



GRADING POLICY AND PROCEDURES & RULES FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS AND COMPETITIONS

**Adopted by NSW Netball Association Ltd
Council Meeting
on 5th November 2011**

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GENERAL PROCEDURES

1. Except for Rule 2 only affiliated District and League Associations are eligible to enter competitions or events conducted by Netball NSW.
2. Regions, Zones, ACT and the AIS can be admitted to enter any competition subject to the approval of Council at the November Council meeting in the year preceding the event. The Board of Directors may also admit other teams to various competitions on an invitation basis as required.
3. All players entered into a Netball NSW competition must be a financial registered member of Netball NSW or relevant State or Territory prior to the commencement of that competition.
4. The closing date for all competitions will be notified at the November Council meeting in the year previous to the event. The closing date for the particular competition is also notified on the relevant entry form and on the Netball NSW website.
5. No changes shall be made to any rule for any Competition after the November Council meeting in the year previous any event.
6. Any changes to entry fees for competitions for the ensuing year will be approved at the November Council meeting.
7. All entries for Competitions must be lodged on the official Team Entry form by the published date for close of entries. Late entries will only be accepted as detailed in Rule 8 below.
8. Where an entry is not received by the published closing time for entries, upon the payment of the prescribed fee, a late entry will be accepted provided that the late entry is received by Netball NSW by 5.00pm on the next Tuesday after the close of entries for the relevant competition.
9. The late entry fee for Region 1 competitions shall be \$1,000.00. No late entry fee shall be applicable to competitions held in Regions 2 – 8.
10. The late entry fee for State and State Age Championships shall be \$500.00 for all District and League Associations.
11. Where a District/League Association, Region, Zone, ACT or AIS withdraws a team from any Netball NSW competition within three (3) weeks of the commencement of the particular competition the offending body will be fined \$500.00. Appeal rights apply.

GRADING PROCEDURE – REGION 1 STATE LEAGUE

1. The format for the competitions shall be divisional, according to the number of entries received.
2. There will be a maximum of 80 teams able to compete in the Region 1 State League competition.
3. Subject to Rules 2 and 4 the maximum numbers of teams that can be entered in the Region 1 State League competition by a District Association is unlimited, however, where the number of entries received exceeds 80 teams, each District will be limited to their four highest graded teams. Where this then reduces the number of entries to less than 80, the rejected entries will be subject to a ballot to determine which team or teams are accepted.
4. A District Association is permitted to have one team only in each division of a competition.
5. Ten (10) teams will be graded into each of the top five (5) divisions. For the remaining divisions there is to be a minimum of eight (8) teams and a maximum of ten (10) teams graded into each Division having regard to the provision of a balanced competition. Where it is not possible to grade a minimum of eight (8) teams in a division those teams unable to be graded will be balloted out.
6. District Associations shall register teams on the approved player entry form together with a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of twelve (12) players' names and their relevant experience as detailed in Rule 7, by the closing date of entries for the competition.
7. All grading shall be based on names submitted on the official entry form and confirmed by previous playing status as detailed on the Netball NSW Player Database.
8. Each District Association is required to provide a Statutory Declaration signed by a District Association Official with their team entry sheets attesting as follows:
"I certify that all players nominated on each team entry form submitted for grading into the Region 1 State League competition have been advised of and agreed to their nomination in the team for which they are currently entered."
Penalty: If it is proven that a District Association Official has signed a false declaration and therefore breached this provision a fine of \$1,000.00 will be imposed on the District Association(s) concerned. Further penalties that may be applicable in signing a false declaration are advised on the Statutory Declaration.
9. Where a player's name appears on more than one team entry form the player will be contacted by Netball NSW personnel prior to grading and the player must then immediately nominate the District Association that they will be playing with. The District Associations concerned will be advised accordingly.
10. District Associations are permitted to register only one (1) import player into the Waratah Cup Division 1 team. An import player is defined as a player who is registered in a Tasman Trophy team in the current year or an international player who has played at the international level in an Open competition within the previous year. An import player can only be registered in the Waratah Cup competition.

11. A Tasman Trophy player returning after injury may participate in the Waratah Cup under the following conditions:
- (i) Netball NSW in consultation with a relevant District Association will allocate the player to a team. Where there is no import in a Waratah Cup team the player is automatically allocated to that team.
 - (ii) The player may participate in Waratah Cup matches for a maximum of eight (8) quarters within a four (4) week period.
 - (iii) Only one import can be on the court at any one time.
 - (iv) The player returning from injury does not count as a late registered player.
 - (v) There is not a requirement to de-register any player to accommodate the player returning from injury.

12. Subsequent to the close of registrations for the Waratah Cup any player selected in a TTNL team as a replacement player will not be classed as an import player for the purposes of Clause 10.

13. Players must turn 15 years of age in the year of play to be eligible to be registered in any division of the competition. A maximum of three (3) players in total of that age qualification can only be registered by that District including de-registrations and late registrations.

14. Grading is based on five (5) players with the highest playing status. The playing status of players 6 to 12 are not counted.

Where more than ten (10) eligible teams are submitted for a grade with equal points, the points allocated to the next highest ranked player in each team will be used to determine ranking.

15. Status points for players are only retained over the two (2) previous consecutive years. Playing status is based on the highest grade played in the preceding year (ie. the grade in which the player played a minimum of three (3) games in the relevant grade). If the player has no status points from the previous year, status points from the year before that is to be accepted provided the player had played a minimum of three (3) games in the relevant grade in that year.

16. Status points for players in the following categories are awarded in accordance with the following table if they were a member of that particular category:

Tasman Trophy Player	To 99 points
International Player*	To 99 points
Australian Institute of Sport#	To 95 points
State League – Interstate+	To 65 points

* for the purposes of Rule 16 an International Player is a player who has played for an overseas country that is affiliated with IFNA in an Open team at any time in the previous year of the competition for which the player has been entered OR has been selected by Netball Australia and has played in an Australian Open team at any time in the previous year of the competition for which the player has been entered.

for the purposes of Rule 16 an Australian Institute of Sport player is any player who has been a residential scholarship holder during the previous calendar year of the competition for which the player has been entered.

+ for the purposes of Rule 16 an Interstate State League player is any player who has played State League in any Metropolitan based competition in any State or Territory in the previous year of the competition for which the player has been entered.

For the purposes of Rule 16 a Tasman Trophy Player, an International Player or an Australian Institute of Sport player can only be registered in the Waratah Cup competition.

Where any player identified under Rule 16 is registered in the previous year's competition and does not play 3 games in the team in which they have been registered that player does not qualify to have any status points when next registered in the competition notwithstanding in some circumstances Rule 15 may apply..

17. Excluding the provisions as detailed in Rule 16 no grading status is awarded to any player who did not play at least three games in a State League Region 1 competition in the previous year.
18. Status points for players who qualified in State League Region 1 are awarded in accordance with the following table:

Waratah Cup	90 points	
State League Division 2	80 points	
State League Division 3	70 points	
State League Division 4	60 points	
State League Division 5	50 points	
State League Division 6	40 points	
State League Division 7	30 points	
State League Division 8	20 points	
17 & Under teams finishing:	Championship Division: 1 st to 5th	17 points
	Championship Division: 6 th to 10th	15 points
	Championship Division: Balance	13 points
	Division 2	10 points
	Division 3	6 points
15 yrs State Age teams finishing:	Championship Division: 1 st to 5th	14 points
	Championship Division: 6 th to 10th	12 points
	Championship Division: Balance	9 points
	Division 2: 1 st to 10th	7 points
	Division 2:	5 points
	Division 3:	3 points
	Division 4	2 points

Points are added for the players in the team finishing in the following positions:

1 st	10 points
2 nd	9 points
3 rd	8 points
4 th	7 points
5 th	5 points
6 th	4 points
7 th	3 points
8 th	2 points
9 th	1 point

Any team finishing in last position (including equal last) shall receive 0 additional points.

Note: The team that finished last excludes teams participating on an invitational basis.

Special Loading: any player eligible to play in a team that won a grand final in a Division of the State League competition in the previous year – 1 point additional

Grading status is applied to a player who played at least three games in the same team in the previous year. E.g. a player who played at least 3 games in Division 4 and at least 3 games in Division 2 receives 80+ playing status points. A player who played at least 3 games in Division 4 and 2 games in Division 2 receives 60+ playing status points.

19. Except in the case of the Waratah Cup, where a team wins a grand final and five (5) qualified players are retained in the same team from the previous year (the year they won the grand final) that team is guaranteed promotion to the next higher grade, however only one team per District Association is permitted in any Division. This Clause over rides Rule 18.
20. Where two or more teams have equal status points the grading priority will be determined by the final finishing position of the teams in the same grade in the previous year. Where two teams have equal status points and played in different Divisions in the previous year or did not compete in any division in the previous year the grading priority will be determined by the team that played in the higher division. For the purposes of this clause only, teams are defined as having at least five (5) players from the previous season.
21. Provisional grading of teams will be completed and advised on the Netball NSW website together with all players' names and the team and division in which they have been placed within five working days of the published closing date for entries.
22. Districts have seven (7) days from the date of notification of provisional grading on the website in which to lodge an appeal with the Appeals Tribunal in relation to a grading decision.

23. On completion of final grading, all players' names and the team and division in which they have been placed will be listed on the Netball NSW website for the duration of the competition. De-registrations and late registrations will also be identified on the Netball NSW website throughout the competition by either deletion or addition to the original team list.
24. On completion of final grading all official team entries together with player status will be updated on the Netball NSW database and maintained by the Netball NSW office. The database is only available to Netball NSW staff, the Grading Panel and the Appeals Tribunal.
25. The player status details as identified in Rule 23 will remain on the Netball NSW website for two subsequent years after the completion of the current competition.
26. There shall be no late registration of players accepted between the close of entries and one week before the commencement of the competition.
27. After a team has been graded, any player to be late registered must meet the following criteria:
- (i) A player with approved playing status can only be late registered into a team as follows:

Playing Status	Lowest Division Eligible to Late Register
Tasman Trophy/International	Waratah Cup
Waratah Cup	Division 2
Division 2	Division 4
Division 3	Division 5
Interstate State League	Division 6
Division 4	Division 6
Division 5	Division 7
 - (ii) Where a player is to be late registered in the relevant districts highest graded division the approved playing status of the player to be late registered is not applicable.
 - (iii) A player with no playing status can be late registered in any grade.
 - (iv) Where a player(s) is late registered into a team no regrading of that or any other team will occur.
28. A maximum of four (4) players may be "late registered" in each team any time from one week before the commencement of the competition until the end of the competition.

A "late registration" is defined as follows:

- (i) Where a player has not been registered in the current competition or has been de-registered and is to be re-registered in the same team in the same grade. A late registration fee is payable.

- (ii) Where a player transfers from one Division to a higher Division by virtue of playing three games in the higher graded team that player is counted as a “late registration” in that higher graded team. In these circumstances no additional fees are payable.
29. Where Netball NSW rejects an application to late register a player the District or player concerned has the right of appeal to the Appeals Tribunal.

PLAYING RULES FOR REGION 1 STATE LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

1. The commencing dates for all Region 1 State League competitions shall be advised at the November Council meeting and as notified on the Netball NSW website.
2. Competition matches are to played as follows:

Anne Clark Centre

(a)	Waratah Cup	Wednesday night
(b)	State League Division 2	Tuesday night
(c)	State League Division 3	Monday night
(d)	State League Division 4	Thursday night
(e)	State League Division 5	Saturday
(f)	State League Division 6	Saturday
(g)	State League Division 7	Saturday
(h)	State League Division 8	Saturday

In extenuating circumstances where Netball NSW has a requirement, the playing time, night and/or location of fixture matches may be altered after consultation with and where possible agreement of the teams/District Associations concerned.

3. The fixture for all Divisions of the competition will be posted on the Netball NSW website at least one (1) week prior to the commencement of the competition where possible.
4. Each player must play in the identical playing uniform except where prior approval has been given.
5. Each team is to provide up to two (2) approved scorers/timekeepers according to the draw. District Associations shall provide an approved stopwatch. Where a District Association fails to provide the appropriate number of approved scorers/timekeepers a fine of \$50.00 will be imposed. Netball NSW will remove any non-approved person from the bench and a fine of \$50.00 will be imposed on the offending District Association.
6. Each team is to have available two sets of positional patches in different colours.
7. Except for the provisions detailed in Clause 11 of the Grading Procedure a team is not permitted to have more than 12 players registered at any time.
8. A maximum of four (4) players may be "late registered" in each team any time from one week before the commencement of the competition until the end of the competition.

A "late registration" is defined as follows:

- (i) Where a player has not been registered in the current competition or has been de-registered and is to be re-registered in the same team in the same grade. A late registration fee is payable.

- (ii) Where a player transfers from one Division to a higher Division by virtue of playing three games in the higher graded team that player is counted as a “late registration” in that higher graded team. In these circumstances no additional fees are payable.

9. Late registrations are to be submitted on the appropriate form by a District Association official to Netball NSW prior to the commencement of the match in which they are to play.

10. After all team grading has been confirmed any player to be late registered must meet the following criteria:

- (i) A player with approved playing status can only be late registered into a team as follows:

Playing Status	Lowest Division Eligible to Late Register
Tasman Trophy/International	Waratah Cup
Waratah Cup	Division 2
Division 2	Division 4
Division 3	Division 5
Interstate State League	Division 6
Division 4	Division 6
Division 5	Division 7

- (ii) Where a player is to be late registered in the relevant District Associations highest graded division an approved playing status of the player to be late registered is not applicable.

- (iii) A player with no playing status can be late registered in any grade.

11. Where Netball NSW rejects an application to late register a player the District Association or player concerned has the right of appeal to the Appeals Tribunal.

12. A de-registered player may only be re-registered in the same team in the same grade.

13. A re-registered player is counted as a late registration and therefore must play a minimum of three games to qualify for finals after the date of the re-registration.

14. Players cannot play in a grade lower than the grade in which they were originally graded.

15. If a District Association records the name of an unregistered player on the score sheet, the District Association will be required to prove within seven (7) days of notification that the person who played under that name is registered with that team.

Such proof shall be in the form of a Statutory Declaration to Netball NSW. Failure to submit such proof within seven (7) days of notification shall result in the loss of two competition points.

16. Any change to the name of a player already registered is to be advised in writing by a District Association official to Netball NSW within seven (7) days of the date of change of name. Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$100.00.

17. A player may participate in a maximum of two matches per week provided that they play either in the team in which they are registered or in teams in higher grades. At all times the player must play with the District Association with which they are registered. A playing week is deemed to be from Wednesday to Tuesday.
18. Where a player plays three matches in a grade higher than that originally graded, on playing the third game in the same higher graded team, the player will remain in that higher graded team for the remainder of the season.
19. A team may claim a forfeit one (1) minute after the time set down for the commencement of the match, if the opposing team does not have five (5) players in full uniform on court and ready to play.
20. No disputes will be entered into regarding score sheets.
21. In circumstances where team officials of both teams involved testify that the score sheet submitted to Netball NSW is incorrect and further they agree on the correct score Netball NSW has the discretion to vary the official scores.
22. To be eligible to participate in semi finals, finals and grand finals players must have played in at least three (3) competition matches with the relevant team in that competition except for defined import players who must play in a minimum of 50% of the competition rounds of the Division 1 Waratah Cup competition.
23. Any team found playing an ineligible player in the final series will be considered to have lost that match in which the ineligible player has taken part and the game will be awarded to the opposing team.
24. Any player found to be ineligible to take part in the final series will not be permitted to take any further part in the final series.

25. *Points Table*

<i>Win</i>	<i>Loss</i>	<i>Draw</i>	<i>Forfeit</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Abandoned</i>
2	0	1	2	0	1*

*If game abandoned prior to half time – 1 point each team

*If game abandoned at or after half time – result as per score sheet at that time to apply.

26. *Goal Average*

(a) If two or more teams finish on equal points after the final round of matches, positions for final series shall be decided on goal averages.

(b) The goal average for each team shall be decided as follows:

Total number of goals scored by the team, divided by the total number of goals scored against the team, multiplied by 100 and divided by the actual number of matches played by that team.

i.e
$$\frac{\text{goals scored}}{\text{goals scored against}} \times \frac{100}{\text{matches played}}$$

The number of matches actually played includes a match a team has forfeited, but does not include a match where the team has received a forfeit.

27. The competition shall be conducted on a points score basis and semi finals, finals and grand finals shall be played.
28. If there is a draw in semi finals, finals and grand finals, a two (2) minute interval shall be taken.
During the interval the score will be verified and the teams change ends. During the interval there may be substitutions and/or team changes.
The umpire will indicate which team has the next centre pass and play will commence. Then two (2) seven minute halves will be played to determine a winner. After the first seven (7) minutes the team will change ends without an interval. No substitutions or positional changes shall be allowed during the changeover.
If still a draw at the end of the second seven (7) minutes, a visual signal will indicate that play continues and the first team to score a two (2) goals advantage shall be declared the winner.
29. A trophy shall be presented to the winning and runner-up District in each Division.
30. Embroidered patches shall be awarded to Team Officials (Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager and Primary Care) and players of the winning and runner up teams in each Division.
31. *Umpires*
 - (a) The Umpires Operating Panel will determine the umpiring format for the competitions.
 - (b) The Umpires Operating Panel will undertake the allocation of umpires to all matches.
 - (c) The names of approved umpires qualified to umpire State League are to be forwarded by District Associations to Netball NSW within one week of the notification of the provisional grades for the competition.
 - (d) Where a District fails to forward the names of the approved umpires by the due date a fine of \$500.00 will be imposed on the offending District Association. Repeated offences by a District Association will result in the District Association having to show cause to the Appeals Tribunal as to why their District Association's team(s) should not be excluded from the competition.
 - (e) Approved umpires for each Division are as follows:
 - (i) Division 1 – Waratah Cup
Each District Association may be required to provide an accredited National "A" badge or higher qualified umpire.

- (ii) State League Divisions 2 – 6
Each District Association is required to provide an accredited National “B” badge or higher qualified umpire for each team entered.
- (iii) State League Divisions 7 – 8
Each District Association is required to provide an accredited National badged umpire for each team entered.
- (iv) Where a District Association does not supply a National “A” badged or higher qualified umpire for the Waratah Cup that District Association will be required to provide an additional qualified National badged umpire for allocation to other matches.
- (v) National C badged umpires may be coached and/or tested on any divisions of State League as allocated by the Umpires Operating Panel.
- (f) If an umpire has not arrived 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the match, a replacement umpire may take the court, providing that umpire meets the provisions laid down.
- (g) District Associations whose umpires fail to fill their allocation by a non-attendance will be fined \$500.00 for each duty not fulfilled except in extenuating circumstances.
- (h) Female umpires shall be dressed in white dress or skirt and top, male umpires shall be dressed in white shorts and shirt.
- (i) Any qualified umpire may apply to the Umpires Operating Panel to be allocated to matches.



GRADING PROCEDURE FOR REGIONS 2 – 8 STATE LEAGUE / INTER DISTRICT COMPETITIONS

1. The Regional Coordinator is responsible for convening a meeting of participating District Associations to decide dates, venues and the format for the ensuing year.
2. Team entries are to be received by the Regional Coordinator by the published closing date as agreed by the Region.
3. A District Association is permitted to enter one team only in each division, unless additional teams are required to ensure the viability or continuation of the competition.
4. The format for the final series is to be decided at the regional meeting, prior to the commencement of the competition.
5. A minimum of four (4) teams and a maximum of eight (8) teams shall participate in each division. Exception will only be made with the prior permission of Netball NSW.
6. There shall be no registration of players accepted between the published date for the close of entries and one week before the commencement of the competition.
7. Teams shall be graded according to the information detailed on the official entry form and as detailed in the Netball NSW Player Database.

RULES FOR REGIONS 2 - 8 STATE LEAGUE AND INTER DISTRICT COMPETITIONS

1. The fixture for all Divisions of the competition will be posted on the Netball NSW website at least one (1) week prior to the commencement of the competition where possible.
2. The name, address and telephone number of the Regional Coordinator and all District Association Secretaries names, addresses, telephone numbers and the location of each District Association's courts and telephone numbers will be listed.
3. Matches may be played on grass or hard courts, preferably hard courts. If matches are played on grass courts, notice to this effect shall be included in the fixture book.
4. At no time is a team permitted to have more than 12 players registered. A maximum of four (4) players may be late registered in each team after the commencement of the competition.
5. A de-registered player may only be re-registered in the same grade for the duration of the competition. A re-registered player is counted as a late registration.
6. Players may not play in a grade lower than the grade in which they were originally graded.
7. Players must play in the identical playing uniform except where prior approval has been given.
8. The competition shall be conducted on a points score basis.
9. Players need to have played two (2) matches with the relevant team, to qualify for finals series in one (1) round competitions.
10. If two (2) or more rounds are played, players must have played at least three (3) games to be eligible for the finals series
11. *Points Table*

Regional State League Points Table

<i>Win</i>	<i>Loss</i>	<i>Draw</i>	<i>Forfeit</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Abandoned*</i>
2	0	1	2	0	1

* If game abandoned prior to half time - 1 point each team

* If game abandoned at or after half time - result as per score sheet

12. *Goal Average*
 - (a) If two or more teams finish on equal points after the final round of matches, positions for finals series shall be decided on goal averages.
 - (b) The goal average for each team shall be decided as follows:

Total number of goals scored by the team, divided by the total number of goals scored against the team, multiplied by 100 and divided by the actual number of matches played by the team.

$$\text{i.e.} \quad \frac{\text{goals scored}}{\text{goals scored against}} \times \frac{100}{\text{matches played}}$$

The number of matches actually played includes a match a team has forfeited, but does not include a match where the team has received a forfeit

13. Score sheets are to be returned to the Regional Coordinator at the conclusion of each match.
14. If in the opinion of the Regional Coordinator and the host District Association matches are unable to be played due to inclement weather or the condition of courts, each team will be awarded one (1) point. By mutual agreement, teams may transfer the match to another venue. Points shall be awarded for all other matches played on that day.
15. Under extreme circumstances if a team is unable to fulfil their playing commitments, arrangements may be made with the Regional Coordinator to have the game(s) played within the next fourteen (14) days.
16. Any change to the name of a player already registered is to be advised in writing by a District Association official to the Regional Coordinator within seven (7) days. Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$100.00.
17. Late registrations are to be submitted on the appropriate form by a District Association official to the Regional Coordinator before playing.
18. After a team has been graded, any late registration should be of an equal playing standard. The Regional Coordinator may reject a late registration where it is considered the inclusion of the player would affect the grade of the team. In such circumstances the District Association or player concerned has the right of appeal to the Appeals Tribunal.
19. If a District Association records the name of an unregistered player on the score sheet, the District Association will be required to prove within seven (7) days that the person who played under that name is registered with that team.

This proof shall be in the form of a Statutory Declaration to the Regional Coordinator. Such proof shall be in the form of a Statutory Declaration to Netball NSW. Failure to submit such proof within seven (7) days of notification shall result in the loss of two (2) competition points.

20. A team may claim a forfeit one (1) minute after the time set down for the commencement of the match, if the opposing team does not have five (5) players in full uniform on court and ready to play.

21. Each team is to provide up to two (2) approved scorers/timekeepers according to the draw. District Associations are to provide an approved stopwatch.
22. A score sheet having been signed by both captains and umpires and lodged with the Regional Coordinator will not be returned to any team for any correction. No disputes will be entered into regarding score sheets.
23. In circumstances where team officials of both teams testify that the score sheet submitted to the Regional Coordinator is incorrect and further they agree on the correct score then the Regional Coordinator has the discretion to vary the official scores.
24. Any team found playing an ineligible player in the final series will be considered to have lost that match in which the ineligible player has taken part.
25. Any player found to be ineligible to take part in the final series will not be permitted to take any further part in the final series.
26. A trophy shall be presented to the winning and runner-up District Association in each Division.
27. Embroidered patches shall be awarded to the Manager, Coach, Assistant Coach, Primary Care and Players of the winning and runner up teams in each Division.
28. Each team is to have an approved match ball.
29. Each team is to have available two sets of position patches, of different colours.
30. Final results of each competition will be forwarded to Netball NSW for promulgation at the November Council meeting.
31. Any team forfeiting three (3) consecutive games will be excluded from the remainder of the competition.
32. The winning team shall be responsible for forwarding score sheets to reach the Regional Coordinator within five (5) days following each match. Failure to do so will result in no points being awarded to any team.
33. If there is a draw in semi finals, finals or grand finals, a two (2) minute interval shall be taken.

During the interval the score will be verified and the teams change ends. During the interval there may be substitutions and/or team changes.

The umpire will indicate which team has the next centre pass and play will commence. Then two (2) seven minute halves will be played to determine a winner. After the first seven (7) minutes the teams will change ends. No substitutions or positional changes shall be allowed during the changeover.

If still a draw at the end of the second seven (7) minutes, a visual signal will indicate that play continues and the first team to score a two (2) goals advantage shall be declared the winner.

34. Umpires

- (a) Each District Association is to provide a National badged umpire or other approved umpire for each team entered.
- (b) All umpires will be allocated by the Regional Organising Committee in conjunction with the Regional Coordinator.
- (c) With the approval of the Regional Organising Committee and in conjunction with the Regional Coordinator unbadged umpires may be accepted as part of a District Association's quota provided that they hold a current Section 1 pass (70%) and a current Level 1 Accreditation at the time of nomination.
- (d) Female umpires shall be dressed in a white dress or skirt and top, male umpires shall be dressed in white shorts and shirt.
- (e) In the event of inclement weather, white tracksuit pants and white wet weather jackets may be worn.
- (f) Unbadged umpires may be tested for practical badges:
 - after consultation with the Regional Coordinator; and
 - games comply with all requirements stated in the National Umpire Development Framework book.

GRADING PROCEDURE FOR REGION 1 - NIGHT INTER DISTRICT

1. The closing date for the Night Inter District competition shall be advised at the November Council meeting and as notified on the Netball NSW website.
2. Each District Association may enter a maximum of four (4) teams in the Night Inter District competition.
3. A District Association is permitted to have one team only in each division of the competition.
4. A maximum of ten (10) teams and a minimum of six (6) teams will be graded in each division of the Night Inter District competition.
5. District Associations shall register teams on the approved player entry form together with full details of a minimum of seven (7) and maximum of twelve (12) players' names and their relevant playing status, by the closing date for the competition.
6. All grading shall be based on names submitted on the official entry forms and previous playing status as detailed in the Netball NSW Player Database and State Age entry forms. The player status point system used for Region 1 State League is not used for grading purposes in the Night Inter District competition.
7. Grading is based on 7 players with the highest playing status from (i) the immediate preceding State League Region 1 competition or (ii) the immediate preceding State then State Age competition or (iii) the preceding Night Inter District competition.

No grading status is awarded to any player who did not play at least three games in either the previous Night Inter District competition or the preceding State League Region 1 competition or participate in the preceding State or State Age competition.

The descending order for Grading status will be: Region 1 State League (Waratah Cup through to Division 8 and then State, State Age and then Night Inter District.

8. No late registration of players will be accepted between the published date for the close of entries and one week before the commencement of the competition. Late registrations are to be submitted on the appropriate form by a District Association official to Netball NSW prior to the commencement of match.
9. For the Night Inter District Night competitions Netball NSW will, based on the number of entries received be responsible for determining:
 - (a) the number of rounds to be played
 - (b) the number of teams to participate in each division
 - (c) the format of the competition

RULES FOR REGION 1 – NIGHT INTER DISTRICT

1. The commencing date for the Night Inter District competition for the ensuing year shall be advised at the November Council Meeting and as notified on the Netball NSW website.
2. The competition shall be conducted on a point score basis with the team scoring the highest number of points at the conclusion of the competition being declared the winner. In the event of two or more teams being on equal points at the conclusion of the competition, a goal average will be used to decide the winner.
3. All matches will be played at the Anne Clark Centre on Wednesday nights.
4. Wet weather games are considered as games played by all players registered prior to that date.
5. No player may play in more than one (1) competition match on any one night.
6. The fixture for all Divisions of the competition will be posted on the Netball NSW website at least one (1) week prior to the commencement of the competition where possible.
7. At no time is a team permitted to have more than 12 players registered. A maximum of four (4) players may be late registered in each team after the commencement of the competition until the end of the competition. Where a player moves from one division to another division by virtue of playing three games in the higher graded team that player is counted as a late registration in that higher graded team.
8. A de-registered player may only be re-registered in the same team in the same grade for the duration of the competition. A re-registered player is counted as a late registration.
9. Players may not play in a grade lower than the grade in which they were originally graded.
10. Each player must play in the identical playing uniform except where prior approval has been given.
11. Any change to name of a player already registered is to be advised in writing by a District Association official to Netball NSW within seven (7) days. Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$100.00.
12. Late registrations are to be submitted on the appropriate form by a District Association official to Netball NSW prior to the commencement of the match in which they are to play.
13. After a team has been graded, any late registration should be of an equal playing standard. Netball NSW may reject a late registration where it considers the inclusion of the player would affect the grade of the team. In such circumstances the District Association or player concerned has the right of appeal to the Appeals Tribunal.

A player with no playing status can be late registered in any grade.

14. Where a player plays three matches in a grade higher than that originally graded, on playing the third game in the same higher graded team, the player will remain in that higher graded team.
15. If a District Association records the name of an unregistered player on the score sheet, the District Association will be required to prove within seven (7) days that the person who played under that name is registered with that team.

This proof shall be in the form of a Statutory Declaration to Netball NSW. Failure to submit such proof within seven (7) days of notification shall result in the loss of two (2) competition points.

16. A team may claim a forfeit one (1) minute after the time set down for the commencement of the match, if the opposing team does not have five (5) players in full uniform on court and ready to play.
17. The umpire's whistle will start and finish games on the indication from the central timing device.
18. Up to two (2) minutes injury time may be taken according to the rules, but no additional time shall be added to the match.
19. Each team shall provide a scorer.
20. Score sheets shall be returned to Central Control at the conclusion of each match.
21. Any team not participating in any match due to inclement weather may forfeit the match. Points shall be awarded for all other matches played on that night.
22. If in the opinion of Netball NSW and the Umpires Operating Panel matches are unable to be played due to inclement weather or the condition of courts, each team will be awarded one (1) point.
23. *Points Table*

Night Inter District Points Table

<i>Win</i>	<i>Loss</i>	<i>Draw</i>	<i>Forfeit</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Abandoned</i>
2	0	1	2	0	1*

* If game abandoned prior to half time - 1 point each team

* If game abandoned at or after half time - result as per score sheet

24. *Goal Average*
 - (a) If two or more teams finish on equal points after the final round of matches, positions shall be decided on goal averages.
 - (b) The goal average for each team shall be decided as follows:

Total number of goals scored by the team, divided by the total number of goals scored against the team, multiplied by 100 and divided by the actual number of matches played by the team.

$$\text{i.e.} \quad \frac{\text{goals scored}}{\text{goals scored against}} \times \frac{100}{\text{matches played}}$$

The number of matches actually played includes a match a team has forfeited, but does not include a match where the team has received a forfeit.

25. A score sheet having been signed by both captains and umpires and lodged with the relevant official will not be returned to any team for any correction. No disputes will be entered into regarding score sheets.

In circumstances where team officials of both teams involved testify that the score sheet submitted to Netball NSW is incorrect and further they agree on the correct score Netball NSW has the discretion to vary the official scores.

26. A trophy shall be presented to the winning and runner-up District Association in each Division.
27. Embroidered patches shall be awarded to the Manager, Coach, Assistant Coach, Primary Care and Players of the winning and runner up teams in each Division.
28. Each team is to provide an approved match ball.
29. Each team is to have available two (2) sets of position patches of different colours.
30. Umpires:
- (a) Each District Association is to provide a National badged umpire or other approved umpire for each team entered.
 - (b) All umpires will be allocated to matches by the Umpires Operating Panel.
 - (i) Unbadged umpires may be tested for practical badges:
 - after consultation with the Umpires Operating Panel; and
 - games comply with all requirements stated in the National Umpire Development Framework book.
 - (c) If an umpire has not arrived 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the match, a replacement umpire may take the court.
 - (d) District Associations whose umpires fail to fulfil their allocation by a non-attendance will be fined \$500.00 for each duty not fulfilled except in extenuating circumstances.
 - (e) Female umpires shall be dressed in white dress or skirt and top, male umpires shall be dressed in white shorts and shirt.
 - (f) Any qualified umpire may apply to the Umpires Operating Panel to be allocated to matches.

GRADING PROCEDURES FOR STATE AGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. The closing date for the State Age competition will be advised at the November Council meeting and as notified on the Netball NSW website.
2. The minimum age for any player to play at the State Age Championships is turning 12 in the year of play.
3. Where an age qualification applies, players must play in their correct age group. Any request for players to play in a higher age group than that for which they are eligible must have the prior approval of Netball NSW.
4. District/League Associations are to register teams on the approved player entry form together with full details of a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of twelve (12) players' names and their relevant experience by the closing date for the competition.
5. A final team list will consist of those players from the original registration form who are available to compete and up to a maximum of four (4) late registrations. This list shall be lodged with Control by 8.00am of the first playing day of the Championships.
6. At no time is a team permitted to have more than 12 players registered.
7. Entries will be graded into divisions, being Championship Division, Division 2, Division 3 and Division 4 according to the number of entries received. There will be 20 teams in Championship Division. The remaining entries will be divided as far as is possible equally between Division 2, Division 3 and Division 4.

Where more than 80 entries are received in an age group, 22 teams will be graded into the Championship Division for that age group. In the first year of this increase in Championship Division, grading will be done with the two bottom teams being moved down to Division 2 and the 4 top teams moved up from Division 2 to Championship Division.

8.
 - a) For the 12 years age division, the District/League Association can make a recommendation as to the preferred division for participation. Where it is not possible to place a District/League Association in the Division requested the procedures as detailed in Rule 8 b) and 8 c) will be applied.
 - b) Where nominations are received that recommends placement of more than 20 teams in Championship Division the placement of teams will be based on an average of District/League Association final results in the 12 years age Division over the previous 3 years. Such averages to be determined after the promotion and relegation of teams for the previous year has been undertaken.
 - c) For the remaining Divisions the placement of teams will be based on an average of District/League Association final results in the 12 years age Division over the previous 3 years and the over riding requirement to divide as far as is possible equally teams between Division 2, Division 3 and Division 4.

Such averages to be determined after the promotion and relegation of teams for the previous year has been undertaken and teams have participated for the previous three years.

9. For all other age Divisions grading will be undertaken having regard to the teams final placing from the previous year's Championship results. A District/League Association may submit an Application to Appeal a provisional grading where it can show, on the balance of probabilities that the team under contest has less than 5 players from the previous year's competition. A Statutory Declaration setting out the grounds of appeal is to be submitted. A District/League Association cannot appeal placement in a higher Division when that District/League Association's team has been provisionally graded in a Division based on the placing achieved in the previous year's competition.
10. For each year and for each division, at least the two bottom teams will be relegated to the lower division and at least the two top teams promoted to the next higher division. Placing for relegation and promotion shall be based on final point scores and where teams finish on equal point scores then goal averages will be used to determine both promotion and relegation.
11. Where a team did not enter in the previous year's Championships, or where a District/League Association loses it points/placing, the District/League Association can make a recommendation as to the preferred Division for participation but the final grading decision will be made by Netball NSW. The District/League Association recommendation is to be by written submission detailing the reasons for recommending placement in a particular Division. This final decision by Netball NSW is non-appellable.

PLAYING RULES FOR STATE AGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1.
 - (a) Are held commencing on the first weekend of the second term school holidays.
 - (b) Are conducted in the 15 years, 14 years, 13 years and 12 years age groups.
 - (c) The age of the players shall be determined by their ages as at December 31 in the year of play.
 - (d) A player can only participate in a competition where they meet the respective age requirement for that particular competition.
 - (e) All players in all age groups must play the equivalent of 30% of the total number of available games over the Championships. For the purposes of calculation of the 30% rule, two half games equals one full game.

Each team will receive with their score sheets, a spreadsheet to be completed for each game over the three days of the competition. The sheet will show each players name and the games they have played. The completed sheet must be handed in at the end of each day and on the third day with the final score sheet of the Championships prior to the presentation. The sheet must be signed by a District/League Association Official, Coach or Manager prior to being submitted at the end of the competition.

The penalty for a breach of the 30% rule is disqualification from any placing and the District/League Association responsible will be fined \$1,000.00. Where a team is disqualified the team will lose all points and will be relegated to last in that age group.

When entries for State Age Championships are forwarded, a declaration of commitment of the 30% game rule for all players is to be signed by a District/League Association Official. If the form is not received, teams will not be accepted into the Championships.

- (f) There shall be no finals or joint placing. To determine the final individual placing point scores will be used and then if required to separate one or more teams on the same points score goal averages will be used.

2. UMPIRES

- (a) One non-playing badged umpire for each team entered plus one additional non-playing badged umpire per District/League Association.
 - (b) The minimum qualification to umpire at the State Age Championships is a National 'C' badge
 - (c) Nominated umpires may not play, coach or manage a team during the State Age Championships.

- (d) At the time of lodging team nominations the District/League Association is to certify that they will provide the appropriate number of qualified umpires for the duration of the competition.

Three weeks (3) weeks prior to the competition, umpires names and current qualification are to be confirmed. Where umpire nominations are not received by this date the District/League Association will be fined \$500.00.

District/League Associations, withdrawing umpires after the confirmation date will be fined \$200.00 per umpire withdrawn unless a medical certificate is produced that certifies the umpire's unavailability due to illness or injury or other extenuating circumstances. Unless the umpire is replaced with an equivalent badged umpire a further fine of \$200.00 is enforced.

Where an umpire withdraws on the day for other than medical reasons or does not show that District/League Association will incur a fine of \$200.00 per umpire per day.

3. GENERAL

- (a) All teams will play each team in their division during the Championships, except when more than 22 teams are graded in an age grouping in Division 2, 3, and 4.
- (b) Where there are more than 22 teams graded in an age grouping in Division 4 a maximum of 21 games in that age group will be played.
- (c) The winners of the Championship Division of each age division shall be declared State Champions.
- (d) A trophy shall be presented to the winning and runner-up District/League Association in each Division.
- (e) Embroidered patches shall be awarded to the Manager, Coach, Assistant Coach, Primary Care and Players of the winning and runner up teams in each Division.
- (f) Playing times of matches is at the discretion of Netball NSW. Where possible, there will be a half-time break of at least two (2) minutes and five (5) minutes between games.
- (g) Each player in the team must play in the identical playing uniform, except where prior approval has been given.
- (h) Each team is to have available two sets of position patches, of different colours.
- (i) Each team is to provide an approved match ball.
- (j) Substitution of players is permitted in accordance with official rules.
- (k) Up to two (2) minutes injury time may be taken according to official rules, but no additional time shall be added to the match.

- (l) The umpire's whistle shall start and finish games on the indication from the central timing device.
- (m) A team may claim a forfeit one (1) minute after the umpire's whistle to indicate commencement of play on the indication from the central timing device and if the opposing team does not have five (5) players in full uniform on court and ready to play. The umpires will sign the official score sheet attesting to the forfeit.
- (n) The method of distribution of score sheets will be determined Netball NSW.
- (o) Score sheets are to be returned by the winning team immediately after each match.
- (p) In circumstances where team officials of both teams involved testify that the score sheet submitted to Netball NSW is incorrect and further they agree on the correct score then Netball NSW has the discretion to vary the official scores.
- (q) One (1) official from each team is to sign the score sheet.
- (r) If, in the opinion of Netball NSW games are unable to be played due to severe inclement weather or adverse court conditions, each team will be awarded one (1) point.
- (s) *Points Table*

State Age Championships Points Table

<i>Win</i>	<i>Loss</i>	<i>Draw</i>	<i>Forfeit</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Abandoned</i>
2	0	1	2	0	1*

* If game abandoned prior to half time - 1 point each team

* If game abandoned at or after half time - result as per score sheet

- (t) *Goal Average*
 - (a) If two or more teams finish on equal points after the final round of matches, positions shall be decided on goal averages.
 - (b) The goal average for each team shall be decided as follows:

Total number of goals scored by the team, divided by the total number of goals scored against the team, multiplied by 100 and divided by the actual number of matches played by the team.

$$\text{i.e.} \quad \frac{\text{goals scored}}{\text{goals scored against}} \times \frac{100}{\text{matches played}}$$

The number of matches actually played includes a match a team has forfeited, but does not include a match where the team has received a forfeit.

- (u) All Championships shall be played on all weather hard courts or a combination of indoor courts and all weather courts.
- (v) Four venues are to be used for State Age Championships with a minimum of 24 courts at any one venue. Where a District/League Association hosts two divisions at the one venue a minimum of 48 courts at that venue is required.
- (w) No venue will be considered to host an event unless all necessary facilities are in place.
- (x) Netball NSW will determine the suitability of venues to host a division of the Championships having regard to the total operational environment as detailed in the Netball NSW State Events Policy.

GRADING RULES FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. The closing date for the State Championships competition shall be advised at the November Council meeting and as notified on the Netball NSW website.
2. District/League Associations are to register teams on the approved player entry form together with full details of a minimum of seven (7) and maximum of twelve (12) players' names and their relevant playing status, by the closing date for the competition.
3. Entries shall be graded into Divisions where applicable, being Championship and Divisions 2 and 3 as required, according to the number of entries received.
4. A final team list will consist of those players from the original registration form who are available to compete and up to a maximum of four (4) late registrations. This list shall be lodged with Control by 8.00am of the first morning of the Championships.
5. At no time is a team permitted to have more than 12 players registered.
6. Grading shall proceed on the teams final placing from the previous year's Championship results. Where a team did not enter in the previous year's Championships, or where a District/League Association loses its points/placing, the District/League Association can make a recommendation as to the preferred Division for participation but the final grading decision will be made by Netball NSW. The District/League Association recommendation is to be by written submission detailing the reasons for recommendation placement in a particular division. This final decision by Netball NSW is non-appellable.
7. For the 17 years & Under Division grading will be determined from the previous year's Championship results and then if required the previous year's 15 years State Age results.
8. For the Open Division entries will be divided as far as is possible equally between Championship Division and Division 2.
9. For all age groups and where divisions apply grading will be undertaken having regard to the teams final placing from the previous year's championship results. A District/League Association may submit an Application to Appeal a provisional grading where it can show, on the balance of probabilities that the team under contest has less than 5 players remaining from the previous year's competition. A Statutory Declaration setting out the grounds of appeal is to be submitted.
10. Where Divisions apply, in each year and for each division, at least the two bottom teams shall be relegated to the lower divisions and at least the two top teams promoted to the higher division. Placing for relegation and promotion shall be based on point scores and where applicable goal averages.

RULES FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- a. Are held over the Queen's Birthday weekend.
- b. Are conducted in six (6) sections:
 - (i) Open – no minimum age qualification
 - (ii) 19 and Under – for players who have not attained the age of twenty (20) years as at December 31 in the year of play.
 - (iii) 17 and Under – for players who have not attained the age of eighteen (18) years as at December 31 in the year of play.
 - (iv) Over 35 years – for players who have attained the age of thirty five (35) years as at December 31 in the year of play.
 - (v) Over 40 years – for players who have attained the age of forty (40) years as at December 31 in the year of play.
 - (vi) Over 45 years – for players who have attained the age of forty-five (45) years as at December 31 in the year of play.
- c. There shall be no finals or joint placing. Placing will be decided on point scores and goal averages will be used, if required to determine final individual placing.

2. UMPIRES

- (a) At least one (1) non-playing preferably B badged umpire for each team entered.
- (b) The Umpires Operating Panel has the discretion to vary the number of umpires required from each District/League Association after the number of teams has been finalised. Preference will be given to National AA, A and B grade umpires.
- (c) Nominated umpires may not play, coach or manage a team during the State Championships.
- (d) At the time of lodging team nominations the District/League Association is to certify that they will provide the appropriate number of qualified umpires for the duration of the competition.

Three weeks (3) weeks prior to the competition, umpires names and current qualification are to be confirmed. Where umpire nominations are not received by this date the District/League Association will be fined \$500.00.

Districts, withdrawing umpires after the confirmation date will be fined \$200.00 per umpire withdrawn unless a medical certificate is produced that certifies the umpire's unavailability due to illness or injury or other extenuating circumstances.

Unless the umpire is replaced with an equivalent badged umpire a further fine of \$200.00 is enforced.

Where an umpire withdraws on the day for other than medical reasons or does not show that District/League Association will incur a fine of \$200.00 per umpire per day.

3. GENERAL

- (a) All teams in each division shall play each team in their division during the Championships where possible.
- (b) The winners of the Championship Division of each section shall be declared State Champions.
- (c) A trophy shall be presented to the winning and runner-up District/League Association in each Division.
- (d) Embroidered patches shall be awarded to the Manager, Coach, Assistant Coach, Primary Care and Players of the winning and runner up teams in each Division.
- (e) Playing times of matches is at the discretion of Netball NSW provided there are a minimum of one (1) minute half-time break and a minimum of two (2) minutes between games.
- (f) Each player in the team must play in the identical playing uniform, except where prior approval has been given.
- (g) Each team is to have available two sets of position patches, of different colours.
- (h) A player can only participate in a competition where they meet the respective age requirement for that particular competition.
- (i) Each team is to provide an approved match ball.
- (j) Substitution of players is permitted in accordance with official rules.
- (k) Up to two (2) minutes injury time may be taken according to official rules, but no additional time shall be added to the match.
- (l) The umpire's whistle shall start and finish games on the indication from the central timing device.
- (m) A team may claim a forfeit one (1) minute after the umpire's whistle to indicate commencement of play on the indication from the central timing device and if the opposing team does not have five (5) players in full uniform on court and ready to play. The umpire will sign the official score sheet attesting to the forfeit.
- (n) The method of distribution of score sheets will be determined by Netball NSW each year.
- (o) Score sheets are to be returned by the winning team immediately after each match.

- (p) One (1) official from each team is to sign the score sheet.

In circumstances where team officials of both teams involved testify that the score sheet submitted to Netball NSW is incorrect and further they agree on the correct score then Netball NSW has the discretion to vary the official scores.

- (q) If, in the opinion of Netball NSW games are unable to be completed or played due to severe inclement weather or adverse court conditions, each team will be awarded one (1) point.

- (r) *Points Table*

State Championships Points Table

<i>Win</i>	<i>Loss</i>	<i>Draw</i>	<i>Forfeit</i>	<i>Bye</i>	<i>Abandoned</i>
2	0	1	2	0	1*

* If game abandoned prior to half time - 1 point each team

* If game abandoned at or after half time - result as per score sheet

- (s) *Goal Average*

- (a) If two or more teams finish on equal points after the final round of matches, positions shall be decided on goal averages.

- (b) The goal average for each team shall be decided as follows:

Total number of goals scored by the team, divided by the total number of goals scored against the team, multiplied by 100 and divided by the actual number of matches played by the team.

$$\text{i.e. } \frac{\text{goals scored}}{\text{goals scored against}} \times \frac{100}{\text{matches played}}$$

The number of matches actually played includes a match a team has forfeited, but does not include a match where the team has received a forfeit.

- (t) All Championships shall be played on all weather hard courts or a combination of indoor courts and all weather courts.
- (u) A minimum of 34 courts is required to host the Championships. No venue will be considered to host an event unless all necessary facilities are in place.
- (v) Netball NSW will determine the suitability of venues to host a division of the Championships having regard to the total operational environment as detailed in the Netball NSW State Events Policy.

GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCT OF DISTRICT CARNIVALS

1. Each District will be allocated one (1) official carnival which will be advertised on the Netball NSW website calendar each year after applications have been received and approval given by Netball NSW of the date the Carnival has been allocated. Applications for carnivals shall close on 30 September each year for the ensuing year. Late applications received after this date will only be considered for vacant dates are allocations have been completed.
2. Entries should be made on a standard entry form as recommended by Netball NSW and submitted by a District Association official to reach the appropriate District Association twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the carnival.
3. The entry fee including GST is \$22.
4. District Associations should apply the following rules:
 - (a)
 - (i) players must be registered members of Netball NSW (any player not registered with Netball NSW does not have any insurance cover under the Netball NSW policy.
 - (ii) players should wear the registered uniform of their District Association or club
 - (iii) positional patches are to be worn
 - (iv) all umpires should wear white or playing uniform
 - (v) each team should supply a scorer and an umpire, preferably badged
 - (b) District Associations may re-grade or withdraw any team found not playing in the correct age group or grade.
 - (c) District Associations should ensure that any umpire accompanying a team is capable of controlling that grade.
 - (d) Where there is more than one division in any one grade or age group and play offs are necessary, a maximum of twelve (12) trophies are to be awarded to winners and runners up.
 - (e) Where no semi finals or finals are played, a maximum of twelve (12) trophies can be awarded to the winners of each division.
5. The inclusion of representative sections is at the discretion of the District Association conducting the carnival.
 - (a) District Associations are permitted to hold 'Representative' only carnivals prior to the Championships.
 - (b) Representative teams may be permitted to enter District Association carnivals on an invitation only basis when there is no representative section.
 - (c) Should District Associations not wish to have representative teams enter a carnival, they should state this on their entry form.

- (d) Games for representative teams are to be played on a round robin basis. It is at the District Association's discretion if they award a team trophy.
- (e) Where a District Association holds a 'Representative Section' carnival prior to the Championships, the District Association may, at its discretion, include a section for players 11 years of age known as 'Development Squads'. Games are to be played on a round robin basis and trophies may be awarded.

6. PLAYERS

- (a) Where District Associations have a multi team situation in the same group for representative selection purposes the host district is encouraged to allow players to interchange between teams.
- (b) Players registered with representative teams should not play with a club team from District Associations at the same carnival on the same day.

7. AGE GROUPS

- (a) Senior Players shall have reached the age of 18 years at December 31 in the year of play.
- (b) Junior Players 11 to 17 years of age as at December 31 in the year of play.
- (c) Netta Players under 11 years of age as at December 31 in the year of play.

8. UMPIRES

- (a) Teams qualifying for semi finals and finals should provide a badged umpire who shall be allocated to a match by the host District Association.

9. MATCHES

- (a) In Representative sections, District Associations are encouraged to have regard to the results of previous years' championships results when preparing draws.
- (b) The draw for all carnivals should consist of a minimum of seven (7) games and a maximum of nine (9) games in each grade.
- (c) Where a District Association has arranged a draw where everyone plays one another or a minimum of seven (7) games are held, it is not be necessary to play quarter finals, semi finals and finals.
- (d) Where possible, fixtures should be organised so that teams play on a '1 on 1 off' basis. Teams should not play more than two (2) games straight or have more than three (3) games straight off including a bye.
- (e) Interchange of players during the match is only permitted during a stoppage for injury or illness or at an interval. Up to two (2) minutes injury time may be taken according to the official rules, but no additional time needs to be added to the match.

- (f) Winners and runners up are decided on a points score basis. Where teams finish on equal points, the goal average should be used to determine the winner.
- (g) The format for the draw for quarter finals, semi finals and finals, if applicable should be printed on the information or fixture sheets.
- (h) Fixtures should be arranged so that all matches are completed not later than 4.30pm.

10. GOAL AVERAGE

- (a) If two or more teams finish in equal points after the final round of matches, final positions or finals series shall be decided on goal averages.
- (b) The goal average for each team shall be decided as under:

Total number of goals scored by the team, divided by the total number of goals scored against the team, multiplied by 100 and divided by the actual number of matches played by the team.

$$\text{i.e.} \quad \frac{\text{goals scored}}{\text{goals scored against}} \quad \times \quad \frac{100}{\text{matches played}}$$

The number of matches actually played includes a match a team has forfeited, but does not include a match where the team has received a forfeit.

11. FORFEITS

- (a) District Associations entering teams that forfeit or withdraw after fixtures have been arranged, may be liable for a fine of up to \$50 per team, such fine shall be paid to the District Association conducting the carnival within seven (7) days of receipt of the account, provided the account is forwarded to the offending district within twenty one (21) days of the date of the carnival. However, the host District Association will be entitled to charge a \$100 fine on any team which does not appear on the day of the carnival. Notification of such fine to be forwarded to that team's District Association within twenty one (21) days of date of carnival.

12 CANCELLATION OF CARNIVALS OR BALLOTING OUT OF TEAMS

- (a) At least seven (7) days written notification should be given in both instances, except in the case of extreme emergency.
- (b) In the event of cancellation of a carnival or the balloting out of teams, all entry fees are to be refunded within thirty (30) days of the date of the carnival.
- (c) District Associations should not ballot out any team before the closing date for entries.
- (d) Balloting out of teams whose entries have been received by the closing date is to be completed within seven (7) days.