



**netball**  
NEW SOUTH WALES

# MASTERS STATE TITLES

## Competition Rules

16 January 2024

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## 1 Definitions

**Abandoned Match** means a Match or Matches that Netball NSW, in its absolute discretion, deem are unable to be continued or re-scheduled.

**Affiliate Member** means a body corporate that is affiliated with the Company through Netball and becomes a Voting Member in accordance with the Netball NSW Constitution and the relevant Company Policy.

**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 Affiliation and Membership Policy (as amended from time to time), where such application for affiliation has been approved by voting members.

**Competition** means the Netball NSW Masters State Titles.

**Competition Rules** means the rules of the Competition as articulated within this document.

**Divisions** mean the competition divisions at the Masters State Titles.

**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 Masters 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 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 Masters State Titles Rules when satisfied that extenuating circumstances exist.
- 2.1.5 Any request to waive compliance with the Masters State Titles rules must be submitted in writing, addressed to the Netball NSW Competitions Manager or their appointed delegate.
- 2.1.6 Masters State Titles are conducted in the following Age Group:

- Over 35 Association Representative Team

An Association Representative Team, is a Team where the players are representing an Association at the Masters State Titles.

- 2.1.7 All matches shall be played on all weather hard courts or a combination of indoor courts and all weather courts.
- 2.1.8 Netball NSW may at any time change any competition match procedure, format or venue, where it is deemed necessary to comply with any legislation, government regulation or order, including but not limited to those related to COVID-19.

### 2.2 Venue

- 2.2.1 Netball NSW may appoint a Netball NSW Affiliated Association to host the Masters 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 Masters State Titles.

### 2.3 Uniforms and Equipment

- 2.3.1 Players in a Team must play in matching playing uniforms unless extenuating circumstances exist in which case, a letter of request must be sent to the Competitions Manager providing an explanation and giving as much notice as possible.

For the avoidance of doubt a matching uniform 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](#).

- 2.3.1 Each team is to have available two sets of position patches, of different colours.
- 2.3.2 Each team is to provide an approved match ball.
- 2.3.3 Teams 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. It is not permitted to display a sponsor's or other name on positional patches.

## **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 Tribunal to determine the appeal.
- 2.4.4 All applications for appeals must be presented by completing all questions on the Competitions Grading Appeals form and submitting the form by email to the Netball NSW Competitions Manager at [competitions@netballnsw.com](mailto: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 Masters 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 relevant Netball NSW Policy
- 2.5.2 All registered Players, Umpires, Bench Officials and Team Officials are required to abide by the Netball NSW Code of Behaviour.
- 2.5.3 All participants of the Competition including but not limited to Players, Umpires, Bench Officials, Team Officials and Association Officials, who have breached the Code of Behaviour, Netball NSW Member Protection Policy, Netball NSW Child Safeguarding Policy and/or the Netball NSW Disciplinary Policy, may be subject to disciplinary action outlined within the corresponding policy.

- 2.5.4 All Netball NSW Policies referred to in clause 2.5 can be accessed on the Netball NSW website at the following link, ([Policies – Netball NSW](#)).

### **3 Competition Structure**

#### **3.1 Eligibility**

- 3.1.1 Except for clause 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 of this policy, only Netball NSW Affiliated Associations are eligible to enter the, Association Representative Divisions of Masters State Titles conducted by Netball NSW.
- 3.1.2 Any grouping of Netball NSW Affiliated Associations can be admitted to enter the Masters State Titles subject to approval of Netball NSW.
- 3.1.3 Netball NSW may approve teams to enter the Masters 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 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 Play HQ database prior to the commencement of that competition, or their participation in that competition.
- 3.1.5 The minimum age to qualify for Masters State Titles is turning 35 in the year of play.
- 3.1.6 The Masters State Titles is a sporting activity for female players only.

#### **3.2 Team Nomination and Entry**

- 3.2.1 The closing date for the Masters State Titles will be notified, on the relevant entry form and on the Netball NSW website.
- 3.2.2 The entry fee for the Masters State Titles will be notified to Affiliated Associations by Netball NSW before 30 November in the previous year.
- 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, a late entry may be accepted. A late entry will only be considered if the late entry fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) has been paid and the late entry is received by Netball NSW in accordance with the late entry closing date.
- 3.2.5 Where an Entity withdraws a team from the Masters State Titles within three (3) weeks of the commencement of the Competition the offending body will be fined five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

- 3.2.6 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 be received by the closing date for the Masters State Titles.
- 3.2.7 Associations may enter up to two (2) teams into the Masters State Titles Competition.
- 3.2.8 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 team they will be playing with. The Association concerned will be advised accordingly. The Association not nominated by the player will be given forty-eight (48) hours from the time of advice to replace the player without penalty.
- 3.2.9 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.

### **3.3 Competition Grading**

- 3.3.1 Where more than twelve (12) entries are received for the competition, entries may be graded into Divisions, being Championship Division and Division 2.
- 3.3.2 Where divisions apply, Associations may submit a request for their preferred division. Grading will be done using player history and if needed in consultation with Associations.
- 3.3.3 Where divisions apply, each year 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.
- 3.3.4 Netball NSW will endeavour to divide teams equally as far as possible to ensure equal number of teams across all divisions, therefore clause 3.3.3 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.
- 3.3.5 The final grading decision will be made at the discretion of Netball NSW.
- 3.3.6 Where a team did not enter in the previous year's Masters 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.
- 3.3.7 Netball NSW will, based on the number of entries received be responsible for determining the format of the competition.

### **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, final grading will be at the discretion of Netball NSW.
- 3.4.2 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. Any team playing a non-registered player will be disqualified.
- 3.5.2 A maximum of four (4) players may be late registered in an Association Representative team. Late registrations and de-registrations for an Association Representative team 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.
- 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.
- 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.

## **4 Competition Rules**

### **4.1 General Rules**

- 4.1.1 All Competition Matches will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Netball.
- 4.1.2 All teams will play each team in their division during Masters State Titles.
- 4.1.3 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.
- 4.1.4 Injury time may be taken according to Rules of Netball but no additional time shall be added to the match.
- 4.1.5 In addition to standard substitutions during intervals and stoppages, Teams will be allowed to make rolling substitutions during play.
  - a) Rolling Substitutions can only be made where a team has a minimum of one (1) player on the team bench.
  - b) There is no limit to the number of substitutions that can be made.



- c) Only one substitution may be made at any time, provided five (5) players remain on court at all times.
- d) Time will not be held for rolling substitutions.
- e) The substitutions zone will be clearly marked out on the court and will be no more than 1m x 4m (**Substitution Zone**).

4.1.6 The umpire’s whistle shall start and finish games on the indication from the central timing device.

4.1.7 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.

4.1.8 The winners of the Championship Division shall be declared the Masters State Title Champions.

4.1.9 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.

4.1.10 Any team playing a non-registered player will penalised as per clause 7.1.

## 4.2 Match Points

4.2.1 Points Table: Masters 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

a) If two or more teams finish on equal points after the final round of matches, positions shall 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 matches played by the team.

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.

### 4.3 Cancellation

- 4.3.1 If, in the opinion of Netball NSW games are unable to be played due to an event which Netball NSW determines was beyond its control or beyond the control of either Team, (including, but not limited to, COVID-19, a lightning strike, power loss, wet weather that causes court or stadium damage), the following will occur:
- a) When matches are cancelled prior to commencement, in consultation with the Teams concerned Netball NSW may reschedule the matches. If matches are not rescheduled, all matches cancelled will be deemed to be a draw and each Team will receive (1) competition point each. No points will be awarded for teams having the Bye.
  - b) Where a match has commenced and is abandoned prior to half time the match will be deemed a draw and each team will be awarded one (1) point each.
  - c) Where the match had commenced and is abandoned at or after half time a win will be awarded to the Team with the highest score at the time in which the Match was stopped and the score at this time will be recorded.
- 4.3.2 The Netball NSW [Adverse Weather Conditions](#) Policy will be referred to when making a decision on the continuation or suspension of any matches.

### 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.

## 5 Officials

### 5.1 Team Officials

5.1.1 Team Officials must be a current registered financial member of Netball NSW prior to the event.

5.1.2 Teams should have one appointed Team Official who is not a player.

## 5.2 Umpires

In 2024 Netball NSW will pilot a development program in conjunction with State Masters. A nominal fee may be applied to all teams entered to cover costs.

Netball NSW will invite a pool of umpires to officiate the competition, providing coaching to all umpires during the event.

Any badged umpire may apply to Netball NSW to be allocated to matches.

5.2.1 The minimum qualification to umpire at the Masters State Titles is a current **C** badge. Umpires must have received the C badge prior to being included on the submission.

5.2.2 The minimum age to umpire at Masters State Titles is 16 years of age. Unless prior permission is given.

5.2.3 Nominated umpires must be a current registered financial member of Netball NSW prior to the event.

5.2.4 Nominated umpires may not play, coach or manage a team during the Masters State Titles.

## 6 Photography and videography

In addition to the clauses outlined below, the Netball NSW Photography policy will be referred to at the Competition.

6.1 Extended video footage should only be taken for training purposes.

6.2 All photographers and videographers should notify the opposing team of their intention to photograph or video the match for consent.

6.3 All photographers and videographers taking photos on behalf of an Association must register with Event Control upon arrival at the Competition.

6.4 Photographers and Videographers may be asked to complete an accreditation form, and to wear a Netball NSW accredited photographer pass.

6.5 Photographers and Videographers should comply with any Courtside Equipment Guidelines published for the Competition.

## **7 Penalties**

7.1 Except where these Competition rules provide that a specific penalty is to apply, any breach of these competition rules may result in any one or more of the following penalties being imposed on an Association by Netball NSW in its absolute discretion.

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

7.2 Specific penalties included in this document are:

- (a) A late entry will only be considered if the late entry fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) has been paid and the late entry is received by Netball NSW in accordance with the late entry closing date, refer to clause 3.2.4.
- (b) Where an Entity withdraws a team from the competition within three (3) weeks of the commencement of the Masters State Titles the offending body will be fined five hundred dollars (\$500.00), refer to clause 3.2.5.