

GRADING POLICY AND PROCEDURES & RULES FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS AND COMPETITIONS

**Adopted by NSW Netball Association Ltd Board Meeting on
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Netball NSW

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GENERAL POLICY

1. Only affiliated Districts are eligible to enter competitions or events conducted by Netball NSW.
2. The ACT/Regions/Zones/AIS and other Districts can be admitted to enter any competition with the prior approval of the Board of Directors.
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 preceding 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 preceding any event.
6. Any changes to entry fees for competitions for the ensuing year shall be advised 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 Clause 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. Close of entry dates are advised in the General Procedures relevant to the particular 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 Districts.

GRADING POLICY – REGION 1 STATE LEAGUE

1. The format for the competitions shall be divisional, according to the number of entries received.
2. A District is permitted to have one team only in each division of a competition.
3. The number of teams that can be entered in the Region 1 State League competition by a District is unlimited subject to Clause 5 of the procedures.
4. There will be a maximum of 80 teams able to compete in the Region 1 State League Open competition.
5. Ten (10) teams will be graded into the top five (5) open divisions. For the remaining open divisions there is to be a minimum of eight (8) 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 an open division those teams unable to be graded will be balloted out.
6. Grading of teams for the 17 Years and Under competition will be dependent upon the number of entries received.
7. Districts 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 Clause 8, by the closing date of entries for the competition.
8. 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.
9. Each District is required to provide a Statutory Declaration signed by a District 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 Official has signed a false declaration and therefore breached this provision a fine of \$1,000.00 will be imposed on the District(s) concerned. Further penalties that may be applicable in signing a false declaration are advised on the Statutory Declaration.
10. 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 that they will be playing with. The Districts concerned will be advised accordingly.
11. Districts 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 does not have permanent residence status and has played at the international level in either an Open or a 21 and Under competition within the two preceding years. An import player can only be registered in the Waratah Cup competition.

12. 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 3 players of that age qualification can be registered in any one team.
13. Grading is based on 7 players with the highest playing status. Players 8 to 12 are not counted.
14. 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 (i.e. the grade in which the player played a minimum of three (3) games in the relevant grade). If the player did not play in the previous year, status points from the year before that is to be accepted.
15. 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	9 points
International Player	9 points
Australian Institute of Sport	9 points
State League – Interstate	6 points

16. No grading status is awarded to any player who did not play at least three games in a State League Region 1 or 17 Years Home and Away competition in either of the two previous years.
17. Status points for players who qualified in State League Region 1 or 17 Years Home and Away are awarded in accordance with the following table:

Waratah Cup	9 points
State League Division 2	8 points
State League Division 3	7 points
State League Division 4	6 points
State League Division 5	5 points
State League Division 6	4 points
State League Division 7	3 points
State League Division 8	2 points
17 Years – Home & Away	1 point

Special Loading: any player eligible to play in a team that won a grand final in a State League competition in the preceding year – 1 point.

Grading status is applied to a player who played at least three games in the same team in the preceding year. E.g. a player who played at least 3 games in Division 4 and at least 3 games in Division 2 receives 8 playing status points. A player who played at least 3 games in Division 4 and 2 games in Division 2 receives 6 playing status points.

18. Except in the case of the Waratah Cup where a team wins a grand final and 7 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 is permitted in any Division. This Clause over rides Clause 17.
19. Where two or more teams have an equal weighting the grading priority is determined by the team that has the highest player(s) status. Where two or more teams cannot be separated following this process 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 and played in different Divisions in the previous year the grading priority will be determined by the team that played in the higher division.
20. Provisional grading of teams will be completed and advised on the Netball NSW website within five working days of the published closing date for entries.
21. 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.
22. On completion of 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.
23. 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 and the Appeals Tribunal.
24. The player status details as identified in Clause 22 will remain on the Netball NSW website for two subsequent years after the completion of the current competition.
25. There shall be no late registration of players accepted between the close of entries and one week before the commencement of the competition. Any late registrations received before the commencement of the competition will result in a re-assessment of the grading for that team. Where a team is re-graded that decision is non-appealable.
26. 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 3
Division 2	Division 5
Division 3	Division 6
Interstate State League	Division 6
Division 4	Division 7
Division 5	Division 8

- (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.

27. 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.

28. 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.

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 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 3
Division 2	Division 5
Division 3	Division 6
Interstate State League	Division 6
Division 4	Division 7
Division 5	Division 8

- (ii) Where a player is to be late registered in the relevant districts 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 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 for the duration of the competition.

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. Where applicable, a player can only participate in a Division where they meet the respective age requirement for that particular Division.

16. If a District records the name of an unregistered player on the score sheet, the District 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 game being forfeited to the opposing team.

17. Where a player participates in a game and that player is not a registered financial member with either Netball NSW or a relevant State or Territory the match will be recorded as a forfeit to the opposing team. Where both teams play an unregistered financial member no points will be awarded.
18. Any change to the name of a player already registered is to be advised in writing by a District 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.
19. 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 with which they are registered. A playing week is deemed to be from Wednesday to Tuesday.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. No disputes will be entered into regarding score sheets.
23. 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.
24. 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 a minimum of 50% of the competition rounds of the Division 1 Waratah Cup competition.
25. 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.
26. 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.

27. *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 after time – result as per score sheet at that time to apply

28. *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.

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

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.

29. The competition shall be conducted on a points score basis and semi finals, finals and grand finals shall be played.

30. 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.

31. A trophy shall be presented to the winning and runner-up District in each Division.

32. 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.

33. *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 Districts by 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. Repeated offences by a District will result in the District having to show cause to the Appeals Tribunal as to why their District'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 may be required to provide an accredited National “A” badge or higher qualified umpire.
 - (ii) State League Divisions 2 – 6
Each District 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 is required to provide an accredited National badged umpire for each team entered.
 - (iv) 17 Years Home and Away
The “home team” is required to provide two accredited National badged umpires when matches are played at their home court.
 - (v) Where a District does not supply a National “A” badged or higher qualified umpire for the Waratah Cup that District will be required to provide an additional qualified National badged umpire for allocation to other matches.
 - (vi) 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) Districts 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 POLICY FOR REGIONS 2-8 STATE LEAGUE / INTERDISTRICT COMPETITIONS

1. The Regional Coordinator is responsible for convening a meeting of participating Districts 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 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.

POLICY AND RULES FOR REGIONS 2-8 STATE LEAGUE / INTERDISTRICT 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 Secretaries names, addresses, telephone numbers and the location of each District's courts and telephone numbers will all be listed in the fixture book.
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. *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 after 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 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.

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

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.

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 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 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 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 considers the inclusion of the player would affect the grade of the team. In such circumstances the District or player concerned has the right of appeal to the Appeals Tribunal.
19. If a District records the name of an unregistered player on the score sheet, the District 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. Failure to submit such proof within seven (7) days of notification shall result in the game being forfeited to the opposing team.
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. Districts shall 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 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) goal advantage shall be declared the winner.

34. Umpires
 - (a) Each District 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'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 PPP book.

GRADING POLICY FOR REGION 1 – NIGHT INTERDISTRICT

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 may enter a maximum of four (4) teams in the Night Inter District competition.
3. A District 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. Districts 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.
7. Grading is based on 7 players with the highest playing status from the preceding Inter District competition or the immediate preceding State League Region 1 competition or the immediate preceding State Age 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 or 17 Years Home and Away competition or the preceding State Age competition.

The descending order for grading status will be: Region 1 State League (Waratah Cup through to Division 8) and then 17 Years (Home and Away), Night Inter District and then State Age.

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 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; and
 - (c) the format of the competition.

POLICY AND RULES FOR REGION 1 – NIGHT INTERDISTRICT

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 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 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 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 records the name of an unregistered player on the score sheet, the District 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 game being forfeited to the opposing team.

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. *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 after 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 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.

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

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.

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.
26. A trophy shall be presented to the winning and runner-up District 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 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 PPP 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) Districts 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 POLICY FOR STATE AGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. The closing date for the State Age competition shall 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. Districts shall 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 shall be graded into divisions, being Championship Division, Division 2, Division 3 and Division 4 according to the number of entries received. There shall be 22 teams in Championship Division and Division 2 and a maximum of 20 teams in Division 3 of all age groups.
- 7A. For the year 2010 there will be 20 teams in Championship Division, Division 2 and Division 3 of all age groups.
8. For the 12 years age division, the District/League Association can make a recommendation as to the preferred division for participation. Netball NSW has the discretion to grade teams entered into four divisions having regard to the preferred division as recommended by the District/League Association or region and the overriding need to provide for four equitable divisions.
9. Grading will only be undertaken having regard to the teams final placing from the previous year's Championship results.
10. For the year 2010 teams will be placed in a Division relevant to their respective finishing position for 2009.
11. For 2011 in each year and for each division, the two bottom teams shall be relegated to the lower division and 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.
12. Where a team did not enter in the previous year's Championships, or where a District loses its points/placing, the District can make a recommendation as to the preferred Division for participation but the final grading decision will be made by Netball NSW. This decision is non-appealable.

POLICY AND 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 player's 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 an 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 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 an 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.
- (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 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 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. 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 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 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 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) *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 after 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 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.
- (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 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 POLICY 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. Districts 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.
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 loses its points/placing, the District can make a recommendation as to the preferred Division for participation but the final decision regarding grading shall be made by Netball NSW.
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. Where Divisions apply, in each year and for each division, the two bottom teams shall be relegated to the lower divisions and 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.

POLICY AND 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) 21 and Under – for players who have not attained the age of twenty (22) 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 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) Umpires are to be nominated with entries eight (8) weeks prior to the commencement of the competition. Team entries will not be accepted without umpire nominations.

Two (2) weeks prior to the competition, umpires are to be confirmed. Districts withdrawing umpires after this period will incur a \$100.00 fine per umpire withdrawn unless the District does not replace the umpire with an equivalent badged umpire.

Umpires who withdraw for medical reasons within the two (2) week period will be required to produce a medical certificate to ensure that the District is not fined however the umpire will still need to be replaced.

Districts whose umpires withdraw on the day or do not show will incur a \$200.00 fine per umpire.

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 in each Division.
- (d) Embroidered patches shall be awarded to the Manager, Coach, Assistant Coach and Players of the winning and runner up teams in each Division.
- (e) Playing times of matches is at the discretion of the Championships and Competitions Committee 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 the Championships and Competitions Committee 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 the Championships and Competitions Committee has the discretion to vary the official scores.

- (q) If, in the opinion of the Championships and Competitions Committee 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) *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 after 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 that 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.

GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCT OF DISTRICT CARNIVALS

1. Each District will be permitted to advertise one (1) official carnival on the Netball NSW website each year.
2. Entries should be made on a standard entry form as recommended by Netball NSW and submitted by a District official to reach the appropriate District twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the carnival.
3. The minimum recommended entry fee including GST is \$22.00 and the maximum recommended fee is \$33.00.
4. Districts 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 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) Districts may re-grade or withdraw any team found not playing in the correct age group or grade.
 - (c) Districts 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 conducting the carnival.
 - (a) Districts are permitted to hold 'Representative' only carnivals prior to the Championships.
 - (b) Representative teams may be permitted to enter District carnivals on an invitation only basis when there is no representative section.
 - (c) Should Districts 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's discretion if they award a team trophy.
- (e) Where a District holds a 'Representative Section' carnival prior to the Championships, the District 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 Districts 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 Districts 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.

9. *Matches*

- (a) In Representative sections, Districts 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 has arranged a draw where everyone plays one another or a minimum of seven (7) games are held, it is not 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 no later than 4.30pm.

10. *Goal Average*

- (a) If two or more teams finish on 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 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.

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

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.

11. *Forfeits*

- (a) Districts entering teams that forfeit or withdraw after fixtures have been arranged, may be liable for a fine of up to \$50.00 per team. Such fine shall be paid to the District 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 will be entitled to charge a \$100.00 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 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) Districts 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.