on court rules are as simple as:

- Every team must take the court with a minimum of one male player and a maximum of three
- Male players must take positions in different thirds

Relaxed Format

Uniforms

Teams in social competitions should be able to wear non-traditional netball attire. This alleviates additional uniform costs. Consider relaxing the uniform expectations for umpires as well. Change it up even more by having themed nights and awards for the best dressed team and bench.

A New Netball Format

Create new excitement around social netball by mixing up the traditional game. Consider Fast5 or introducing something different like at the end of each quarter or half playing music in the last two minutes over the loud speaker which signifies that anyone in the attack end can shoot outside of the circle and the goal is worth two points. If you don't have access to music pick a different buzzer to use to signify the time for the attack players to shoot.

Fill In Format

The rules within a social competition need to allow for fill ins at the last minute. Can you allow players to register their interest with the Association to fill in whenever a team is short on players without being committed to a team?

Have flexibility in the borrowing rule by allowing teams to register fill ins on the night. This allows for more people to play netball at your Association without the commitment of being in a team.

As long as Fill-ins are registered to your competition in PlayHQ, just have them not allocated to a specific team, they are good to play! (open a participant to season registration for these Fill-ins, rather than a participant to team registration.)

Bring a Friend – Increase the Size of your Netty Tribe

Before your social comp begins, have a “come and try” night and encourage registered players to bring a friend to “come & try” netball. They can join in with existing teams or with enough players, create teams to play against each other with the flexibility to have only 5 in a team. You could even run a skills session to show that anyone can play.

Consider making Bring a Friend nights a party atmosphere offering all attendees a free feed with a can of drink, play music, have lucky door prizes – anything to create a fun, relaxed and “different” to winter vibe.

A Social Atmosphere

Choose your Tunes – Control Is the New DJ Booth

Introduce a warm up play list for the start of each round that is played over the speakers 10 minutes before the game starts. Create an inclusive environment that allows players/teams to put music suggestions in each week or win their way to choose the tunes and introduce the warm up song on the microphone each week.

Food

Open the canteen weekly or alternatively, organise for a local Food Truck to come down for a Family Fun Night or themed night.

Additional Programs

Woolworths NetSetGO Programs

Take the opportunity to run a Woolworths NetSetGO Program on the same night as your social competition. This allows Associations to engage with Woolworths NetSetGO players on alternative days and it provides something for younger children to do while their family is competing.

For more information about running Woolworths NetSetGo Programs please contact community@netballnsw.com

FAST5 Format

Social competitions are a great opportunity to trial the Fast5 competition format which offers something different to the traditional Winter Competition. Five a side, Super Shots and rolling subs! For more information about Fast5 contact community@netballnsw.com

Create a Community Goal for a Cause

Sport builds community and community builds sport. Consider aligning your social comp with a charity and create fundraisers based on the number of goals scored, hold a BBQ or a cake stall. Pick something relevant to your netball community.

Frequently Asked Questions

What should we do if we are unable to source Umpires?

Social competitions are a more relaxed format, which can also apply to umpires. Consider allowing teams that have enough players, to umpire their own with the ability to switch from playing to umpiring at half time. Or:

- Increase the cost of registrations slightly per person and offer a higher rate for umpiring social competitions to encourage umpires
- Teams pay for their own umpire
- Bring your own umpire however they umpire a different team
- Advertise on local Facebook netball community pages
- Reach out to local High Schools for umpires

What should we do if numbers are low?

- Create a social media campaign using Tik Tok, Instagram and/or Facebook
- Advertise your Social Competition to local Facebook netball community pages
- Advertise to local High Schools
- Promote a Business House Competition to local businesses and encourage local School Teachers to submit teams.

What should we do if we need to cancel the competition?

Before making a decision to cancel your social competition please reach out to your Regional Manager or email community@netballnsw.com for assistance.

For any assistance setting up a New Competition in PlayHQ, please reach out to your Regional Manager.