



**NILLUMBIK FORCE
NETBALL ASSOCIATION**

BY-LAWS

15 JANUARY 2025

NILLUMBIK FORCE NETBALL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
(Registration No. A0044831J)

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DEFINITIONS

"Association"	means the Nillumbik Force Netball Association Incorporated.
"Club"	means a non-profit incorporated body, which has an interest in netball and is affiliated with the Association.
"Bylaws"	means these By-Laws of the Association as amended from time to time.
"Board"	is the governing body of the Association.
"Constitution"	means the constitution of the Association as amended from time to time.
"Club Delegate"	is a representative of a Club or Team who liaises with the Board.
"Ineligible player"	is a player who is not entitled to participate in a game, which may include a player who has not qualified or a player not eligible to play in that age section.
"Team"	is a team, which is not affiliated with a governing Club at either the Night Competition or the Saturday Competition.
"Team Official"	has the meaning given to it by Bylaw 25.

SPECIAL NOTE

All previous by-laws, policies and agreements are expressly displaced by these by-laws effective from the date of implementation.

CHILD PROTECTION COMMITMENT STATEMENT

Nillumbik Force Netball Association makes the following commitments:

- The Association is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all Children and Young People who access any netball activities, programs, events or services.
- The Association is committed to providing Children and Young People with positive and nurturing experiences for healthy development and wellbeing.
- The Association will listen to Children and Young People, address any concerns they raise and strive to ensure they are protected.
- The Association will ask for consent from Children, Young People and their parents/carers before we seek out or provide information about them to any other individuals or organisation. However, we may not ask for consent to disclose information to Police, regulatory authorities or relevant statutory child protection agencies in the event that we have concerns about the safety and wellbeing of a specific Child or Young Person.
- The Association will provide and communicate training opportunities to Persons in Positions of Responsibility and Authority where reasonably practicable to do so.
- The Association will make it clear to Persons in Positions of Responsibility and Authority what their obligations, duties and responsibilities are in relation to this Policy and the protection of Children and Young People in netball generally.

BYLAWS

These Bylaws govern the Association. They are the operating procedures that determine the conduct of the Association and its members under Rule 19.1 of the Constitution.

Any amendments to these Bylaws come into effect on the date they are approved by the Board of Management and will remain in force until amended, repealed or replaced.

1. BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

- 1.1 The NFNA Executive Board of Management must have 50% or more of people who do not hold positions on any club committee affiliated with the Association.

2. CLUB DELEGATES AND DELEGATE MEETINGS

- 2.1 Clubs MUST notify the association in writing of their delegate within the first 4 weeks of the year's first season. This notification must include the delegates name, phone number and email address.
- 2.2 Club Delegate meetings will be held on the dates determined by the Board of Management and advised to Clubs from time to time.
- 2.3 All Clubs must be represented by their nominated delegate at all Club Delegate meetings.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- 3.1 All correspondence sent by a Club to the Association must be sent in writing from the Club Secretary or President to the Association Secretary.
- 3.2 All letters and written communications to the Association shall be directed to the Secretary.
- 3.3 In the event that the communication is email, it is to be sent by the President or Secretary of the Affiliated Club. Correspondence received from a person other than the President or Secretary may not be acted on.
- 3.4 Should a Club require a variation to Bylaw 3.1 or 3.3, the Club President or Secretary must submit a request in writing to the Board of Management, who in turn will communicate the response of the Board.

4. FINANCES

4.1 Fees

- a. The Board shall determine the fees to be paid by each Club and Team to the Association.
- b. The Association may set an annual affiliation fee for Clubs or Teams. Each Club and Team may pay an annual affiliation fee of the sum prescribed by Association.
- c. The fees shall be calculated to cover the costs of Association and Competition management activities.
- d. All monies due to the Association must be paid by the nominated due date. Clubs or Teams that have not paid by the nominated date may not be permitted to take the court.
- e. All players shall be fully paid members of their own Club or Team in order to be eligible to participate in any activities governed by the Association.

4.2 Umpires

- a. Umpires will be paid weekly at a rate determined by the Association's.
- b. In cases where matches are cancelled due to weather or other event, umpires shall:
 - Where a game has commenced, receive that match's payment.
 - Where a game has not commenced, receive half that match's payment.
 - Where games are to be cancelled round by round, receive half of that match's payment.
 - Where all games are cancelled and umpires are ready to take the court, receive half of one match's payment: or
 - Where an umpire is notified prior to their arrival, not receive any payment.
- c. In cases where matches are cancelled due to forfeits or walkovers, umpires shall:
 - Receive no payment where they are no longer required to remain at the venue to umpire further games
 - Receive half of one match's payment where they are required to remain at the venue to umpire further games

4.3 Reimbursements / Payments

- a. Board members may be entitled to claim authorised expenses incurred whilst acting in an official capacity from the Association. Receipts must be supplied to the Association in order for any reimbursements to be made.
- b. Umpires will be paid at the rate determined by the Association.
- c. Other Association personnel may be entitled to claim authorised expenses incurred whilst acting on behalf of the Association as determined at the discretion of the Association on a case-by-case basis.

5. INFORMATION TO CLUBS

- 5.1 The Association shall provide information to all Clubs prior to the start of the season.
- 5.2 This information may include:
 - Association contact details.
 - Association venue address.
 - Competition Bylaws.
 - Fixtures; and
 - Details of courses, seminars etc.
- 5.3 NFNA will ensure that clubs/teams are aware of and follow the correct administrative procedures and adhere to these By-Laws.

6. CLUB AND TEAM REGISTRATION

- 6.1 In order for a Club or Team to be eligible to compete in the Association's competitions, the Club or Team must submit a team entry via the approved process as communicated by the Association by the due date. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED
- 6.2 Any club submitting an entry form, shall only be accepted if they are fully financial.

- 6.3 All Clubs and Teams that submit valid entry forms and are subsequently registered by the Association shall receive information from the Association, which may include:
- a. Due date and amount of all fees and levies that are to be paid for the season, including Registration Fees, Court Fees, Netball Victoria Fees and any other fees that may be deemed necessary for that season
 - b. A link to the Association Constitution and Bylaws
 - c. Information regarding any meetings or other requirements of the Association.
 - d. Any information provided in accordance with Bylaw 5.
- 6.4 No Club or Team submitting an application to the Association is to be considered registered until the Association confirms in writing to the Club or Team.
- 6.5 The Association reserves the right to reject the registration application of any Club or Team applying to the Association for registration to participate in a competition.
- 6.6 All Clubs and Teams will have access to relevant Netball Victoria policies, procedures, regulations and Codes of Conduct via the Netball Victoria website.

7. NETBALL VICTORIA MEMBERSHIP

- 7.1 The Netball Victoria membership fees are set annually by the Victorian Netball Association Inc.
- a. In order to be eligible to participate in affiliated Association competitions or programs (including NetSetGo), as a player, coach or umpire, an individual must be a current financial Netball Victoria member. All Junior, Senior and All Abilities players, coaches and umpires must register through the appropriate online registration form as provided by the Association.
 - b. An off-the-court membership (administrative roles e.g., President, Secretary, timekeeper) product will be offered to those Association members that have an off-court role.
- 7.2 No player, coach or umpire will be permitted to participate in the Association's activities in any capacity without a current Netball Victoria membership. Any breach of this Bylaw will be subject to sanction to the individual, Team or Club as determined by the Board, which is currently set at a loss of 4 points per match. Matches may be cancelled for continued breaches of this section
- 7.3 **Single Game Vouchers**
- Individuals may purchase a Single Game Voucher which will allow the individual to participate as a player in the Association's activities only for the particular game or activity to which the Single Game Voucher relates. A player must purchase a Single Game Voucher through the nominated process prior to becoming eligible to participating in the relevant game or activity.

8. AFFILIATION FEE

- 8.1 Each Club shall affiliate with Nillumbik Force Netball Association by signing an Affiliation and Agreement Form and submit the Affiliation and Agreement Form to the Association by due date.
- 8.2 Annual Affiliation Fee: Each Affiliated Club may be required to pay an annual affiliation fee of the sum prescribed by the Association Board and payable in accordance with the Association's invoicing provisions.

9. INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS

- 9.1 NFNA is committed to providing a safe, fair and inclusive sporting environment where all people can contribute and participate.
- 9.2 NFNA may conduct cultural awareness training & inclusive workshops to ensure your club is providing a welcoming environment and creating awareness around cultural views and barriers.
- 9.3 NFNA supports participation in netball on the basis of the gender with which a person identifies. If issues arise, the Association will seek advice on the application of the applicable Victorian discrimination laws for the particular circumstances.
- 9.4 NFNA observes the Netball Victoria Gender Regulation in regard to male participation.
- 9.5 NFNA observes the Netball Victorian Gender Regulation in regard to mixed competition.

10. PLAYERS

- 10.1 Players may only play a maximum of 2 games on any competition day/night.
- 10.2 Any player wishing to play in any competition within the Association, must be fully financial and have no outstanding debt to the Association.
- 10.3 A penalty of loss of game AND loss of 4 points will apply on each occasion for each player.
- 10.4 Any club who is not financial, will not be eligible to play in any competition within the Association.

11. AGE REQUIREMENTS

- 11.1 A player's age is determined as at the 31 December of the current playing year, unless specifically stated in these By Laws
- 11.2 Participants must provide their correct date of birth at the time of registering and failure to do so will result in ineligibility to participate in the Association's activities
- 11.3 Participants aged between 5 and 10 years are encouraged to participate in the NetSetGO Program.

11.4 Participants are only eligible to participate in certain age groups. Players may only play in one age group higher than their eligible age group (i.e. a player eligible to play in the 11 & Under age group, can play in the 13 & Under Age group)

Eligible Age Group	Able to play
9 &U	6 Years (Age taken on the date of round 1 of competition)
11&U	9 & U players and 11 & U players
13&U	11 & U players and 13 & U players
15&U	13 & U players and 15 & U players
17&U	15 & U players and 17 & U players
Open	14 Years (Age taken on the date of round 1 of competition)

11.5 **A Team or Club who breaches this Bylaw will be subject to a penalty of the loss of game and loss of four (4) premiership points where ladders are kept. 11 & Under and NetSetGO will be issued with a monetary fine as determined by the Competition Director.**

11.6 In all cases, games in which players are identified as not meeting these age requirements, games may be stopped and offending players removed from the court, prior to continuing play.

11.7 Clubs may receive a monetary penalty for continued breaches

12. COMPETITIONS & PROGRAMS

12.1 The Association offers the following competition & programs (considering by law 9):

NetSetGo	Mixed (Females & males – no restrictions)
11&U	Mixed (Females & males – no restrictions)
13&U	Female (Males <13 years of age as at the first day of competition may play)
13&U	Male (Females may participate)
13&U	Mixed (Females and males – no restrictions)
15&U	Female (Males <13 years of age as at the first day of competition may play)
15&U	Male (Females may participate)
15&U	Mixed (Females and males – restrictions apply)
17&U	Female
17&U	Male
17&U	Mixed (Females and males – restrictions apply)
Open	Female
Open	Male
Open	Mixed (Females and males – restrictions apply)

These grades will be offered at the discretion of the Competition Director

13. GRADING

- 13.1 The Association may implement a grading process, which will be determined by the Association to evaluate, grade and re-grade all teams.
- 13.2 The Association reserves the right to re-grade a Team or Club at any time of any season.
- 13.3 Re-grading requests submitted to the Association by a Team or Club will be considered by the Association without any requirement for the Association to take any further action in relation to the grading of that Team or Club.
- 13.4 The Association will be the ultimate adjudicator of all grading decisions.
- 13.5 If a Team or Club is re-graded during a season, premiership points and goals for and against accrued in the initial grade in that season will be transferred and apply in the new grade the Team or Club has been entered into for the remainder of the season.

14. UNIFORM

14.1 Players

- a. All clubs/teams must nominate their playing uniform to the Association for approval.
- b. All players must wear their club/team's registered playing uniform. Club/teams must register their uniform in any of the following combinations:
 - shirt and skirt; and/or
 - shirt and shorts; and/or
 - playing dress

Note: uniforms must be registered at the start of the season with the combination of playing uniforms included (if available).

- c. Players must wear playing position initials 150 mm (6 inches) high which must be clearly visible and worn above the waist, front and back as per Rules of Netball 5.1.1.
- d. Nails and/or jewellery may be taped. Taped nails must have one piece of tape over the top of the nail and down to the first knuckle, and at least one piece of tape around the nail. Rigid sports tape must be used, no band aids or paper tape permitted.
- e. Leggings, tights, bike shorts, tracksuit pants and gloves are not permitted, except:
 - i. If registered as part of the team uniform and worn underneath a skirt, shorts or dress (Gloves are not included in this clause).
 - ii. On the grounds of a medical condition which is confirmed with a Doctor's certificate signed by a qualified medical practitioner; or
 - iii. Religious and cultural reasons upon application in writing to the NFNA.
- f. Individual club Sponsorship is acceptable but must not conflict with the sponsors of Netball Victoria or NFNA. Sponsorship logos are permitted on the Playing and Non-Playing Uniform.

- g. All Competitions adhere to the guidelines provided in Netball Victoria's Sponsorship Guidelines for Associations/Clubs. This information can be obtained from Netball Victoria's website

Penalty: Players not in the correct uniform or have not been granted an exemption will not be permitted to take the court.

14.2 **Umpires**

- a. All umpires must wear the approved NFNA umpiring uniform.
- b. Suitable shoes shall be worn.
- c. Track pants or sporting tights may only be worn underneath the umpiring uniform when approved by the Competition Director
- d. Nails and/or jewellery may be taped. Taped nails must have one piece of tape over the top of the nail and down to the first knuckle, and at least one piece of tape around the nail. Rigid sports tape must be used, no band aids or paper tape permitted.

14.3 **Representative Squad**

- a. The Association representative squad uniform will be determined by the Association.

15. **CLEARANCES**

- 15.1 Clearances are required for players at NFNA who wish to transfer from one club to another during the current season. A player does not require a clearance to play for a new club if they have not taken to the court for a different club in a competition in the preceding calendar year or the current calendar year. A player does not require a clearance if they are playing for one club in one age group and another club in a different age group (i.e., 13 & U and 15 & U).
- 15.2 Clubs can request a clearance through Netball Connect. Entity teams can make a request for a clearance by contacting the NFNA competition office.
- 15.3 The player cannot take to the court until the application for clearance has been lodged through Netball Connect and subsequently granted.
- 15.4 Clubs have 7 working days to refuse to grant a clearance for any player who owes outstanding playing fees or is in possession of club property (uniform/equipment). If a club is refusing to grant a clearance, NFNA must be notified in writing by the club/team contact within 7 working days. NFNA will then notify the requesting club advising the reason for refusal.
- 15.5 If a clearance is refused, the player may appeal in writing to NFNA. Consideration of the appeal shall be within 7 working days of receipt.
- 15.6 Any dispute arising from clearance restrictions will be dealt with according to the grievance procedure outlined in Netball Victoria's Member Protection Policy.
- 15.7 No player will be granted more than one (1) clearance per calendar year.

Penalty: A loss of 4 points by the receiving club in each instance the player takes the court without approved clearance as determined by the competition

16. CONDUCT OF GAMES

- 16.1 Game rules shall be those of INF Rules of Netball 2024 unless otherwise stated in these By-Laws.
- 16.2 Fixtures for all Competitions indicating courts and times will be available online to be viewed by clubs/Teams at a reasonable time prior to the season commencing.
- 16.3 Timing of games is as follows:
- a. All competitions (unless specifically stated otherwise):
 - i. 4 x 10-minute quarters
 - ii. 1 second intervals at quarter and three-quarter time
 - iii. 2 minute interval at half time
- 16.4 Game time will not stop for injury, illness or blood stoppage. Umpires will hold time and players must leave the court immediately with substitutions made as quickly as possible
- 16.5 A game may be stopped by the umpires in extenuating circumstances to ensure a safe playing area is maintained.

17. SCORING

- 17.1 Scoring of matches will be done in one of two ways;
- Netball Connect App (Live Scoring) (First/Preferred option); or
 - Paper score sheets (when there is an issue with the app or technology)
- 17.2 Netball Connect App (Live Scoring)
- a. Each team should provide a non-participating scorer for each game. These scorers must sit/stand together at the score bench for the duration of the match.
 - b. The home team will be responsible for scoring on the App.
 - c. The players of each team will appear on the app for the relevant match.
 - i. Players will be credited with a game if at least one quarter has been played.
 - d. The final game score for each team is calculated by the addition of the goals scored during each quarter.
 - e. At the conclusion of the game, the scorers are to confirm and submit the score and player positions.
- 17.3 Paper Scoresheets
- a. Paper Scoresheets will be used only when there is an issue with the Netball Connect app or technology provided by the Association.

- b. The provided scoresheet will list the names (both given and surname) of all players including substitutes nominated for each team.
 - i. Positions must be filled out for each quarter of the game.
 - ii. Players will be credited with a game if at least one quarter has been played.
- c. Each team should provide a non-participating scorer for each game. These scorers must sit/stand together at the score bench for the duration of the match.
- d. The final game score for each team is calculated by the addition of the goals scored during each quarter.
- e. At the conclusion of the game, the official scoresheet is to be signed by the following personnel to confirm that the details on the scoresheet are correct:
 - i. The captains of both competing teams
 - ii. The officiating umpires
 - iii. Scorers for both competing teams

17.4 If a scorer, Team or Club believes the final score is incorrect they must:

- a. not sign the official scoresheet (if applicable) and notify the Competition Supervisor of their intention to protest; or
- b. lodge a dispute in writing with the Association within 48 hours of the game being played
 - i. NFNA will advise the result of the dispute and this decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

Penalty: A loss of 2 points if a team has not correctly compiled the official scoresheet/app.

18. COMPETITION LADDERS

18.1 Competition ladders will be made available by the Association during competition seasons.

18.2 Premiership points are awarded during competition seasons as follows:

- 4 points for a win or a bye;
- 2 points for a draw; and
- 0 points for a loss, forfeit or abandonment.

18.3 Ladder placings will be determined by the number of premiership points.

- a. In the event of multiple teams being equal on points, placings shall be determined by calculating the goal percentage [goals scored / goals against].
- b. If there are multiple teams that finish equal on percentage, the placings shall be determined by which team scored the greater total number of goals for the season.

19. BORROWING PLAYERS

19.1 Where there are two or more Teams from the same Club graded in the same division, players can only play with their registered Team in that division.

- 19.2 A borrowed player taking the court for their third game in a team in a higher division, renders them ineligible to return into the lower division for the remainder of that season.
- 19.3 A borrowed player taking the court for their third game in a team in a higher age group, renders them ineligible to play in any other team within that higher age group for the remainder of that season.
- 19.4 Nothing in this Bylaw precludes a player, participating in a higher age group and returning to their original age group.

PENALTY – Any team breaching this rule, will be penalised 4 POINTS FOR EACH OCCASION

20. FINALS

- 20.1 Finals will be played at the conclusion of the regular rounds of a season.
- 20.2 The format for finals for any given competition will be determined by the Association.
- 20.3 The ladder position of Teams and Clubs at the conclusion of the regular rounds of the season shall determine the Teams and Clubs that qualify to participate in the finals. Ladder positions are to be calculated in accordance with Bylaw 18.
- 20.4 For a result in a final to be official, 4 quarters must be completed. In all other situations, the Association will decide on a course of action.
- 20.5 In the event of a tied game in finals,
- there is a 1-minute interval during which substitutions and/or positional changes may be made.
 - At the end of the 1-minute interval, 2 x 3-minute halves will be played, with a half-time interval of 1 minute. teams change ends at half-time, and substitutions and/or positional changes may be made.
 - The first centre pass in each half is taken by the team entitled to the next centre pass.
 - If, at the end of the second 3 minutes, the scores are still level, then play continues until one team leads by two goals.
- 20.6 NetSetGO, 9 & Under and 11 & Under Teams or Clubs may participate in a round robin instead of finals.
- 20.7 The Board will determine awards for premiers and runners-up in competitions.

21. FINALS - PLAYER QUALIFICATION

- 21.1 Players must play a minimum of 3 games played in that section throughout the season to qualify to compete in the finals. Games played will be recorded by the number of times a player is marked on the official scoresheet.
- 21.2 Exceptions regarding By Law 21.1 may be sought by submitting a written request and be granted by the Competition Director. The decision of the Competition Director is final.

- 21.3 Teams or Clubs found playing an ineligible player during finals will be deemed to have lost that game.

22. FORFEITS

- 22.1 In the event that a Team or Club forfeits prior to the game clock starting, only players of the non-offending Team or Club will be deemed to have participated in that game. Players of the offending Team or Club will not be deemed to have participated in that game.
- 22.2 If a Team or Club notifies the Competition Director 48 hours prior to the game starting of its intent to forfeit, no monetary penalty will be imposed.
- 22.3 A forfeit after this time, may incur its match fees as well as the opposing teams fees.
- 22.4 Any forfeit at Community Bank Stadium will attract a fee.
- 22.5 Penalties are subject to the discretion of the Competition Director
- 22.6 Continued forfeits may result in that Club or Team's exclusion from entry into future competitions.

23. CANCELLATIONS

- 23.1 When games are cancelled on account of a factor beyond the control of the relevant Teams or Clubs (e.g., power outage, or other extenuating circumstances, weather or some other cause) the match will be deemed a draw, both Teams or Clubs will be credited with two (2) points and the competition will continue as per the fixture.
- 23.2 Four (4) points can only be awarded to a Team or Club for winning a completed game.
- 23.3 In the event that a game is cancelled due to weather a maximum of twelve players for each Team or Club can be deemed to have participated in the game, which **MUST** be communicated to the Competition Director via email within 72 hours.
- 23.4 Should circumstances occur which require successive rounds to be cancelled, the Board will consider the position and determine a suitable course of action.

24. SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

- 24.1 The Association will organise the representative squad selection trials.
- 24.2 Selection trials will be conducted under the following conditions:
- a. All players who have submitted a player registration form shall be informed of the date, time and place where selection trials are to be held.
 - b. Notice of selection trials will be provided at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the selection trials.
- 24.3 **Team Selection Panels**
- a. The Head Coach shall be responsible for appointing Team Selectors for each age group and may be made up of the Team Coach and other nominated selectors.
 - b. Team Selectors may be appointed to more than one panel.

- c. Players shall be notified of the outcome of selection trials within the timeframe nominated by the Association.
- d. The Team Selector's decision shall be final and no appeals regarding selections made under this Bylaw are available.

24.4 **Player Eligibility**

- a. To be eligible to play in a representative team, a player must play in a domestic competition in their relevant age group in the year the player is seeking selection for, unless an exemption is granted by the Board of Management.

25. POOR SIDELINE BEHAVIOUR

- 25.1 NFNA Board has a Zero Tolerance approach to poor sideline behaviour by a spectator/parent/coach.
- 25.2 Poor sideline behaviour can be deemed as making any negative comments to or about umpires or players and any other behaviour or comments deemed inappropriate.
- 25.3 Spectators/parents/coaches will not engage in any form of poor sideline behaviour.
- 25.4 Any complaint of poor sideline behaviour shall see an umpire's supervisor and/or a Board Member investigate the circumstances at the time. If, on the balance of probabilities, the supervisor or Board Member is satisfied the complaint is legitimate, they shall immediately identify the team the spectator/parent/coach is affiliated to and notify the Competition Director.
- 25.5 **PENALTY – The team who the spectator/parent/coach WILL LOSE 2 POINTS FOR EACH OCCASION IT OCCURS.**
- 25.6 Should the spectator/parent/coach refuse to identify, or incorrectly identify, which team they are affiliated to, the game shall be stopped until the spectator/parent/coach is correctly linked to a team.
- 25.7 Should the spectator/parent/coach poor behaviour continue, the game will be cancelled, and no points awarded.
- 25.8 In addition to this, in all cases, the spectator/parent/coach will be asked to leave the complex and not return. The game will stop and not restart until the offending person has left. Failure to do so will see the game forfeited by the team linked to the spectator/parent/coach.
- 25.9 All incidents will be recorded by NFNA and subsequent incidents within a calendar year may see that team removed from the competition. Any such teams will also remain liable for all remaining match fees for the season (i.e., 10 matches left in the season, means 10 x weekly match fees).
- 25.10 Players who make inappropriate comments at or to umpires, will have their details recorded by the Association and if they engage in similar behaviour in a 12 month period, will see their current team penalized four (4) points and will face an automatic 1 match suspension from all NFNA competitions.

- 25.11 Should the behaviour in question be deemed at a level more serious than outlined in this memo, further sanctions (either to the player/coach/spectator/parent) and/or club may be imposed as considered necessary by the NFNA Executive Board.
- 25.12 All players, coaches, parents and spectators need to be reminded that as the majority of our umpires and players are under the age of 18 years of age, poor behaviour towards them may be a breach of Child Safety policies. As such, any infractions consistent with the above will be treated as a breach of Child Safety policies.

26. TEAM OFFICIALS & WORKING WITH CHILDREN REQUIREMENTS

- 26.1 As per the Child Safety policies, all persons over the age of 18, who hold a position of responsibility over a child, MUST have a current Working With Children Check.
- 26.2 All details must be submitted on the approved document supplied by the Association.
- 26.3 Clubs are to manage their own WWCC register, and a copy must be submitted to NFNA along with team entry.
- 26.4 **Failure to submit this form will result in all teams within that club lose 4 ladder points for each week it remains outstanding**
- 26.5 Coaches
- a. All coaches are encouraged to hold a minimum 'Foundation Coaching Level Accreditation' in order to coach a Team or Club.
 - b. All coaches aged 18 or over must hold a current Working With Children Check (WWCC).
- 26.6 Team Managers
- a. Clubs or teams may have a team manager.
 - b. Team managers aged 18 or over must hold a current Working With Children Check (WWCC).
- 26.7 Umpires
- a. A panel of umpires will be supplied by NFNA for all competitions
 - b. Unbadged umpires must have completed an online Umpires Theory Exam and all other qualifications as required to umpire within NFNA
 - c. Badging of umpires is at the discretion of the Umpires Coordinator

27. AWARDS

- 27.1 All NetSetGO, 9 & Under and 11 & Under participants will receive a participation award as deemed appropriate by the Association.
- 27.2 All players who participate in a grand final will receive an award to be determined by the Association.

28. FUNDRAISING

- 28.1 The Association shall conduct fundraising activities during each year.
- 28.2 The Board shall determine the specific fundraising activities to be conducted.
- 28.3 Individual representative Teams or Clubs must seek approval from the Board for any individual fundraising activities they wish to conduct that utilise the netball pavilion or its environs. Teams or Clubs must apply in writing at least four weeks prior to the event, providing details of and rationale for the fundraising activity. Information as to how the activity will be organised, including risk management and safety measures if relevant, must be provided.
- 28.4 All members are required to support the fundraising activities of the Association.

29. COURSES, SEMINARS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- 29.1 The Association shall provide notification of opportunities for all members to improve their skills by attending courses, seminars and other personal development activities.
- 29.2 The Association shall encourage and support members who wish to attend appropriate courses, seminars and other personal development activities.

30. ACCREDITATION

- 30.1 The Association shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that all Team Officials have the appropriate minimum qualifications.
- 30.2 Where minimum accreditation standards are not met, the Association shall encourage and support the member(s) to achieve the minimum accreditation standard.

31. RISK MANAGEMENT

31.1 Injury Reporting

All Teams and Clubs are responsible for recording all injuries of the injured player (or players' guardian for players under 18) on the Association Injury Report Form.

31.2 Child Safety in Netball

- a. The Association and all Teams and Clubs are responsible for the observance, promotion, enforcement and monitoring of the Child Safety in Netball Policy and Code of Conduct.
- b. The Association and all Teams and Clubs are responsible for the management and administration of the application of the Netball Victoria Working with Children Check Regulation.

31.3 Game Day Checklist

- a. A Game Day Checklist must be completed prior to all Association and Team and Club competitions, tournaments, games, programs and training.
- b. Any hazards identified will be:
 - Documented;
 - Rectified if possible; and

- Reported to the appropriate agency (local council, Board) if required.

31.4 **First Aid**

- a. The Association will provide a first aid kit for competitions played at the Association's venues.
- b. Teams and Clubs must provide their own first aid kit when not playing in an Association competition (i.e. training).
- c. The Association's first aid kit will be stored in the First Aid Room] and all appropriate personnel (including court supervisors, umpires and Board Members) will have access to it.
- d. The Competition Director will have the responsibility of ensuring the first aid kit is maintained.
- e. The Association has a designated first aid room for the treatment of injuries. The room or area should be kept clean and accessible at all times.
- f. The Association will ensure that a qualified first aider is present at all competitions.

31.5 **Concussion**

Nillumbik Force Netball Association follows Netball Victoria's Concussion Policy ([Click to view](#))

- a. Should the Association's First Aid officer determine that, after following the concussion policy guidelines, a player may have received a concussion, that player
- b. It is the players and/or their clubs' responsibility in ensuring that a medical clearance is provided to the Association at least 24 hours prior to returning to play.
- c. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the player not being able to return to play until all such requirements have been met

31.6 **Emergency procedures**

Emergency phone numbers - ambulance, police and an emergency procedure plan are to be displayed at the Association venue.

31.7 **Weather**

This section should be read in conjunction with [Netball Victoria's Weather Guidelines](#)

- a. The overarching consideration regarding any decisions regarding both heat and wet weather, is player safety.
- b. All decisions regarding game cancellations/weather shall be made by the Competition Director in conjunction with the Umpire Supervisor/s. Should they not agree, any Board member present at the time shall be consulted to assist with decisions.

- c. The Association provides every opportunity for games to be played. As such, any decisions regarding cancellations of games shall be communicated to participants no later than 30 minutes prior to the commencement of each round.
- d. Notifications of cancellations will be communicated through
 - i. Facebook (NillumbikForceNetballAssociation) and
 - ii. Netball Connect
- e. **NFNA will not provide advice until a decision around cancellations are made.**

31.8 **Smoke Free**

- a. The Association adopts a smoke free policy.
- b. Smoking is banned within 50 metres of a court area. The preferred smoking area is outside of the carpark area and should be observed during organised underage sporting events and training sessions.

31.9 **Netball Australia and Netball Victoria Policies**

- a. The Association will adopt all codes, policies, procedures and regulations from Netball Australia and Netball Victoria as amended from time to time.
- b. These can be found here – [Netball Vic Guidelines and Policies](#)

32. **DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

- 32.1 Where a member breaches a Bylaw, and that Bylaw prescribes a penalty for such breach, then the Board may impose such penalty. For any other breach of the Bylaws, the Board will impose any other penalty it sees fit in accordance with these Bylaws and the Constitution.
- 32.2 Any member who does not agree with a penalty or action of the Board made under this Bylaw, may advise the Board in writing within 7 days following the penalty or decision being made. The Board may then:
- a. Discuss the issue with the relevant party and then make a decision regarding the matter. The Board shall inform the party/s involved of their decision either verbally or in writing; or
 - b. Have an informal meeting with the relevant party/s in order to discuss and resolve the dispute.

33. **PENALTIES**

- 33.1 Any breach of these By-Laws will be reviewed by NFNA. If appropriate, the Competition Director may determine any of the following penalties to be incurred:
- a. A monetary fine
 - b. Loss of premiership points
 - c. Any other penalty as deemed appropriate.
- 33.2 Repeat instances shall be considered by the Competition Director and may result in exclusion from the current and future Competitions.

34. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES/PROVISIONS CLAUSE

Where these Bylaws are silent on a particular matter, a decision can be made by the Board, or by extension, two members of the Executive. In exceptional or extenuating circumstances, the Board may, acting reasonably, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in these bylaws relating to the Association. The Board of Management has decreed that any decisions relating to the Associations competitions, has been delegated to the Competition Director

35. INDEMNITY

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



RETURN TO COMMUNITY NETBALL COVID IMPACTED COMPETITION RULES AND BY-LAWS

COVID will remain part of our daily lives and will be something we all must continue to manage. Netball Victoria and affiliated Associations and Leagues continues to work within the Directions provided by Victorian Government and public health advice to ensure our members stay safe and healthy. As the Government directions change and the circumstances of community sport evolve, we must adapt, introduce flexibility and ensure our competition rules reflect this very dynamic environment we operate within.

The following information provides a series of options for Associations and Leagues to consider when devising their competition rules or by-laws post two COVID disrupted seasons. These are not sample by-laws or recommended inclusions, only options or items for consideration. It is recommended Associations and Leagues review this information and then apply the detail suitable to your competition.

Vaccination Requirements

- The vaccination requirements of all League/Association members, volunteers and spectators will be determined by the direction of the Victorian Government Directions and advised by Netball Victoria's Return to Community Netball guidelines.

COVIDSafe Plans

- All clubs must complete a COVIDSafe Plan and review as required.
- A copy of the COVIDSafe Plan must be submitted to the League/Association.
- A copy of the COVIDSafe Plan must be available on the Club website.

COVID Marshall

- Where required, the club will appoint a COVID Marshall.

Reporting of positive COVID cases

- All clubs are responsible for notifying the League/Association if a club member tests positive to COVID. This notification must be made to the competition manager as soon as possible.
- The Club and the League/Association will follow the most up-to-date *Checklist for COVID Contacts* as determined by the Victorian Department of Health.
- The League/Association may apply a monetary fine should it become aware of a Club who has knowingly breached or disregarded this by-law.

First Aid

- Clubs shall be responsible for their own first aid through the home and away season and finals.
- Clubs must ensure COVID safe practices are followed at all times.
- The League/Association will supply hand sanitiser and it will be available at each court.
- Clubs must provide hand sanitiser and it must be available at each court.

Cancelled or Abandoned Matches

- In the event that a match is abandoned due to the direct impact of COVID, and the League/Association, and opposition Club is notified with sufficient notice prior to the match, a 0-0 score and four competition points shall be awarded to the non-offending team. Zero competition points will be awarded to the offending team.
- Failure by any club to notify the League/Association of their inability to play a fixtured match due to COVID related circumstances, shall render the club liable to a monetary fine or other penalty for the breach.
- Should circumstances occur in which an entire round is cancelled, the League/Association will abandon all matches for that round and award 0-0 score line to each match and award 0 competition points for each match.

- Should circumstances occur in which successive rounds need to be cancelled, the League/Association will consider the position and determine a suitable course of action.
- Where possible, the League/Association will communicate any changes to the scheduled fixture 24-hours prior to the commencement of the round. Where communication 24-hours prior is not possible, the League/Association will endeavour to provide information as soon as practicable.
- Where practicable, the League/Association will endeavour to re-fixture abandoned matches.

Player qualification

- Players shall only play in one age division per day/night.
- A player may be granted an exemption to play in multiple age divisions or grades in one day/night where it is deemed essential to facilitate the continuation of a match impacted as a direct result of COVID.
- Players must not fill-in for another team in the same grade or division without prior approval of the League/Association.
- Players must play a minimum of one-third of the team's fixtured matches throughout the competition to qualify to compete in the finals series.
- Players must play a minimum of [insert number] quarters for a team throughout the competition to qualify to compete in the finals.
- Players must play a minimum of [insert number] matches for a team throughout the competition to qualify to compete in the finals.
- Player qualification shall only be awarded to nominated players of the non-offending team. A total of twenty-eight qualifying quarters shall be allocated between up to 10 players of the non-offending team.
- A total of seven qualifying games shall be allocated to up to 10 players of the non-offending team.
- No qualifying quarters or games shall be awarded to players of the offending team.
- No financial penalty will be imposed on any team that forfeits due to the direct impact of COVID.

Ladders

- In the home and away matches, four points will be allotted for a win or a bye, two points for a draw and zero points for a loss.
- At the conclusion of each round, the League/Association will calculate a ladder for each grade.
- In competitions where there is an uneven number of byes, or an uneven number of matches played by each competing team, the League/Association may elect to apply a match ratio ladder which reflects the number of wins by each team against the number of matches played by each team.
- All decisions of the League in respect of the calculation of ladders, points and percentages shall be final and binding

Finals

- Matches shall be conducted for finals as for home and away matches. The starting times may vary, and clubs advised accordingly.
- Should a scheduled finals match be impacted in any way by COVID, and it is unable to be played at the scheduled date and time, every effort will be made to reschedule that finals match on a date and at a time and venue suitable for both teams.
- In the event of a team being unable to contest a final series match, the League/Association must be notified as soon as practical. Every effort will be made to reschedule that finals match on a date and at a time and venue suitable for both teams.
- The rescheduled finals match must be completed prior to the next scheduled round of finals.
- Where the finals match cannot be rescheduled, the non-offending team will have automatic entry to the next round of the finals series, and the finals series will proceed as per the fixtured arrangements.
- A team unable to contest one final will not be permitted to take part in subsequent finals matches.
- Teams found playing an ineligible player during finals will be considered to have lost that match and be subject to a fine set by the League/Association.

Coaches

- If an appointed coach is unavailable to attend a fixtured match due to the direct impact of COVID, a replacement coach may be appointed for that fixtured match only.

Scorers

- If an appointed scorer is unavailable to officiate a fixtured match due to the direct impact of COVID, the League/Association must be notified immediately, and a replacement scorer must be arranged for that fixtured match.

Umpires

- If an appointed umpire is unavailable to officiate a fixtured match due to the direct impact of COVID, the League/Association must be notified immediately, and a replacement umpire must be appointed for that fixtured match.
- Where it is the responsibility of the club to appoint an umpire and that umpire is unable to officiate a fixtured match due to the direct impact of COVID, all reasonable efforts must be made by the club to find a replacement umpire.
- No financial penalty will be imposed on any club or team that cannot appoint an umpire due to the direct impact of COVID.

Duty rosters

- Where the club is unable to fulfil the requirements of a duty roster due to the direct impact of COVID, all reasonable efforts must be made by the club to find a replacement.
- No financial penalty will be imposed on any club or team that cannot fulfil their duty role due to the direct impact of COVID.
- The League/Association may, at their discretion, rearrange the duty roster and reappoint the club to duty another date and time.

Uniform

- Where a breach of the uniform by-law is caused as a direct impact of COVID (uniform items held by a non-attending team member), no penalty will apply to the offending team.

Team withdrawal

- In the event a team must withdraw from the competition owing to a COVID related issue, the reimbursement of team entry fees paid will be negotiated with the competition manager.
- All and any outstanding fees must be paid to the competition manager.

Discretion

- The League/Association may apply its discretion in determining penalties where a breach of a by-law is confirmed to be a direct impact of COVID.
- The League/Association has the authority to apply its discretion to COVID related breaches and elect to enforce or not enforce penalties to ensure the integrity of the competition is maintained.
- Where a by-law is silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the competition is maintained.
- The penalty for any breach of a by-law which is a direct result of COVID will be determined by the League/Association.
- The League/Association will apply discretion to any breach of a by-law which is determined to be a direct result of COVID.
- The League/Association actively supports participation of all groups and in order to encourage and facilitate participation the League/Association may apply flexibility and allow for modifications of the by-laws where necessary, and appropriate, and where it can be applied fairly.