

Arawang Netball Association – Competition rules

Competitions

1. Arawang Netball Association (the Association) will manage netball competitions (the competitions)
2. Where there are sufficient nominated teams, the competitions will consist of a Junior Competition, an Intermediate Competition and a Senior Competition.
 - a. Each competition may be divided into divisions (also called 'grades') if there are sufficient teams.
3. The Association may also manage skills programs, carnivals, summer, social, and boys/men's competitions, and/or other activities as otherwise appropriate.

Playing Rules

4. Any competitions administered by the Association follow the [Official Rules of Netball](#) set by the International Netball Federation, except where differences are specified in these Competition Rules or deemed appropriate by the Committee.

Conduct

5. All Arawang players, officials and spectators are expected to behave in line with the [Netball Australia National Codes of Behaviour](#) and treat umpires, other players, spectators and officials with respect. Back-chatting and intimidation of umpires will not be tolerated at any level. Persistent offenders will be asked to leave the courts and/or competition and may be subject to disciplinary action by the Committee.
 - a. Any concerns regarding the conduct of a player, official, umpire or spectator should be raised with the Convenor or other Committee member as soon as possible. It is preferable to notify an official at the pavilion during the game where the unacceptable behaviour was noticed (e.g. at half or quarter time, or by sending a non-player during the game) so they can attend to the issue as quickly as possible. If the conduct issue is escalated, it may attract disciplinary action as per the rules of the association.

Team eligibility

6. A team may nominate in any competition and/or division if that team consists of players that meet the relevant eligibility criteria, including age group and gender as set out in these Competition Rules.
7. Any exception to the eligibility criteria will require prior approval from the Committee.
8. A team may represent or be part of a netball club or school group, or may enter as a stand-alone team.

Player eligibility – Age groups

9. Player eligibility for each of the competitions will be based on age group. Players may play in a competition above their age group, with consent of their parent/guardian if they are under the age of 18.

10. Players playing in a competition below their age group will require prior approval by the Committee.
11. The age grouping, based on their age at the end of competition is:
 - a. The Junior Competition will be open to players between the ages of 5 and 13.
 - b. The Intermediate Competition will be open to players between the ages of 11 and 17.
 - c. The Senior Competition will be open to players over the age of 13.
 - d. The Junior Skills Program/s will be open to players between the ages of 4 and 8.
 - e. The Summer Competition is open to all players
 - f. Carnivals and other competitions will be open to players meeting eligibility requirements

Player eligibility – Financial

12. Before taking the court, players must be registered financial members of the association.
 - a. In most cases, this will involve the player having registered via the online *mynetbal*¹ and paid registration fees in full before taking the court.
 - b. Registration provides the required player insurance for a player.
13. Teams who play an unregistered player may face disciplinary action including the loss of competition points.
14. Players under financial hardship may discuss a payment plan or alternative payment arrangements with their team, club or school.

Players registered to multiple teams

15. A player may only register in more than one team when in different competitions. e.g. a player may register in a Division 1 Intermediates team and an A Grade Seniors team;
16. A player may not register in more than one team in a division. e.g. a player may not register in a Division 3 Intermediates team and a Division 1 Intermediates team.

Player gender

17. The Junior Competition is open to both male and female players.
18. Where boys are part of a mixed junior team, there may be a maximum of three (3) boys on the court at one time, and they must be separated in positions across the thirds of the court. There may a maximum of one boy in GS or GA; one boy in WA, C or WD; and one boy in GD or GK.
19. The Intermediate Competition and the Senior Competition are open to female players only. The Association supports the Gender Identity Position Statement that forms part of the [Member Protection Policy](#) of Netball Australia.

Playing in a higher competition or division

20. Players may play 'up' in a competition or a division of a competition which is above the one they are registered in. This is often used to cover instances where a team may be short of registered players due to absence or injury. Players should give preference to their club or school when playing up, but may play up in a team that is not from their club or school.

¹ Or other administration system used by the Association

21. A player may play up to four (4) games with a team in a higher division or competition in a season. On commencement of the fifth game with the same team, the player is deemed to be part of the team in the higher division or competition.
 - a. If the team is in the same competition, but in a higher division, the player is deemed to be part of that team and the player cannot return to his/her original team in the lower division.
 - b. If the team is in a different competition, the player must register with that team and pay any outstanding registration fees.
22. Rules for Junior Competition players:
 - a. A player who is over 9 years old and is registered in a team in the Junior Competition may play up in a team registered in the Intermediate Competition (e.g. a player registered in a Year 6 team may play up in a Division 3 Intermediates team).
 - b. A player who is registered in a team in the Junior Competition may play up in a team in a higher division within the Junior Competition (i.e. a player registered in a Year 4 team may play up in a Year 6 team).
 - c. Junior players may not play up in a team in the Senior Competition.
23. Rules for Intermediate Competition players:
 - a. A player who is registered in a team in the Intermediate Competition may play up in a team registered in the Senior Competition (e.g. a player registered in a Division 1 Intermediates team may play up in a B grade Seniors team). A senior team in C grade or lower may only use a maximum of two (2) Intermediate Division 1 players to play up.
 - b. A player who is registered in a team in the Intermediate Competition may play up in a team in a higher division within the Intermediate Competition (e.g. a player registered in a Division 4 Intermediates team may play up in a Division 1 Intermediates team).
24. Rules for Senior Competition players
 - a. A player who is registered in a team in the Senior Competition may play up in a team in a higher division within the Senior Competition (i.e. a player registered in a B Grade Seniors team may play up in an A Grade Seniors team).
 - b. A senior team in C grade or lower may only use a maximum of two (2) Intermediate Division 1 players to play up.

GAME TIMINGS

25. Games will generally be timed centrally from the pavilion. Games may be timed individually in some circumstances. Game timings will be as follows, but may be adjusted by the Grade Convenor or Committee if necessary, including due to court conditions and/or weather conditions:
 - a. The Junior Competition will play four (4) x 10 minute quarters with quarter breaks of 2 minutes and a half time break of 3 minutes
 - b. The Intermediate Competition will play four (4) x 10 minute quarters with quarter breaks of 2 minutes and a half time break of 3 minutes
 - c. The Senior Competition will play four (4) x 12 minute quarters with quarter breaks of 2 minutes and a half time break of 3 minutes

26. For the purposes of points allocation, a game will be considered as completed if at least two quarters have been completed.
- a. What happens for an incomplete game?
 - b. If a game is cancelled in the third quarter, the half time score will be considered the final score.
 - c. If a game is cancelled in the fourth quarter, the three-quarter time score will be considered the final score.

11. GAME TIMES

27. For the winter season, all competitions will run across the following timeslots.
- a) The **Junior Competition** will run at 9:20am, 10:10 am and 11:00am, except in the case of a wet weather draw (see Section 28 (iv) of these Rules).
 - b) The **Intermediate Competition** will run at 12:00pm and 1:00pm.
 - c) The **Senior Competition** will run at 2:00pm and 3:00pm.
28. The Committee may vary these timeslots as required. Notice of variation will be provided via the Association's web presence if any game times are varied.

GRADING

29. Teams may request a particular division of a competition when nominating their team. The Committee and the competition convenors will make every effort to ensure teams are playing in a division which is appropriate to the age group and skill level of the team and in some cases this may not match the division nominated by the team.
30. Teams may be moved between divisions during the season. Teams who are premiers in a particular division of a competition may expect to be moved to the division above in the following season if appropriate.

SCORING

31. Players or an official are to place the names of the players on the score sheet prior to the completion of the game. Ideally this should happen before the game commences or at the first break, to ensure attendance is registered in case of injury or illness for insurance purposes.
32. Each team is to provide one scorer for each game. Scorers should sit or stand together for the duration of the game. In cases where the scorers do not sit or stand together or one team does not provide a scorer, no disputes over the score will be entered into.
33. Scorers must record each goal scored and tally them at the end of the game. Scorers should also tally goals by quarter, record centre passes and record goals missed.
34. Scoring is optional for the Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 Junior Competition divisions.

POINTS ALLOCATION AND COMPETITION LADDERS

35. The allocation of competition points for the purpose of creating a competition ladder will be as follows:
- a. 5 points for a win
 - b. 1 point for a loss
 - c. 3 points for a draw
 - d. 0 points for a bye

- e. 0 points for a forfeit (to the forfeiting team)
 - f. 5 points for a win on forfeit (to the team forfeited to)
 - g. 0 points if the game is cancelled or abandoned (e.g. due to inclement weather) if less than two quarters are completed and the game is not rescheduled
36. A competition ladder will be maintained by the Convenor or their delegate for all divisions with the exception of any Year 2, Year 3 and/or Year 4 Junior divisions, which are non-competitive divisions. The competition ladders may be made available electronically and/or via the Association's website.
37. If, due to cancellation of matches during the season, even rounds are not able to be completed, the Committee may determine ladder positions for finals utilising means other than the traditional match points ladder. This may include utilising goals for and goals against results and number of matches played and/or points ratio calculations.
38. If, at the completion of all rounds of a division, two teams are in contention for finals and are on the same competition points, their ladder position will be determined by percentage. The percentage is usually calculated using the following equation:
- a) $\text{Goals Scored} / (\text{Goals Scored} + \text{Goals Scored Against}) * 100$

Penalty points

39. The Committee may decide to deduct competition points from a single team or group of teams from a club or school. The committee may deduct points from a team or group of teams for:
- a. failing to meet umpiring commitments
 - b. playing an unregistered player
 - c. non-attendance at any general meeting of the Association, including the annual general meeting
 - d. persistent forfeiting of matches
 - e. in response to disciplinary action taken by the Committee

Forfeits

40. If five (5) minutes have elapsed since the sounding of the hooter or the start of the timer indicating start of play, and a team cannot field at least five (5) players, that team will be considered to have forfeited that match.
41. Persistent forfeiting may result in the deduction of competition points and/or the team may be withdrawn from the competition.

Finals

42. Senior Competitions and Intermediate Competitions will complete a finals series.
43. In the Junior Competition,
- a. the Year 6 division will complete a finals series, and
 - b. the Year 5 competition will award winners and runners up according to the ladder after the final game of the season.
 - c. The Year 2, 3 and 4 divisions of the Junior Competition do not complete finals.
44. The structure of the finals is usually a two-week sudden death series.

- a. Semi-finals are 1 v 4 and 2 v 3 with winners going on to the grand final and losers being eliminated.
 - b. The finals structure may be varied by agreement of the Committee if required.
45. If a team provides a week or more notice that they are unable to field a team for a final, the committee reserves the right to invite the next ranked team on the competition ladder to compete in the final's series in the place of the withdrawn team.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY FINALS

46. A player must take part in and appear on the scoresheet for at least 5 round games to be eligible to play finals.
47. A player must be registered and financial to be eligible to play finals.
48. Byes and wins on forfeit will be counted as a game played for the purposes of eligibility to play finals, for all players who have played at least one game and appear on the scoresheet prior to the bye to forfeit.
49. Forfeits by their team will not be counted towards games played.
50. Playing unqualified, unregistered and/or unfinancial player(s) in a final will result in an automatic and/or retrospective forfeit of a final regardless of the actual outcome.

Replacement players for finals

51. A team may use replacement player(s) for finals where they are unable to field a full team of eligible players or have only seven (7) eligible players available.
52. The same rules for playing in a higher division apply to sourcing replacement players for finals (see Section 8 of these Rules), however a player may not fill in for another club or school team in finals if that team is playing a team from the replacement player's club or school. For example, if Team A is playing Team B in a final and both are from different clubs or schools, Team A may not source a replacement player from Team B's club or school.
53. If the team is unable to field at least seven registered and eligible regular players, they must have at least five (5) registered and eligible regular players able to take the court to avoid a forfeit. They may use a maximum of three (3) registered replacement players from other teams to fill the empty positions and provide for one bench player. The five (5) registered regular players must play out the entire game unless they become injured or ill.
54. If a team has seven regular registered players available for finals, they may recruit a registered replacement bench player from another team, however the bench player may only take the court if one of the seven regular players becomes injured or ill.

20. STOPPAGES DUE TO ILLNESS, INJURY OR BLOOD

The association will follow Rule 9.3 of the International Rules of Netball with the exception of Rule 9.3.1 (ii) which states that the bleeding, injured or ill player must leave the court once the umpires have held time. Given the nature of the association's competitions, and that there are junior players involved, if the player is found to be fit and able to continue play at the completion of the 30 second illness or injury period, they may resume play in either their initial position, or any other position on the court in their team.

First Aid

55. The Association endeavours to have a person trained in first aid available on all playing days.
56. Any injuries or illnesses should be reported to the Convener/Committee member/other official as soon as possible.
 - a. Reports are to be completed if the injury is more than minor
57. Teams are required to supply their own first aid kit.
 - a. Players with pre-existing injuries must supply and use their own strapping tape.
58. Ice and first aid supplies are available at the Pavilion, however strapping tape found within the Association's first aid kit is intended for new injuries only where team supplies have run out.

Injuries and illness – Recording and insurance

59. Players and officials are responsible for ensuring that any injuries or illnesses sustained in the course of an Association approved event are recorded in the Association *Injury Book*.
60. Association approved events include all scheduled playing days at the Arawang courts (Sherratt Pl, Stirling, ACT), any Arawang representative games or training sessions whether at the Arawang courts or at other venues which have prior approval of the Committee, and any training sessions conducted at the Arawang courts by teams registered with the Association. Any training sessions conducted at venues other than the Arawang courts will require prior approval of the Committee to be covered for insurance.
61. Limited injury insurance is only available to registered financial members of the Association.
62. Information regarding injury insurance and the details of the insurer may be made available via the Association's web presence.

Jewellery

63. Players should avoid wearing jewellery when playing netball wherever possible.
64. Wearing watches or other large jewellery while playing netball is not allowed.
65. Small earrings and other small exposed piercings may be completely covered by tape.
66. Rings are not allowed with the exception of flat wedding bands which must be taped or rings with flat or small settings which must be taped and worn under gloves.
67. Medic alert jewellery may be taped.

Glasses and sunglasses

Only prescription glasses and prescription sunglasses may be worn.

Gloves and fingernails

68. Netball gloves may be worn.
69. If gloves are not worn, fingernails should be kept short and smooth.
70. An umpire may refuse permission for a player to take the court until their nails are short and smooth to the umpire's satisfaction, or they put on a pair of gloves.

Uniform

71. Each team must have a preferred uniform. Players should make every effort to wear the preferred uniform of their team, club or school. The uniform may consist of a dress and/or a top and short/pant/skirt combination.

72. Players may wear long sleeved tops, jackets or jumpers in conjunction with their uniform as long as their positional patch is clearly visible.
73. Players may wear leggings, compression sportswear or tracksuit pants in conjunction with their uniform.
74. Players must wear closed-toe athletic shoes suitable for playing a court sport when participating in a game.
 - a. Players may not wear sandals, dress shoes/boots or flip-flops/thongs.
75. Players who are participating in a game must wear positional patches when on the court.
 - a. The printing on the patches must be sufficiently clear to allow easy identification of a player's position.

Umpiring Commitments

76. Teams participating in the Junior Competition and the Intermediate Competition will be expected to provide one umpire per game and will operate on an 'umpire-your-own' basis.
77. Teams participating in the Senior Competition will be required to take part in an umpiring roster. These teams will be required to provide two umpires most weeks and will be required to umpire the opposite timeslot to the one played. Teams are encouraged to check the umpiring roster carefully and ensure their duties are covered.
78. Teams participating in other competitions will normally be expected to participate in the umpiring roster.
79. Failure to meet umpiring commitments may result in the loss of competition points and/or the team involved may have to play with 5 or 6 players for the following week's game, depending on the number of umpires who did not attend their duty.

Wet weather and adverse conditions

80. Please see the Association's **Adverse conditions policy**
81. Players and others playing in open-air environments are encouraged to use sun screen throughout the year.

Terms

Association means Arawang Netball Association

Committee means the Arawang Netball Association Committee

Convener means the person appointed by the Association (or Committee) to coordinate a competition

Revision History

Effective Date	Changes
February 2017	Document created
May 2018	Update links and game times
February 2020	Updated competitions, links, formatted to be accessible, and minor updates