

# 2024 WDFNL NETBALL BYLAWS

By-Laws are to be adhered to by the following clubs involved in the Warrnambool & District Football Netball League netball competition:



***The WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee is established by the authority of the WDFNL Executive Board. The WDFNL Executive Board retains the final decision-making power in any dispute between the WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee and any Member Club of the WDFNL with respect to the interpretation and enforcement of the enclosed By-Laws.***

## **1. BY-LAWS**

- a) Only the WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee have the authority to add, delete or alter any By-Laws by recommendation/s to Clubs and then through a vote process at a Netball Sub-Committee Meeting save and except when a dispute arises between the WDFNL Sub-Committee and when a member club requiring the WDFNL Executive Board to make a final determination.
- b) Any recommendation/s by Clubs to change the WDFNL Netball By-Laws during a season must be received in writing to the WDFNL Sub-Committee.
- c) Any By-Law changes made during the playing season will not come into effect until the commencement of the next year.

## **2. NETBALL SUB-COMMITTEE**

- a) Only Financial Members of a Club are eligible to vote at Club Delegate Forums.
- b) Only one Club delegate present at a Club Delegate Forum is eligible to vote.
- c) In the event of a tied vote on any issue, the Netball Chairperson will cast All correspondence forwarded by Club's must be received by the WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee seven days prior to WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee Meeting via [wdfnsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:wdfnsecretary@gmail.com)
- d) Only correspondence from a Club President or Club Netball Delegate or League Sponsor will be received. Any correspondence from a coach, player, official, supporter or volunteer will be returned to the Club President to be considered and if necessary, re-sent to the Netball Sub-Committee by the appropriate President or Delegate.
- e) The WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee will make recommendations to the WDFNL Executive Board to enforce or nullify any penalty.
- f) **Nomination of Candidates to WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee Positions**

Nomination process for candidates to be elected as members of the WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee of the League shall be as follows:

The nominee shall complete an Expression of Interest form which includes the name and contact details of the nominee and nominator (if required).

Nominations shall be delivered to the WDFNL Executive Board by the closing date.

Late nominations will not be accepted. Maximum two representatives per club.

The WDFNL Executive shall choose the successful nominees based on a majority vote.

The nominees shall be personally notified by the WDFNL President as to their successful nomination or otherwise.

### 3. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- a) The WDFNL shall have the power to elect Life Members as per the following criteria:
  - i) Players concluding 250 A Grade games in the WDFNL shall qualify as a life member.
  - ii) WDFNL Executive Board, Netball Sub-Committee members or any person volunteering in a role delegated by the WDFNL Executive Board who gives more than 10 years of service shall qualify as a life member.
- b) All nominations for life membership must be lodged with the WDFNL Executive Board 14 days prior to the WDFNL Annual General Meeting (AGM) and all nominations are to be accompanied by a history of the nominee.
- c) Life members shall have the privileges of Board Members excepting they shall not be able to vote.
- d) Successful nomination/s shall be presented with their life membership at a WDFNL Function.

### 4. FEES & MEMBERSHIP

- a) The WDFNL Executive Board will set the Affiliation Fees for all clubs prior to the commencement of the season.
- b) All netball players **must** be an affiliated member of a member club in the WDFNL.
- c) All on court participants (coaches, umpires and players) must be registered with via Netball Connect before commencing play.
- d) All players must be registered as a **player** via Netball Connect prior to taking the court.
- e) Single game player vouchers must be registered via Netball Connect prior to the player taking the court.
- f) No single game vouchers are allowed for umpires.

## 5. COMPETITION & CONDITIONS

- a) The WDFNL Netball Competition will play under the conditions and rules of the Victorian Netball Association, and according to the WDFNL Netball By-Laws.
- b) **The WDFNL Netball competition will implement Tactical Changes in 2024 with a maximum of 2 changes/quarter allowed.**
- c) The WDFNL Netball Competition will consist of six grades
- A Grade Competition
  - A Reserve Competition
  - B Grade Competition
  - 17 & Under Competition
  - 15 & Under Competition
  - 13 & Under Competition
- d) All netball games will be played on outside courts, including finals, unless otherwise directed by the WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee and WDFNL Executive Board.
- e) Game times shall be as follows **to allow for up to 2 tactical changes/quarter:**

GRADE	GAME TIME	QTR LENGTH	BREAK TIMES		
			¼	½	¾
13 & under	8.45am	4 x 10min	2 mins	2 mins	2 mins
15 & under	9.40am	4 x 10min	2 mins	2 mins	2 mins
17 & under	10.40am	4 x 12min	2 mins	3 mins	2 mins
B Grade	11.50pm	4 x 12min	2 mins	3 mins	2 mins
A Reserve	12.50pm	4 x 12min	2 mins	3 mins	2 mins
A Grade	2:00pm	4 x 15min	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins

- f) If any game/s are not started within 10 minutes after the appointed starting time, a forfeit will be called by the umpire/s against the late team.
- g) Points for games will be allotted as follows:
- i) Four points for a win.
  - ii) Two points for a draw
  - iii) Nil points for a loss.
- h) If play is abandoned due to extreme weather conditions prior to the commencement of play, points will be allocated as if a draw. (i.e. two points per team).

The decision to abandon will be made by the umpires in conjunction with the coaches and Court Supervisors and the League will be duly notified.

- i) If play is abandoned due to any unforeseen circumstances the following will apply:
  - i) If play is abandoned before  $\frac{3}{4}$  time points will be allocated as if a draw.
  - ii) If play is abandoned after  $\frac{3}{4}$  time points will be awarded to the team that is winning. The score will stand at time of abandonment and the percentage will be calculated.

- j) Each team will provide **two** people per club to undertake the combined duties of scoring/timekeeping - **duties include score sheet , changes & time keeping (2), live scoring (1) scoreboard (1)**

Official scorers/timekeepers are to be 14 years or older.

A buzzer supplied by the home team must be used by all timekeepers to signal the end of all quarters.

- k) The official duration of game time expired and/or scores will not be conveyed from the score bench to any team or team official during games and no person shall approach the score bench during any game to ask for time or score excepting the scoreboard attendant.

- l) The Home Team will provide a Score/Team Sheet generated from NetballConnect for each game. Any missing or additional names can be added to the printed scoresheet with full names provided (as per Netball Connect registration) **prior to the commencement of the game.**

Each team can name up to 12 players which must be provided to the Scorers BEFORE the start of the game. There shall be no limit to the number of substitutions which can be made in a game.

- m) A maximum of eight players may be included on the team sheet lodged by a winning team on forfeit and each such team sheet entry will be treated as a valid home and away match for the purpose of finals eligibility.

## 6. UNIFORMS

- a) Uniforms shall consist of a dress, full briefs, or short boy leg (no longer than the length of the dress), predominantly white socks (small sports logo accepted) and playing position bibs.

Boys to wear same-coloured shorts (no pockets) and top as club uniform. Appropriate netball footwear is to be worn.

- b) All players must wear their club nominated uniform including positional bibs when participating in the WDFNL matches.

All clubs will provide a clash colour bib with their uniform approval. Once received and approved by the WDFNL netball Sub Committee; clash bibs do not need separate approval to be utilised on game day.

- c) Any changes to Club Uniform, must be submitted to the WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee for approval prior to the change being implemented.

A player may seek a variation to the uniform for medical, cultural or other reasonable grounds\* by forwarding a written request for such variation to the WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee. The WDFNL Sub-Committee shall determine the application and respond, in writing, as soon as practicable.

The following items will be considered part of the standard uniform, and **do not** require the player to seek approval from the League:

- i. Head coverings – soft covering only and must be tight and non-flowing and cannot cover the positional bib This includes no jewellery and no sharp pins on head coverings. If the head covering needs to be fastened, clips and non-sharp pins are to be used.
- ii. Clothing for cultural/religious modifications – must be all black, all white or club colours and worn underneath the existing team uniform.

*\*Please refer to the Rules of Netball for further clarification*

### **Representative Squad**

- 1) The League representative squad uniform will be provided by the League and consist of a league netball dress, and positional bibs. Player will provide full briefs, or short boy leg (no longer than the length of the dress) and predominantly white socks (small sports logo accepted). The following items will be considered part of the Association/Leagues standard uniform and will be submitted accordingly to the competition organizers.
- 2) Where circumstances exist, such as other religious, cultural, medical or other inclusive reasons, a written application should be submitted for approval by the Association/League.

## **7. GRADING OF PLAYERS**

- a) A Clubs first priority is to fill their A Grade team with their **best** available senior players.
- b) **All players need to be registered on Netball Connect and entered into teams prior to round 1.**
- c) Any concerns by Club's regarding grading of players must be referred in writing and submitted to the official WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee email.
- d) All NEW players, junior or senior to a Club during a season must register via Netball Connect **prior to Round 8.**

Failure to do this will result in the same penalty as referred to in **By-Law 15.d).**

**NO NEW REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER ROUND 8.**

This will be managed by a registration cut off dictated by the WDFNL on Netball Connect

## 8. TEAM QUALIFICATIONS

- a) To be eligible to play in finals matches, a player must play a minimum of six Home and Away rounds during the season for their Club.
- b) A junior player must have played a minimum of six Home and Away rounds in the junior competition during the season for their Club to be eligible to play in a junior final.
- c) Any player playing for another league need to be qualified (6 H/A Games) prior to round 10 to be eligible to play in finals.
- d) A player who plays **eight** home and away matches in any higher Grade in the competition is ineligible to play in the lower grade.

E.g./ 4 A Grade games + 4 A Reserve games = 8 games in higher grade.

Cannot play B Grade but can still play A Reserve

8 A Grade games = Cannot play in A Reserve or B Grade.

8 A Reserve games = Cannot play in B Grade.

- e) A senior player may only play **one** game of netball per weekend of the final's series.
- f) A junior player is eligible to play **two** games (either 2 junior or 1 junior & 1 senior game) on any given Round, including finals.  
Senior grade game qualifications as per **By Law 8. c)** applies for Juniors playing senior games.
- g) A senior player is eligible to play two games on any given Round, excluding finals, throughout the season.
- h) Round Robin/development players must be no younger than 8 years of age and no older than 13 years on competition day.
- i) A player must be 10 years of age as of 1 January of each calendar year to play in the WDFNL Netball Competition. A player must be 13 years of age and Under on or before 31 December of that calendar year to be eligible to play in the 13 and Under competition. (i.e cannot turn 14 during that year).
- j) A player must be 15 years of age and Under on or before 31 December of that calendar year to be eligible to play in the 15 and Under competition (i.e. cannot turn 16 during that year).
- k) A player must be 17 years of age and Under on or before 31 December of that calendar year to be eligible to play in the 17 and Under Competition (i.e. cannot turn 18 during that year).
- l) Boys are allowed to play in the 13 and Under Competition only (as per Netball Vic Gender Regulation Policy). A maximum of two boys per team are permitted on the court at one time. Only one boy is allowed to play in each third of the court.

m) Any exemptions may be considered by the WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee and will be determined on a case by case basis.

n) **Overage Exemptions**

- i) The WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee will only consider an overage exemption for a junior player if the player has a psychological or physical disability that affects their ability to play at their age level and in playing as an overage player will not impact on the competition.
- ii) Requests for overage exemptions must be made, in writing, to the Netball Sub-Committee and must be submitted with the relevant evidence of the player's condition from their treating Medical Practitioner or Specialist for consideration by the League.
- iii) Any players considered for an exemption must be observed either training or playing by the League Netball JDO or a nominated League Netball Committee Member prior to being granted an exemption.
- iv) The preliminary view of the WDFNL Executive Board will always be that players play in their age group if possible.
- v) The WDFNL Executive Board reserves the right to revoke an overage permit at any stage if it sees fit.

Failure to do so will result in loss of points for all games the ineligible player has participated in after the conclusion of Round 7.

o) **Mid-season player transfer**

Any player registered with a WDFNL Club and plays one game with that Club cannot transfer to another WDFNL Club for the remainder of that season unless the WDFNL Executive Board deem exceptional circumstances exist.

**8. INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS**

- a) The League is committed to providing a safe, fair and inclusive sporting environment where all people can contribute and participate.
- b) The League observes the Netball Victoria Gender Regulation in regard to male participation:
  - i. Males who are 13 years (and older) are not permitted to participate in female competition. This means that males must be less than 13 years of age (actual age) as at the first day of the competition or season; and
  - ii. males that turn 13 during that competition or season will be permitted to participate for the duration of that competition or season.



## 9. RESULTS

- a) Clubs must enter match results, Best on Court, and Goal Scorers for ALL Grades onto Netball Connect by 5 pm.
- b) A Grade MVP votes must be filled out each week by the opposition coaches and sealed in the league provided envelopes and submitted with the paperwork.
- c) League Best & Fairest votes need to be filled out by umpires each week and sealed in the league provided envelopes and submitted with the paperwork.
- d) All original score sheets must be lodged in the Club envelope that is submitted by Monday 9 am to the WDFNL Headquarters.

## 10. FINALS

- a) The WDFNL Executive Board will decide all finals Venues.
- b) A final five will be played in conjunction with the WDFNL Football finals.
- c) **During a Final** - at the end of the game if scores are tied, a two-minute break will follow - during which time there may be substitutions and/or team changes.

At the end of that two-minute break, a further 2 X five-minute (seven minute A Grade) periods of extra time will be played. At the end of the first period of extra time there will be a one1-minute interval and teams will change ends. Substitutions and/or team changes are allowed at the interval.

In the event of tied scores at the end of the second period of extra time, the timekeepers will ignore the clock and not sound the siren until one team has a two-goal advantage. A sign will be dropped at the scorer's bench to indicate time-on.

## 11. AWARDS

- a) Each Grade will compete for a Perpetual Shield, Premiership Pennant, and a Premiership Cup
- b) A maximum of 12 suitable awards will be made (if required) to each Premiership Team in each Grade.
- c) A Best & Fairest Trophy and Runner's-up Trophy will be awarded based on the umpire's votes for the Best & Fairest Player in each Grade.

This will be determined by a three, two and one vote system.

If a tied first or second winner, trophies will be awarded to each player.

- d) Any player reported in a Home and Away Match by an Umpire/s and found guilty as per Netball Victoria Regulations, shall be ineligible to win WDFNL Netball Best and Fairest Awards.
- e) League Best & Fairest votes will not be awarded for any forfeited matches.

## 12. UMPIRES

- a) All Club Umpires are required to have a current Netball Victoria Online Theory Exam, a current Level 1 Umpiring Course and a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC) – that has been linked to the WDFNL and/or their associated club prior to umpiring for their Club.

A Copy of both certificates must be provided to the WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee before commencing umpiring.

- b) **All umpires must have current Netball Victoria Membership registered via Netball Connect. Clubs are responsible to ensure officiating umpires are registered or a \$50 fine will apply.**
- c) Panel umpires Netball Victoria Membership and WWCC validity will be checked by the WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee.
- d) Umpires may only umpire a total of three games on any given day.

An umpire is not able to umpire any game if it is their third consecutive **active** game.

An active game is a game that the person either plays (any amount of time) or umpires.

E.g./ Umpire 17s, play B cannot umpire A Res, can umpire A

Play B then umpire A Res cannot umpire A

Umpire 13s, umpire 17s, umpire B (allowed) - could then also play A Res or A

- e) All umpires must wear the WDFNL approved white top as the outer garment, and **navy sports bottoms** consisting of skirt or shorts (no pants, leggings or bike shorts) **white socks** with appropriate sport shoes. Club uniforms are not to be worn underneath the umpire uniform. If a skirt is the chosen garment full briefs or short boy legs no longer than the skirt are also to be worn.

This By-Law will be enforced from Round 1 and fines of \$20 will apply per offending umpire. Clubs will be fined for club supplied umpires and panel umpires will be personally responsible for the payment of such fine.

This shall be recorded on the Team Score Sheet.

## 13. COACHES

- a) All Primary Coaches are required to be accredited, having gained minimum level of Foundation Coaching Accreditation, **completed the Rules of Netball Theory** and hold a valid WWCC that has been linked to the WDFNL and/or their

associated club prior to coaching. This should also be populated in the coaches Netball Connect Profile.

Assistant coaches are not required to be accredited; however, they cannot coach their associated team in the absence of the primary coach, therefore are encouraged to obtain accreditation. Assistant coaches still require a valid WWCC that has been linked to the WDFNL and/or their associated club prior to coaching.

- b) ALL coaches must have current Netball Victoria Membership registered via Netball Connect. This must be checked by the clubs prior to the season commencing.

Checks will also be completed by the WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee.

- c) Evidence of accreditation must be provided to the WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee before commencing coaching and populated in the coaches Netball Connect Profile. WWCC details are to be maintained at club level and are to be provided within 48hrs when requested by a member of the WDFNL Executive Board.

## **14. REPRESENTATIVE TEAM**

The WDFNL representative team selection trials will be conducted under the following conditions:

- a) All players must be registered and playing in the WDFNL junior competition to be eligible for selection.
- b) All players who have submitted a player registration form shall be informed of the date, time and place where selection trials are to be held.
- c) Notice of selection trials will be provided at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the selection trials.
- d) Team Selectors will be appointed for each team and may be made up of the Team Coach and other nominated selectors.
- e) Team Selectors may be appointed to more than one panel.
- f) Players shall be notified of the outcome of selection trials within the timeframe nominated by the League.
- g) Players may request feedback from the Team Selectors.
- h) The Team Selector's decision shall be final and no appeals regarding selections made under this Bylaw are available.

All appointed coaches must have current Development level accreditation registered via Netball Connect.

## 15. GENERAL

a) All players, coaches, umpires, team personnel and officials must abide by:

- [Netball Victoria Affiliation Policy](#)
- [Netball Victoria Privacy Policy](#)
- [Netball Australia Code of Conduct](#)
- [Netball Victoria Cyber Safety Policy](#)
- [Gender Diversity Policy](#)
- [Gender Regulation Policy](#)
- [Inclusion Policy](#)
- [Member Protection Policy](#)

b) Any club member, player or official found to have made inappropriate comments on social or print media in relation to any WDFNL club member, player, official or umpire, may be liable to sanctions. The WDFNL Executive Board shall decide upon the appropriateness of the alleged comments made and the offending party will be given the opportunity to explain their actions prior to sanctions (if any) being imposed.

If the comments are found to be inappropriate, a fine, as determined by the WDFNL Executive Board, will be levied against the offending party's Club.

c) **Child Safe**

i) WDFNL and all individual clubs are responsible for the management, administration, observance, promotion, enforcement and monitoring of the Netball Victoria Child Safety in Netball Policy and Code of Conduct.

For further information please visit: <https://vic.netball.com.au/child-safeguarding-resource-hub>

ii) It is strongly recommended that any person wishing to photograph or video all or part of a match must first obtain permission from the playing teams. Permission is to be confirmed, in writing, on the bottom of the official game score sheet and signed by both team's delegates. Signage on courts to advise the public.

d) The WDFNL 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.

## 16. PENALTIES

The following penalties are determined by the WDFNL Executive Board.

a) **Failure to attend league meeting:**

Failure to attend first meeting with an apology	\$50
Failure to attend first meeting without an apology	\$150
Failure to attend subsequent meetings throughout the season	\$150
Failure to attend Annual General Meeting	\$200

After non-attending at fourth meeting, Club will be disqualified from competition for remainder of season.

There shall be no more than two apologies accepted in any one year.

b) **Teams forfeiting will pay a penalty of:**

\$100 for First Forfeit

\$150 for Second Forfeit

\$200 for Third Forfeit

Teams will be disqualified from competition for remainder of the season for a fourth forfeit.

c) **A \$100 penalty will apply for the following:**

- Failure to enter scores onto Netball Connect by 5 pm on game day.
- Failure to supply correct match paperwork on time to the League.
- Incorrect completion of scoresheets.
- Omitting information from scoresheets.
- Other paperwork errors & omissions.
- Failure to wear the correct Club uniform.
- Failure to attend compulsory events.

d) A team will be penalised four premiership points and the percentage shall be duly adjusted on each occasion a player, not registered on Netball Connect participates in a game. The appointed game will be awarded to the opposing team. In the case of an offending team not recording premiership points, a fine of \$100 will be imposed for each offending player. (moved from 4. Fees & Membership to 15. Penalties).

e) A team will be penalised four premiership points for each time it plays an ineligible player. An ineligible player is a player who has taken the court and not been registered on netball connect as a player and/or not named on the scoresheet prior to the commencement of the game.

The appointed game will be awarded to the opposing team. The offending team will incur a fine of \$100 for each time it plays an ineligible player.

f) Any conduct of club officials, players, volunteers, or spectators that places another (including umpires) at risk of physical or psychological harm will be fined an amount determined by the WDFNL Executive Board which is determined to be just and reasonable in all the circumstances.

g) Any conduct of club officials, players, volunteers, or spectators that brings the WDFNL League into disrepute will be fined an amount determined by the WDFNL

Executive Board which is determined to be just a reasonable in all the circumstances.

- h) The Netball Sub-Committee has the power to levy penalties to Clubs in the event of circumstances not covered by the above, when required. The amount of the penalty imposed will be determined by the WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee in conjunction with the WDFNL Executive Board.
- i) Any Club fined by the WDFNL has 14 days to make payment of the fine from the date of the penalty/invoice incurred to the League. Failure to make payment of the fine within the time frame the Club shall not be permitted to take any further part in the Competition until such fines have been paid.

## 17. PROTESTS AND REPORTS

- a) All protests and reports by the Club and/or person/s concerned must be lodged by phone to the Netball Sub-Committee chairperson no later than 48 hours after the match concerned. A written statement giving details of the protest/report must be forwarded to the Netball Sub-Committee no later than 48 hours after the event.
- b) All protests/reports shall be dealt with by the WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee within 14 days of the protest/report being lodged.
  - i) Any persons called to give evidence by the Netball Sub-Committee must attend, providing 24 hours' notice is given.
  - ii) Any person who is called before the WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee to answer any charge, may be accompanied by a representative of their Club, to act as an Advocate. That person shall not be a member of the Legal Profession.
- c) Umpire/s reporting a player/s must notify the player/s concerned at the end of the Match, also the captain/s of the Team/s concerned.
- d) The report must be in writing, signed by the Umpire/s, and handed to the WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee no later than 48 hours after the match, and is to be heard by the Tribunal Committee within 14 days of the match.
- e) No right of appeal shall be requested in any dispute or matter rising from these rules.

### SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES/PROVISIONS CLAUSE

Where these Bylaws are silent on a particular matter, a decision can be made by the Committee. In exceptional or extenuating circumstances, the **WDFNL Netball Sub-Committee** may, acting reasonably, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in these bylaws relating to the League

### INDEMNITY

Except where provided or required by law and such cannot be excluded, the Association and its respective directors, officers, members, servants or agents are absolved from all liability however arising from injury or damage, however caused, arising whilst participating in the Leagues's activities as a member.

