



NETBALL REGULATIONS

WESTERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

ALBANVALE
ALTONA
BRAYBROOK
CAROLINE SPRINGS
GLEN ORDEN
HOBSONS BAY
HOPPERS CROSSING
MANOR LAKES
NEWPORT POWER
PARKSIDE
POINT COOK
POINT COOK CENTRALS
SPOTSWOOD
SUNS
ST THERESE'S
SUNSHINE
WERRIBEE DISTRICTS
WEST FOOTSCRAY
WESTERN RAMS
WYNDHAM VALE
YARRAVILLE

UPDATED SEASON 2026

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REGULATIONS

- 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>

1. 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:
 - 5.1.1 WFNL Contact Details
 - 5.1.2 WFNL Venue Address
 - 5.1.3 WFNL Regulations
 - 5.1.4 WFNL Fixtures
 - 5.1.5 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.
 - 6.4.1 The Entry Form shall be submitted to the OM/NO on or before the stated closing date and time.

- 6.4.1.1 Additional relevant information may be submitted with the Entry Form.
- 6.4.2 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.
- 6.4.3 Agree to abide by the policies, rules, and Regulations of the WFNL.
- 6.4.4 Agree to abide by the WFNL Code of Conduct.
- 6.4.5 Agree to abide by Netball Victoria Codes of Conduct.
- 6.4.6 In the event of a Club withdrawing a team from the competition:
 - 6.4.6.1 After the confirmation of acceptances – there will be no reimbursement of the Entry Fee.
 - 6.4.6.2 Once competition matches have commenced – there will be no reimbursement of Fees received, and any outstanding Court Fees must be paid.
 - 6.4.6.3 Subsequent participation in the competition will be re-assessed by the OM.
 - 6.4.6.4 Where any club has more than one (1) team in the competition it must withdraw the team in the lower grade first (*e.g. Division 5 before Division 4, Division 3 before Division 1 and so on.*)
 - 6.4.6.5 Where any club wishes to withdraw from a division 1 side this must be done via email 5 days prior to the competition begins, otherwise regulation 6.3.8.4 will stand.
- 6.4.7 The OM reserves the right to refuse an entry from any WFNL Club for any reason.
- 6.4.8 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.
- 6.4.9 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.
- 6.4.10 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.

8. TRANSFERS/CLEARANCES

- 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 seventh (7th) 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, or if a player is under a player contract for that season.
 - 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 Clearance is refused by the exiting club, then it is the responsibility of the player to ensure that the issue is resolved before another Clearance 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 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 (NOC)
- 9.11 The WFNL Netball competition is a female competition. The WFNL adopts the Netball Victoria Transgender and Gender Diverse Policy.

9.12 Victorian Netball League (VNL) players in the current year are only permitted to play in the following divisions, unless an exemption has been approved by the League:

A) VNL Championship Players – Division 1

B) VNL 23 & Under Players – Divisions 1, 2

9.13 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.

9.14 Players are free to play 2 games within a higher Division throughout the season while they are considered an unqualified player IE (Player has played in Div 4 while unqualified will only be able to play Div 3)

9.15 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.

9.16 Premiership winning sides will be promoted to above their winning division from the previous season.

10. COACHES

10.1 All coaches must hold or obtain a minimum of the “Foundation” Accreditation for the first season in which they coach.

10.1.2 All coaches must hold a level of “Development” Accreditation to eligible to coach Division 1 Ladies Teams.

10.2 Accreditations must be obtained prior to 30th June of the current competition year.

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 is conflict arises.

10.6 Coaches can speak with the WFNL Umpire Coordinator and NO.

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 WFNL clubs Feilding teams from Divisions 4-7 are required to provide one umpire per participating team that will be paid and allocated by the Umpire Coordinator or NO.

11.2.1 Club supplied umpires may not be rostered on every round if not applicable.

11.4 Umpires shall not be changed during a game, but for exceptional circumstances or with the permission of the Umpire Coordinator.

11.5 Umpires must supply their own whistle.

11.6 A current copy of the WFNL Regulations shall be available from the WFNL league website.

11.7 WFNL Umpires are to be dressed appropriately in Umpire Attire: refer to the umpire manual for uniform rules and regulations.

11.8 Finals Umpires shall be appointed by the WFNL UC & NO.

11.9 Two (2) Citations in a season constitutes an automatic one-week suspension for that player.

11.9.1 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.

11.10 Reported teams/players will appear before the WFNL Independent Tribunal who will have jurisdiction to impose penalties on players in the WFNL if necessary.

11.11.1 Players may receive any or all the following penalties as deemed suitable by WFNL Independent Tribunal:

11.11.2 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.

11.12 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

- 11.13 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.
- 11.14 WFNL will provide WFNL will provide an accredited umpire for Division 1 - 3 throughout the season.
- 11.15 Umpires are not permitted to umpire more than three (3) games on any competition day/night.
- 11.16 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.
- 11.17 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.
- 12.2 The following player awards will be presented for each season at minimum, in each Division:
- 12.2.1 1st 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 Compression shorts /bike shorts may be worn under dress but must be in line with appropriate club colours and must not extend below the dress.
- 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 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.

13.17 All clubs fielding a Men's team must purchase uniforms from Belgravia Apparel and are required to wear League-branded shorts, singlets, or T-shirts, along with bibs, for the duration of the competition.

14. TEAMS AND 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 and has multiple teams participating, it must withdraw the team in the lower grade first (e.g., Division 5 before Division 4, Division 3 before Division 1 and so on.)

14.8 Clubs will have the opportunity to withdraw from Division 1 if this request is put to the WFNL before the end of the grading period concludes.

14.9 If any clubs after the fixture has been released prior to round 1 withdraw a team that club will be charged a withdrawal fee of \$350.

14.10 In the event that a single club fields multiple teams and the league determines that re-grading two teams into the same division is necessary to protect the integrity of the competition, the WFNL reserves the right to make such adjustments.

14.11 If a team is re-graded and then decides to withdraw from the competition rule 14.7 will be enforced.

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 Divisions 3-7 are to be 4 x 10-minute quarters with an interval of one (1) minute between the first and second quarters; an interval of two (2) minutes at half time; and another one (1) minute between third and fourth quarter.
 - 15.2.1 Division 1 & 2 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 quarters.
- 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 Friday on Match Day prior to **12pm**. Failing to submit team sheets prior to 12pm on Netball Connect on multiple occasions may incur a penalty at the discretion of the WFNL.
- 15.7 Any team failing to start on time shall forfeit a goal per minute from 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 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 can 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 Any teams not live scoring will be deducted 2 points.

18. FINALS TEAM SHEETS

18.1 All Club Team Sheets must be submitted into the Netball Connect system by 8:00pm the Thursday before all Finals Games commence.

18.2 No further additions are allowed to the Team Sheets after the above deadline. Late Changes following the above deadline will be the club's responsibility to ensure players that take the court are eligible to play in the finals team.

18.3 All clubs are held to the same rules and responsibilities during finals as they are for the H&A competition.

19. BENCH OFFICIALS & BENCH FINALS

19.1 Bench Officials can consist of Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager, Primary Carer and Medical Staff (i.e. qualified Doctors or Trainers); up to maximum of five (5) Officials.

19.1.1 In the event of your team having a Playing Coach, your team bench will consist of up to four (4) Team Officials.

19.1.2 Up to five (5) Players can be listed on Scoresheet as a substitution bench; twelve (12) players in total.

19.1.3 Any Bench may only have Team Officials and/or Players on it which are listed on the official Scoresheet and/or previously submitted.

20. CLUB COORDINATORS

20.1 Perform the role of Game Day Supervisor and should be available on game days to support own Club Teams, as well as liaison person for the NO/UC.

20.2 On match day the Home Club is responsible for entering game results i.e. Scores & their own stats on Netball Connect database by 6pm the Sunday evening. All other clubs are to complete their own playing stats by this time also.

21. INJURY REPORTING

League Injury Report Form.

21.1 Details of this injury are to be entered into the Netball Connect against the record of the Game.

22. CHILD SAFETY IN NETBALL

22.1 The League and all Teams and Clubs are responsible for the observance, promotion, enforcement and monitoring of the Child Safety

in Netball Policy and Code of Conduct.

22.2 The League and all Teams and Clubs are responsible for the management and administration of the application of the Netball

Victoria Working with Children Check Regulation.

22.3 See Netball Victoria's Child Safety in Netball Code of Conduct and Child Safety Standards Policy 2017 for further information.

22.4 If any players, coaches, or club officials have a report lodged against them for obscene behaviour, abusive language, or intimidation toward a junior umpire, the league reserves the right to **suspend and/or fine the offending individual and/or their club**. The penalty in which will be at the discretion of the league.

22.5 If the same person, coach, or club is found to be exhibiting the same behaviour after an initial penalty, the matter will be referred to the tribunal. The league reserves the right to **deregister such individuals** to protect the standard and integrity of the competition.

23. INDEPENDENT NETBALL TRIBUNAL

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

23.2 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.

23.3 The League Executive along with the Netball Operations Coordinator 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.

23.4 Sanctions, fines, suspensions and warnings will be determined by the Netball Tribunal and not subject to further discussion.

23.5 Once a matter is referred to the Netball Tribunal no discussion should be entered into with any League Executive member.

24. COMPLAINTS

24.1 The League has adopted a Complaints Procedure in line with Netball Victoria's Complaint Procedure and Regulations January 2018.

24.2 All complaints will be guided by Netball Victoria Disputes & Complaints Handling Regulations, NV Rules, INF Rules.

24.3 The Complaints Manager is a member of the League Executive, dependent on Club/s involved to have no conflict of interest, and/or Netball Tribunal.

24.4 It is imperative when completing the forms involved in the Complaints Process that you understand the importance of lodging a claim. completing it correctly, honestly and with the facts as there will be no avenue to change it after submitting or submitting another one. Do not use opinions or thoughts, only hard cold facts to explain what has happened.

24 COMPLAINTS PROCESS WFNL

24.1.1 Any person can inform the Netball operations coordinator that you wish to make a formal Complaint.

24.1.2 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.

24.1.3 League Complaint Form must be filled out by the Individual wishing to make the formal Complaint (they can have.

24.1.4 assistance from anyone to do this) and must be returned within three (3) business days of the incident occurring.

24.1.5 If not returned within that period, the Complaint will not be accepted as per Netball Victoria's Complaint Procedure and Regulations.

24.1.6 It will then be forwarded by the Netball Operations Coordinator to the League Complaints Manager and/or Netball Tribunal.

(b) 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:

A. \$500.00 will be returned to the Club if the Appeal is upheld.

B. Up to \$150.00 will be returned to the Club if the Appeal is dismissed (at the discretion of the Appeals Tribunal).

C. Up to \$150.00 will be returned to the Club if the Appeal is not heard (at the discretion of the Appeals Tribunal).

(d) Any penalty imposed by the Independent Appeals Tribunal under By-Law 33.4 is final.

25. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES/PROVISIONS CLAUSE

25.1 Where these By-Laws are silent on a particular matter, a decision can be made by the League Executive to ensure the integrity of the League.

25.2 To maintain the Netball Competition is always held to a high standard, an appropriate penalty may also be enforced, at the WFNL discretion.

25.3 In exceptional or extenuating circumstances, the League Executive may, acting reasonably, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in these By-Laws relating to the League.

26. CLUB DELEGATE MEETING

26.1 Club Netball Delegate Meetings/ Netball Forum

- 26.2 Club Netball Delegate meetings or (Netball Forum) will be called at the Netball Operations Coordinator's discretion throughout the season.
- 26.3 Club Netball Delegate Meeting are Compulsory, a fine may be imposed if no attendance from clubs on the night.
- 26.4 All Clubs must be represented by two Netball Delegate at all Club Netball Delegate meetings/ netball forum. This Delegate is to be a person actively involved in the day-to-day Netball Operations at said Club. IE Netball Coordinator and a Coach of that upcoming season.

27. LADDERS

- 27.1 All ladder rankings are sorted based on the ratio of matches won.
- 27.2 In the event that more than one team is on the same win ratio, then the rankings will be sorted by the highest percentage (%).
- 27.3 A bye will attract four points, and no match ratio will be awarded.
- 27.4 In the event of the game being abandoned before half time due to equipment fault or any reason considered by the OM/NO to be appropriate, the game will be classified as a Draw.
- 27.5 If a game is abandoned after the third quarter has commenced due to equipment fault or any reason considered by the OM/NO to be appropriate, the team which is leading at the time the game is abandoned will be classified as having won the match.
- 27.6 If a game is called off after halftime the team leading at the time of the game called is the winner of the match.
- 27.7 If the game is called before half time due to any reason the NO may offer to replay the match at a later day, this will also be at the cost of the club. Court hire, umpire matches and administration fee will be charged to the clubs equally.

28. DRAWN GAMES IN FINALS

- 28.1 There is to be a one-minute time allowance to enable teams to change ends and scores to be verified on score sheet.
- 28.2 Positional changes and/or substitutions may only be made prior to any additional time commencing.
- 28.3 Division 1 will have 2 x 7 minutes halves to play. Divisions 2-7 will have 2 x 5 minutes halves.
- 28.4 Should there still be a draw at the end of the second half extra time, play continues until one team has a two (2) goal advantage.

29. FORFEITS

29.1 In the event a Club needs to forfeit a team due to numbers and has multiple teams participating in the competition, it must forfeit the team in the lower grade first (*e.g. Division 5 before Division 4, Division 3 before Division 1 and so on.*)

29.2 **PENALTY** for forfeits:

- 29.2.1 A 10-nil score line to the non-offending team and points shall be awarded.
- 29.2.2 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.
- 29.2.3 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 (\$\$) depending on which division said team is forfeiting from.
- 29.2.4 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.
- 29.2.5 Teams/Club wishing to forfeit from **Division 1** will be fined **(\$350)** and charged the cost of 2 X A Badged umpire fees for that game. Teams wishing to forfeit from **Division 2-7** will be fined **(\$250)** and charged the cost of umpire fees for that game.
- 29.2.6 If a team wishes to forfeit a scheduled game—regardless of how far in advance the notice is given—the team and its club will be charged a forfeit fee.
- 29.2.7 If a team has taken the court but does not have the minimum required number of players, a forfeit will occur. In this situation, the team will be charged **\$500** to cover the cost of a late forfeit.

30. APPEALS / PROTESTS / DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS

30.1 A team wishing to protest a scoring issue must:

30.1.2 Not sign the Official score sheet and immediately notify the Court Supervisor(s) and/or the Umpire Coordinator of the intention to protest.

30.2 A protest in writing must be lodged by the Club concerned with the OM/NO within forty-eight (48) hours of the match being played. A club shall have the right to lodge a written appeal to the OM/NO within 48 hours of notification of a penalty. No appeal will be accepted after 10.00am on Monday following the match.

30.3 A club lodging an appeal must lodge a deposit of \$350 made payable to the WFNL with the OM/NO at the time of lodging the written appeal.

- 31.3.1 \$150 will be returned to the club if the appeal is upheld.
- 31.3.2 The appeal notification will then be considered by the WFNL Independent Tribunal who will decide the outcome.
- 31.3.3 The club will be permitted to appear before the WFNL Independent Tribunal to plead its case.
- 31.3.4 The decision of the WFNL Independent Tribunal is final.

31. SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

- 31.1 The OM/NO will organize the Representative Team Selection Trials and Matches
- 31.2 The criteria are at the Discretion of WFNL and the Appointed coach.

32. TEAM SELECTION PANELS

- 32.1 A minimum of three (3) selectors must be appointed by the OM/NO for each team and shall be made up of the Team Coach(es) and selectors.
- 32.2 Selectors may be appointed to more than one selection panel.
- 32.3 Players shall be notified, in writing, of the team in which they have been selected within seven (7) days of the selection period concludes.
- 32.4 The selectors' decision shall be final.
- 32.5 Other forms of recognition will be awarded by the WFNL as deemed appropriate.
- 32.6 the League will make decisions around selection to benefit the best interest of the competition.

33. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 33.1 All Clubs are responsible for recording all injuries to the (OM) and reporting them into Netball Connect after the game has concluded.

34. NETBALL COMPETITIONS

Quarter durations:

Men's Premier Division	15 Minutes
Division 1,2	15 minutes
Divisions 3-8	10 minutes

35. ROLLING SUBSTITUTES

- 36.1 Before leaving the designated area, the substitute tags (with hands) the player
- 36.2 leaving the court to signal a change has occurred.
- 36.3 Only (1) rolling substitute per team can be made at a time.
- 36.4 Play is not to be held up for rolling substitutions. If play is delayed.
- 36.5 Players must observe the offside rule during play.

Penalty: Free pass where the ball was when play was stopped.

36. PREGNANCY

- 36.1 An individual who is pregnant is free to play in the WFNL. However, a pregnant player should.

36.1.1 Be aware that her own health, and the wellbeing of her unborn child, is of utmost importance in her decision about whether to continue playing sport.

36.1.2 Obtain medical advice as to the risks associated with playing sport when pregnant. She should ensure she understands this advice and where necessary question the advice until she is sure she understands the risks taken in participating in Netball.

36.1.3 Have regular antenatal reviews with her doctor, including ongoing review of her exercise participation.

36.1.4 Consider her changed physical condition, use common sense and not take unnecessary risks.

36.1.5 Remember that the ultimate decision to participate in Netball will always be hers, whilst having regard to all the circumstances.

36.1.6 The WFNL disclaims any liability for any injury or complication sustained by a pregnant woman during an Australian Netball Match.

37. FIRST AID

- 37.1 The WFNL will ensure that a First Aid Kit is accessible at each venue.
- 37.2 The First Aid Kit will be stored at the stadium entrance office and all appropriate personnel (court supervisors, umpires and coaches) will have access to it.
- 37.3 Each Club within the WFNL must have a Primary Care person on staff to strap and look after players if an injury occurs.
- 37.4 Each trainer is to supply proof of certification before round 1 to the NO.

38. INENEMITY CLAUSE

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

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

38.3 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.

38.4 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.

38.5 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.

39. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

39.1 Emergency phone numbers – i.e. Ambulance, Doctor, Physiotherapist, Health Clinic and Police and an Emergency Procedure will be displayed next to the venue phone and in the First Aid Kit.

39.2 In the event there are no WFNL staff available to make a decision, a game may be cancelled on the agreement of both Teams, for the reasons set out in

39.3 Where play is unable to proceed in a home and away game for a period of time equal to one quarter, for the reasons set out in 29.1, the game shall be cancelled.

39.4 Match points to be awarded in line with Section 18 of these Regulations.

40. BLOOD POLICY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

40.1 The WFNL will adopt Netball Victoria Info Net rules - U4 and RM6 relating to blood policy and infectious diseases.

41. SMOKEFREE

41.1 The WFNL will adopt a Smoke Free policy. This will include indoor venues and outdoor court surroundings; this also includes the use of e-cigarettes otherwise known as Vaping.

42. RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SERVING OF ALCOHOL IN SPORTING CLUBS

42.1 The WFNL will adopt a Responsible Serving of Alcohol Policy as prescribed by the Australian Drug Foundation's Good Sports Accreditation Program.

43. CODES OF CONDUCT

43.1 The WFNL adopts the Codes of Behavior as prescribed by Netball Victoria.

43.2 These Codes of Conduct apply but are not limited to; Players, Coaches, Administrators, Umpires & Spectators.

44.3 As a registered player and/or official with the WFNL you are automatically bound by these Codes of Conduct.

45.4 Anyone found to be breaching these Codes of Conduct will be issued a Citation or any other penalty that the OM/NO sees fit.

44. DRUG POLICY

44.1 The WFNL does not support the use of performance enhancing substances and views any such use as detrimental to both the sport of Netball and the spirit of the game.

44.1.2 Any players who are known to use drugs, or who are found to be using drugs while participating in this competition, may be excluded from the league or refused registration at the league's discretion.

45. RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE POLICY

45.1 The WFNL adopts the WFNL Vilification Policy.

46. PRIVACY POLICY

46.1 The WFNL adopts the WFNL Privacy Policy.

47. MEDIA POLICY/ SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

47.1 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.

47.1.2 Revocation of Permission: The league reserves the right to suspend or prohibit filming and photography at any time if:

47.1.3 Clubs or individuals are found to be using footage to bully, harass, or intimidate other players, teams, or officials.

47.1.4 Media is used to highlight or glorify rough or dangerous play, or to misrepresent the nature of the competition.

47.1.5 Social media posts or shared content are deemed to bring the league into disrepute, including but not limited to defamatory, misleading, or inflammatory commentary.

47.1.6 Respectful Communication: All clubs, players, and affiliates must maintain respectful and sportsmanlike communication on social media platforms.

47.1.7 Prohibited Content: The following types of content are strictly prohibited:

47.1.8 Posts that target or shame individuals or teams.

47.1.9 Content that exaggerates or misrepresents incidents to provoke controversy or undermine the league.

47.1.10 Any media that is edited or captioned in a way that distorts context or promotes hostility.

ENFORCEMENT:

47.11 **Monitoring:** The league may monitor public social media channels and investigate complaints related to media misuse.

47.12 **Sanctions:** Breaches of this policy may result in:

47.13 Removal of media privileges (e.g., filming bans).

47.14 Official warnings or fines.

47.15 Suspension or expulsion from the competition for serious or repeated violations.

APPEAL:

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

49. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES CLAUSE

50.1 Where this Netball Regulations is silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the WFNL is always maintained.

50.2 The OM/NO may, in using reasonable discretion and only in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in these By Laws relating to the WFNL.

50.3 At the start of every final's series a Finals Addendum will be released, this is at the discretion of the NOC/UC.

51. COMPETITION REGULATION

51.1 The WFNL adopts the Competition Regulation prescribed by Netball Victoria.

52. MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

52.1 The WFNL adopts the Child Safety in Netball Policy prescribed by Netball Victoria.

53. TRANSGENDER DIVERSITY POLICY

53.1 WFNL adopts Netball Victoria Transgender and Gender Diversity Policy.