



# MEN'S NETBALL REGULATIONS



**ALBANVALE  
GLEN ORDEN  
PCC CENTRALS  
ST THERESE'S  
SUNSHINE**

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## 1. REGULATION

- 1.1 Regulations are additional rules which apply to all WFNL members that generally deal with internal and administrative matters. The Regulations are made under the league rules.
- 1.2 The Western football netball league Inc (WFNL) is the governing body of the Western football netball league competition.
- 1.3 These Netball Guidelines are bound by the WFNL Regulations and can be found at: <https://www.WFNL.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/220401-By-Laws-master.pdf>

## 2. AFFILIATION

- 2.1 The WFNL requires all Netball teams that participate in competition are to be from Member Clubs of the WFNL. Unless approved otherwise by the WFNL.
- 2.2 Unaffiliated Clubs are welcome to apply to compete in the WFNL Netball Competition via written request to the Netball Operations Coordinator (NOC) and WFNL Operations Manager (OM)

## 3. PERSONNEL

- 3.1 Operations Manager (**OM**) is a staff member of the WFNL who is appointed to oversee the Netball operations coordinator while operating the competition.
- 3.2 Netball Operations Coordinator (**NO**) is a staff member of the WFNL who is appointed to manage the competition in collaboration with the OM.
- 3.3 Head Umpire Coordinator (**UC**) is/are a staff member of the WFNL who is appointed to manage the Umpiring component of the WFNL.
- 3.4 Senior Netball Court Supervisor(s) (Court Supervisor) is/are a staff member of the WFNL who is appointed to oversee the execution of the courts and umpires on match day.
- 3.5 Umpire Mentor(s) are staff members appointed by the WFNL who is appointed to oversee the development of umpires within the competition.

## 4. CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.1 All correspondence from the club must be from the Club Administrator or Authorized Netball Coordinator to the WFNL's OM/NO, no players or coaches are to communicate with the league.
- 4.2 All correspondence from the WFNL shall be directed to the Club Administrator and the Authorized Netball Coordinator, as listed on the Club contacts and registration form.

## 5. INFORMATION FROM THE WFNL

5.1 The WFNL shall provide the following information to clubs via email prior to the start of the season:

- 5.1.2 WFNL Contact Details
- 5.1.3 WFNL Venue Address
- 5.1.4 WFNL Regulations
- 5.1.5 WFNL Fixtures
- 5.1.6 WFNL Calendar of Events

## **6. CLUBS/TEAMS CONDITIONS**

- 6.1 Team Submissions/Entry Forms will be made available in February of each year or at a time set by the League for that season's competition.
- 6.2 It is the responsibility of each WFNL club to ensure that it lodges an entry form into the competition.
- 6.3 A Club applying for entry into the competition shall.
- 6.4 Register for entry on the official Entry Form and pay any required Fees.
  - 6.1.1 The Entry Form shall be submitted to the OM/NO on or before the stated closing date and time.
    - 6.1.2 Additional relevant information may be submitted with the Entry Form.
    - 6.1.3 Satisfy the OM/NO that they are able to field a team for all fixtured matches and can meet the financial requirements of the WFNL.
    - 6.1.4 Agree to abide by the policies, rules, and Regulations of the WFNL.
    - 6.1.5 Agree to abide by the WFNL Code of Conduct.
    - 6.1.6 Agree to abide by Netball Victoria Codes of Conduct.
    - 6.1.7 In the event of a Club withdrawing a team from the competition:
      - 6.1.7.1 After the confirmation of acceptances – there will be no reimbursement of the Entry Fee.
      - 6.1.7.2 Once competition matches have commenced – there will be no reimbursement of Fees received, and any outstanding Court Fees must be paid.
      - 6.1.7.3 Subsequent participation in the competition will be re-assessed by the OM.
    - 6.1.8 The OM reserves the right to refuse an entry from any WFNL Club for any reason.
    - 6.1.9 Club and finals Fees shall be set by the WFNL each year and circulated to all clubs at a time set by the League prior to the coming season.
    - 6.1.10 At the start of every season the NO/ OM will hold a Netball Forum where one netball coordinator and one coach is to be in attendance to discuss

changes and learn new systems, failure to do so will lead to a \$175 fine for the club.

6.1.11 All Clubs are to attend and participate in all meetings called by the netball operations coordinator throughout the season if necessary.

**PENALTY:** for non-attendance a fine may be given.

## 7. MEMBERSHIP/ REGISTRATIONS

- 7.1 The Netball Victoria membership fee is set annually by Netball Victoria and a pre-requisite to competing in the WFNL is that each player pays that fee prior to competing in the WFNL.
- 7.2 All Players, coaches and umpires must be registered with the WFNL. All players are to be financial with Netball Victoria before taking the court or prior to commencing participation.
- 7.3 The penalty for playing a player who is not registered with Netball Victoria will see the offending team lose the match.
- 7.4 All players are to pay a Registration fee of \$15 for Seniors and \$10 for juniors to the WFNL upon registering in Netball Connect.
- 7.5 All Players participating in the WFNL must hold current VNA registrations with Netball Victoria. This includes a VNA single game registration.
- 7.6 Single game registrations will be available via Netball Connect but will only constitute a current Netball Victoria Membership for the one (1) game granted, SVG are to be entered into the authorized SVG sheet provided by the WFNL on Game night.
- 7.7 If a player takes the court unregistered a negative 2 points will be taken from the offending team.

## 8. TRANSFERS

- 8.1 Any player wishing to obtain a transfer to another Club during the season must complete the transfer through the Netball Connect platform, if applicable.
- 8.2 A player may be granted multiple transfers per season and will be subject to the OM/NO decision. No transfer shall be granted after the third (3rd) round of matches.
- 8.3 A player must have received notification via their new club of the successful clearance and registration, from Netball Connect before playing for their new Club.

- 8.3.1 A transfer may be refused if there are any outstanding fees or equipment relating to the player.
- 8.3.2 The exiting club has seven (7) days to complete the transfer, or the player will automatically transfer to the new club.
- 8.3.3 The seven (7) days COMMENCE from the time the transfer is lodged in the Netball connect system.
- 8.3.4 If the transfer is refused by the exiting club, then it is the responsibility of the player to ensure that the issue is resolved before another transfer application is submitted.
- 8.3.5 Best and Fairest votes, as well as Goals Scored, will transfer with the player for that season, should they remain in the WFNL and play within the same division as their previous team.
- 8.3.6 The number of games played in the current season will NOT to be transferred with the player to the new club, *i.e. the player will need to qualify for finals with the new club.*

## 9. PLAYERS

- 9.1 A player is eligible to play in the WFNL if they are registered to their club in the current season as shown on Netball Connect and holds a valid Netball Victoria VNA membership.
- 9.2 If a player plays in the lowest graded team for their club and has played five (5) games in that division, they are qualified for finals in the team. They are then free to play up in only 1 Division higher than their chosen grade, as well as their lower graded team, provided they do not take the court for a sixth time in a particular higher graded team. If they do, then they are unable to go back down to their lower team they once qualified in.
- 9.3 Teams needing "fill ins" for the season may only have up to Four **players** per season participate for that Particular team. These players will be required to take the court for the **Five Games** to be eligible for finals.
- 9.4 Once a player has played **Five games** of the season for their club in one **particular** team, they are eligible for finals in that **particular** team and **one** higher graded team that the Club has **participating in finals**.
- 9.5 Players playing in any Division cannot play more than **One game** in a Higher Division per Round throughout the season unless prior consideration has been approved by the NO/OM.
- 9.6 A player who is eligible to play in finals in a higher grade may only play one (1) match per finals night.
- 9.7 Finals matches do not count towards games played when determining finals eligibility.

- 9.8 Teams found playing an ineligible player during the home and away season and/or finals series will have 4 points taken from the offending team. In addition, the matter will be investigated by the OM/NO who will have the power to suspend a team or player from competing further in the WFNL.
- 9.10 Participant age is determined as of 1 month prior to the commencement of the season. Clubs are expected to obtain and provide correct dates of birth if requested by the NO. The minimum age requirement for WFNL is 15 years of age, unless age Indemnification form has been approved by the (NM)

**Player Eligibility Guidelines:**

Each **Premier Men's team** may include up to **12 players**, with the following limits:

**Maximum of 2 International Men's Opens players**

- 9.11 Includes players who represented their country in 2024 or 2025 and 2026 (e.g. Australian Kelpies, New Zealand Net Blacks, England Thorns).
- 9.12 If a player qualifies as an international, this overrides their eligibility as an State or Region representative of any level Men's player.

**Maximum of 2 Open State Men's players**

- 9.13 Applies to players who competed at the Open level for their state or region (e.g. Open Vic Men's). and at any National competition around the world.

**Additional options** (within the 12-player limit):

- 9.14 Up to **2 Reserve Men's players (National Competition)**
- 9.15 Up to **2 Under 23 Men's players (National Competition)**

**Example Team Composition**

A valid team could include:

- 2 International players
  - 2 Open Vic Men's players
  - 2 Reserves
  - 2 Under 23s
- Plus up to 4 additional eligible players within these parameters and or Composition.

- 9.16 At any time, a player is selected for Australia during the competition, unless that player has already qualified for finals at the time of selection they two are considered an international player.

**Participation in a regional or representative team for Men's Nationals in another country is considered equivalent and is governed by the same parameters outlined in our regulations. To clarify with examples:**

- 9.17 A team with **no international players** and **four national (state-level) players** is within the rules.

A team with **one or two international players, four national (state-level) players** (from Australia and/or another country), plus additional open players exceed the permitted limits and is therefore in breach of competition regulations.

- 9.18 A team of 12 can be over ration, how ever the 7 on the court must be within ratio during the game, if any team is above ratio, 4 points will be taken from the offending team.
- 9.19 Fast 5 or Mixed is NOT Considered within team composition for this competition.
- 9.20 The number of games played in the current season will not transfer with the player to the new club IE: they will need to qualify for finals again with their new club.
- 9.21 Any conduct of a player or team deemed to be unbecoming or bringing the game into disrepute will be reportable by one or both officiating umpires, this includes the awarding of a (2) minute suspension. Any report is to be recorded and submitted to the OM/NO by 10am. of the Monday after the match has been played. The OM/NO will consider any report or citation and convene an Independent Tribunal, if necessary.
- 9.22 Premiership winning sides will be promoted to above their winning division from the previous season.
- 9.23 Set penalties will be introduced for any and all on court fighting or verbal abuse reported or observed during any Friday night matches.
- 9.24 The WFNL Tribunal will over see all incidents.
- 9.25 The Netball Manager (NM) reserves the right, at their discretion, to suspend any player from the competition.
- 9.26 The interpretation of the competition rests with the League and the Operations Manager of the competition.

## 10.COACHES

- 10.1 All coaches must hold or obtain a minimum of the "Development" Accreditation for all Men's Netball Teams.
- 10.2 Accreditations must be obtained prior to round 3 of the H&A Season.

- 10.3 All coaches must have a current Netball Victoria Membership, must be registered on Netball Connect before round 1.
- 10.4 Coaching is permitted by the Accredited Coach during any intervals. This person shall be the only person that may approach the players at the sideline. Bench players may also approach the sideline if coaching occurs.
- 10.5 During a stoppage any Team Official may approach the players at the sideline for the purpose of providing rehydration. At no time during a match (including intervals) are coaches permitted to approach umpires. Any discussion made with the umpires MUST be made by any on court player and only during intervals. The UC/NO is to be notified if conflict arises.
- 10.6 Coaches can speak with the WFNL Umpire Coordinator and NO (Netball Operations Coordinator)

## 11. UMPIRES

- 11.1 The OM/NO will appoint a WFNL Umpire Coordinator to oversee the recruitment, appointment, development and badging of all umpires throughout the season if necessary.
- 11.2 Umpires shall not be changed during a game, but for exceptional circumstances or with the permission of the Umpire Coordinator.
- 11.3 Umpires must supply their own whistle.
- 11.4 A current copy of the WFNL Regulations shall be available from the WFNL league website.
- 11.5 WFNL Umpires are to be dressed appropriately in Umpire Attire: refer to the umpire manual for uniform rules and regulations.
- 11.6 Finals Umpires shall be appointed by the WFNL UC & NO.
- 11.7 Two (2) Citations in a season constitutes an automatic one-week suspension for that player.
- 11.7.1 Any player awarded a suspension on match day is required to remain off the court for two (2) minutes. From the time the Umpire awards it and must be recorded by the timekeeper / scorer and monitored. If there is less than two (2) minutes remaining in a quarter, the remainder of time is to be served in the quarter following.
- 11.8 Reported teams/players will appear before the WFNL Independent Tribunal who will have jurisdiction to impose penalties on players in the WFNL if necessary.
- 11.8.1 Players may receive any or all the following penalties as deemed suitable by WFNL Independent Tribunal:

- 11.9.2 Loss of 4-8 ladder points for the team; Suspension for the player or team from the WFNL home and away games/finals and/or Interleague.
- 11.10 All umpires shall have a current Netball Victoria membership and be registered to the WFNL in Netball Connect, Umpires officiating must complete a Netball Rules Exam/Foundation Umpire Course
- 11.11 The NO will decide to appoint an WFNL Umpire Coordinator to oversee the recruitment, appointment, development and badging of all umpires throughout the season if necessary.
- 11.12 WFNL will provide WFNL will provide an accredited umpire for Division 1 - 3 throughout the season.
- 11.13 Umpires are not permitted to umpire more than three (3) games on any competition day/night.
- 11.14 WFNL reserves the right to request a club/Team replace their umpire if the provided umpire is not to the standard of the grade in which they are officiating.
- 11.15 In the event that a Club umpire is late for their game, the non-offending team shall be awarded one (1) goal for every minute until quarter time the said umpire is late. At quarter time the game will be declared a forfeit. Four points will be deducted for a first offence. More severe penalties can be imposed by the WFNL Netball Operations Coordinator for repeat offences. Repeat offences will jeopardise that club/Team entry into future Competitions.

## 12. BEST AND FAIREST VOTING & AWARDS

- 12.1 Voting for Best and Fairest shall be as follows:
- 12.1.1 The match umpires shall award votes for the best and fairest three players in each game. Voting shall be three (3) votes for the best and fairest player, two (2) votes for the second best and fairest player and one (1) vote for the third best and fairest player.
- 12.1.2 Votes are to be recorded on the score sheet after the Team Captains have signed and then handed to the Umpire Coordinator/Court Supervisor.
- 12.1.2 The following player awards will be presented for each season at minimum, in each Division:
- 12.2.1 1<sup>st</sup> Best and Fairest
- 12.2.2 Leading Goal Scorer
- 12.3 Best and Fairest votes, as well as Goals Scored, will be transferred with a player for that season, should they transfer to a different team in the WFNL in the same division as their previous team.

- 12.4 Goals scored and Best & Fairest votes will be carried across with players whose team have been regraded into a different division during the regrading process.

### 13. DRESS CODE

- 13.1 Each new club must register its uniform prior to the commencement of the season for WFNL approval.
- 13.2 The OM/NO must approve all uniform colors and designs.
- 13.3 Clubs must notify the OM/NO of any changes to uniform.
- 13.4 All Uniforms must have the WFNL Logo on the right-hand breast and Belgravia Apparel on the left side of the breast.
- 13.5 All uniforms are purchased through the WFNL approved supplier.
- 13.6 All players are to be in correct uniform for matches unless prior approval has been given by the OM/NO on an agreed interim uniform.
- 13.7 No bikini pants/see-through pants, slacks, or track suit pants are permitted.
- 13.8 All Men's Netball sides within the Belgravia Apparel Netball Competition must wear league apparel approved uniform such as Men's shirt, singlet and Men's shorts, all WFNL Branded.
- 13.9 If there are religious or medical reasons why a player should wear head coverings or other items of clothing, the club must notify the OM/NO in writing prior to participating in an WFNL match. The notification must state the reason for the non-standard uniform. Providing the OM/NO is satisfied with respect to the request, the OM/NO shall issue a notification in writing approving the request. The OM/NO shall consider the particular religious customs and player safety when making such a decision.
- 13.10 Nails must be short and smooth OR taped using approved material tape or approved sporting gloves.
- 13.11 Fingernail - 1 piece of tape over the top and one 1 piece of tape around the nail
- 13.12 No jewelry items may be worn, in any circumstances.
- 13.13 Body piercing (ears, nose, and eyebrow) which cannot be removed, should be taped.
- 13.14 Body Piercing – Tape to fully cover ear, nose, eyebrow, or any other pierced site.

13.15 Nails and piercings not taped in accordance with this By Law shall be deemed to be 'out of uniform'.

**PENALTY:** The Umpire shall have the right to prevent a player who is 'out of uniform' from playing in a game until the issue is rectified by the player.

13.16 WFNL Adopts the Netball Australia diversity uniform policy, all diverse uniforms are to be approved by the WFNL.

#### 14. TEAM GRADING

14.1 Clubs may only enter 1 team per division in the WFNL. All teams are to be Graded at the start of the season, special consideration will be granted once all divisions are filled, for extra teams per club if applicable.

14.2 Clubs will have the opportunity to submit requests upon submitting teams, however all division allocations are at the discretion of the League.

14.3 There will be anywhere between two (2) to four (4) grading games at the beginning of the season.

14.4 All Clubs shall have the opportunity to submit requests to the OM/NO to change grades at the completion of Round 3. The OM/NO shall consider each request and make a decision. The OM/NO's decision shall be final.

14.5 Grading allocations are subject to the final ladder positions in the previous season and the discretion of the WFNL.

14.6 New teams will be allocated a grade in consultation with the OM/NO.

14.7 In the event a Club wishes to withdraw a team in the competition the club will be charged for a full season worth of management fees and finals fees.

#### 15. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

15.1 All sections shall play on a Friday at a venue(s) designated by the OM/NO, which are displayed on the Fixture.

15.2 Premier men's Division will be 4 X 15 minutes with an interval of three (3) minutes between the first and second quarters; an interval of five (5) minutes at half time; and another three (3) minutes between third and fourth quarter.

15.2.1 if a reserves side is included this will be 4 X 15 minutes with an interval of three (3) minutes between the first and second quarters; an interval of

five (5) minutes at half time; and another three (3) minutes between third and fourth quarter.

15.3 No team is permitted to take the court unless five (5) players are present.

15.4 There is to be no more than twelve (12) players listed on a team sheet, per team.

15.4.1 All fill-ins are to be listed on the fill-in sheet and positions are to be filled out accurately, the full name and VNA number are to be marked down.

15.5 All players must be listed on the team sheet prior to the start of the game. Players named on the team sheet must have signed the team sheet and had court time during a game to have the match registered as a game played. Players who remain on the interchange bench for the entire match shall not have that game recorded as a game played.

15.6 Team sheets **must** be entered into Netball Connect every Thursday on Match Day prior to **4pm**. Failing to submit team sheets prior to 4pm on Netball Connect on multiple occasions may incur a penalty at the discretion of the WFNL.

15.6.1 ALL Club Coordinator must submit teams via email with rank for the next night of competition to the League Netball manager.

15.6.2 Any Club needing to add additional players due to sickness or unavailability must have this cleared via the league before they take the court.

15.6.3 Failure to send through your starting 12 and their rank may be refused approval to take the court for that round and will be forced to forfeit such game.

15.7 Any team failing to start on time shall forfeit a goal per minute to the non-offending team, and a further goal per minute until ten (10) minutes has lapsed. A forfeit shall then be declared, providing the non-offending team has at least five (5) or more players present.

15.8 The Umpire shall either toss a coin or captains to conduct Rock paper scissors in order to determine starting ends prior to the start of each game.

15.9 All games are to be timed on individual clocks, so the umpires are able to hold time during the game if an injury or suspension is to occur.

## 16. BLOOD POLICY

16.1 Blood Policy shall apply as follows.

16.1.1 The umpires hold time for blood when noticed or when a request is made by an on-court player.

16.1.2 The player concerned must leave within 30 seconds and receive any treatment off the court.

16.1.3 Any blood on the ball or the court must be cleaned before play restarts and any blood stained clothing replaced.

16.1.4 The Blood Rule is treated under the Netball Victoria Policy which is adopted in these WFNL Guidelines. If an umpire observes a player bleeding or there is blood on the court, ball or any other player, the game is stopped, the clock is NOT stopped. The player/s with blood must leave the court immediately (up to 30 seconds) and may be substituted as per the standard injury / blood rule. The player is not to be treated on court and is to be moved off court – if safe and reasonable to do so.

## 17. SCORING

- 17.1 Each team must provide a non-participating scorer for all matches. The scorers must sit together at the scorer's bench. Scorers must be 15 years or over. IE (No coaches are eligible to score)
- 17.2 Each club is suggested to appoint a team manager for that team that will attend information sessions on how to live score and hard score run by the netball operations coordinator during preseason, this person will also be your weekly team scorer.
- 17.3 The Team managers (if applicable) are responsible for accepting the scorer's role in Netball connect and selecting the team prior to 4pm on Netball connect.
- 17.4 All players starting seven (7) positions must be listed on the team sheet prior to the start of the game. Players named on the team sheet must have had court time during a game to have such a match registered as a game played. Players who remain on the interchange bench for the entire match shall not have that game recorded as a game played.
- 17.5 At the conclusion of the match, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the official score sheet is correct, it is to be signed by:
- 17.4.1 The captains of both competing teams.
  - 17.4.2 The officiating umpires.
  - 17.4.3 The scorers.
- 17.6 Participating teams shall be responsible for the entering of all results onto the league website, and is to include the following:
- 17.5.1 Team players
  - 17.5.2 Qtr by Qtr scores and full-time scores
  - 17.5.3 Goal scorers

17.7 The OM/NO shall be responsible for entering the B &F results into the database for end of season awards and is to include:

17.8.1 Best & Fairest votes that have been given by the officiating umpires.

17.9 Each Game will be individually timed. The Timekeeper shall indicate the completion of the quarters from the scorer's bench by

ways of a siren or horn to the umpire.

17.10 Discrepancy of score sheets will be investigated and reviewed by the NO/OM an outcome will be at the discretion of the WFNL.

17.11 Any teams that have not marked attendance via netball connect will lose 2 points on the

ladder

17.12 Any teams not correctly filling out the score sheet will be deducted 2 points from the

ladder.

17.13 The following rules and Penalties apply for Live scoring and Hard scoring.

***Live Scoring & Score Sheet – Penalties***

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
Netball Connect player statistics not completed	-2 points
Score sheet not completed	-2 points
Player positions on the score sheet not completed	-2 points
Goals not tallied on the score sheet	-2 points
Player attendance not set on the tablets	-2 points

17.4 Hard scoring (paper score sheets) must still be fully completed each match. In the event of

any disagreement between the tablet and hard score, the hard score sheet is the official record.

17.4.1 Teams that fail to correctly complete score sheets three (3) times during the season will incur:

PENALTY - A \$300 fine, and Loss of premiership points.

## **18. INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL**

18.1 An Independent Netball Tribunal will consist of an independent panel appointed by the WFNL.

- 18.2 Players, Officials, Members and/or Clubs who have been reported by an Umpire, will immediately be referred to the Netball Tribunal to be heard by the Tribunal on Tuesday following game day.
- 18.3 The League Executive along with the Netball Manager will have the power to refer incidents and misdemeanours directly to the Netball Tribunal. This can be where there is a conflict of interest, a serious incident. Incident as they see could be resolved more efficiently and effectively.
- 18.4 Sanctions, fines, suspensions and warnings will be determined by the Netball Tribunal and not subject to further discussion.
- 18.5 Once a matter is referred to the Netball Tribunal no discussion should be entered into with any League Executive member.
- 18.6 Where these Men's Regulations do not provide guidance on a particular matter, reference shall be made to the Netball Regulations.

## **19. COMPLAINTS PROCESS WFNL**

- 19.1 Any person can inform the Netball operations coordinator that you wish to make a formal Complaint.
- 19.2 All necessary documents will be sent directly to the person who wishes to lodge the Complaint. Please note this is not through their Club, for privacy and confidentiality reasons.
  - 19.2.3 League Complaint Form must be filled out by the Individual wishing to make the formal Complaint (they can have.
  - 19.2.4 assistance from anyone to do this) and must be returned within three (3) business days of the incident occurring.
  - 19.2.5 If not returned within that period, the Complaint will not be accepted as per Netball Victoria's Complaint Procedure and Regulations.
  - 19.2.6 It will then be forwarded by the Netball Operations Coordinator to the League Complaints Manager and/or Netball Tribunal.
- 19.3 The League Executive will decide whether the Appeal is warranted.

This Appeal must be accompanied by a \$500.00 direct bank deposit transfer of which:

  - 19.3.1 \$500.00 will be returned to the Club if the Appeal is upheld.
  - 19.3.2 Up to \$150.00 will be returned to the Club if the Appeal is dismissed (at the discretion of the Appeals Tribunal).
  - 19.3.3 Up to \$150.00 will be returned to the Club if the Appeal is not heard (at the discretion of the Appeals Tribunal).
  - 19.3.4 Any penalty imposed by the Independent Appeals Tribunal under By-Law 33.4 is final.

## **20. FORFEITS**

21 **PENALTY** for forfeits: In the event of a forfeit a FW/FL, the result will be marked in Netball Connect. The non-forfeiting team will be awarded four (4) competition points, and all players will be deemed to have played for that round.

- 21.1.2 In the event that a team forfeits prior to the match clock starting, games shall only be awarded to nominated players of the non-offending team. No games shall be awarded to players of the offending team.
- 21.2.3 Any team forfeiting a match must, as soon as possible, notify the NO/OM that they are forfeiting the game. The forfeiting team shall pay all cost involved with the umpires; The forfeiting team shall pay a fine of (500) of ten (10) penalty units. The team that should have played against the forfeiting team shall be awarded the win for that game. This team will be credited with the “for” and “against” score recorded by the team that recorded the greatest winning margin in a game in that division of that round.
- 21.2.4 Repeated forfeits may result in that Club/Team being excluded from future competitions and penalised with a further fine subject to the OM/NO discretion.
- 21.2.5 Teams/Club wishing to forfeit from **Men’s Premier division** will be fined **(\$500)** and charged the cost of umpire fees for that game.

## 22. INENEMITY CLAUSE

22.1 The League is committed to providing a safe, fair and inclusive sporting environment where all people can contribute and participate.

22.2 The League will endeavour to provide opportunities for Males to participate in Mixed and Male Competitions.

22.3 The League may conduct cultural awareness training & inclusive workshops to ensure League Clubs are providing a welcoming environment and creating awareness around cultural views and barriers.

22.4 The League supports participation in Netball on the basis of the Gender with which a person identifies. If issues arise, the League will seek advice and act in accordance with the Netball Victoria Transgender & Gender Diverse Policy.

22.5 All Competitions will be clearly labelled in regard to Age Group and Gender. This includes additional references to all Genders that are permitted to play. All Competition labelling will be clear and transparent.

## 23. MEDIA POLICY

**23.1** General Permission: Filming and photography at games and events are permitted for promotional, coaching, and archival purposes, provided they comply with this policy and all relevant privacy laws.

- 23.1.2** Revocation of Permission: The league reserves the right to suspend or prohibit filming and photography at any time if:
- 23.1.3** Clubs or individuals are found to be using footage to bully, harass, or intimidate other players, teams, or officials.
- 23.2** Media is used to highlight or glorify rough or dangerous play, or to misrepresent the nature of the competition.
- 23.3** Social media posts or shared content are deemed to bring the league into disrepute, including but not limited to defamatory, misleading, or inflammatory commentary.

#### Social Media

- 23.4** Respectful Communication: All clubs, players, and affiliates must maintain respectful and sportsmanlike communication on social media platforms.
- 23.5** Prohibited Content: The following types of content are strictly prohibited:
- 23.6** Posts that target or shame individuals or teams.
- 23.7** Content that exaggerates or misrepresents incidents to provoke controversy or undermine the league.
- 23.8** Any media that is edited or captioned in a way that distorts context or promotes hostility.

#### ENFORCEMENT:

- 23.9** Monitoring: The league may monitor public social media channels and investigate complaints related to media misuse.
- 23.10** Sanctions: Breaches of this policy may result in:
- 23.11** Removal of media privileges (e.g., filming bans).
- 23.12** Official warnings or fines.
- 23.13** Suspension or expulsion from the competition for serious or repeated violations.

#### APPEAL:

- 23.14** Clubs or individuals may appeal decisions related to media restrictions through the league's formal complaint process.

## 24. INCLUSIVE ENVIROMENT

- 24.1** WFNL is committed to providing a safe, fair and inclusive sporting environment where all people can contribute and participate
- 24.2** WFNL may conduct cultural awareness training & inclusive workshops to ensure your club is providing a welcoming environment and creating awareness around cultural views and barriers.
- 24.3** WFNL supports participation in netball on the basis of the gender with which a person identifies, as per the Netball Victoria Transgender and Gender Diverse Policy.
- 24.4** Any individual found to have engaged in the vilification of another individual may be subject to exclusion and/or deregistration from the competition.

