

# Building a Connected Committee

Just like any team, a connected Committee leads to a successful Committee. As a leader of a Committee, you are just like a coach and responsible for the success of the Committee. Here are some ways to ensure your Committee is effective, collaborative and purposeful and your Committee members feel valued and supported.

## Lead by Example

As a leader of a Committee, you are a leader in our netball community. Lead by example by demonstrating respect, transparency, and inclusivity in your interactions with all Committee members. Foster a supportive and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and empowered to contribute.

## Start with getting to know each other

If you are a new Committee, or are welcoming new members, start with getting to know who they are away from netball. Within a comfortable, social environment see if you can find out:

- Why did they volunteer?
- What do they want to achieve on the Committee?
- How do they like to receive thanks and acknowledgement?
- If you haven't already, do the EmpowerPlay personality test together. Discuss your personality types and recognise that each one likes to communicate and be communicated with differently. [Click here](#)
- Keep a record of why Committee members have volunteered and regularly check in to see if they feel like they are adding value.

## Celebrate Diversity

Once you have taken the time to get to know everyone, embrace the diversity within your Committee and recognise the unique perspectives and experiences that each member brings to the table. Create opportunities for members to share their backgrounds, expertise, and insights, enriching discussions and decision-making processes.

## Promote Collaboration

Encourage members to work together on projects and tasks, leveraging each other's strengths and expertise. Create opportunities for collaboration through group projects, subcommittees, or working groups.

## Agree on your Purpose, hold effective meetings and manage conflict

There are other tip sheets on all of these topics in the Beyond the Court toolkit. Read these to ensure you are set up and ready for success.

## Ensure everyone has clear role descriptions

Always start each season with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. Examples of these can be found in the Beyond the Court toolkit. Check in with each Committee member to ensure they know what they are

required to do and ask if there is anything they don't think they can achieve. If that is the case, put a plan in place for support.

### Find some ways to have FUN

No one wants to volunteer their time and not enjoy it. Even the Committee leaders! Find ways throughout the season to get to know each other and have some fun. You could:

- Have some regular social catch ups away from netball
- Attend or watch a NSW Swifts or GIANTS netball game together
- Run a Committee tipping competition
- Create some dress up days at the Courts and ensure the Committee leads these
- Ask the Committee for ways they would like to connect with each other

### Welcome

Every new Committee member should be made to feel welcome and valued. Do you have:

- A welcome letter and pack that outlines all the information they need?
- An onboarding process where the previous volunteer could have a hand over, or where the new member is assigned a Committee buddy to help them settle in?
- Regular catch ups one on one with all Committee members to touch base and address any issues or concerns and say thank you?

### Reward and Acknowledge

Most Committee members don't volunteer to receive rewards and acknowledgements. Nor would they expect them. As a leader of a Committee, it is still important to make your members feel valued. Some simple ways to do this are:

- At every Committee meeting thank everyone for their assistance
- Call out anyone who has gone above and beyond with a recent project
- Find ways to publicly acknowledge your Committee and the work they do. Ensure your members can see that you value their contribution and are grateful for their hard work.
- Look for opportunities outside of your netball community to reward your volunteers. You could nominate them for any suitable awards such as the local Australia Day Awards or other volunteer recognition programs. Even a nomination can make someone feel appreciated.

### Provide Support

Offer support and guidance to committee members as needed. Be approachable and available to address any concerns or challenges that may arise. Provide resources and assistance to help members succeed in their roles.