

MANLY WARRINGAH NETBALL ASSOCIATION



COMPETITION POLICY

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1 Event Information

1.1 General Information

- a) Competitions are conducted under the authority of the MWNA and in accordance with the Official Rule Book.
- b) The MWNA appointed Competitions Secretary and the MWNA Executive Committee has the overall responsibility for the day to day operation and management of the competition.
- c) Medical Emergency - A call for qualified medical assistance, and a player responds leaving their team short, is covered by relevant rule, in the current Official Rule Book. Games stopped under this rule should be completed at the earliest mutually agreeable time, preferably the same day.
- d) Grading shall be held at the beginning of each season on dates set by Council each year.
- e) Competitions are to be conducted as decided by Council each year.

1.2 Venue

- a) All matches shall be played at John Fisher Park Netball Courts, Abbott Road, North Curl Curl and any other venue set by Council each year.

2 Uniforms and Equipment

- a) Clubs, upon affiliation with the Association shall register the uniform to be worn. Such uniform must have approval of the Executive Committee and be in line with the Netball Australia Uniform Guidelines.
- b) No player shall be allowed to compete in the Association's Winter Competition unless they wear their Club uniform approved by Council.
- c) Players may be allowed to complete in the Associations' Spring competition or other competitions wearing apparel as approved by Council.
- d) For religious or cultural reasons an application may be made by the respective club, on behalf of the individual, for a variation of uniform to the Association Council for approval.
- e) Each team is to have position patches of different colours to the opposing team.
- f) Each team is to provide an approved match ball.

3 Competition Structure

3.1 Eligibility

- a) Net Set Go players are 7 years 8 and 9 years, junior players are 10 years to 15 years, cadet players are 16 years to 18 years at 31st December of the year of play.

- b) Non Competitive games are conducted for 7 years and 8 years age groups.
- c) 9 year Net Set Go Games will be scored
- d) Junior Competitions are conducted in the 10 years to 15 years age groups.
- e) Cadet Competitions are conducted in the 16 years to 18 years age groups.
- f) Open Senior Competitions are conducted.
- g) Mixed and Men's Competitions are conducted.
- h) Spring Competition will be conducted.

3.2 Club Team Registration

- a) Registrations shall close on a date to be decided by Council each year and only accepted following confirmation of qualifications of the club umpires' convenor.
- b) The registration fee for each competition will be set by Council each year.
- c) Clubs are to register teams by a closing date set by Council each year. The entries will include details of a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of thirteen (13) players and include their relevant experience.
- d) For a team nomination to be accepted, the following needs to be completed:
- e) The team nomination is lodged through the Association's Digital Registration Program following the instructions provided.
- f) All players, umpires, coaches, team managers and key club personnel are to be financially registered members on the Association's registration platform.
- g) Identification of each competition player will be determined by Council from year to year.
- h) Clubs are responsible for verifying all new Net Set Go and junior players' ages by sighting their birth certificates or passports.
- i) Clubs are to register Net Set Go teams from year to year in the age groups as follows:
 - 7 years (no combined age teams allowed in this age group)
 - 8 years
 - 9 years
 - One (1) team per club of combined 7/8-year-olds may be registered each year
 - One (1) team per club of combined 8/9-year-olds may be registered each year.
- j) A player registered and graded by MWNA with one club may not transfer to another club until the following competition.

A player may be de-registered before the competition first paper grading has commenced and fees paid to the Association shall be refunded.

- k) A player who has extenuating circumstances and has not taken the court throughout the season can apply to MWNA Competition Secretary for a refund. Medical Certificates and other supporting documentation must be supplied with the de registration request.
- l) Extenuating circumstances may include but are not limited to:
- Pregnancy.
 - Financial or other Hardship which is to be determined at the absolute discretion of Netball NSW; or
 - Serious injury or illness prior to the netball season commencing. Please note that not having room for a participant to participate or changing your mind is not an extenuating circumstance.

3.3 Competition Grading

- a) Entries will be graded into grades/divisions.
- b) 10 year old teams will be physically graded on a date set by Council each year. Other teams may be physically graded as determined by the grading committee from time to time.
- c) The Grading Committee on or around game 7 of the winter competition may undertake an assessment as to the regrade of a team and make a determination.
- d) When a club is fielding more than one (1) team in a grade, players may not interchange in that same grade, except prior to season commencement, when clubs may move a player up, by a date set by council each year.

3.4 Appeal on a Grading Decision

- a) A club may appeal their provisional paper grading by submitting in writing, on the form provided by MWNA, an appeal including the grounds for a review to the MWNA Competition Secretary/Grading Convenor by the date set by Council each year.
- b) The request for the appeal must state clearly and concisely the grounds for review, or why the grading decision should be changed.
- c) Appeals are not accepted after the results of physical grading.
- d) Depending on club size each club will nominate one member and should a club have more than 30 teams, two (2) named members to accompany team registrations, on the form provided by MWNA, and be available to attend MWNA Grading Appeals Hearings on a date set by council each year.
- e) Failure of the nominee to attend the selected appeal time will incur a fine set by Council, to the offending club.

- f) Selected members, despite their club appealing or not, are to be available to attend MWNA Grading Appeals Sessions on the dates set by council. Clubs who fail to nominate delegates to the grading appeals process by the due date are unable to submit appeals on behalf of their teams.
- g) Appeals Hearings are convened by the MWNA Grading Convenor and comprise the convenor, a grading committee member, three (3) of the club nominees submitted (drawn at random, excluding the club lodging the appeal). Any appeals upheld and teams moved due to the decision, MWNA Secretary will advise the affected Club and be given 24 hours to appeal the decision.
- h) Members of MWNA Grading Sub Committee are not eligible to be club appeal representatives.

4 Late Registrations

- a) Late registrations may be forwarded by Clubs to the Competition Secretary by 5pm on the Wednesday prior to the day of play.
- b) Late registration must comply with the Late Registration Guidelines provided by the Grading Sub Committee for each Competition.

5 Competition Rules

5.1 General Rules

- a) All Competition rules will be determined by Council each year.
- b) The umpire's whistle shall start and finish games on the indication from central timing.
- c) A team may claim a forfeit one (1) minute after the umpire's whistle to indicate commencement of play if the opposing team does not have five (5) players ready to play or an Umpire. All players in attendance must sign the scoresheet and a team official from each team will sign the official score sheet attesting to the forfeit. Under forfeit clause.
- d) No player shall play in a lower grade than the team in which the player is registered and graded. A player from a lower grade may play in a higher grade, provided that, having played four (4) matches in any higher grade, the player automatically becomes a registered member of the lowest higher team in which he/she has played.
- e) Two (2) wet weather half games, played on the same day count as one (1) game. Wet weather half games shall not be played on NSW Public School Holiday weekends.

- f) Any team fielding an ineligible player will be penalised as follows: Penalty for the winning team – loss of three (3) competition points. Two (2) points will be awarded to the opposition. Penalty for a losing team – loss of one (1) competition point. In the event of a drawn game, the team fielding an ineligible player will lose two (2) competition points, with the opposition being awarded one (1) competition point.
- g) Registered junior players who are 13 years and over may only play up in a senior team, as a reserve, for three (2) matches, after which they are considered senior for the completion of the season.
- h) Any borrowed player must comply with the current Playing Up Guidelines as distributed by the Grading subcommittee.
- i) Clubs may write to the Competition Secretary prior to the season commencing and throughout the season to move players from one team to another. Any player's movements must follow the playing up guidelines.
- j) Any 10-15 year A grade or equivalent divisional player playing up one (1) age group, may only play A or B grades. An A grade playing up two (2) or more age groups may only play A, B or C grades. An A or B grade player playing up one (1) age group may only play in A, B or C grades. An A or B grade player playing up two (2) or more age groups may only play in A, B, C or D grades. All other grades follow the same pattern.
- k) When a club is fielding more than one (1) team in a grade, players may not interchange in that same grade, except prior to season commencement, when clubs may move a player up, by a date decided by council each year.
- l) Teams must have five (5) registered members of their own team before they can take the court to play. A maximum of two (2) on court players only may be borrowed from a lower graded team from the same club as per clause 5.1.7. In the case of junior teams not being able to field a team during NSW Government school holidays only, this number is reduced to 4 own team registered members and up to 3 borrowed players.
- m) Teams will be penalised for fielding ineligible players as per clause 5.1 e).
- n) MWNA Representative and Development team members, when playing as a representative team in a higher grade than their respective club teams, shall be allowed to remain in their club teams.
- o) If a player has a pre-existing medical condition particularly that, which could constitute a health risk to either the player concerned or any other person, either now or in the future, for insurance purposes, should disclose such conditions to the Association. Should the player be pregnant, they should immediately refer to the policy issued by Netball Australia and accord with that policy. (Refer Netball Australia website).

- p) The Umpires shall have the authority to veto any article of attire that may be considered dangerous.
- q) All competition players must indicate their participation in the match. When a team fails to complete the score sheet or e-scoring system, as set down by the Association, such team shall lose one (1) point and in the semi-finals, finals and grand finals it shall mean the loss of the game.
- r) A team winning by forfeit shall return score sheet, if applicable, signed by a minimum of five (5) players or minimum five (5) players assigned to the team on the e-scoring platform. Duty Official to claim the forfeit, unless prior official notification of the forfeit has been received by the Competition Secretary and the opposing club.

5.2 Representative Player in Club Team Rule

This Rep Rule's purpose is to discourage individual representative players from moving to a club where there are already rep players. It is a far better competition to have the rep players spread over multiple club teams.

It is MWNA philosophy that all players should where possible play in their own age group.

DEFINITIONS

Grass Roots Player – a player who has been with the same club since the age of 10 years or one who has played two (2) consecutive years with the same club or has not registered with Netball NSW previously.

Imported Representative Player – a current representative player who does not meet the criteria of a grass roots representative.

Representative Player – a player in a-MWNA representative or development team or other Association Championship team, high performance, or elite team for that year.

REP RULE

- a. 12 years to 15 years current year representative players should play in their own age group regardless of the number of representative players in a team.
- b. 14 years and 15 years Representative teams may, if the Rep coaches request it, play a second game in a higher grade, as graded by the Grading Committee.
- c. Any team regardless of the number of representative players, which is significantly stronger than the remainder of their age "A" grade may be graded into a higher age "A" grade at the discretion of the grading committee.
- d. Any number of representative grassroots players are allowed on the court at any one time.
- e. If any Imported Representative player takes the court, a maximum of only three (3), representative players are permitted on court at the same time.

- f. Current year 12 – 15 year representative players are not permitted to be registered into a Cadet team or allowed to play up as a borrowed player into any Cadet grade.
- g. In exceptional circumstances, a club may appeal to the Executive Committee to have a player exempted from the Rep Player Ruling. Any appeal to be submitted in time for consideration at the March Executive Meeting. Such a decision will be binding, and no appeal heard.

GUIDELINES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF REP PLAYERS IN CLUB TEAMS

- a) All “A” grade team managers (or team representative) of age groups impacted by the Rep Rule to attend an information meeting at the start of their time slot before they play on day 1.
- b) Any dispute to be notified to the control room immediately is identified. An Executive member goes to the court and if infringement is proved appropriate penalties to apply. Ineligible player - penalty for a winning team – A Forfeit win will be awarded to the non-offending team.

5.3 Forfeit Procedure

5.3.1 Forfeits before the day of play:

Secretary of forfeiting club to contact secretary of opposing club and Association Competition Secretary via email, notifying a forfeit. Secretary of opposing club to verify with Competition Secretary. Above procedure is to be completed by 5.00 pm on the night prior to play.

5.3.2 Forfeit on the day of play – advice of forfeit

A team member or club official is to contact the Association Competition Secretary or duty official. The Competition Secretary or duty official is to record name of caller and validate that caller is a team member or club official and that forfeit details are correct. If a team member advises the forfeit, the Competition Secretary or duty official is to advise a club official of forfeit and to contact an official from the opposing team’s club, if possible, to advise that their players do not need to attend but will be awarded the forfeit win.

5.3.3 Forfeit on day of play – no advice of forfeit

A team winning by forfeit shall return score sheet or finalise in the e-scoring system, signed by minimum of (5) players, to duty official to claim forfeit.

Forfeits (on the day) may be claimed one (1) minute after the bell is rung for commencement of game, if team is unable to take the court for any reason.

Team players receiving the forfeit win shall be credited with one (1) game played.

5.4 Competition Points

5.4.1 Points shall be awarded in competition matches as follows:

Three (3) points for a win

Two (2) points for a draw

One (1) point for a loss

Three (3) points for a forfeit win along with a game score of 10 – 0.

Nil (0) points for a forfeit loss

Nil (0) points for a bye

When two half games are played

- A team forfeiting that day's play shall be deemed to have incurred two (2) forfeits.
- A player borrowed by a team for that day's play shall be deemed to have played one (1) game with that team.
- If a game is abandoned prior to half time – nil points are awarded.
- If a game is abandoned at or after half time – the result is recorded as per scoresheet or e-scoring platform.
- Abandoned games are at the discretion of the MWNA Executive Committee. If a team decides to abandon a game before the end of the scheduled game time, it will result in a forfeit loss to that team.

Goal Average

$$\frac{\text{Goals Scored}}{\text{Goals Against}} \times 100$$

5.5 Cancellation

5.5.1 Wet Weather

Players should turn up to play unless MWNA has cancelled the games. Advice will be posted on MWNA website and social media. If the weather is uncertain on the day, cancellation times will be determined by the Executive each year.

When senior games are all played on hard courts at all time slots, games may be played, even when the grass courts are closed.

If games proceed and then if called off during the timeslot by MWNA the following will apply:

- a) If the game has reached half time and the game is called off due to inclement weather the game result will be taken at the time the game is called.

- b) If the game has not reached half time the game will be replayed as per clause 5.6.

5.5.2 Abandonment of Game

If a team decides to abandon a game before the end of the scheduled game time, then this game will be classified as being forfeited by that team and points awarded as per Clause 5.4.1.

5.6 Wet Weather Make Up Games

When a week is missed – the following week, two x half games are played, (EXCEPT IN PUBLIC SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, when they will be played the first game after school is resumed). The game of the date is played first half and the wet week the second half game. Teams go to the court and time indicated on the date in the official fixtures. This format is taken as TWO games for points or loss of points and TWO (2) games played.

Net Set Go games will be strictly played to the game of the day/Washed out games can be rescheduled after game 14 up to a maximum of 3.

5.7 Finals – Winter Competition

A Player must have played three (3) competition games with his/her club to be Eligible to play the semifinals, finals, or grand finals.

Once a player has participated in any games of the final series with any one team, he/she may not play with any other team in that final series.

When extenuating circumstances occur and with Council approval, the finals series may be reduced to 2 rounds. Ladder Position 1 vs Ladder Position 4 and Ladder Position 2 vs Ladder Position 3. The winner of each game progresses to the Grand Final. The loser of 1 v 4 becomes 4th on the ladder and the loser of 2 v 3 becomes 3rd on the ladder.

5.8 Finals – Spring and other Competitions

Player eligibility with Spring Competition and other competitions will be set by Council each year.

5.9 Adverse Weather

MWNA Executive will consult the Netball NSW Adverse Weather Policy when making decisions on delaying or postponing games.

6 Score Sheets

- a) One player or official is responsible for collecting and returning the scoresheets.
- b) All Senior players participating in games must sign the scoresheet. All Junior players must print their name on the score sheet.
- c) One official from each team is to sign the scoresheet verifying that participating players are as they appear on the scoresheet and that the final score is correct and agreed upon by both teams.
- d) Players playing up need to be recorded in the appropriate section on the scoresheet which includes full name, grade, team number and signature.
- e) Completed scoresheets will constitute finalised results and will be the reference point for any potential disputes. Penalties may be enforced for incomplete scoresheets.

7 Live scoring

- a) All players participating in the game must have their names added to the team list on the Netball HQ app.
- b) One Official from each team is to verify that the final score is correct.
- c) Borrowed players need to be added electronically to the team in the Netball HQ app as a fill in player and be eligible to participate in that game under the Competition Playing Up Guidelines.

8 Team Officials

8.1 Coaches

- a) Should hold a current Working With Children Check if a player in the team is under 18 which the clubs are responsible for verifying.
- b) Must be a current, registered, financial member of Netball Australia.

8.2 Managers and Primary Carers

- a) Should hold a current Working With Children Check if a player in the team is under 18 which the clubs are responsible for verifying.
- b) Should be a current, registered, financial member of Netball NSW. Australia.

8.3 Umpires

- a) Clubs must provide umpires to officiate on their games as set by the council each year.
- b) All umpires must be dressed in white dressed appropriately as per the Netball Australia Uniform Guidelines or club playing uniform with a white T-shirt over the top.
- c) Must be a current, registered, financial member of Netball NSW Australia.

9 Complaint Handling

- a) In accordance with the Association's Constitution and Policies.
- b) All registered Players, Umpires, and Team Officials are required to abide by all Manly Warringah Netball Association, Netball NSW and Netball Australia Constitution and Policies.

10 Insurance Policy Claims

Refer to MWNA web site or Netball NSW web site for details and claim form.