Netball NSW Schools Cup Competition Rules

March 2026

Schools Cup is a school competition that provides New South Wales primary and secondary school students with the opportunity to enjoy netball in an inclusive and enjoyable environment. Participating schools are reminded that this event does not fall under the Netball NSW Pathways Competition Framework and rather, maintains a focus on mass participation.

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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.

Competition means the Netball NSW Schools Cup and includes all three (3) phases of the Competition as described in these Rules.

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

Divisions mean the competition divisions within Competition, including competitive and social divisions.

Host Association means an Affiliate Association as defined in the Netball NSW Affiliation and Membership Policy (as amended from time to time) hosting a Competition.

Match means any netball match or game, excluding training matches, played by or between Teams within the Competition.

Netball NSW (NNSW) means the New South Wales Netball Association Limited.

Netball NSW Regional Manager means your Netball NSW representative for your region.

Player means any person who has been registered with the relevant Team.

PlayHQ means the registration system used by Netball NSW that all schools and Players must be registered through.

Region means one of the eight regions of Netball NSW: Sydney Metropolitan; Hunter/Central Coast; West/Central West; Far North Coast; South Coast; North West; North Coast; Riverina.

Rules of Netball means the Rules of Netball as published and updated from time to time by World Netball, the internationally recognised governing body for Netball.

Rules of Netball Exam means the Rules of Netball Theory Examination which tests the basic rules of the game. It is located on the Netball Australia website within Netball Learning.

Team means each of the school netball teams who have been registered to participate in the Competition.

Umpire means an umpire appointed by a school or Netball NSW to officiate in a Match.

2 Competition Information

2.1 General Information

2.1.1 The Netball NSW Schools Cup is conducted under the authority of Netball New South Wales, in partnership with the Host Association.

2.1.2 Netball NSW has the overall responsibility for the day to day operation and management of each Event.

2.1.3 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.

2.2 Uniforms and Equipment

2.3.1 Players in a Team must play in matching or similar coloured playing uniforms and positional bibs.

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.

2.3.2 Each Team is to have available at least one set of positional bibs.

2.3.3 Each Team is to provide an appropriate size 5 match ball as per the Rules of Netball.

2.3 Complaint Handling

2.3.1 All complaints lodged with Netball NSW in relation to the Competition will be dealt with in accordance with Netball NSW Policies.

2.3.2 All Players, Umpires, Coaches, and Spectators are required to abide by Netball NSW Policies (as they apply to them) including the Code of Behaviour.

2.3.3 All attendees of the Competition including but not limited to Players, Umpires, Coaches, and Spectators who have breached the Code of Behaviour, Netball NSW Member Protection Policy Netball NSW Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and/or the Netball NSW Disciplinary Policy, may be subject to disciplinary action as listed within the corresponding Policy.

All Netball NSW Policies referred to in clause 2.3 can be accessed on the Netball NSW website at the following link, (Policies – Netball NSW)

3 Competition Structure

3.1 Team Eligibility

3.1.1 All schools must register teams through PlayHQ to participate in the Competition

3.1.2 All students must be registered into the competition through PlayHQ to participate, unless extenuating circumstances apply in which case, a letter of request must be emailed to their Netball NSW Regional Manager or Schools Lead providing an explanation and giving as much notice as possible.

3.2 Team Nomination and Entry

3.2.1 The closing date for Team entries into the Competition will be notified by Netball NSW.

3.2.2 Team entries must be received by Netball NSW by the time and date for close of entries. No late entries will be accepted.

3.2.3 Entry fees for the Competition will be notified by Netball NSW.

3.2.4 At no time is a Team permitted to have more than twelve (12) Players registered.

3.2.5 Late withdrawals from the Competition will be fined the following:

(i) Phase 1 – Any team that withdraws within two (2) school days prior to the Competition date, will still be required to pay their team registration fee.

(ii) Phase 2 - Any team that withdraws within five (5) school days prior to the Competition date, will incur a fine of $50.00.

(iii) Phase 3 - Any team that withdraws within ten (10) school days prior to the Competition date, will incur a fine of $50.00.

3.3 Player Eligibility

3.3.1 All Players in the Competition must be registered to their Team on PlayHQ.

3.3.2 Each team may make up to two (2) player changes for Phase 2 and Phase 3. These changes must be clearly emailed to their Netball NSW Regional Manager or Schools Lead providing an explanation and giving as much notice as possible.

3.3.3 Players may only be registered to play in one (1) Team in the Competition. Players may only take the court for one (1) Team in the Competition.

3.4 Divisions

3.4.1 The Competition may comprise of 5 competitive divisions

(i) Year 5/6 Mixed – Teams shall comprise of Players in Primary School Years 5/6. There are no limitations on the mix of girls/boys on court.

(ii) Year 7/8 Girls – Teams shall comprise of girls in Secondary School Years 7/8.

(iii) Year 7/8 Boys – Teams shall comprise of boys in Secondary School Years 7/8.

(iv) Year 9/10 Girls – Teams shall comprise of girls in Secondary School Years 9/10.

(v) Year 9/10 Boys – Teams shall comprise of boys in Secondary School Years 9/10.

3.4.2 The Competition may comprise of 7 social divisions:

(i) Year 3/4 Mixed – Games played with modified NetSetGo rules, where possible. Teams shall comprise of Players in Primary School Years 3/4. There are no limitations on the mix of girls/boys on court.

(ii) Year 5/6 Mixed – Teams shall comprise of Players in Primary School Years 5/6. There are no limitations on the mix of girls/boys on court.

(iii) Year 7/8 Girls – Teams shall comprise of girls in Secondary School Years 7/8.

(iv) Year 7/8 Boys – Teams shall comprise of boys in Secondary School Years 7/8.

(v) Year 9/10 Girls – Teams shall comprise of girls in Secondary School Years 9/10.

(vi) Year 9/10 Boys – Teams shall comprise of boys in Secondary School Years 9/10.

(vii) Year 11/12 Mixed (Fast5) – Teams shall comprise of boys and girls in Secondary School Years 11/12. There are no limitations on the number of girls/boys in a team, however there can only be 1 boy in each netball third at start of play.

3.5 Competition Phases

3.5.1 The Competition shall comprise of 3 phases:

(i) Phase 1 – Schools Cup Local Days will be held in Term 1 to Term 3 in each of the 8 Netball NSW Regions. Competitive and Social Teams are eligible to attend.

(ii) Phase 2 – Schools Cup Regional Finals will be held in Term 3 for each division within the 8 Netball NSW Regions. Successful Teams from Competitive divisions at Phase 1 are eligible to attend.

(iii) Phase 3 – Schools Cup State Final will be held across two days in Term 4. One day will be for the Primary division and one day will be for the four Secondary divisions. Successful Teams from Competitive divisions at Phase 2 are eligible to attend.

3.6 Phase 1

3.6.1 A school can enter as many competitive and social Teams as they like. However, Netball NSW has the right to limit Team entries on a case by case basis due to venue capacity limits. Schools can enter the same Team into multiple local days, however that Team can only be considered competitive at one (1) local day.

(i) Schools entering the same team into multiple days, must email their Netball NSW Regional Manager or Schools Lead prior to attending their first chosen day, giving as much notice as possible.

(ii) Schools can request social Teams be entered into the competitive draw for the purposes of gaining more experience and practice opportunities.

3.6.2 Registrations will be confirmed on a first application basis. Once the maximum number of Teams for the venue has been reached registrations will close, even if prior to the specified close of registration date.

3.6.3 Teams in both Competitive and Social divisions may be divided into pools and play in a round robin format for the day.

3.6.4 Teams will be allocated to pools based on competitive or social categories, as indicated on PlayHQ. The two categories will play in separate pools.

(i) Competitive Division – Scores will be kept and placing recorded. Teams will be eligible to progress through to Phase 2 based on their placing.

(ii) Social Division – Scores may be kept but no ladder or placing recorded. Teams are not eligible to progress through to Phase 2.

3.6.5 In the event there are not enough Teams in the social division to create a separate pool, Netball NSW reserves the right to automatically place these Teams in the Competitive Division. Where possible, Netball NSW will contact nominated School Representative/s to discuss further.

3.6.6 Where possible, schools will not have two Teams in the same pool.

3.6.7 Netball NSW reserves the right to vary the number of allocated Teams in each pool and the number of pools dependent upon the number of entries received.

3.7 Phase 2

3.7.1 Teams that place first and second at a Phase 1 Local Day will be eligible to progress into Phase 2. In the case where a school has multiple Teams in a division and the top placing Teams are from the same school, both Teams are eligible to progress. A minimum of 1 Team from each division will progress to Phase 2.

3.7.2 If a Team declines the offer to attend Phase 2, the Teams will be contacted in order of placing until at least one Team from the Local Day is able to attend.

3.7.3 Teams will be divided into randomly allocated pools to play a round robin and then progress into a finals series.

3.7.4 If there are Teams who attended the same Phase 1 venue they will be separated into different pools where possible.

3.7.5 Netball NSW reserves the right to vary the number of allocated Teams in each pool and the number of pools dependent upon the number of entries received.

3.8 Phase 3

3.8.1 Winners of each Region's competitive division at a Phase 2 day, will be eligible to progress into Phase 3.

3.8.2 If a qualifying Team declines the offer to attend Phase 3, the Teams from Phase 2 for that division and Region will be contacted in order of placing until one Team is able to attend.

3.8.3 Schools will be divided into two pools to play a round robin and then progress into a finals series.

4 Competition Rules

4.1 General Rules

4.1.1 All Competition Matches will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Netball, unless where otherwise stated within these rules.

4.1.2 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.

4.1.3 Rolling substitution of Players is permitted in accordance with Clause 4.4.

4.1.4 Injury time may be taken according to, the Rules of Netball, but no additional time shall be added to the Match.

4.1.5 The Umpire's whistle shall start and finish games on the indication from the central timing device.

4.1.6 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.

4.1.7 There shall be no 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. Cross-over games may be played when multiple pools are present, however this is up to the discretion of the Netball NSW Regional Manager or Schools Lead.

4.2 Extra Time

4.2.1 If there is a draw in the semi finals or grand finals of Phase 2 and/or Phase 3, a one (1) minute interval shall be taken. During the interval, the score will be verified and the teams change ends. During the interval there may be substitutions and or/team changes.

4.2.2 The umpire will indicate which team has the next centre pass and play will commence. Then two (2), three (3) minute halves will be played to determine a winner. After the first three (3) minutes, teams must change ends as soon as possible.

4.2.3 If the game is still a draw at the end of the second three (3) minutes, a visual signal will indicate that play continues and the first team to score a two (2) goal advantage shall be declared the winner.

4.3 Competition Structure

4.3.1 The final format of the phases of the Competition (as listed in Clause 3.5) in each Region shall be determined by Netball NSW.

4.3.2 Netball NSW will make the final decision as to the draw and the scheduling of Matches in its sole discretion.

4.3.3 The fixture for all Divisions of the Competition will be available on PlayHQ at least one (1) week prior to the commencement of the Competition, where possible.

4.4 Match Points

4.4.1 Points Table**:**

Win	Loss	Draw	Forfeit	Bye	Abandoned
2	0	1	2	0	1*

Goal Average

(i) If two or more Teams finish on equal points after the final round of Matches, positions shall be decided on goal averages.
(ii) 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.

4.5 Rolling Substitutions

4.5.1 In addition to standard substitutions during intervals and stoppages, Teams will be allowed to make rolling substitutions during play.

(i) Rolling Substitutions can only be made where a Team has a minimum of one (1) Player on the Team bench.

(ii) There is no limit to the number of substitutions that can be made.

(iii) No more than one substitution may be made at any time, provided the minimum five (5) Players remain on court at all times.

(iv) Time will not be held for rolling substitutions.

(v) Substitutions must be made in line with the centre circle on either side of the court.

(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.

4.6 Finals Series

4.6.1 Finals series format for 2 pools will be played as follows:

Semi Final 1: Winner Pool A vs. Runner Up Pool B

Semi Final 2: Winner Pool B vs. Runner Up Pool A

Classification 3-4: Loser Semi Final 1 vs. Loser Semi Final 2

Classification 5-6: 3rd Ranked Pool A vs. 3rd Ranked Pool B

Classification 7-8: 4th Ranked Pool A vs. 4th Ranked Pool B

Grand Final: Winner Semi Final 1 vs. Winner Semi Final 2

4.6.2 Finals series fixture is to be communicated on completion of regular rounds.

4.6.3 Netball NSW may make amendments to the finals format and fixture where necessary.

4.7 Cancellation

4.7.1 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 a lightning strike, power loss, wet weather that causes court or stadium damage), the following will occur:

(i) 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.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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 the Match was stopped and the score at this time will be recorded.

4.7.2 The Netball NSW Adverse Weather Conditions Policy will be referred to when making a decision on the continuation or suspension of any Matches.

4.8 Scoresheets

4.8.1 The method of distribution of score sheets will be determined by Netball NSW.

4.8.2 Score sheets are to be returned to Netball NSW by the winning Team immediately after each Match.

4.8.3 One (1) official from each Team is to sign the score sheet.

4.8.4 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 amend the official scores.

5 Umpires

5.1 Umpire Requirements

5.1.1 All schools must provide one (1) Umpire per Team.

5.1.2 It is expected that all Umpires have completed the Rules of Netball Exam and received a pass mark of 70%.

5.2 Umpires for Phase 1

5.2.1 An 'umpire your own' system will be in place for this phase of the Competition.

5.2.2 Umpires must be dressed in clothing that is distinct from the Team's playing uniforms with suitable sports footwear.

5.3 Umpires for Phase 2

5.3.1 It is recommended that all Umpires hold a current National C Badge. If the Umpire does not hold a National C Badge, it is recommended that the Umpire has completed the Rules of Netball Exam and received a pass mark of 70%.

5.3.2 Netball NSW will complete a cross-draw allocation. Umpires will be required to umpire games based on their school's allocation. Netball NSW has the right to forgo the cross-draw allocation method in favour of another allocation method if required. This is at the sole discretion of the Netball NSW Regional Manager or Schools Lead.

5.3.3 Umpire names and badge status are to be received by the relevant Netball NSW Regional Manager or Schools Lead at least two (2) weeks prior to Phase 2 of the Competition.

5.3.4 Netball NSW will oversee the allocation of Umpires to Matches. Umpires will receive their allocations at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of Phase 2 of the Competition.

5.3.5 Umpires must wear a white top with a white or black skirt or shorts.

5.3.6 Teams that do not provide one (1) umpire and/or have not made prior arrangements with their Netball NSW Regional Manager or Schools Lead, will incur a fine of $200.00, invoiced to the participating school.

5.4 Umpires for Phase 3

5.4.1 All schools attending Phase 3 of the Competition, must supply one (1) Umpire per Team, who holds at a minimum, a current National C badge. Umpires must have received the C badge prior to being included on the submission.

5.4.2 Netball NSW will oversee the allocation of Umpires to Matches. Umpires will receive their allocations at least 24 hours prior to the start of Phase 3 of the Competition.

5.4.3 Umpire names and badge status are to be received by the relevant Netball NSW Regional Manager or Schools Lead at least two (2) weeks prior to the start of Phase 3 of the Competition.

5.4.4 Nominated Umpires may not play, coach or manage a Team during Phase 3 of the Competition.

5.4.5 Umpires must wear a white top with a white or black skirt or shorts.

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 All photographers and videographers should notify the opposing Team of their intention to photograph or video the Match for consent.

6.2 All photographers and videographers using a long lens camera must check in and sign the Photographer/Videographer Accreditation form at the control room, in the morning prior to the Competition commencing.