DOOLEYS Metro League

Competition Rules

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netball NEW SOUTH WALES

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1 Definitions and Interpretations

1.1 Defined Terms

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

ANC means the Australian Netball Championships which is a National Competition conducted by Netball Australia.

ANC Player means a Player who is registered with an ANC team in the current year.

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.

Bench Officials comprise one (1) scorer and one (1) time keeper who are to be present on the Score Bench for each Match.

Constitution means the constitution of the New South Wales Netball Association Inc. whose trading name is Netball NSW.

Competition means the Netball NSW Metro League, also known as Dooleys Metro League, which includes the Development Series.

Competitions Manager means the person who has been appointed to the role of Competitions Manager with Netball NSW, or their appointed delegate.

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

Development Series means the division of the Competition that replaces Division 6 effective from 2024 as outlined in this document and may contain up to 22 teams.

Divisions mean the five competition divisions within Metro League called Division 1, Division 2, Division 3, Division 4 and Division 5; each of which will contain ten (10) teams per division.

Finals Series means the Major Semi Final, Minor Semi Final, Preliminary Final and Grand Final of the Competition, or any other configuration as determined by Netball NSW from time to time.

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

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.

Minor Round Matches means a series of Matches played in the Competition as specified in clause 4.1.6, 4.4 & 4.5 prior to the Finals Series.

Netball NSW *(NNSW)* means the New South Wales Netball Association Inc., trading as Netball NSW.

Player means any person who has a current financial registration with NNSW and who has been registered with a relevant Association Team.

Premier League means the Premier League Competition conducted by Netball NSW between teams representing the Premier League Licensees across the Opens and 23U Divisions.

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

Score Bench means the official bench for the scoring of Matches.

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

Team means each of the Associations netball teams granted the right to compete in the Competition by Netball NSW.

Team List is the official team list where the Team Manager will record the starting seven (7) players and all player positions and substitutions throughout the match.

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 Competition Information

2.1 General Information

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

2.1.2 Netball NSW has the power to waive compliance with the Metro League Competition Rules when satisfied that extenuating circumstances exist.

2.1.3 Any request to waive compliance with the Metro League Competition rules must be submitted in writing, addressed to the Competitions Manager or their appointed delegate. Any decision made in relation to a request to waive compliance will be at the absolute discretion of Netball NSW.

2.1.4 Any participating Team refusing or neglecting to abide by a decision of the Competitions Manager may be excluded from the Competition for such time as Competitions Manager, in consultation with the Netball NSW Executive General Manager, Strategy & Stakeholders, shall determine.

2.1.5 All relevant correspondence shall be addressed to and received at the Netball NSW Office by either post; hand delivery or email marked attention of the Competitions Manager.

2.1.6 All outward correspondence relating to the Metro League Competition shall be dispatched from the Netball NSW Office and directed to the Association Secretary and the Association nominated Metro League contact by either email or such other means.

2.1.7 All Competition Rules and supporting documents will be reviewed by Netball NSW representatives at the conclusion of each Season and published on the Netball NSW website.

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

All matches will be played at Netball Central, 2 Olympic Boulevard, Sydney Olympic Park, unless otherwise determined by Netball NSW.

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.

2.3.2 Each Team is to have available two (2) sets of position patches, of different colours.

When requested by Umpires the away team will be required to wear their alternate position patch.

2.3.3 Score sheet (or device), Team List, countdown clocks, umpire alerts and a Match Ball, will be supplied by Netball NSW and will be available for each Match.

2.3.4 Associations may identify one sponsor logo on the playing uniform up to a maximum length of 16cm and a maximum height of 16cm. Sponsors 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 the relevant Netball NSW or Netball Australia Policy.

2.4.2 All registered Players, Umpires, Bench Officials and Team Officials are required to abide by the Netball Australia Integrity Policy Framework and all relevant Netball NSW policies including the Code of Behaviour.

2.4.3 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 and/or the Netball NSW Disciplinary Policy, may be subject to disciplinary action outlined within the corresponding policy.

All 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 only Affiliated Associations are eligible to enter the Competition.

3.1.2 Any grouping of Netball NSW Affiliated Associations, or ACT can be admitted to enter the Competition subject to the approval of the Competitions Manager, in consultation with the Executive General Manager, Strategy & Stakeholders.

3.1.3 All players, Umpires and Team Officials participating in the Competition must be a registered financial member of Netball NSW or any other Member Organisation prior to the commencement of the Competition.

3.1.4 Players must turn 16 years of age or older in the year of play to be eligible to be registered in the Competition in Divisions 1-5; players turning 15 years of age may be registered to the Development Series only – a maximum of three (3) players aged 15 years in the year of play may be registered per Association team.

3.1.5 Development Series teams must comprise of players aged a minimum of 15 years of age (3 maximum per team) and no older than 22 years of age as at the 31st December of the year in which she so participates.

3.1.6 The Metro League Competition is a sporting activity for female players only.

3.2 Team Nomination & Entry

3.2.1 The closing date for Team applications into the Competition will be notified to Affiliated Associations by Netball NSW. The closing date will also be included on the relevant entry form and promoted on the Netball NSW website.

3.2.2 Entry fees for the Competition for the ensuing year will be notified to Affiliated Associations by Netball NSW before 30 November in the previous year.

3.2.3 All entries for the Competition must be lodged in accordance with procedures as determined and communicated by Netball NSW and must be accompanied with supporting documentation where required and as requested by Netball NSW. All Team entries must be received by Netball NSW by the published time and date for close of entries.

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 one thousand dollars ($1,000.00) has been paid and the late entry is received by Netball NSW in accordance with the late entry closing date as determined and communicated by Netball NSW.

3.2.5 Associations shall register Teams in accordance with procedures as determined by Netball NSW with a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of twelve (12) Players' names.

3.2.6 An Association Team is not permitted to have more than twelve (12) Players registered at any time. Clause 3.4 provides an exception to this issue in relation to the registration of Premier League Players.

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. The Associations concerned will be advised accordingly.

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 forty-eight (48) hours from the time of advice to replace the Player without penalty. Associations will be allowed to nominate one (1) Player (per Player removed by Netball NSW personnel) who was not on the original entry forms.

3.2.9 If an Association Team withdraws from the Competition prior to the draw being finalised at the commencement of the Minor Round Matches, the draw will be reconstructed. This may provide an opportunity for an Association to be invited to submit a team to replace the withdrawing team. If an Association Team withdraws from the Competition after the draw has been finalised, the withdrawing Association Team will be replaced with a bye in the draw.

3.2.10 Where an Association Team withdraws from the Competition within three (3) weeks before the commencement of the Competition the offending Association will be fined five hundred dollars ($500.00). If the Association has been invoiced the Player entry fee, a credit for the entry fee will be provided.

3.3 Player Eligibility

3.3.1 Players may play up to two (2) matches in any given week subject to the following conditions:

(a) Matches must be in alternate time slots if played on the same night;

(b) One (1) Match must be in the team in which the Player is registered; and

(c) Additional Match must be in a higher graded team from the same Association as the Player is currently registered for.

3.3.2 Players will not be permitted to play in a division lower to the team they were originally graded in.

3.3.3 A Player may only be registered with a Team in a maximum of two Divisions in one season. Should a player become a member of a higher graded Team to what they were originally registered by virtue of a player transfer under clause 3.5.2, the Player may then be borrowed by a Team in a higher grade than this Team, but only a maximum of four (4) times.

3.3.4 To be eligible to participate in semi-finals, finals and grand finals Players must have taken the court in at least five (5) Minor Round Matches, in the Team participating in the finals series.

3.3.5 A Metro League Competition Player may play up in Premier League for a maximum of ten (10) matches. Once they have been listed on the score sheet as taken the court in ten (10) matches in Premier League a player is no longer eligible to play Metro League.

It is the Association's responsibility to manage players playing up in Premier League and to monitor how many times they have taken the court.

3.3.6 SSN contracted players and Training Partners are not permitted to play in the Metro League Competition

For the purposes of these Competition Rules, an SSN player is any player who is contracted to play for a team competing in the SSN. An SSN training partner is a player who is contracted as a Training Partner for a team competing in the SSN competition.

Associations with any queries regarding the status of any player can contact the Netball NSW Competitions Manager.

3.3.7 It is the responsibility of the Association to manage team lists and be aware of players playing in higher divisions which may result in player transfers and finals eligibility.

3.4 Premier League Players

3.4.1 Premier League Players who are registered with a Netball NSW Premier League Licensee, may move down into the Competition to play with an Association competing in the Metro League Competition, according to the following:

(a) Premier League Players may only drop back to play for one (1) Metro League Association in a season.

(b) Netball NSW Premier League Players must play in the Association Team within the highest ranked Division of the Competition.

(c) Premier League Players are only permitted to play in Division 1 or Division 2 of Metro League.

(d) Once a player has been recorded on a Netball NSW Premier League scoresheet as having taken the court in ten (10) matches in the minor rounds or final series of a season across either the 23U or Opens Division they are Ineligible to play in the Metro League Competition.

(e) Association Teams will only be permitted to access a maximum of two (2) Netball NSW Premier League Players in any given Minor Round Match.

3.4.2 Netball NSW Premier League Players will not be classified as Late Registrations.

3.5 Late Registrations/ Player transfer

3.5.1 There shall be no registration of Players accepted between the close of entries and one (1) week before the commencement of the Competition.

3.5.2 A maximum of four (4) Players may be "late registered" in each team any time from one week before the commencement of the Competition until the end of the Competition. A "late registration" is defined as follows:

(a) Where a Player has not been registered in the current competition and is late registered, following the close of entries the competition entry fee is payable.

(b) Where a Player transfers from one Division to a higher Division by virtue of taking the court in five (5) Matches in the same higher graded team that Player is counted as a "late registration" in that higher graded team. No further fees are payable.

(c) Where a player takes the court in five (5) matches in the same higher grade, and therefore as per clause 3.5.2 (b) transfers to this team, they are no longer eligible to play in the lower grade.

(d) Where a team has already had four (4) late registrations, any additional players who are playing up into the team, may only play a maximum of four (4) matches in the team, clause 3.5.2 (b) will not be permitted.

(e) It is the responsibility of the Association to manage team lists and advise Netball NSW when a player is transferring to a higher division by virtue of playing five (5) matches. Should the team the player is transferring to, already have twelve (12) players registered in this team, a player will need to be de-registered to allow for the transfer.

(f) For the benefit of doubt to be determined as having played in a match the player must have been recorded on the score sheet as having taken the court.

3.5.3 Late registrations are to be submitted to Netball NSW prior to the commencement of the Match in which they are to play, and:

(a) The Player must be a registered member of Netball NSW or relevant State or Territory.

(b) A re-registered Player is counted as a late registration.

3.5.4 Where Netball NSW rejects an application to late register a Player, the Association or Player concerned has the right of appeal to Netball NSW. Where an appeal is received Netball NSW will determine the appropriate process to determine or dismiss the appeal.

3.5.5 A de-registered Player may only be re-registered in the same Association team in the same grade.

3.5.6 Players cannot play in a grade lower than the grade in which they were originally graded.

3.5.7 Players aged 15 years old within the year of play may be late registered into a team within the Development Series only. A maximum of three (3) players of this age may be registered into a team within this division.

(a) Where a player aged 15 years old within the year of play is late registered this will not be included in the maximum numbers of players that are able to be "late registered"
(b) A player as outlined in 3.5.7 must only late register to the same Association that they have been previously registered to within the current season.
(c) Players aged 15 years of age in the current year are ineligible to play in Divisions 1-5 of the competition.

3.6 Temporary Replacement Players

The temporary replacement player process will only be available under the following circumstances and the following parameters apply.

- Temporary Replacement Players are only available to the lowest graded Association team within the competition.
- Players must be registered to the Association they are wishing to play for (i.e. playing in the winter competition or registered to another representative team within the same Association).
- A maximum of three (3) temporary replacement players will be approved at any one time.
- Temporary replacement players are only approved for the next game (i.e. players will only be approved for the next upcoming game).
- Temporary replacement players won't be required to pay a player fee however they will need to purchase a venue entry fee (single entry is available).
- Players must meet the requirements of the division they are filling in for – i.e. minimum and maximum age requirements.
- All other eligibility rules must be adhered to.

3.6.1 An Association may apply to the Competitions Manager to temporarily replace one of its Players:

(a) In the event of injury and/or illness to a Player;

(b) For other reason(s) acceptable to Netball NSW (in its absolute discretion) including, but not limited to, injury, bereavement, work commitments, illness of a dependent, or sitting an exam.

3.6.2 All applications for a temporary Replacement Player must be made in writing to the Competitions Manager, it must state the reason(s) for the replacement sought.

3.6.3 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.

3.6.4 Netball NSW reserves the right to investigate applications if necessary and appropriate, so that Associations are prevented from replacing Players for non-genuine or illegitimate reasons.

3.6.5 Once a Player has been approved by the Competitions Manager as a Temporary Replacement Player for an Association team, they cannot be a Replacement Player or late registered player for any other Association during the same Season.

3.6.6 A Temporary Replacement Player becomes a Permanent Player after being recorded on the scoresheet as having taken the court in three (3) matches in the Minor Rounds of a Season.

3.6.7 If this would result in the Association team having more than twelve (12) Players on the Team List they are joining, then the Association must amend its Team List, by advising the Competitions Manager by email, of players who will be de-registered.

3.6.8 Once a Replacement Player becomes a Permanent Player the player entry fee will be payable. A replacement player that becomes a permanent player on a team is classed as a late registration as per clause 3.4.

3.7 Grading Procedure

3.7.1 There will be a maximum of four (4) Team entries per Association eligible to compete in the Competition.

(a) A maximum of three (3) Team entries will be eligible to compete in Divisions 1-5; a fourth team can be entered into the Development Series division.

3.7.2 Only one (1) Association Team or Grouping of Association's Team (subject to clause 3.1.2) is permitted per Division of the Competition.

3.7.3 Grading for the Competition will be determined by the results from the previous season finishing positions, following the finals series. Association Teams will remain in the same Division if they have not been either promoted or relegated.

3.7.4 Associations who did not compete in the Competition in the previous year, and who make an application for inclusion into the Competition may be automatically graded into the lowest Division (Development Series), where space permits.

(a) Associations who have a team in Development Series are not permitted to enter an additional team for inclusion in the ensuing year.

3.7.5 Provisional grading of Teams will be completed and advised on the Netball NSW website within seven (7) working days of the published closing date for entries.

3.7.6 Where a Team does not return in the ensuing year Netball NSW will determine and communicate to Associations an appropriate procedure to fill the position/s left vacant. This may include:

(a) an Expression of Interest (EOI) period to canvass the interest of additional Teams to enter into the Competition.
(b) Where the vacant position/s are in Divisions 1-5 re-grading of returning teams may occur.

3.7.7 On completion of final grading, all Players' names and the Team and Division in which they have been placed will be listed on the Netball NSW website for the duration of the Competition. It is the Association's responsibility to ensure that the published details are correct.

3.8 Promotion and Relegation

3.8.1 The top two (2) ranked Association Teams, following the finals series, from the lower Division are automatically promoted into the higher Division, where the following applies:

(a) In the event whereby an Association already has a Team in the higher Division, the lower Division Team from the same Association may not be promoted. In this instance the next highest ranked Teams in position 3 and/or 4 of the lower Division may be promoted.

(b) Teams who finish in positions 5-10 will not be considered for promotion into the next highest Division (relevant to divisions 1-5).

(c) Teams who finish in positions 9-22 in development series will not be considered for promotion into division 5.

(d) Where it is not possible to promote teams into the higher Division due to restrictions as per clause 3.7.1 (a) and (b), the teams from the higher Division may not be relegated.

(e) It should be noted that 2 teams from division 2 will be promoted each year to division 1. If an Association already has a Team in Division 1 and promotion cannot occur due to clause 3.7.1 (a) the next ranked team from Division 2 will be promoted, clause 3.7.1 (b) will not apply in respect of promotion to Division 1.

3.8.2 The bottom two (2) ranked Association Teams from the higher Division are automatically relegated to the next lowest Division, where the following applies:

(a) The Association Team that finished last in their respective Division after the completion of the Minor Round Matches is automatically relegated.

(b) The Association Team that finished second last in their respective Division after the completion of the Minor Round Matches is automatically relegated subject to two (2) teams being automatically promoted from the next lowest Division.

(c) Where an Association Team has been relegated and that Association also has a team in the Division where the relegated team is to be placed, only one Team per Association will be permitted to play in the Division.

(d) Where it is not possible to relegate teams into the lower Division due to restrictions as per clause 3.7.2 (b) and 3.7.2 (c), the team from the higher Division may not be relegated. In this instance the next lowest ranked Teams in position 8 and/or 7 of the higher Division may be relegated.

(e) It should be noted that the teams who finished in 9th and 10th place of Division 1 will be relegated. If these Teams already have a Team in Division 2 the Division 2 teams will be further relegated, and this process may flow down through the grades ensuring only one (1) team per division.

(f) It should be noted that the teams who finished in 9th and 10th place of Division 5 will be relegated. If these Teams already have a Team in the Development Series the Development Series team will be further relegated out of the competition.

3.8.3 Where a team does not return in the following year, teams finishing in position 3 and 4 of the lower division may be promoted to fill the vacant position. This promotion will continue in the lower divisions leaving the vacant position in the Development Series.

3.8.4 All final decisions relating to promotion and relegation will be made at the discretion of Netball NSW. Where needed, final placings following the final series and minor rounds will be considered, Netball NSW will endeavour to consult with Associations if required.

3.9 Appeal on Grading Decision

3.9.1 An Association may request a review of their provisional grading that has been actioned as per clause 3.6 and 3.7 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.

3.9.2 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, and submitting the form by email to the Competitions Manager at competitions@netballnsw.com

3.9.3 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.

3.9.4 The Competitions Manager will review all Appeals received. If, in the sole opinion of the Competitions Manager the Association has satisfied all requirements for an Appeal per clause 3.8.3 an Appeals Panel will be appointed at the discretion of the Competitions Manager 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 Competitions Manager.

3.9.5 It should be remembered that in general an appeal will only be considered if clause 3.6 and/or 3.7 of the Metro League Competition Rules was not adhered to.

3.9.6 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 or in relation to another Associations grading. Any such appeal will be immediately dismissed without a hearing.

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

4 Competition Rules

4.1 General Rules

4.1.1 The Competition will be conducted with reference to the Rules of Netball, unless where modified in these Competition Rules.

4.1.2 The commencement dates for the Competition shall be advised to Associations by Netball NSW via email and the Netball NSW website.

4.1.3 Competition Matches are to be played as advised by Netball NSW.

4.1.4 Netball NSW will use best endeavours to publish the fixture for all Divisions of the Competition on the Netball NSW website at least two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of the Competition.

4.1.5 The Competition consists of Association Teams competing in Division 1 – Development Series which includes a maximum of ten (10) Teams for Divisions 1 – 5 and a maximum of twenty-two (22) teams in the Development Series.

4.1.6 The Competition will consist of eighteen (18) Minor Round Matches followed by a Finals Series for each of the Divisions 1 - 5.

4.1.7 The Development Series format will be determined once entries have been received. The Development Series division will include minor rounds and a Finals Series.

4.1.8 The Competitions Manager will make the final decision as to the draw and the scheduling of Matches in their absolute discretion.

4.2 Match Duration and Match Format (Divisions 1 – 5)

4.2.1 A Match shall be played for a period of sixty (60) minutes divided into four (4) quarters, each of fifteen (15) minutes duration. The fifteen (15) minute duration for each quarter will be actual playing time and will not include stoppages in play.

4.2.2 An interval shall be taken between each quarter as follows:

(a) A maximum period of three (3) minutes between the end of the first quarter and the beginning of the second quarter;

(b) A maximum period of five (5) minutes between the end of the second quarter and the beginning of the third quarter; and

(c) A maximum period of three (3) minutes between the end of the third quarter and the beginning of the fourth quarter.

4.2.3 Only the officiating Umpires may stop a Match (temporarily or indefinitely) due to an extraordinary circumstance that may be deemed an emergency. This may include but is not limited to equipment damage or failure, a seriously injured Player or any other reason deemed necessary by the officiating Umpires.

4.2.4 The officiating Umpires in consultation with the Competitions Manager or their delegate will determine if a Match may continue to proceed or if that Match must be delayed, postponed or abandoned.

4.2.5 In the event that a Match is delayed or postponed, that Match must be resumed as soon as is conveniently possible as directed by the officiating Umpires or if prolonged delaying occurs, the Competitions Manager shall direct accordingly.

4.2.6 Where a team fails to retake the court after a break of a scheduled match, the team will have deemed to have forfeited the match. Any score recorded at the point that the match was deserted will be void.

4.2.7 A Team may claim a forfeit one (1) minute after the time set down for the commencement of the Match, if the opposing Team does not have five (5) Players in full uniform on court and ready to play.

4.2.8 Each Team will be allowed a maximum of one (1) forfeit throughout the Competition without penalty. On the second occasion the forfeiting Team's Association will be fined five hundred dollars ($500.00). Each subsequent forfeit, the fine will increase by one hundred dollars ($100.00).

4.2.9 A Team who withdraws from the Competition after the commencement will be classed as forfeiting each Match after this date. Extenuating circumstances may be considered at the discretion of Netball NSW.

4.3 Match Duration and Match Format (Development Series)

4.3.1 All matches will be centrally timed and will be a minimum of 13-minute quarters.

4.3.2 The format for the Series will be determined after close of entries. The format will be advised to all entered teams in conjunction with the Provisional Grading.

4.3.3 Only the officiating Umpires may stop a Match (temporarily or indefinitely) due to an extraordinary circumstance that may be deemed an emergency. This may include but is not limited to equipment damage or failure, a seriously injured Player or any other reason deemed necessary by the officiating Umpires.

4.3.4 The officiating Umpires in consultation with the Competitions Manager or their delegate will determine if a Match may continue to proceed or if that Match must be delayed, postponed or abandoned.

4.3.5 In the event that a Match is delayed or postponed, that Match must be resumed as soon as is conveniently possible as directed by the officiating Umpires or if prolonged delaying occurs, the Competitions Manager shall direct accordingly.

4.3.6 Where a team fails to retake the court after a break of a scheduled match, the team will have deemed to have forfeited the match. Any score recorded at the point that the match was deserted will be void.

4.4 Team List

4.4.1 No less than ten (10) minutes before the commencement of the Match, a Team Official must submit to the Score Bench the Team list which will commence the Match.

4.4.2 The Team List must include the seven (7) Players and their 'on court' positions, and up to five (5) Player reserves.

4.4.3 The Team List must include the names and Division of any Players, who are playing from a lower grade.

4.4.4 Upon receipt of the Team List from both Association Teams, a Team Official may request from the Bench Officials the starting line-up of the opposition Association Team.

4.4.5 Player substitutions at the end of each quarter or during a Match (including Rolling Substitutions as per clause 4.4) are to be recorded on the Team List and provided to the Bench Officials at the interval.

4.4.6 If an Association records the name of an unregistered or Ineligible Player on the Team List, which is provided to the score bench for the scoresheet, this shall result in the loss of the Competition match in which the Ineligible player took part and:

(a) The points from winning the Competition Match will be awarded to the opposing Team (provided the opposing team itself has not played Ineligible player);

(b) The Team playing the Ineligible player will lose two (2) additional competition points; and

(c) Goal averages for the match will be adjusted. The team playing the Ineligible player will have their goals scored adjusted to zero (0) and the opposing team will have the goals scored against them adjusted to zero (0).

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.

(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) The substitutions zone will be clearly marked out on the court and will be no more than 1m x 4m (**Substitution Zone**).

(f) The substitute(s) stands wholly inside the team's substitution zone to indicate a substitution is to be made.

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

(h) 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

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

4.6 Match Points

4.6.1 In the Minor Round Matches, points will be allocated accordingly:

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

4.6.2 At the conclusion of the Minor Round Matches, Association Teams will be ranked according to:

(a) Points awarded for a win, loss or draw as outlined in 4.6.1.

(b) In the event of Association Teams having the same level of points at the end of the Minor Round Matches, the respective placing shall be determined by ranking the Association Teams according to the Goal Average achieved by each Association Team during the Minor Round Matches.

(c) 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 that Team.

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

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.

4.7 Final Series

4.7.1 The top four (4) Association Teams from the Minor Round Matches for each of the Divisions 1 - 5 advance to the respective Finals Series.

4.7.2 The Finals Series for each of the Divisions 1 – 5 will be conducted as follows:

(a) Major Semi Final – 1st position on the premiership table at the completion of the Minor Round Matches (being designated as the 'Home Team') versus 2nd position on the premiership table at the completion of the Minor Round Matches (being designated as the 'Away Team').

(b) Minor Semi Final – 3rd position on the premiership table at the completion of the Minor Round Matches (being designated as the 'Home Team') versus 4th position on the premiership table at the completion of the Minor Round Matches (being designated as the 'Away Team').

(c) Preliminary Final – loser of the Major Semi Final versus winner of the Minor Semi Final with the Major Semi Final loser (being designated as the 'Home Team').

(d) Grand Final – winner of the Major Semi Final versus winner of the Preliminary Final with the Major Semi Final winner (being designated as the 'Home Team').

4.7.3 In the event of drawn matches in the Finals Series, the following will be applied;

(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.

(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.

4.7.4 Any Team found playing an Ineligible Player in the Finals Series Matches will be considered to have lost that Match in which the Ineligible Player has taken part and the Match will be awarded to the opposing Team. Any Player found to be Ineligible to take part in the Finals Series Matches will not be permitted to take any further part in the Finals Series.

4.7.5 Metro League Development Series Finals format will be determined once entries close and grading has been finalised.

a. The Development Series will conclude with a Grand Final where both teams will be eligible to be promoted into Division 5 as per clause 3.7.1
b. The length of the Finals Series will be at the discretion of the Competitions Manager and dependent on the entries received.

4.8 Competition Results

4.8.1 The official score sheet is the only true record of the Match. Netball NSW will determine the scoring mechanism for the competition. The official score sheet may be considered electronic scoring.

4.8.2 The Bench Official officiating each Match will be responsible for submitting official score sheets to the Competition Manager or their delegate at the completion of each Match on the same day. Electronic scoring will be submitted online via entering a pin and submitting.

4.8.3 The manual score sheet must be completed accurately by the Association Teams to ensure the number of quarters for each player can be tracked by the Competitions Manager. This must be submitted to event control at the conclusion of each match.

No disputes will be entered into regarding score sheets.

4.9 Cancellations

4.9.1 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:

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 Association Team with the highest score at the time in which the Match was stopped and the score at this time will be recorded.

Note: Matches forfeited due to COVID-19 circumstances will not be considered as a reason to deem a match a draw.

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

4.9.2 Competition interruption

If the Metro League Competition is disrupted due to COVID-19 (or offer unforeseen event) a government issued order or other extenuating circumstance, Netball NSW may, in its absolute discretion, make variations to the format of the Competition to allow for a finish to the Competition. 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 minor rounds are unable to be completed)

By way of example and without limiting Netball NSW's absolute discretion, where a determination is made to abandon a season during Minor Rounds (and by which point, all Teams 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.

4.10 Awards

4.10.1 A trophy shall be presented to the winning and runner up Team in each Division.

4.10.2 An appropriate award shall be presented to the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager, Primary Care and Players of the winning and runner up Teams in each Division.

5 Officials

5.1 Team Officials

5.1.1 The Association must disclose all details of Team Officials' positions by the date and procedure as determined and communicated by Netball NSW. At a minimum all Teams must have a Head Coach and Team Manager. Any changes to Team Officials' positions must be notified in writing to the Competitions Manager for approval.

5.1.2 All Metro League Team Officials 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 or any other Member Organisation

5.1.3 Coaches of Metro League Divisions 1 -4 must:

(a) Head Coaches must hold at a minimum a current **Intermediate** Coaching Accreditation.

(b) Assistant Coach must hold at a minimum a current **Development** Coaching Accreditation.

5.1.4 Coaches of Metro League Divisions 5 & Development Series must:

(a) Head Coaches must hold at a minimum a current **Development** Coaching Accreditation.

(b) Assistant Coach must hold at a minimum a current **Foundation** Coaching Accreditation.

5.1.5 A Primary Carer other than a Team Manager may be appointed as Team Official and sit on the Team Bench.

(a) Appointed Primary Carers who sit on the Team Bench must meet eligibility requirements as per clause 5.1.2.

(b) The appointed Primary Carer may be the Team Manager.

(c) The appointed Primary Carer should wear a Primary Carer Lanyard as supplied by Netball NSW.

5.1.6 A maximum of five (5) Team Officials may sit on the Team bench for any Competition Match and those so entitled in priority to any other Team Official are the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager and Primary Carer.

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

5.1.7 All Team Officials must wear Association uniform for every match when on the Team Bench.

5.2 Umpires

5.2.1 Netball NSW will determine the umpiring format for the Competition and appoint personnel to undertake the allocation of Umpires to all Matches.

5.2.2 Netball NSW will invite umpires to officiate Metro League & Metro League Development Series following the completion of Metro League and Summer Series the previous year.

5.2.3 Associations may nominate up to five umpires for consideration to Metro League and Metro league Development Series who have not umpired Metro League or Summer Series in the previous year by the due date as listed in the Competition Key Dates. Umpires must hold a minimum current C Badge accreditation to be nominated.

5.2.4 If an Umpire has not arrived thirty (30) minutes prior to the commencement of the Match, a replacement Umpire may take the court, providing that Umpire meets the provisions laid down.

5.2.5 Associations whose Umpires fail to fill their allocation by a non-attendance will be fined five hundred dollars ($500.00) for each duty not fulfilled except in extenuating circumstances.

5.2.6 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 black or white skirt or shorts.

5.2.7 Any badged Umpire may apply to Netball NSW to be allocated to Matches.

5.3 Bench Officials

5.3.1 Each Team is to provide one (1) approved Bench Official who have completed the online Bench Officials Education Course and the Netball NSW practical training workshop for each match.

5.3.2 Where an Association fails to provide the appropriate number of approved Bench Officials a fine of fifty dollars ($50.00) will be imposed.

5.3.3 Netball NSW may remove any person who has not completed the Netball NSW practical training workshop from the bench and a fine of fifty dollars ($50.00) will be imposed on the offending Association.

5.3.4 Netball NSW will allocate Bench Officials to all Semi-Finals, Preliminary Finals and Grand Final matches.

6 Photography and videography

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

6.2 Extended video footage should only be taken for training purposes. Any teams wanting to video whole matches must have prior approval from Netball NSW.

6.3 Associations are welcome to post live game footage on their digital channels for promotional purposes, strictly a maximum of up to 30secs may be posted and in doing this Associations should ensure that any footage abides by their own social media policies.

6.4 All photographers and videographers should notify the opposing team of their intention to photograph or video the match for consent. An opposing team should only decline to be filmed should they have players that have not consented via the relevant registration form. This list is available at event control.

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

6.6 Metro League matches are not permitted to be livestreamed under any circumstances.

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

6.8 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