



Premier League

2024 Competition Regulations

20 November 2023

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 In developing this list of objectives, Netball NSW's intention is to drive improvement and collaboration across its pathways, using data, insights and stakeholder feedback in achieving the outcomes described within these objectives.

The following are the primary objectives of the Premier League Competition:

- a. to be known as the best sub-elite netball competition in Australia;
 - b. to ensure the premier netball competition in NSW provides the best opportunities for the development of athletes, officials, coaches and licensees, through a culture of growth and continuous improvement.
 - c. to ensure the purpose and pathway linkages between Metro League, Premier League and State/National Programs are clearly articulated and designed for player growth and retention.
 - d. to provide a pathway that is proven by Athletes, Coaches and Umpires transitioning from grassroots, through the Premier League Competition, onto the Australian Netball Championships (ANC) and ultimately through to the National Netball League (SSN);
 - e. co-design partnership models in collaboration with licensees to ensure sustainable association connections, supported by strong internal leadership providing a clear vision for grassroots connectivity.
 - f. continue to drive a strong local profile through improved marketing plans, measured in high spectator participation and media support and promotional opportunities.
 - g. drive financial sustainability of the Premier League Competition through commercial and sponsorship strategies and opportunities.
 - h. ensure that the Premier League Competition is highly competitive and that competitive balance is achieved and maintained across the licensees.
- 1.2 Together with the Rules of Netball, these Competition Regulations govern the conduct and management of the Competition and provide a system of regulating player eligibility and registration.

2 Status of Regulations

- 2.1 These Competition Regulations are issued by the Commission.
- 2.2 These Competition Regulations may be changed from time to time by resolution of the Commission.
- 2.3 The Commission with the authority of Netball NSW reserves the right to vary, waive or supplement the requirements of these Competition Regulations if it deems necessary.

3 Definitions

Abandoned match means a match or matches that Netball NSW deem are unable to be continued or re-scheduled.

Allocations Panel means a panel of personnel as appointed by Netball NSW responsible for coordinating and appointing umpires to Matches.

ANC means the Australian Netball Championships.

Association and/or Affiliated Association means any Affiliate Member as defined in accordance with clause 9.3 of the Netball NSW Constitution and the relevant Netball NSW Policy where such application has been approved by voting members.

Bench Official means the person/s responsible for ensuring the correct score is recorded, the correct time is played and other match details are recorded accurately.

Board means the Board of Directors of Netball NSW.

Calendar Year means the period commencing 1st January and ending 31st December inclusive.

Commercial Guidelines means the Netball NSW Premier League Commercial Guidelines as published from time to time by Netball NSW.

Commission means the Premier League Commission of Netball NSW appointed by the Board to manage and administer the Competition on behalf of Netball NSW.

Competition means the Netball NSW Premier League Competition conducted by Netball NSW.

Competition Matches means all matches of the Competition be they pre-season, Minor Rounds or Final Series.

Competition Regulations means these Netball NSW Premier League (NNSWPL) Competition Regulations as developed, varied and promulgated by the Commission from time to time.

Competitions Manager means the person appointed by Netball NSW to manage the Competition or their delegate.

Court means the designated area that includes the defined court area, team benches and score bench.

Division means one of the two competition divisions within the Competition called either Open Division or Under 23 Division.

Finals Series means the semi-finals, preliminary final and grand final of the Competition, or any other configuration as determined by Netball NSW from time to time.

Key Personnel means appropriate personnel or staff required for the effective administration of the Licensee.

Ineligible Player means a player who has not met the criteria and rules as outlined in this document to participate in the Premier League Competition.

INF means the International Netball Federation.

Licensee means a party who has entered into a Participation Agreement.

Matches means Competition Matches and Other Matches.

Member Organisation means an organisation affiliated to Netball Australia, being the peak body for the game in their respective State or Territory.

Metro League means the Metro League Competition conducted by Netball NSW between teams representing the Associations across a number of divisions.

Minor Rounds means a series of Matches played in the Competition as specified in clause 9.2 prior to the Finals Series. These Matches are played to determine the final rankings of the Teams for the purpose of conducting the Finals Series.

Netball NSW means the New South Wales Netball Association Ltd.

NSW Bench Officials Leadership Group means the group of SSN Bench Officials.

Offer means a formal offer to a player either verbal or written to be a part of a Licensee's Player List. For the avoidance of doubt, a discussion with a player in relation to opportunities that may be available with a Licensee is not an offer.

Other Events mean events or functions organised or controlled by Netball NSW other than Matches relating, directly or indirectly, to the Competition.

Other Matches means any match played between Teams other than Competition Matches including but not limited to training or exhibition matches.

Participation Agreement means the agreement between Netball NSW and a Licensee by which the Licensee is entitled to have Teams participating in the Competition.

Personnel means any person engaged by a Licensee in respect of its Teams and whether paid or unpaid, including Key Personnel and Team Officials, but excluding Players.

Player means any person who has a current financial registration with Netball NSW or any other Member Organisation and has been formally listed with the Licensee to play for its Team and in respect of whom the Licensee has lodged the appropriate Netball NSW Premier League Player Registration Form with Netball NSW.

Player List means the list of all Players who have agreed to play for a Licensee in the Competition during a particular Season as lodged with the Competition Manager and approved under clause 7.3.

Premier League Review Panel means a panel assembled and approved by the Premier League Commission who can be convened at short notice to review any submissions by Premier League teams for the waiving or revision of Premier League Competition Rules in accordance with clause 4.2.6.

Replacement Player means any person who validly joins a Team from time to time in accordance with clause 7.7.

Rules of Netball means the INF "Rules of Netball", as amended from time to time by the INF.

Score Bench means the designated area on the Court where the bench officials (Timers and Scorers) are located at each game.

Season means the period Netball NSW sets aside for the Competition within any 12 month period, including the Finals Series and any pre or post season tournament or knockout competition or matches organised and/or sanctioned by Netball NSW.

SSN means the National Netball League currently known as Suncorp Super Netball (SSN), whether known by this name or any other name.

Team means a Licensee's netball team entitled to compete in either Division of the Competition.

Team Bench means the designated area within the field of play where all Players of the Team and Team Officials must be located during a game.

Team List means the list of Players lodged with the Competitions Manager and approved under clause 7.3 and the list of Players to participate in a Match as provided by a Licensee to the Competition Manager or their delegate pursuant to clause 9.1.3.

Team Officials mean officials involved with the management, preparation and participation of the Team, including but not limited to the coaches, team manager, doctor, physiotherapist and other support staff.

Venue means Netball Central or any other venue as approved by Netball NSW.

Venue Operations Manager means the person employed by Netball NSW, or their delegate to manage the Venue and assist the Competitions Manager in the daily operations and event management of the Competition.

4 Netball NSW Premier League Personnel

4.1 Netball NSW Premier League Commission

4.1.1 The Commission will consist of up to four persons appointed by the Board on a biennial basis and will include at least one person independent of Netball NSW.

4.1.2 The Board may appoint persons to the Commission for shorter periods than two (2) years in order to fill casual vacancies.

4.1.3 The Commission has the right to co-opt relevant personnel as required.

4.1.4 The Commission will be responsible to the Board for the conduct of the Competition.

4.2 Netball NSW Competitions Manager

4.2.1 The Competitions Manager will be responsible for the conduct of all Matches.

4.2.2 After consultation with the Venue Operations Manager or the Commission, the Competitions Manager may cancel or postpone any Match where there are concerns as to Player or spectator safety or wellbeing.

4.2.3 The scheduling and rescheduling of all Matches is the responsibility of the Competitions Manager.

4.2.4 The Competitions Manager will reasonably assist each Licensee to understand their obligations under the Competition Regulations so they are able to follow the correct administrative procedures and adhere to the Competition Regulations.

- 4.2.5 The Competitions Manager is responsible to the Executive General Manager, Community & Pathways and the Commission for the conduct of the Competition, and for this purpose, is responsible for upholding all rules and regulations of the Competition.
- 4.2.6 Further to clause 4.2.5, the Competitions Manager, may, with the approval of the Commission or the Premier League Review Panel and in extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive any of the requirements set out in these Competition Regulations. The primary, but not exclusive, purpose of the exercise of such discretion is to ensure that the integrity of the Competition is maintained at all times. Such a decision will be at the sole discretion of the Competitions Manager or the Premier League Review Panel as appropriate, with the approval of the Commission.

4.3 Netball NSW Premier League Umpires

- 4.3.1 Umpires who hold an A badge or higher may be allocated to Matches by the Allocations Panel. Other umpires may be appointed to Matches at the discretion of the Allocations Panel, subject to the approval of the Netball NSW Performance Umpire Coach.
- 4.3.2 Team Officials and Players are not eligible to umpire Matches.
- 4.3.3 All Allocations Panel members and umpires allocated to Matches must be current financial members of Netball NSW or any other Member Organisation.
- 4.3.4 A Netball NSW staff member will be appointed by Netball NSW to communicate umpire allocations for the Competition.

4.4 Competition Bench Officials

- 4.4.1 State or National Accredited Bench Officials (timers and scorers) will officiate at all Matches.
- 4.4.2 Bench Officials who hold a National Bench Accreditation may be allocated to Matches. State Accredited Bench Officials may be appointed to Matches at the discretion of the NSW Bench Officials Leadership Group, subject to the approval of the Netball NSW Workforce Manager.
- 4.4.3 Bench Officials allocated to matches in the Competition may not be a Team Official or Player.
- 4.4.4 All Bench Officials (timers and scorers) must be current financial members of Netball NSW or any other Member Organisation.
- 4.4.5 A Netball NSW staff member will be appointed by Netball NSW to communicate Bench Official allocations for the Competition.

5 Competition Structure

- 5.1 The Competition will operate according to the scheduled dates published by Netball NSW, and will be played at the Venue (unless determined otherwise by Netball NSW).
- 5.2 The Competition is a sporting activity for female players only.
- 5.3 The Competition will consist of two divisions – Open Division and Under 23 Division. Each division will include ten (10) teams as determined by the Commission. The Commission may increase the number of teams per division for subsequent Seasons.
- 5.4 Each Licensee will be required to submit a Team for each division of the Competition.

- 5.5 Only one Team per Licensee will be permitted in each division of the Competition.
- 5.6 The Competition will consist of Minor Rounds and a Finals Series. The number of Minor Rounds and the Competition fixture will be determined by Netball NSW.
- 5.7 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Participation Agreement, Netball NSW may at any time change any Match procedure, where it is deemed necessary to comply with any legislation, government regulation or order, including but not limited to those related to COVID-19.

6 Licensee Requirements

6.1 Entry into the Competition

- 6.1.1 Licensees accepted to field Teams in the Competition will have completed the application process including:
- (a) Meeting the criteria and other requirements of Netball NSW relevant to the Competition.
 - (b) Payment of the annual License Fee as stated in the Participation Agreement.
 - (c) Signed the Participation Agreement, in which they agree to abide by the rules, regulations and procedures governing participation in the Competition and cover the responsibilities in relation to, but not limited to, player/coach/official movement, development, welfare, education, communication, marketing and penalties.
- 6.1.2 Entry into the Competition will be granted by Netball NSW on the recommendation of the Commission.
- 6.1.3 As part of the application process, the Licensee must submit its proposed Key Personnel appointments for approval by Netball NSW, which approval will not be unreasonably withheld. Where the Licensee and Netball NSW cannot agree on the appointment of the Licensee's Key Personnel, the dispute resolution procedure outlined in the Participation Agreement must be followed.
- 6.1.4 Following approval of initial Key Personnel by Netball NSW, any future changes thereto must be advised to the Competitions Manager in writing in a timely manner. All changes to Key Personnel are subject to the approval of Netball NSW in the same manner as described in clause 6.1.3.
- 6.1.5 Licensees must always be affiliated with Netball NSW by paying the required annual affiliation fee, unless they are already controlled or are partly controlled by at least one other entity which is already an affiliated Association of Netball NSW, in which case affiliation of the Licensee will not be required.
- 6.1.6 Licensees agree to abide by the policies of Netball NSW and the Competition Regulations, as notified from time to time.
- 6.1.7 Licensees agree to adhere to the commercial requirements of the sponsor/s of the Competition as defined in the Commercial Guidelines.
- 6.1.8 In the event of a Licensee withdrawing from the Competition, or the termination of the Participation Agreement by Netball NSW:
- (a) There will be no reimbursement of fees paid, and any outstanding fees must be paid.

- (b) Subsequent re-entry into the future Competition may be jeopardized.
- (c) Both of the Licensee's Teams will be immediately withdrawn from the Competition and the Licensee will not be permitted to apply for another license for a minimum of two years.

6.1.9 For the avoidance of doubt, these Competition Regulations are intended to supplement the Participation Agreement and all other rules and regulations of Netball NSW that are relevant to the Competition. Subject to clause 5.8 above, if there is any inconsistency between these Competition Regulations and the Participation Agreement, the Participation Agreement will take precedence.

7 Player Eligibility

7.1 Player Recruitment Window

7.1.1 Subject to clause 7.1.2, a Licensee (or anyone on behalf of a Licensee) may not make any Offer to a Player to play for its Team or Teams for the ensuing year any earlier than as outlined in Appendix A.

7.1.2 A Licensee may make an offer to a current Player to continue to be on their Player List in the ensuing year at any time in the current Season.

For the avoidance of doubt a current Player is a Player who has been listed on the Licensee's approved Player List from round twelve (12) of the Minor Rounds, and does not include Replacement Players.

7.1.3 All offers made to Players must remain open for acceptance by the Player for at least one week.

7.1.4 In addition to the requirement under clause 7.1.1, a Licensee (or anyone on behalf of a Licensee) may not make any offer to a person to be associated with its playing or training regimes other than as a Player unless the offer is open for acceptance by the person for at least one week.

Without limiting the application of this regulation, a person is associated with a Licensee's playing or training regimes if that person is a Premier League training partner or a member of a Premier League development squad (however described).

7.1.5 Team trials for the ensuing year must only be undertaken in the period as outlined in Appendix A.

7.1.6 Licensees must submit as directed, a list of all players who they have re-signed for the ensuing year prior to the commencement of the trial period, as outlined in Appendix A.

7.2 Eligibility

7.2.1 A Player wishing to participate in the Competition must be:

- (a) At least 16 years of age as at 31 December of the year in which she so participates.
- (b) A current financial member of Netball NSW or any other Member Organisation.
- (c) Must have completed and signed a Netball NSW Premier League Player Registration Form.

A Licensee is responsible for providing the signed Netball NSW Premier League Player Registration Forms for its Players to the Competitions Manager.

All Netball NSW Premier League Player Registration Forms are subject to approval by the Competitions Manager.

7.3 Player / Team Lists

- 7.3.1 Each Player List must list all Players who have agreed with a Licensee to play for that Licensee's Teams in the applicable Season.
- 7.3.2 A Team List must be submitted for the U23 Division and for the Open Division.
- 7.3.3 All Licensees must lodge their Team Lists for a Season with the Competitions Manager by the date as provided in Appendix A. Team Lists are not effective until approved by the Competitions Manager.
- 7.3.4 Once received and approved by the Competitions Manager, the only additions permitted to that Player List are:
- (a) In respect of Replacement Players pursuant to clause 7.7, or
 - (b) Where (subject to the limits stated in clauses 7.4.1 & 7.5.1) a Team List contains less than 15 Players.

Any additions to a Team List under clause 7.3.4 (b) must be received by the Competitions Manager no later than 24 hours before the scheduled start time of the relevant Match.

- 7.3.5 The request to remove of a Player from a Team List is to be in writing to the Competitions Manager.
- 7.3.6 Where a Player is removed from a Team List in the season, the Player will not be permitted to late register to a Metro League team, unless there are extenuating circumstances, to be determined by the Netball NSW Competitions Manager in their absolute discretion.
- Any request for permission to late register to a Metro League team, must be submitted to the Competitions Manager in writing.
- 7.3.7 Once the Competitions Manager has received and approved a completed Netball NSW Premier League Player Registration Form for a particular Season, the Player concerned will be unable to be registered to play for any other Licensee for that Season.
- 7.3.8 Once a Player has been recorded on the scoresheet as having taken the court in ten (10) Matches across the Minor Rounds or the Finals Series of a Season in either the U23 Division or the Open Division, they are ineligible to play in the Metro League Competition.

7.4 Open Division

- 7.4.1 The Open Division Team List for each Licensee will consist of up to 15 players.
- 7.4.2 A maximum of twelve (12) players may sit on the Team Bench for each Competition Match.

7.5 Under 23 Division

- 7.5.1 The U23 Division Team List for each Licensee will consist of up to 15 players, of the ages outlined in clause 7.5.2 and 7.5.3.
- 7.5.2 The Under 23 Division Team for each Licensee will consist of Players aged 16 to 22 years as at 31 December of the year in which they participate in the Competition, subject to clause 7.5.3.
- 7.5.3 A Team may include on their Under 23 Division Team list submitted prior to round 1 of the Minor Rounds, a maximum of two (2) players who are aged either 23 years, 24 years or 25 years as at 31 December of the year in which they participate in the Competition, subject to the following:
- (a) No players listed on the Open Team List who are over 23 years will be eligible to play in the Under 23 Division Team.
 - (b) No additional players, including those from Metro League, who are over 23 years will be eligible to play in the Under 23 Division Team of Premier League.
 - (c) Players who are 23 years or over may not be added to the Under 23 Division Team List following round 1 of the Competition.
- 7.5.4 A maximum of twelve (12) Players may sit on the Team Bench for each Competition Match.

7.6 Player Availability

- 7.6.1 Provided a Player satisfies the age restrictions set out in clauses 7.5.2 and 7.5.3, and subject to clause 7.6.2, 7.8.5 and 9.3.5, a Player may be selected by a Licensee to play in the Open Division as well as the U23 Division.

It is each Licensee's responsibility to manage its selection of Players ensuring their welfare, skills, ability and availability for Matches in the Minor Rounds and the Finals Series.

- 7.6.2 In the Minor Rounds and the Finals Series of the Competition, Players may only play in a maximum of five (5) quarters per round. This includes Grand Final matches. Players may only play in a maximum of five (5) quarters across the U23 Division and Open Division Grand Finals (which may be played on different nights).

7.7 Temporary Replacement Players

- 7.7.1 A request for a Temporary Replacement Player may be made where:
- a) A Permanent Player listed on a Team List is unavailable for a match in circumstances including:
 - (i) injury and/or illness to the Player;
 - (ii) Where the Player requires a release to fulfil her obligations with Netball NSW State and/or ANC Teams during the Season; or
 - (iii) For other reason(s) acceptable to the Competitions Manager (in their absolute discretion) including, but not limited to, bereavement, work commitments, illness of a dependent, or sitting an exam.

- b) a Team has less than twelve (12) Players registered on their Team List.
- 7.7.2 All Temporary Replacement Players must meet all eligibility requirements to participate in the Competition including, but not limited to, the specific eligibility requirements for the relevant Division.
- 7.7.3 Netball NSW reserves the right to investigate applications if necessary and appropriate, so that Licensees are prevented from replacing Players for non-genuine or illegitimate reasons.
- 7.7.4 Replacement Player
 - (a) All requests for a temporary Replacement Player must be made in writing to the Competitions Manager and must state the reason(s) for the replacement sought. Except in exceptional circumstances, all Replacement Player applications must be received by the Competitions Manager no later than 12 noon on the day of the relevant Match. Netball NSW will then notify the outcome no later than four (4) hours prior to the scheduled start time of the relevant Match.

The Competitions Manager will be the sole arbiter on whether exceptional circumstances exist.
 - (b) Once a Player has been approved by the Competitions Manager as a temporary Replacement Player for a Licensee, they cannot be a temporary Replacement Player, or be added to the team list for any other Licensee during the same Season.
 - (c) A temporary Replacement Player becomes a permanent Player after being recorded on the scoresheet as having taken the court in ten (10) matches in the Minor Rounds of a Season. If this would result in the Licensee having more than fifteen (15) Players on the Team List they are joining, then the Licensee must amend its Team List, by advising the Competitions Manager by email, to ensure ongoing compliance with clause 7.4 and 7.5.
 - (d) A temporary replacement player must be sourced from the current season Metro League competition. An exemption can be requested for players who reside more than 150km from Netball Central.

7.8 Suncorp Super Netball

- 7.8.1 To ensure competitive balance between Licensees, the Commission has decided to limit the number of SSN players each Licensee can register so as to provide a seamless pathway between competition tiers.
- 7.8.2 For the purposes of these Competition Regulations, a SSN player is any player who is contracted to play for a team competing in the SSN other than as a training partner or temporary replacement player (as those terms are defined in the relevant SSN regulations).

The official list of all registered SSN players can be accessed from the Netball Australia or the SSN website. Licensees with any queries regarding the status of any player can contact the Competitions Manager.
- 7.8.3 Licensees may include up to two SSN players at any one time on their Open Division Player List.
- 7.8.4 Once an SSN player has been included on a Licensee's Player List for a Season, they cannot join another Licensee for that Season.

7.8.5 SSN players are eligible to play in the Open Division only.

8 Team Official Eligibility

8.1 As a minimum, a Licensee's Team Officials must consist of a head coach, assistant coach, team manager and primary care personnel.

8.2 All Team Officials must wear full team uniform for every Match.

8.3 All primary care personnel must hold one of the following qualifications:

- Senior First Aid Certificate;
- Level 2 Sports Trainer;
- Physiotherapy Degree; or
- Doctor (Medical Practitioner).

8.4 The Licensee must disclose all details of Team Officials' positions by the date as outlined in Appendix A, or as otherwise agreed to by Netball NSW.

8.5 Any changes to Team Officials' positions must be notified in writing to the Competitions Manager for approval.

8.6 A maximum of five (5) Team Officials may sit on the Team Bench for each Competition Match and those so entitled in priority to any other Team Official are the head coach, assistant coach, team manager and primary care personnel.

Netball NSW may appoint an observer or assessor who is assessing or observing a coach for training or selection purposes, and that observer or assessor may sit on the bench in addition to the five (5) Team Officials.

8.7 All Team Officials must be current financial members of Netball NSW, or any other Member Organisation, unless exceptional circumstances apply and prior approval has been granted by Netball NSW.

Where sub-contractors are appointed by a Licensee to fulfil the role of a Team Official, and this person is not a financial member of Netball NSW, it is the Licensee's responsibility to ensure the person has suitable insurance coverage as per clause 18.2 of the Participation Agreement.

8.8 Each Licensee will ensure that its coaching staff adhere to the following:

- (a) They are current financial members of Netball NSW, or any other Member Organisation (unless clause 8.7 applies).
- (b) Any Open Division Head Coach must hold at a minimum a current **Advanced** netball accreditation.
- (c) Any Open Division Assistant Coach must hold at a minimum a current **Intermediate** netball accreditation.
- (d) Any Under 23 Division Head Coach must hold at a minimum a current **Advanced** Netball Accreditation.

- (e) Any Under 23 Division Assistant Coach must hold at a minimum a current **Intermediate** Netball Accreditation.

8.9 Licensees must ensure their coaches agree to work with Netball NSW High Performance personnel to enhance the development opportunities for their Players.

8.10 Licensees must ensure their coaches agree to comply with injury management protocols for any State / National / SSN players as determined by Netball NSW medical personnel.

9 Competition Match Procedures

9.1 General

9.1.1 All Competition Matches will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Netball.

9.1.2 Timing of Competition Matches is as follows:

- (a) Four (4) x fifteen minute quarters, with three (3) minute breaks after the first and third quarters ($\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ time) and a five (5) minute break after the second quarter ($\frac{1}{2}$ time).
- (b) Injury time as per the Rules of Netball.

9.1.3 Team List submission

- (a) Licensees are required to complete a Team List of up to twelve (12) players per Competition Match (including listing the starting seven (7) players and starting positions).
- (b) The Team List must be submitted to the Competitions Manager, or their delegate, at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of that Competition Match.
- (c) The Team List provided will be available to the opponent's Team Manager on request prior to the Competition Match in question.
- (d) Once submitted, no changes can be made to the Team List except in exceptional circumstances as approved by the Competitions Manager (in their absolute discretion). Where changes are approved, the Team Manager must immediately notify the opposing team and Bench Officials of these changes.
- (e) Failure to provide the Team List thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of the Competition Match or to promptly advise of changes thereto will incur a fine of \$100.00. If the Team List is not provided to the Competitions Manager, or their delegate, by fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of the Competition Match in question, the Team concerned will be deemed to have forfeited that Competition Match.

9.1.4 The official score sheet is to be completed by the official scorer.

9.1.5 The official scoresheet is the only true record of a Competition Match.

9.1.6 All Competition Matches will commence at the time as listed in the fixture.

9.1.7 A running clock will be started fifteen (15) minutes prior to the introduction of Teams. The Match clock will start when signalled by the umpire.

9.1.8 Substitutions

- (a) Substitutions can be made during intervals and stoppages, in addition, Teams will be allowed to make rolling substitutions during play (refer to clause 9.1.8(d)).
- (b) Team Managers must record all substitutions on the 'Team List and Substitution' Form provided by Netball NSW.

This form must be provided to the Bench Official in each interval, for the Bench Officials to record the substitutions. Once the Bench Officials have recorded the substitutions, they will return the form to the Team Manager.

At the end of the match, the 'Team List and Substitution' Form must be submitted to the Bench Officials and will be submitted to Netball NSW as a final record of substitutions made during the Match.

- (c) There is no limit to the number of substitutions that can be made in a Match.
- (d) Rolling Substitutions
 - (i) Teams will be allowed to make rolling substitutions during play.
 - (ii) More than one substitution may be made at any time, provided five (5) players remain on court at all times.
 - (iii) Time will not be held for rolling substitutions.
 - (iv) The substitutions zone will be clearly marked out on the court and will be no more than 1m x 4m (**Substitution Zone**).
 - (v) The substitute(s) stands wholly inside the team's substitution zone to indicate a substitution is to be made.
 - (vi) The substitute entering the court cannot leave the Substitution Zone until the Player leaving the court has entered the Substitution Zone.
 - (vii) Players must observe the offside rules as they enter/ leave the court and must not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution.

Sanction: Free pass from where the ball was when the interference or offside entry / exit occurred

- (viii) A Player leaving the court must return to the team bench.

9.2 Minor Round Matches

9.2.1 In Competition Matches during the Minor Rounds, competition points will be awarded as follows:

- (a) Two points for a win.

- (b) Zero points for a loss.
- (c) Two points for a forfeit (pursuant to clause 9.5)
- (d) Zero points for a bye.
- (e) One point to each team for a drawn Competition Match.
- (f) Points for an abandoned Competition Match will be allocated pursuant to the following:
 - i. If the Competition Match is abandoned prior to half time, one point will be allocated to each Team.
 - ii. If the Competition Match is abandoned at or after half time, the result as per the scoresheet will apply.

9.2.2 At the conclusion of Competition Matches of the Minor Rounds, Teams will be ranked based on the points they received in the Minor Rounds in accordance with clause 9.2.1 and subject to the following considerations:

- (a) If two or more teams finish on equal points after the final Competition Match of the Minor Rounds, positions for the Finals Series will 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 Competition Matches played by that Team.

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

The number of Competition Matches actually played includes a Competition Match a Team has forfeited, but does not include a Competition Match where the team has received a forfeit.

9.2.3 Any Team found playing an ineligible player in a Competition Match during the Minor Rounds will be considered to have lost the Competition Match in which the ineligible player has taken part and:

- (a) The points for winning the Competition Match will be awarded to the opposing Team (provided the opposing team itself has not played an ineligible player).
- (b) The Team playing the ineligible player will lose two competition points.
- (c) Goal averages for the Competition Match will be adjusted. The Team playing the ineligible player will have their goals scored adjusted to zero and the opposing team will have the goals scored against them adjusted to zero.
- (d) The Licensee will incur a penalty of up to one thousand (\$1,000) dollars for each Competition Match in which the ineligible player took part.

9.3 Finals Series

9.3.1 Finals will be played at the conclusion of the Minor Rounds in each Division.

9.3.2 The top four teams (based on points) will qualify for the Finals Series.

9.3.3 The format for the Finals Series will be as follows:

Semi Finals:

Major Semi Final: Ladder Position 1 v Ladder Position 2

Minor Semi Final: Ladder Position 3 v Ladder Position 4

Preliminary Final: Loser of Major Semi Final v Winner of Minor Semi Final

Grand Final: Winner of Major Semi Final v Winner of Preliminary Final

*Any abandoned Finals Series matches will be re-scheduled at the discretion of Netball NSW.

9.3.4 In the event of Teams being equal on points at the conclusion of the Minor Rounds, positions shall be determined by the Goal Average, as per clause 9.2.2 (a), 9.2.2 (b).

9.3.5 In order to be eligible to compete in a Finals Series of any Division, a Player must have played in a minimum of six (6) Competition Matches in the Minor Rounds in that Division during the Season in question.

For the avoidance of doubt:

(a) In order to have played in a Competition Match, the Player must be recorded on the scoresheet for that match as having taken the court; and

(b) This clause also applies to temporary Replacement Players.

9.3.6 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in clause 7.6, Players may only play in a maximum of five (5) quarters in the semi-finals and preliminary finals per night and in a maximum of five (5) quarters across the U23 and Open Grand Finals (which may be played on different nights).

9.3.7 Any Team found playing an ineligible player in a Competition Match during the Final Series will be considered to have lost the Competition Match in which the ineligible player has taken part and:

(a) The match will be awarded to the opposing team.

(b) Any player found to have played in the Final Series who was ineligible to do so, will not be permitted to take any further part in that Final Series.

(c) The Licensee will incur a penalty of one thousand (\$1,000) dollars for each Finals Series Match in which the ineligible player took part.

9.3.8 Netball NSW will determine the starting time and dates of Final Series Matches.

9.3.9 In the event of drawn Matches in the Finals Series, and as per the Rules of Netball:

- (a) There will be a two (2) minute interval at the end of full time, and teams will change ends.
- (b) Extra time will consist of two (2) halves not exceeding five (5) minutes each with an interval of one (1) minute at half time. Teams shall change ends at half time. The centre pass is taken by the Team entitled to the next centre pass.
- (c) During both of these intervals, substitutions and/or team changes may be made.
- (d) During extra time, normal injury or illness procedures will apply per the Rules of Netball.
- (e) In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time, a visual signal is given from the bench and will be used to indicate that play will continue until one team has a two (2) goal advantage.
- (f) Notwithstanding clause 9.3.6, extra time in matches of the Finals Series will not be deemed as a quarter played.

9.4 Scoresheets

- 9.4.1 One official Premier League (A3) scoresheet will be used to record the official score of the Match, for each Competition Match.
- 9.4.2 Prior to the commencement of play, each scoresheet must list the complete names (both given and surname) of all Players listed on the Team List and the playing positions of Players nominated to take the court in the first quarter, as required under clause 9.1.3.

No alterations can be made to this form in any way once the Competition Match has commenced.
- 9.4.3 The official Premier League (A3) scoresheet will also indicate all Players named on the starting Team List and goal shooter positions, the centre pass taken, goal attempts, and the final Competition Match score.
- 9.4.4 The final Competition Match score is calculated by the addition of the goals scored for the total Match.
- 9.4.5 At the conclusion of a Competition Match:
 - (a) The Bench Officials must sign the scoresheet to indicate they have officiated on that match;
 - (b) Each Team Manager must sign the official Premier League (A3) scoresheet to verify that the scorer has correctly recorded the names of the Team's Players nominated prior to the Competition Match to take the court, and Player participation in the Competition Match, as has been provided to the scorer and;
 - (c) Unless a Team proposes to protest against the result of a Competition Match, the Team's manager must sign the scoresheet to record the Team's agreement with the result.
- 9.4.6 Once signed, the official Premier League (A3) scoresheet is deemed to be conclusive and no further dispute will be entered into.

- 9.4.7 The official Premier League (A3) scoresheet and all supplementary documentation must be returned by the Bench Officials to the Competition Manager after the Competition Match.
- 9.4.8 Any Player positional changes made during a Competition Match must be recorded on the 'Team List and Substitution' Form and submitted to the Bench Officials, as outlined in clause 9.1.8.
- 9.4.9 A copy of the official Premier League (A3) scoresheet will be circulated to each Team listed on the scoresheet, by email within 24 hours of the conclusion of the Competition Match.

9.5 Forfeits

- 9.5.1 In the event that a Team forfeits prior to the Competition Match clock starting:
- (a) Two competition points will be awarded to the non-forfeiting team;
 - (b) Players in the non-forfeiting team will be considered to have played the Competition Match forfeited and a Licensee should nominate between seven (7) and twelve (12) players to be recorded as having played the Competition Match for the non-forfeiting team; and
 - (c) Players in the forfeiting team will not be considered to have played the Competition Match.
- 9.5.2 A forfeit fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) will be imposed for each forfeit which must be paid by the forfeiting team before the next Competition Match. Teams will have the option to appeal this fine in extenuating circumstances.

9.6 Cancellations

- 9.6.1 When Competition Matches are cancelled due to an event which Netball NSW determines was beyond its control or beyond the control of either Team (including, but not limited to, a lightning strike, power loss, wet weather that causes stadium damage), in consultation with the Teams concerned, Netball NSW may reschedule that match.
- 9.6.2 If the Competition Match is not rescheduled, the Competition Match will be deemed to be a draw and each Team will receive one (1) competition point each.
- 9.6.3 The Netball NSW Adverse Weather Conditions Policy may be referred to when making a decision on the continuation or suspension of any Matches.

9.7 Competition interruption

- 9.7.1 If the Competition is disrupted due to COVID-19 (or a similar type of pandemic), due to a government issued order or other extenuating circumstances, Netball NSW may, in its absolute discretion, make variations to the format of the Competition to allow for a finish to a Season. Variations may include, but are not limited to:
- (a) A reduction in the number of Minor Rounds to be played;
 - (b) A revision of the fixtures for the balance of the Competition;
 - (c) A revised Finals Series; and/or
 - (d) Not awarding winners and runners-up (including, but not limited to, where the first

nine (9) round of the Minor Rounds are unable to be completed)

9.7.2 By way of example and without limiting Netball NSW's absolute discretion, where a determination is made to abandon a Season after the first nine (9) rounds of the Minor Rounds have been played (and by which point, all Teams will have played each other once), Netball NSW may determine winners and runners-up based on the ladder positions of Teams as at the end of round 9 of the Minor Rounds.

9.8 Noise Makers

No noise makers will be permitted for use inside the Venue during competition. This includes, but is not limited to, drums, horns, clappers etc. Any person found to be using a noise maker may be asked to leave the Venue and have the noise maker confiscated.

10 Dispute Resolution

10.1 Protests and Appeals

10.1.1 A Licensee wishing to protest against a Competition Match result must:

- (a) Not sign the official scoresheet and promptly notify the Competitions Manager of the intention to protest.
- (b) Lodge the protest in writing with the Competitions Manager within 48 hours of the Competition Match being played.
- (c) Netball NSW will advise the result of the protest within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the written protest.

10.1.2 Where available, Teams may submit livestreaming footage to support their protest. Only footage from the official Netball NSW livestreaming provider will be accepted.

10.1.3 A Licensee wishing to appeal a decision of Netball NSW:

- (a) Must lodge the appeal using the official Netball NSW Appeal Form, available on the Netball NSW website, with the Competitions Manager within 48 hours of notification of the decision.
- (b) Submit a payment made out to Netball NSW for five hundred (\$500.00). This money will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.
- (c) Netball NSW will advise the result of the appeal within 14 days of receipt of the Netball NSW Appeal Form and this decision shall be final.

10.1.4 Appeals will be heard in accordance with the Netball NSW's Appeals Tribunal procedure.

10.2 Penalties

10.2.1 Except where these Competition Regulations provide that a specific penalty is to apply, any breach of these Competition Regulations may result in any one or more of the following penalties being imposed on a Licensee by Netball NSW in its absolute discretion:

- (a) a fine;
- (b) loss of competition points;

- (c) exclusion from the current Season of the Competition and future Seasons; or
 - (d) any other penalty considered appropriate by Netball NSW.
- 10.2.2 Repeat instances shall be considered by Netball NSW in its absolute discretion and may result in immediate exclusion from the current season of the Competition and future Seasons.
- 10.2.3 Penalties will be determined and reviewed by the Commission.
- 10.2.4 Specific penalties included in this document are:
- (a) Failure to submit the starting team list thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of the Competition Match or to promptly advise of changes thereto will incur a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), refer to clause 9.1.3.
 - (b) A team found playing an ineligible player in a Competition Match, will be considered to have lost the Competition Match, points for winning the Competition Match will be awarded to the opposing team, two competition points will be lost, Goal averages will be adjusted, and a fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each Competition Match in which the ineligible player took part will be incurred, refer to clause 9.2.3.
 - (c) Any Team found playing an ineligible player in a Match during the Final Series will be considered to have lost the Competition Match, the match will be awarded to the opposing team and the Licensee will incur a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), refer to clause 9.3.7(c).
 - (d) A forfeit fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) will be imposed for each forfeit, refer to clause 9.5.2.
 - (e) Failure to submit the required injury reports and team injury statement by the due date will incur a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), refer to clause 12.

10.3 Disciplinary Procedure

- 10.3.1 All registered Players, Umpires, Bench Officials and Team Officials are required to abide by the Netball Australia Policy Integrity Framework and relevant Netball NSW policies including the Code of Behaviour.
- 10.3.2 All participants of the Competition including but not limited to Players, umpires, Bench Officials and Team Officials, who have breached the Netball Australia Policy Integrity Framework, Netball NSW Code of Behaviour, and/or the Netball NSW Disciplinary Policy, may be subject to disciplinary action as listed within the corresponding policy.
- 10.3.3 All matters relating to anti-doping are governed by the Anti-Doping Policy of Netball Australia, which is WADA compliant.
- 10.3.4 Netball NSW reserves the right to develop its own WADA compliant Anti-Doping Policy and will notify the Licensees if it exercises such right to develop its own policy.

10.4 Declaration of Interest of Match Officials

- 10.4.1 Appointed Match Officials (Umpires and Score Bench Officials) will be required to declare any interest in relation to Players and/or Team Officials participating in the Competition, at the time of their appointment to the Competition or as soon as any interest is known.

- 10.4.2 Identified conflicts will be considered and reviewed by the Competitions Manager in liaison with the Executive General Manager, Community and Pathways, and where necessary the Premier League Commission will be referred to.
- 10.4.3 It should be noted that where a Declaration of Interest has been made this does not preclude them from officiating in that Match.
- 10.4.4 A conflict of interest may be determined where a Match Official is a Relative of a Player or Team Official.
- 10.4.5 For the purposes of this clause 10.4, a Relative means:
- (a) parent, including step-parent
 - (b) spouse or former spouse, including de facto partner
 - (c) siblings
 - (d) a child or step child
 - (e) uncle
 - (f) aunt
 - (g) first cousin
 - (h) grandparent/great grand parent
 - (i) grandchild/great grand child
 - (j) parent-in-law
 - (k) son-in-law
 - (l) daughter-in-law
 - (m) sister-in-law
 - (n) brother-in-law
 - (o) step sister or half sister
 - (p) step brother or half brother
 - (q) foster child/foster parent
 - (r) guardian

11 Uniform and Equipment

- 11.1 All Players must wear matching playing uniforms which must be their Licensee's registered playing uniform.
- 11.2 Each Licensee is to provide two (2) sets of positional patches.
- 11.3 Licensees must comply with the requirement of the Commercial Guidelines for the Competition in reference to any uniform issue.
- 11.4 Only non-marking sports shoes will be permitted to be worn.
- 11.5 Netball NSW will supply all match balls for all Competition Matches.
- 11.6 Netball NSW will provide each Team with six warm up balls to be used courtside. No other balls will be permitted courtside.

12 Injury reporting

- 12.1 Where an injury has been sustained by a Player within a Premier League match the following action must be taken:
- (a) Details of the injury must be recorded by the Team Physiotherapist.
 - (b) An individual injury report must be submitted as directed by Netball NSW.

- 12.2 Both the individual injury reports and the weekly team injury statement is to be submitted no later than 10am on the Friday, following the match. Where a match is not played on a Wednesday fixture, Netball NSW will advise when the reports are required by.
- 12.3 Teams who fail to submit injury reports and the injury statement by the day/time due may incur up to a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) penalty.

13 Awards

The Netball NSW Volunteer Recognition and Awards Policy will be observed and applied in respect of all awards associated with the Competition.

Appendix A

2024 Premier League Season dates

2024 Resigning's to be submitted (as per clause 7.1.6)	Friday, 20 October 2023
2024 Premier League Team Trial dates (As per clause 7.1.5)	From Saturday, 28 October 2023
2024 Player offers (as per clause 7.1.1)	Not before Monday, 13 November 2023
2024 Team Officials due (As per clause 8.4)	Sunday, 14 January 2024
2024 U23s and Opens Team Lists due (As per clause 7.3.3)	Sunday, 14 January 2024

2025 Premier League Season dates

2025 Resigning's to be submitted (as per clause 7.1.6)	TBC
2025 Premier League Team Trial dates (As per clause 7.1.5)	TBC
2025 Player offers (as per clause 7.1.1)	TBC
2025 Team Officials due (As per clause 8.4)	TBC
2025 U23s and Opens Team Lists due (As per clause 7.3.3)	TBC