HART SENIOR STATE TITLES

NETBALL NSW SENIOR STATE TITLES

Competition Rules

13 August 2026

netball NEW SOUTH WALES

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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.

Association Official means a person who represents an Association with the authority to act on behalf of the Association.

Competition means the Netball NSW Senior State Titles.

General Manager - Competitions means the person who has been appointed to the role of General Manager Competitions with Netball NSW.

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

Divisions mean the competition divisions at the Senior State Titles called Championship Division, Division 2, Division 3 and Division 4.

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.

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

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 or Invitational 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 Subject to these Competition Rules and the Netball NSW Constitution, the General Manager Competitions shall have the authority to investigate and adjudicate all questions and disputes arising out of the Competition. If a matter is not provided for in the Competition Rules and the Netball NSW Constitution, the General Manager Competitions may make any determination they consider appropriate after consultation with the Netball NSW Executive General Manager Strategy & Stakeholders, and/or the Chief Executive Officer, where appropriate, and the decision shall be final.

2.1.2 The Netball NSW Senior State Titles are conducted under the authority of Netball New South Wales, in partnership with the Host Association.

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

2.1.4 Netball NSW will work with the Host Association to manage the format, structure and conduct of the event.

2.1.5 Netball NSW has the power to waive compliance with the Senior State Titles Rules when satisfied that extenuating circumstances exist.

2.1.6 Any request to waive compliance with the Senior State Titles rules must be submitted in writing and be addressed to the Competitions General Manager or their appointed delegate.

2.1.7 Senior State Titles are conducted in the 15 years, 17 years and Opens age groups.

2.1.8 All matches shall be played on all weather hard courts or a combination of indoor courts and all weather courts.

2.1.9 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 Venues and Date

2.2.1 Senior State Titles are held over the June long weekend, on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday

2.2.2 Netball NSW appoints Netball NSW Affiliated Association venues to host the Senior State Titles (Host Association), with the overall management of the event falling under Netball NSW.

2.2.3 A minimum of two (2) venues may be used for the Senior State Titles.

2.3 Uniforms and Equipment

2.3.1 Players in an Association Team must play in matching playing uniforms unless extenuating circumstances exist in which case, a letter of request must be sent to the General Manager Competitions 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.

2.3.2 Each Team is to have available two sets of position patches, of different colours.

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

2.3.4 Associations may identify one sponsor logo on the playing uniform up to a maximum length of 16cm and maximum height 16cm. Sponsor logos may only appear once on the uniform per player.

2.4 Complaint Handling

2.4.1 All complaints lodged with Netball NSW in relation to the Competition will be dealt with in accordance with Netball NSW Complaints Handling Procedures.

2.4.2 All registered Players, Umpires, and Team Officials are required to abide by the Netball NSW Code of Behaviour.

2.4.3 All participants of the Competition including but not limited to Players, Umpires, Team Officials and Association Officials, who have breached the Code of Behaviour, Netball NSW Member Protection 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 2.4 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, 3.1.3 and clause 3.1.4 of this policy, only Netball NSW Affiliated Associations are eligible to enter the Senior State Titles conducted by Netball NSW.

3.1.2 Any grouping of Netball NSW affiliated Associations can be admitted to enter the Senior State Titles as a combined Team subject to approval of the General Manager Competitions in consultation with the Executive General Manager Strategy & Stakeholders.

3.1.3 Netball NSW may approve Teams to enter the Senior State Titles as an Invitational Team 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 Netball NSW may approve Teams that are not Affiliated Associations to enter the male divisions of Senior State Titles.

3.1.5 An Association, grouping of Associations (per Clause 3.1.2) or Invitational Teams may only enter one Team per age category in the Senior State Titles.

3.1.6 All Players, Umpires and Team Officials participating in the competition must be a registered financial member of Netball NSW prior to the commencement of that competition.

3.1.7 The minimum age for any player to participate in the Senior State Titles is turning 15 years old in the year of play.

3.1.8 In extenuating circumstances, Association Teams may apply to Netball NSW for consideration of players aged 14 years to be deemed eligible to participate in the Senior State Titles. The decision of Netball NSW is final and no appeal will be entered into.

3.1.9 Players will not be given approval to play in a lower age group to what they are eligible for.

3.1.10 The age of the players shall be determined by their ages as at December 31 in the year of play.

(a) Opens – the minimum age to qualify for the Opens Division is turning 16 in the year of play.

(b) 17 and Under – the minimum age to qualify for the 17 and Under division is turning 15 in the year of play and for players who have not attained the age of eighteen (18) years as at 31 December in the year of play.

(c) 15 and Under – the minimum age to qualify for the 15 and Under division is turning 15 in the year of play and for players who have not attained the age of sixteen (16) years as at 31 December in the year of play. Exception is given as stated in in clause 3.1.7.

(d) Male Divisions – should there be male divisions at Senior State Titles the age of players will be determined as above.

3.1.11 The 15 years, 17 years and Opens age categories at Senior State Titles as listed in clause 3.2.1 (a), 3.2.1 (b) and 3.2.1 (c) are determined as a sporting activity for female players only.

3.2 Team Nomination & Entry

3.2.1 Associations may nominate teams to the following age categories of the Senior State Titles:

(a) 15 and under
(b) 17 and under
(c) Opens
(d) 17 and under Male
(e) Opens Male

3.2.2 The closing date for the Senior State Titles will be notified, on the relevant entry form and on the Netball NSW website.

3.2.3 The entry fee for the Senior 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, to be determined and communicated by Netball NSW

3.2.5 Where an Entity withdraws a Team from the Senior State Titles within three (3) weeks of the commencement of the Competition the offending Association 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 Senior State Titles.

3.2.7 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 Association that they will be playing with

3.2.8 Where a player's name is removed from a Team entry form by Netball NSW personnel prior to grading the Associations concerned will be advised accordingly. The Association will be given 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 and all details are correct.

3.3 Late Registrations

3.3.1 At no time is a Team permitted to have more than 12 players registered

3.3.2 A maximum of four (4) players may be late registered in a Team. Late registrations and de-registrations will be accepted from one week prior to the commencement of the competition up until 12.00pm the Thursday prior to the first day of play.

3.3.3 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.

3.3.4 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 any other Member Organisation.

3.4 Competition Grading

3.4.1 Team entries will be graded into divisions, being Championship Division, Division 2, Division 3 and Division 4 as required, according to the number of Team entries received.

3.4.2 Where divisions apply, at least the two bottom Teams (based on the previous years State Titles finishing position) 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.

3.4.3 The Opens Division grading will be undertaken having regard to the Team's final placing from the previous years Opens Senior State Titles results.

3.4.4 The 17 years and under Division grading will be determined from the previous years, 15 years and under results together with consideration to the 17 years and under results from the previous years Senior State Titles.

3.4.5 The 15 years and under Division pre-entry grading will be determined from the Junior State Titles final grading of the previous years, 14 years and under Division.

3.4.6 Senior State Titles grading in the current year will be based on the previous Senior State Titles results as per clause 3.4.3, 3.4.4 and 3.4.5, Considerations to grading will include:

(a) Netball NSW will endeavour to divide Teams equally as far as possible to ensure equal number of Teams across all divisions.

(b) Netball NSW needs to take into consideration the number of entries received, new Team entries and non-returning Teams

(c) Where more than 80 entries are received in an age group, 22 teams will be graded into the Championship Division for that age group.

3.4.7 Where a Team did not enter in the previous years Senior State Titles or Junior 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.

3.4.8 The grading of Male Divisions will be determined upon close of entries.

3.4.9 The final grading decision will be made at the discretion of Netball NSW.

3.5 Appeal on a Grading Decision

3.5.1 An Association may request a review of their provisional grading that has been actioned as per clause 3.4 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 provisional grading decision.

3.5.2 All applications for appeals must be presented by completing all questions on the Competitions Grading Appeals form, which is found on the Competitions General Information page of the Netball NSW website. The completed form must be submitted by the published closing date to the General Manager Competitions at competitions@netballnsw.com.

3.5.3 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.

3.5.4 The General Manager Competitions will review all Appeals received. If, in the sole opinion of the General Manager Competitions the Association has satisfied all requirements for an Appeal per clause 3.5.3, an Appeals Panel will be appointed at the discretion of the General Manager Competitions to adjudicate the Appeal. Appeals that are not deemed to have grounds for an appeal will be dismissed without a hearing at the sole discretion of the General Manager Competitions.

3.5.5 It should be remembered that in general an appeal will only be considered if clause 3.4 of the Senior State Titles Competition Rules was not adhered to.

3.5.6 An Association can only lodge an appeal regarding a decision made which directly affects their Association. An Association cannot lodge an appeal for or on behalf of another Association or Associations. Any such appeal will be immediately dismissed without a hearing.

3.5.7 The decision of the Netball NSW Appeals Panel is final and binding on all parties.

3.6 Invitational Teams

3.6.1 Invitational Teams approved to enter the Competition as per clause 3.1.3, may make a recommendation as to the preferred division for participation, however final grading will be at the discretion of Netball NSW.

3.6.2 A limit of 2 invitational Teams only will be accepted into each Age/Division. Invitational Teams will not be graded into Championship Division.

3.6.3 Invitational Team may only enter one Team per age category in the Senior State Titles.

3.6.4 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.

3.7 Male Divisions

3.7.1 Netball NSW will determine the format and structure of the male divisions upon the close of entries to the Senior State Titles Competition.

3.7.2 Male divisions included in the Competition, will be held in accordance with these Rules subject to any necessary amendment in the absolute discretion of Netball NSW.

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 All Teams will play each Team in their division during Senior State Titles, except when more than 22 Teams are graded in an age grouping in Division 2, 3, and 4.

4.1.3 Where there are more than 22 Teams graded in Division 2, 3 or 4 a maximum of 21 games in that age group will be played.

4.1.4 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.

4.1.5 Rolling Substitution of players is permitted in accordance with Clause 4.3.

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

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

4.1.8 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.

4.1.9 The winners of the Championship Division of each age division shall be declared the Senior State Title Champions.

4.1.10 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.

4.1.11 Any Team playing a non-registered player will be penalised as per clause 7.1.

4.2 Match Points

4.2.1 Points Table: Senior State Titles Points Table

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

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.

4.2.2 Points from games contested against Invitational Teams will be allocated as per clause.

4.2.3 Invitational Teams will be removed from the final ladder placings and the ladder will be re-ordered as required.

4.3 Rolling Substitutions

4.3.1 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) No more than 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) Substitutions must be made in line with the centre circle on either side of the court.

(f) The substitute entering the court cannot leave the Substitution Zone until the Player leaving the court has entered the Substitution Zone.

(g) Players must observe the offside rules as they enter/leave the court and must not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution.

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

4.4 Cancellation

4.4.1 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.

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

4.5 Scoring

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

4.5.2 Score sheets are to be returned to Event Control by the winning Team immediately after each match.

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

4.5.4 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.

4.6 Awards

4.6.1 A trophy shall be presented to the winning and runner-up Association in each division.

4.6.2 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.

4.6.3 The Pat Weston Cup will be awarded to the highest placed Regional Team in the Open Championship Division.

5 Officials

5.1 Team Officials

5.1.1 Coaches must:

(a) Hold a current Working with Children Check, which Associations are responsible for verifying.

(b) Be a current registered financial member of Netball NSW prior to the commencement of the Competition.

(c) Head Coaches must hold a current **Intermediate** Coaching Accreditation – Championship Division.

(d) Assistant Coaches must hold a current **Development** Coaching Accreditation – Championship Division.

(e) Head Coaches must hold a current **Development** Coaching Accreditation – Divisions 2 -4.

(f) Assistant Coaches must hold a current **Foundation** Coaching Accreditation – Divisions 2-4.

5.1.2 Managers and Primary Carers must:

(a) Hold a current Working with Children Check, which Associations are responsible for verifying.

(b) Be a current registered financial member of Netball NSW prior to the commencement of the Competition.

5.2 Umpires

5.2.1 Associations must provide umpires for the competition as follows

(a) Where an Association enters two (2) Teams or more, one (1) non-playing badged umpire for each Team entered plus one additional non-playing badged umpire per Association, per day (i.e. an Association entering three (3) Teams must supply a minimum of four (4) umpires per day).

(b) Where an Association only enters one (1) Team, only one (1) non-playing badged umpire per day.

5.2.2 Umpires must at a minimum, hold a current **National C badge (with a current rules of netball exam result relevant to their badge level)**. Umpires must have received

the C badge prior to being included on the submission. Umpires must have received their C badge at least three (3) months prior to being included in the submission.

5.2.3 Approved umpires entered into a Netball NSW competition must be registered members of Netball NSW within PlayHQ prior to the commencement of the Competition.

5.2.4 Umpires names and current qualifications are to be submitted for approval by all Associations by the date advised by Netball NSW. Where umpires are not submitted by this date, the Association will be fined five hundred dollars ($500.00) per umpire, per day that do not meet the association's requirements.

5.2.5 Where an umpire has been assessed as having umpired below standard in the previous year at Senior or Junior State Titles, that umpire must be viewed and approved to be eligible to umpire Senior State Titles.

5.2.6 Associations, withdrawing umpires after the submission date will be fined two hundred dollars ($200.00) per umpire withdrawn unless a medical certificate is produced that certifies the umpire's unavailability due to illness or injury or other extenuating circumstances. If an umpire is not replaced with a badged umpire, a further fine of two hundred dollars ($200.00 / per day) is enforced.

5.2.7 Where an umpire withdraws on the day for other than medical reasons or other extenuating circumstances or does not show that Association will incur a fine of two hundred dollars ($200.00) per allocation per day.

5.2.8 Nominated umpires may not play, coach or manage a Team during Senior State Titles.

5.2.9 All umpires must be dressed in clothing that is distinct from the team's playing uniforms with suitable sports footwear. 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 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 of up to one thousand dollars ($1000.00)

(b) loss of competition points