

NETBALL BY-LAWS

GEE LONG AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

**ANAKIE
BANNOCKBURN
BELL POST HILL
BELMONT LIONS
CORIO
EAST GEE LONG
GEE LONG WEST GIANTS
INVERLEIGH
NORTH GEE LONG
THOMSON
WERRIBEE CENTRALS
WINCHELSEA**



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INTRODUCTION

These By-Laws are the rules governing the internal affairs of Geelong & District Football League Netball. They are the operating procedures that determine the conduct and direction of the organisation.

Geelong and District Football League Netball shall follow the official Netball Rules as set down by International Netball Federation, unless these have been superseded by League Constitution, Local By-Laws or Competition Regulations.

Any correspondence or queries relating to any Geelong & District Football League Netball Competition should be directed via the following avenues:

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CLUBS: Anakie Football Netball Club

Bannockburn Football Netball Club

Bell Post Hill Football Netball Club

Belmont Lions Sports Club

Corio Community Sports Club

East Geelong Football Netball Club

Geelong West Giants Football Netball Club

Inverleigh Football Netball Club

North Geelong Football Netball Club

Thomson Football Netball Club

Werribee Centrals Football Netball Club

Winchelsea Football Netball Club



DEFINITIONS

“**League**” means the Geelong and District Football Netball League.

“**Football/Netball League**” means any other Leagues running home and away competitions.

“**Club**” means a non-profit incorporated body which has an interest in netball and is affiliated with the League.

“**League Netball Manager**” is the incumbent and role responsible for the day to day operations and management of the League Netball.

“**By-Laws**” means these By-Laws of the League as amended from time to time.

“**Executive**” is the governing body of the League.

“**Constitution**” means the constitution of the League as amended from time to time.

“**Club Delegate**” is a Netball Representative of a Club or Team who liaises with the League Netball Manager and League.

“**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 affiliated with a governing Club in home and away Competition.

“**Team Official**” has the meaning given to it by By-Law 25.

“**SSL**” means [Suncorp Super Netball League](#).

“**ANC**” means [Australian Netball Championships](#).

“**VNL**” means [Victorian Netball League](#). Divisions include Championship and 23 & Under.

“**PlayHQ**” is the database that League uses as a competition management technology platform.

“**NetballConnect**” is the technology platform that participants use to purchase their Netball Victoria Memberships.

“**NetSetGO**” [Woolworths NetSetGo](#) is a fun, safe, social and active program for girls and boys aged 5 to 8 years old. It gives kids of all abilities a positive introduction to netball and teaches them the basic skills of the sport.

“**Penalty Unit**” is used to define the amount payable for Penalties for breaches of these By-Laws.

“**Tribunal**” is used to define the league appointed independent body established to settle disputes when reported or identified.

BYLAWS

These By-Laws outline the rules and operating procedures that govern the GDFNL Netball Competition. They were formally adopted by the League on 10 December 2025 and remain in effect until amended, repealed, or replaced. Any changes to the By-Laws take effect from the date they are approved by the League.

Updates to dates and fees for the 2026 season were made in December 2025.

Key changes for Season 2026 include:

- PlayHQ Competition Management
- Intro 11&U
- Game times change for grades

1 MEETINGS

1.1 Club Netball Delegate Meetings

- Club Delegate Meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the delegated months, unless otherwise notified by the League Executive or Netball Manager. A minimum of 7 days' notice will be provided for any change of date or time.
- Meetings will be held in January, February, March, April, June, August and October. Additional meetings may be convened when deemed necessary by the League Executive or Netball Manager.
- Each affiliated Club must nominate and send one (1) Club Netball Delegate to each meeting. The Delegate must be actively involved in the Club's day-to-day netball operations.
- Each affiliated Club has one (1) vote on League matters.

PENALTY: *If a club does not attend a Club Netball Delegate Meeting:*
> *First missed meeting = 1.0 Penalty Unit*
> *Each additional missed meeting = 1.5 Penalty Units*

1.2 Special General Meeting

- A Special General Meeting can be called by the League Executive or when requested in writing by at least four (4) Affiliated Clubs (25%).
- Clubs will receive at least seven (7) days' notice before the meeting.
- The meeting notice must include the reason for the meeting.
- Only the item(s) listed in the meeting notice will be discussed or voted on.

PENALTY: *If a club does not attend a Special General Meeting:*
> *First missed meeting = 1.0 Penalty Unit*
> *Each additional missed meeting = 1.5 Penalty Units*

1.3 By-Laws Review Meeting

- The League will conduct a By-Laws Review bi-annually in December, then every second year thereafter, unless otherwise notified by the League Executive.
- Clubs can submit written suggestions for rule changes or updates before the bi-annual review.
- A Working Party convened by the League will consider submissions and provide recommendations for presentation to Clubs.
- All recommendations from the By-Laws Review Meeting require League Executive approval before taking effect.
- Once approved, updated By-Laws (and a summary of changes) will be distributed to Clubs and published on League channels. Unless otherwise stated, changes take effect from 1 January of the following year.
- Where urgent or compliance-driven matters arise (e.g. Child Safe Standards, integrity, policy alignment), the League Executive may make interim amendments at any time. Clubs will be consulted and notified of any interim changes.

PENALTY: *If a club does not attend the By-Laws Review Meeting:*
> *First missed meeting = 1.0 Penalty Unit*
> *Each additional missed meeting = 1.5 Penalty Units*

2 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) “In writing” means either written or electronic communication (like email).
- (b) Any netball-related correspondence from a club to the League must be sent in writing by the Club Netball Delegate or an authorised person, and directed to the League Netball Manager.
- (c) Any netball-related correspondence from the League to a club will be sent to the Club Netball Delegate or an authorised person.

3. FINANCES

3.1 Fees

- (a) The League Executive will decide the fees that each club and team must pay to the League.
- (b) This may include an annual affiliation fee, set by the League.
- (c) These fees are used to cover the costs of running the League and managing competitions.
- (d) All payments must be made by the due date listed on the invoice.

PENALTY: > A 0.5 Penalty Unit will apply per club and per team if payment is not made by the due date
 > Clubs or teams that haven't paid will not be allowed to take the court

- (e) All players must be fully paid members of their own club or team to be eligible to play in any League activity.
- (f) Any player who owes money to the League cannot take the court for any club or team until the debt is paid.

PENALTY: > A 0.5 Penalty Unit per player applies
 > The player will not be allowed to take the court in any League competition until the outstanding amount is paid

3.2 Reimbursements / Payments

- (a) Club Netball Delegate Committee members may claim approved expenses incurred while acting in an official League role.
- (b) To receive reimbursement, receipts must be provided to the League.

Umpires:

- (c) Panel Umpires will be paid \$80.00 per A Grade and B Grade game, as set by the League. Total payment cannot exceed \$460.00 per round.
- (d) Club Umpires are paid at a rate determined by their individual club. The recommended rates are:
 - C Grade – \$40.00
 - D Grade – \$40.00
 - E Grade – \$40.00
 - 19 & Under – \$40.00
 - 17 & Under – \$35.00
 - 15 & Under – \$35.00
 - 13 & Under – \$35.00
 - 11 & Under - \$35.00
- (e) The League will reimburse each club up to a total amount of \$440.00 per home and away round. This covers payments to both Panel and Club Umpires.
- (f) Club Treasurers must send a monthly invoice to the League Treasurer on official club letterhead, showing payments made to umpires, in order to be reimbursed.
- (g) Panel Umpires appointed to support League Representative Teams will also be paid at the League rate.
- (h) Other League-appointed personnel may be eligible to claim approved expenses. These will be considered by the League on a case-by-case basis.

3.3 Penalty Units

- (a) Penalty Units are used to set the amount payable for breaking these By-Laws.
- (b) The value of one (1) Penalty Unit is \$100.00, effective from 1 January to 31 December of the current season.

UNIT	VALUE
1.0	\$100.00
0.5	\$50.00
0.2	\$20.00

- (c) The League will review the value of Penalty Units at the end of each year.
- (d) If the value changes, the new rate will apply from 1 January of the following season.

3.4 Hartley Cooper Junior Development Fund

- (a) For details about this fund, refer to By-Law 10. Grading, items 10.5 and 10.6.
- (b) League Executive can provide further information about the criteria and purpose of the Fund if requested.

4. INFORMATION TO CLUBS

4.1 Before the start of the season, the League will provide information to all clubs. This may include (but is not limited to):

- (a) League contact details
- (b) League venue addresses
- (c) Competition By-Laws
- (d) Fixtures
- (e) Details of upcoming courses, seminars, and development opportunities

4.2 Information may be delivered in a variety of ways, including but not limited to:

- (a) Printed documents
- (b) Written notices
- (c) Electronic communication

5. CLUB AND TEAM REGISTRATION

5.1 To be eligible to compete in the League's competitions, a Club or Team must complete and return the official entry form by the due date set by the League Netball Manager each season.

5.2 Once a valid entry form is submitted and accepted, the League will register the Club or Team and provide relevant information, which may include:

- (a) Due dates and amounts for all season fees, including Registration Fees, Court Fees, Netball Victoria Fees, and any other applicable charges
- (b) A link to the League Constitution and By-Laws
- (c) Information about upcoming meetings or other League requirements
- (d) Any other information provided under By-Law 4 – Information to Clubs

5.3 A Club or Team is not considered registered until written confirmation is received from the League.

5.4 The League may reject a registration application from any Club or Team that applies to compete in a League competition.

5.5 All Clubs and Teams can access Netball Victoria's policies, procedures, regulations, and codes of conduct via the Netball Victoria website.

PENALTY: > A fine may be issued, as determined by the League and/or the Netball Tribunal.

6. NETBALL VICTORIA MEMBERSHIP

6.1 [Netball Victoria Membership](#) fees are set annually by Netball Victoria (Victorian Netball League Inc.).

6.2 **Season 2026** Netball Victoria Membership fees are:

- (a) Senior (18+) – \$94.00
- (b) Junior (11–17) – \$73.00
- (c) All Abilities (any age) – \$70.00
- (d) Off-The-Court (any age) – \$50.00

6.3 All players must be registered with their Club using Netball Victoria's [NetballConnect System](#) via the app or website.

6.4 Returning players must re-register themselves through the NetballConnect System.

(a) Players must keep their contact details up to date, including postal address, mobile number, and email address.

6.5 All new players joining the League must register themselves through NetballConnect before taking the court on match day.

(a) This must be done in line with eligibility requirements outlined in:

- By-Law 12 – Clearances
- By-Law 21 – Player Qualification
- By-Law 20 – Player Eligibility

6.6 Players must not create a new Player ID in NetballConnect.

(a) If there is a duplicate ID, the player and Club must work together to merge the duplicate records.

PENALTY: > Player – 0.2 Penalty Unit

6.7 To be eligible to participate in any League competition or program, all Players, Coaches, and Umpires must:

- (a) Be a current financial Netball Victoria member
- (b) Register to your Club using the correct online form and NetballConnect link provided by the League

6.8 An Off-The-Court Membership (for administrative roles such as President, Secretary, Timekeeper) is available to members in non-playing roles.

6.9 No Player (Junior, Senior, All Abilities), Coach, or Umpire can participate in any League activity without a current Netball Victoria membership.

6.10 No Player, Coach, or Umpire can participate in any League activity without being registered with their Club in the Club's NetballConnect database.

PENALTY: > (a) Loss of four (4) premiership points for the Club Team for any round(s) an unregistered Player, Coach, or Umpire participated
> (b) Club – 0.5 Penalty Unit per unregistered person, plus 0.5 Penalty Unit per week until the registration is complete

7. INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS

- 7.1 The League is committed to providing a safe, fair, and inclusive environment where everyone can contribute and participate.
- 7.2 The League will aim to create opportunities for males to participate in both Mixed and Male Competitions.
- 7.3 The League may offer cultural awareness training and inclusive workshops to support clubs in creating a welcoming and culturally respectful environment.
- 7.4 **Gender**
- The League supports participation in netball based on the gender with which a person identifies.
 - If any issues arise, the League will seek advice and follow the [Netball Victoria Transgender & Gender Diverse Policy](#).
- 7.5 **Competition Labelling**
- 7.6 All competitions will be clearly [labelled](#) with:
- Age group
 - Gender
 - Additional notes where required to identify all genders permitted to participate
- 7.7 **Male Participation**
- The League follows the [Netball Victoria Gender Regulation](#) regarding male participation:
- Males aged 12 years and under can play without restriction.
 - Males aged 13 years and over are not permitted to participate in Female Competitions.
 - A male who turns 13 during the season may continue to play until the end of that season.
 - Clubs must also follow By-Law 8.4.
- 7.8 **Female Competitions**
- The League's Female Competitions include:
- Junior Grades – 13& Under, 15&Under, 17&Under, 19&Under
 - All Senior Grades.
- 7.9 **Mixed Competitions**
- The League follows the [Netball Victoria Gender Regulation](#) for Mixed Competition:
- Mixed Competitions for 11&Under and 13&Under have no gender restrictions
- 7.10 The League's Mixed Competition applies to:
- Junior Grade - 11&Under and 13&Under

PENALTY:

- > *If the Club Team wins the game – they will forfeit all match points and scored goals.*
- > *If the Club Team loses – they will forfeit all scored goals.*
- > *The opposing team will be awarded match points and retain their goals.*

8. ACQUIREMENTS

- 8.1 A player's age is determined as at 31 December of the current year.
- By-Law 7.6 regarding gender and age eligibility must also be applied.
- 8.2 Players must meet the following maximum age requirements for each competition grade:

AGE GROUP	MINIMUM AGE
11&UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players must be aged 9 years old as at 31 December of the current year. • They cannot turn 8 during the season. • Players must be 11 years or younger as at 31 December of the current year. • They cannot turn 12 during the season.
13&UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players must be 13 years or younger as at 31 December of the current year. • They cannot turn 14 during the season.
15&UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players must be 15 years or younger as at 31 December of the current year. • They cannot turn 16 during the season
17&UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players must be 17 years or younger as at 31 December of the current year. • They cannot turn 18 during the season.
19&UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players must be 19 years or younger as at 31 December of the current year. • They cannot turn 20 during the season.
E GRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players must be 20 years or older as at 31 December of the current year.
A/B/C/D GRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players must be 15 years or older as at 31 December of the current year.

- 8.3 All players must provide their correct date of birth when registering.
- Failure to do so will make the player ineligible to participate in League activities.



- PENALTY:**
- > *The player will be ineligible to play for any Club or Team in the League.*
 - > *If the Club Team wins the game - they will forfeit all match points and scored goals.*
 - > *If the Club Team loses - they will forfeit all scored goals.*
 - > *The opposing team will be awarded match points and retain their goals.*

8.4 Participants aged 5 to 8 years are encouraged to join a [NetSetGO program](#) at a League club (if offered) or participate in other 9&Under competitions.

8.5 Players must also meet the following minimum age requirements for each competition grade:

AGE GROUP	MINIMUM AGE
11&UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must turn 9 years old during the year of competition.
13&UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must turn 11 years old during the year of competition.
15&UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must turn 12 years old during the year of competition.
17&UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must turn 13 years old during the year of competition..
19&UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must turn 13 years old during the year of competition..
E GRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must turn 20 years old during the year of competition.
A/B/C/D GRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must turn 15 years old during the year of competition..

PENALTY:

- > The player will be ineligible to play for any Club or Team in the League.
- > If the Club Team wins the game – they will forfeit all match points and scored goals.
- > If the Club Team loses – they will forfeit all scored goals.
- > The opposing team will be awarded match points and retain their goals.

9. COMPETITIONS & PROGRAMS

9.1 The League offers the following competitions and programs in line with [Netball Victoria's Competition Labelling Guidelines](#).

9.2 The following Competitions are offered:

COMPETITION/PROGRAM	PARTICIPANTS
11&UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female - Refer to By-Law 7.6 for guidance on male participation in female competitions.
13&UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female - Refer to By-Law 7.6 for guidance on male participation in female competitions.
15&UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female - Refer to By-Law 7.6 for guidance on male participation in female competitions.
17&UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female
19&UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female
E GRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female
D GRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female
C GRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female
B GRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female
A GRADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female

10. GRADING

10.1 Senior Team Grading

- All clubs must aim to enter five (5) Senior Teams, in the following order:
 - A Grade, then B Grade, then C Grade, then D Grade, then E Grade.
- If a club cannot field all five Senior Teams during the season, teams must be filled in the following order:
 - A Grade must be filled before B Grade,
 - B Grade before C Grade,
 - C Grade before D Grade,
 - D Grade before E Grade.
- E Grade is considered a Senior Grade competition and supports player retention and club participation.
- Players must hold a [Senior Netball Victoria Membership](#) to play in E Grade.

PENALTY:

- > Ineligibility to field a Senior Team will result in a Penalty Unit fine to the Club as follows:
 A Grade \$2500 - B Grade \$2000 - C Grade \$1500 - D Grade \$1500 - E Grade \$1500
 This will be at the discretion of the League.

10.2 Junior Team Grading

- All clubs must aim to enter five (5) Junior Teams, in the following grades:
 - 19&Under, 17&Under, 15&Under, 13&Under and 11&Under.
- In the case of new Grades, in the inaugural Season of this Grade, no penalty will apply if a club does not field a team.
- The 19&Under grade is considered a Junior Grade to support player development and provide a pathway to Senior competition.

PENALTY: > *Ineligibility to field a Junior Team will result in a Penalty Unit fine to the Club as follows:
19&Under \$1500 - 17&Under \$1000 - 15&Under \$1000 - 13&Under \$1000 - 11&Under \$1000*

- (d) For a Senior and Junior competition to proceed, a minimum of six (6) club teams must be entered by the end of March for the upcoming season.
- (e) If a club is unable to field a team in any Junior or Senior grade, they must:
 - Send a letter explaining the situation to the League Netball Manager as soon as possible
 - Await acknowledgement and agreed next steps from the League
 - Continue to field registered teams until otherwise advised

10.3 Hartley Cooper Junior Development Fund

- (a) Any Clubs fielding Junior Teams in all Junior Grades in the following allocated age groups will receive a bonus payment (amount at the discretion of the League) from the Hartley Cooper Junior Development Fund:
 - 19&Under, 17&Under, 15&Under, 13&Under, 11&Under and NetSetGo.

11 DRESSCODE

11.1 Players

- (a) All Clubs and Teams must submit their proposed uniform each season to the League for approval. This includes colours and styles of dresses, tops, shorts, bibs, sports shorts, and socks (white, black or club).

PENALTY: > *Club fine – 1.0 Penalty Unit*

- (b) Clubs must offer uniform options for Female, Male and/or gender-nonspecific preferences, allowing players to choose the style they are comfortable in. This must align with [Netball Victoria's Gender Regulation Policy](#) and [Promoting Male Participation Policy](#) (Jan 2019).

PENALTY: > *Club fine – 2.0 Penalty Unit*

- (c) Clubs must notify the League in writing of any proposed uniform changes for League approval.
- (d) All Club and Team colours and designs must be approved by the League.
- (e) Clubs must refer to the [League Style Guide](#) for correct placement and sizing of League and sponsor logos on dresses.
- (f) All Club bibs must display the correct logos on the front and back:
 - Senior Grades: Worksafe, GDFNL, and Club logo
 - Junior Grades: Kempe, GDFNL, and Club logo
- (g) Players must wear their approved Club uniform, including bibs and any sports shorts, during all League activities.
- (h) Socks must be white, black or club-branded. Coloured socks may be worn if all teams across the club match.
- (i) Junior players may wear a long-sleeve fitted top under their dress in cold weather.
 - Colours must match the dress and be registered with the League. Refer to By-Law 11.1(a).
- (j) The following are not permitted unless supported by a doctor's certificate or approved for cultural/religious reasons:
 - Thong or bikini-style underwear, see-through pants, slacks, bike pants, or tracksuit pants.
 - Written requests must go to the League Netball Manager.
- (k) Uniforms must not include badges. One major sponsor is allowed with League approval in writing.
- (l) Any player needing a uniform variation for medical, cultural, religious, or other reasons must make a written request to the League Netball Manager. Approval is at the League's discretion.
- (m) No jewellery or piercings may be worn unless taped securely (wedding bands, medic alert items, studs).
 - Players may be excluded from games if jewellery is not covered to the umpire's satisfaction.
- (n) Fingernails must be short and smooth, or fully taped to the umpire's satisfaction.
 - Players who do not meet this requirement cannot take the court.
- (o) Gloves may only be worn with a doctor's certificate. Nails must still be short and smooth or taped underneath.
 - The certificate must be shown to the umpire and included in match day paperwork.
 - The League will notify all Clubs of approved glove-wearing players.
- (p) Optical glasses or sunglasses may be worn, but must follow World Netball safety guidelines.
Recommended:
 - Close-fitting, wraparound styles, Polycarbonate or CR39 lenses, No glass lenses or sharp edges.
- (q) Only appropriate sports shoes are allowed.
- (r) Players who do not follow this By-Law may be prevented from playing at the umpire's discretion.
- (s) Clubs and players will receive one official warning before a penalty is applied for a uniform breach.

PENALTY: > *Club fine - 0.2 Penalty Unit*
> *Player fine - 0.2 Penalty Unit*

11.2 Umpires

- (a) Club Umpires must wear:
- League Club Umpire Top, White t-shirt or jumper
 - White skirt, or white/black sports shorts, leggings or tights
 - Correct sports shoes
 - White rain jacket (if needed).
- (b) The following are not permitted unless supported by a doctor's certificate or approved for cultural/religious reasons:
- Other League or Association netball umpire tops
 - Thong or bikini-style underwear, see-through pants, slacks, bike pants, or tracksuit pants.
 - Written requests must go to the League Netball Manager.
- (c) Panel Umpires must wear all of the above, plus:
- The White League Panel Umpire Top, as supplied by the League
 - A full white uniform is required during League Finals.
- (d) Trainee Umpires must wear the same uniform, plus:
- The League Umpire Top, as supplied by the League.

PENALTY: > Club and/or Umpire fine – 0.5 Penalty Unit

11.3 Representative Squad

- (a) The uniform for the League Representative Squad will be determined by the League.

12 CLEARANCES

- 12.1** A Clearance is required **if a Senior Player** (not Junior) wants to transfer between two GDFNL Clubs, and they played for a GDFNL Club in the previous home and away season
- (a) Clubs and Players must also refer to By-Law 21 – Player Qualifications.
- 12.2** A Clearance is not required if a Senior Player is transferring from another football/netball league outside the GDFNL.
- (a) Clubs and Players must still refer to By-Law 21 – Player Qualifications.
- 12.3** A player can only be granted one (1) Clearance per season.
- 12.4** Clearances can only be granted between 1 February and 30 June of the season.
- (a) Applications submitted outside this period must be made in writing to the League Netball Manager and will be considered at their discretion.
- 12.5** A Clearance will not be granted if the player:
- (a) Owes outstanding playing fees to their club and/or the League
- (b) Has not returned League, Club or Team property (e.g. uniforms, equipment).
- 12.6** A player must receive Clearance approval through the Clearance Process Item 12.7 before registering in PlayHQ or playing for a new League Club or Team.

PENALTY:

- > **Player fine – 1.0 Penalty Unit per game played without a valid Clearance**
- > **If the player's team wins the match – they will forfeit all match points and scored goals**
- > **If the player's team loses – they will forfeit all scored goals**
- > **The opposing team will be awarded match points and retain their goals.**

12.7 Clearance Process:

- (a) Due to the introduction of PlayHQ as the netball competition management system in Season 2026, all players are treated as “new transfers” in the platform. Player history from prior seasons is not recognised within the system. To maintain the integrity of player movement and ensure Clubs and the League have an accurate audit trail, a **manual clearance process** will be required in addition to the PlayHQ transfer.
- (b) The Club receiving the new player must:
- Direct the player to complete the official GDFNL Online Clearance Application Form (Google Form)
 - Ensure the Form is submitted from the player's personal email address only (Forms from Club emails will not be accepted)
 - Await League instruction before initiating the PlayHQ transfer
- (c) Once the form is completed and submitted:
- The League Netball Manager will send a Clearance Request email, with a copy of the Form, to the player's previous Club, new Club, and the player (CC'd)
 - The player's previous Club has seven (7) days to approve or deny the clearance via reply-all email
 - If the previous Club does not respond within 7 days, the League will follow up once. If no response is received, the League may approve the clearance based on available evidence.
 - Clearances may only be denied for reasons per Item 12.5.



- If denied, the reason must be clearly stated in the reply
- (d) Once approval is received:
- The player may initiate the transfer request via registering to new Club in PlayHQ
 - The previous Club or League will approve the PlayHQ transfer
 - The PlayHQ transfer is the final administrative step and will only be processed once manual clearance approval is confirmed
- (e) The League Netball Manager will record all clearance activity in an internal Clearance Register, including date of request, approval, and any relevant comments.
- (f) If the existing Club denies the Clearance, the League Netball Manager will work with both Clubs to resolve the issue.
- (g) Any disputes relating to Clearances will be handled under By-Law 33 – Dispute Resolution.

B. CONDUCT OF GAMES

13.1 Rules

- (a) All games must follow the [International Official Rules of Netball](#), as amended from time to time. Rules Of Netball app is available for download from mobile phone app stores.
- (b) Before each game, the Home Team Captain tosses the coin, and the Visiting Captain calls heads or tails.

13.2 Fixture

- (a) The League Netball Competition will run according to the GDFNL Senior Home and Away Fixture.
- (b) The League reserves the right to make changes to the Fixture at any time during the season.
- (c) The League will determine the Fixture and any changes, including start times, venues, and match days.

13.3 Timing

- (a) The length of quarters will be set by the League prior to the start of the season.
- (b) Unless otherwise approved, all games follow the standard start times and formats for each competition:

STANDARD GAMES

SENIOR COMPETITION

GRADE	START TIME - 2 COURTS	START TIME - 1 COURT	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
A GRADE	2:00pm - Court 1	2:30pm - Saturday	4 x 15 minutes	2 - 4 - 2
B GRADE	12:45pm - Court 1	1:30pm - Saturday	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
C GRADE	11:30am - Court 1	12:30pm - Saturday	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
D GRADE	12.45pm - Court 2	11:30am - Saturday	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
E GRADE	10.30am - Court 1	10:30am - Saturday	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2

JUNIOR COMPETITION

GRADE	START TIME - 2 COURTS	START TIME - 1 COURT	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
19&UNDER	10:30am - Court 2	9:30am - Saturday	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
17&UNDER	9:30am - Court 1	8:30am - Saturday	4 x 10 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
15&UNDER	8:30am - Court 1	7:30pm - Friday	4 x 10 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
13&UNDER	9:30am - Court 2	6:30pm - Friday	4 x 10 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
11&UNDER	8:30am - Court 2	5:30pm - Friday	4 x 10 minutes	2 - 3 - 2

TWILIGHT GAMES

SENIOR COMPETITION

GRADE	START TIME - 2 COURTS	START TIME - 1 COURT	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
A GRADE	4:30pm - Court 1	4:30pm - Saturday	4 x 15 minutes	2 - 4 - 2
B GRADE	3:15pm - Court 1	3:25pm - Saturday	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
C GRADE	2:15pm - Court 1	2:25pm - Saturday	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
D GRADE	3:15pm - Court 2	1:30pm - Saturday	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
E GRADE	1:15pm - Court 1	12:40pm - Saturday	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2

JUNIOR COMPETITION

GRADE	START TIME - 2 COURTS	START TIME - 1 COURT	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
19&UNDER	1:15pm - Court 2	11:40am - Saturday	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
17&UNDER	12:15pm - Court 1	10:50am - Saturday	4 x 10 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
15&UNDER	11:15am - Court 1	7:30pm - Friday	4 x 10 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
13&UNDER	12:15pm - Court 2	6:30pm - Friday	4 x 10 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
11&UNDER	11:15am - Court 2	5:30pm - Friday	4 x 10 minutes	2 - 3 - 2

NIGHT GAMES

SENIOR COMPETITION

GRADE	START TIME - 2 COURTS	START TIME - 1 COURT	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
A GRADE	6:00pm - Court 1	6:00pm - Saturday	4 x 15 minutes	2 - 4 - 2
B GRADE	4:45pm - Court 1	4:55pm - Saturday	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
C GRADE	3:45pm - Court 1	3:55pm - Saturday	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
D GRADE	4:45pm - Court 2	3:05pm - Saturday	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
E GRADE	2:45pm - Court 1	2:15pm - Saturday	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2

JUNIOR COMPETITION

GRADE	START TIME - 2 COURTS	START TIME - 1 COURT	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
19&UNDER	2:45pm - Court 2	1:15pm - Saturday	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
17&UNDER	1:45pm - Court 1	12:25pm - Saturday	4 x 10 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
15&UNDER	12:45pm - Court 2	7:30pm - Friday	4 x 10 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
13&UNDER	1:45pm - Court 2	6:30pm - Friday	4 x 10 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
11&UNDER	12:45pm - Court 1	5:30pm - Friday	4 x 10 minutes	2 - 3 - 2

FINAL SERIES GAMES

SENIOR COMPETITION

GRADE	START TIME	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
A GRADE	1:30pm - Court 1	4 x 15 minutes	2 - 4 - 2
B GRADE	12:00pm - Court 1	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
C GRADE	11:00am - Court 1	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
D GRADE	12:00pm - Court 1	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
E GRADE	10:00am - Court 2	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2

JUNIOR COMPETITION

GRADE	START TIME	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
19&UNDER	9:00am - Court 1	4 x 12 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
17&UNDER	8:00am - Court 1	4 x 10 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
15&UNDER	9:00am - Court 2	4 x 10 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
13&UNDER	8:00am - Court 2	4 x 10 minutes	2 - 3 - 2
11&UNDER	No Finals		

- (c) Start times, court usage (1 or 2 courts), are detailed in PlayHQ.
- (d) If a Club does not field a team in a specific grade, the Club that does field a team in that grade will have preference over game times.
- (e) If neither club fields a team, the Home Club has preference.
- (f) Refer to By-Law 13.4 for the full process.

PENALTY: > Club fine – 0.5 Penalty Unit.

13.4 Change of Time and Rescheduled Game

- (a) If a club wants to change the starting time of a game, they must notify the opposing Club's Netball Delegate and Coach at least 72 hours before the scheduled start.
- (b) All time changes must be approved by the League Netball Manager.
- (c) If not approved, the original time and date stand.

PENALTY: > Club fine – 0.5 Penalty Unit.

- (d) The League may change match times and dates from season to season.
- (e) Rescheduled games must be played within 15 days of the original scheduled date, or premiership points will be shared.
- (f) Umpires must be notified immediately of any changes.

13.5 Venue and Equipment

- (a) All games must be played on a Netball Victoria approved outdoor court.
- (b) All Home & Away matches will operate as a Two-Court Venue Competition, with Clubs categorised as:
- 2 Court Venues: Anakie, Bannockburn, Bell Post Hill, Belmont Lions, Corio, East Geelong, Geelong West Giants, Inverleigh, Thomson, Werribee Centrals, Winchelsea
 - 1 Court Venue: North Geelong

PENALTY: > Club fine – 0.2 Penalty Unit.

- (c) All match balls must be approved by the League, including any sponsor-branded netballs.
- (d) Each Club will be provided with netballs before the season:
 - Senior 'Worksafe' sponsored netballs
 - Junior 'Kempe' sponsored netballs
 - Quantities may vary based on number of teams fielded
- (e) Each Club is responsible for supplying regulation-sized netballs to each of its teams for all matches.
- (f) For Finals matches, the League will supply all netballs.
 - Refer to By-Law 19.18.
- (g) Clubs must complete a [Game/Training Checklist](#) for every Home Game day.
 - Refer to By-Law 32.5.
- (h) Home Clubs must provide the following equipment:
 - At least three (3) time clocks:
 - One for quarter timing
 - One for 30-second injury timing
 - One for 2-minute suspension timing
 - A fourth clock may be used for interval timing
 - An air horn or other loud, audible device to signal end of quarters/games
 - A scoreboard for each court being used
- (i) In the event of an equipment fault, if both Umpires agree to abandon the game, the Scoresheet must record:
 - The time and quarter when the game was abandoned
 - The League will determine if the match is to be replayed
- (j) Clubs must ensure sunscreen is available courtside for Players and Umpires.

13.6 Injury/Illness/Blood

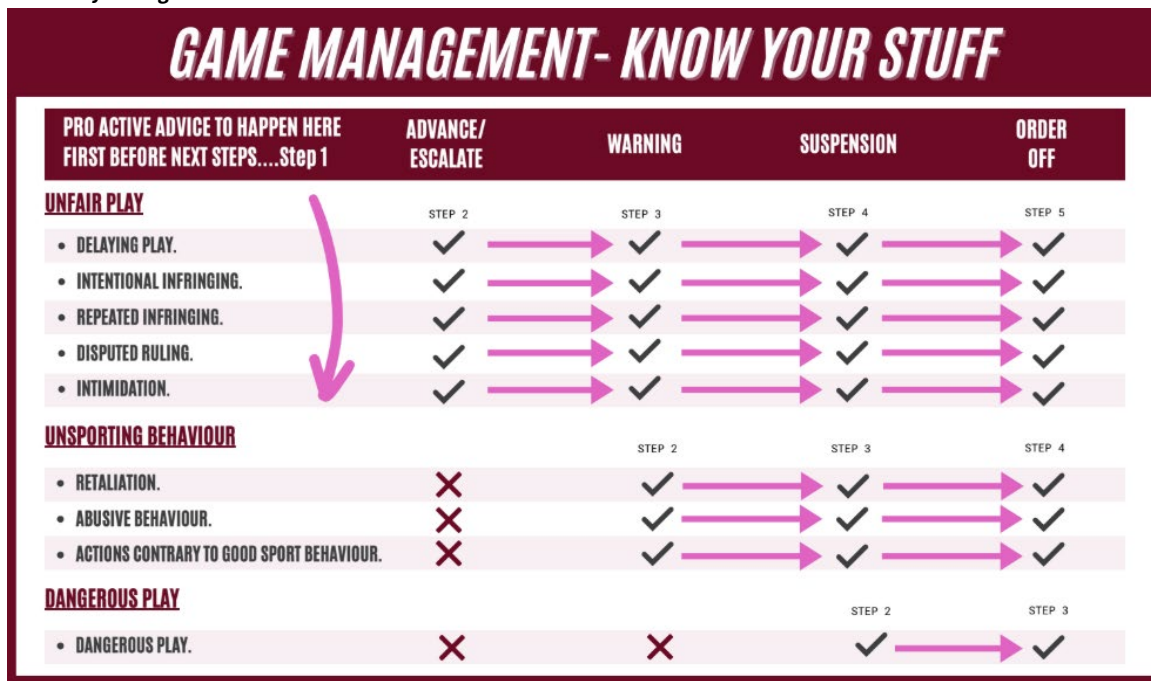
- (a) Umpires must hold time if:
 - Blood is visible
 - A player requests a stoppage for injury or illness
 - In extreme cases, umpires may stop play without a player request
 - Common sense must prevail.
- (b) The affected player must leave the court within 30 seconds to receive treatment.
- (c) Timekeepers must advise umpires when 10 seconds remain.
- (d) Only the Primary Care Person/s may enter the court to assess and assist the injured or ill player.
- (e) If the Primary Care Person advises that the player cannot be safely moved within 30 seconds, umpires may allow additional time.
- (f) If available, the match may be moved to another court, and play resumed.
- (g) Umpires may allow other persons (including Team Officials) to assist the player if required.
- (h) Any blood on the ball or court must be cleaned before play resumes.
- (i) Players must change any blood-stained clothing.
- (j) During the stoppage, both teams may make substitutions and/or team changes, provided they are done within the time allowed.
- (k) If no substitution is made:
 - Play resumes with the position left vacant
 - If the injured/ill player was Centre, another player must move into Centre so the game can continue
- (l) If a position is left vacant, the player or a substitute may re-enter the game:
 - After a goal is scored, during a stoppage or interval or when a sanction or action is ordered (definition - breaks in play)
 - By advising the umpire
 - The player/substitute must take the vacated position
- (m) Sanction for incorrect re-entry:
 - A free pass is awarded to the opposition
 - Player must stay off court until the correct entry moment
- (n) If games are centrally timed, there is no extra injury time. However, umpires may pause the match for safety reasons at their discretion.

13.7 Other Stoppages

- (a) Umpires may hold time or extend an interval if they believe it is necessary.
- (b) Reasons for stoppage may include, but are not limited to:
 - Serious injury or illness to a Player, Umpire, or Team Official
 - Equipment malfunction or failure
 - Unsafe court conditions
 - Severe weather
 - Technical equipment issues
 - Retrieving the ball
 - Disciplinary action against a Player, Team Official, or Bench Player
- (c) Umpires will decide the length of the stoppage and will ensure the game restarts as soon as possible.

- (d) Team Officials are not permitted on the court during a stoppage, except as specified in By-Law 13.6(f).

13.8 Game Day Management Matrix



13.9 Player Conduct - Offensive Language

- (a) If a player uses offensive or inappropriate language that is audible to the umpire, whether directed at themselves, another player, umpire, team official, or spectator, the following disciplinary steps will apply:
- First Offence - Proactive Advice
 - Second Offence - Advance
 - Third Offence - Suspension for 2 mins
 - Fourth Offence - The Player will be ordered off immediately and will take no further part in the game.
 - The Player can be replaced after 4 mins.
- (b) Umpires must record the details of the incident on the Scoresheet.

PENALTY:

- > **First Offence:**
 - Club fine – 0.5 Penalty Unit
 - Player fine – 0.5 Penalty Unit per incident
 - May also be referred to Netball Tribunal
- > **Second Offence:**
 - Club fine – 0.5 Penalty Unit
 - Player fine – 0.5 Penalty Unit per incident
 - May also be referred to Netball Tribunal
- > **Third Offence:**
 - Same penalties as above, however the Player will also be ineligible to compete in Finals for their Team and/or Club, and the incident will be referred to the Netball Tribunal.

13.10 Player Conduct - Dangerous Play

- (a) Dangerous play includes any highly reckless or unsafe action that endangers another participant, including but not limited to:
- Punching, kicking, tripping, or striking another player
 - Causing a player in the air to fall by moving into their path
- (b) Umpires must take the following actions:
- Award a penalty pass to the opposing team
 - The offending Player will be ordered off immediately and will take no further part in the game.
 - Players can be replaced after 4 mins.
- (c) Umpires must record full details of the incident on the Scoresheet.

PENALTY:

- *During the Game: Penalty pass awarded to opposition*
- *First Offence: - Club fine – 0.5 Penalty Unit - Player fine – 0.5 Penalty Unit per incident - May be referred to Netball Tribunal*
- *Second Offence: Same as First Offence*
- *Third Offence: Same as First Offence + Player will be ineligible to compete in Finals for their Team and/or Club + Incident will be referred to the Netball Tribunal.*

13.11 Match & Technical Officials

- (a) Match Officials are defined as the Umpires appointed to officiate each game.
- (b) Technical Officials include:
 - Scorers
 - Timekeepers
- (c) These roles are essential to the accurate and fair conduct of all League matches.

13.12 Team Officials

- (a) Each team may have up to five (5) Team Officials.
- (b) Team Officials must include:
 - A Coach
 - Team Manager
 - At least one Primary Care Person.

13.13 Team Bench

- (a) The Team Bench may include up to:
 - A maximum of five (5) players not on court at the start of play
 - Team Officials as defined in By-Law 13.10
- (b) The Team Bench must not include:
 - Babies, prams, or children
 - Animals
 - Any unauthorised persons not listed under 13.10 or 13.11(a).
- (c) In the event that a Team Officials and/or Bench Players do not respond to an Umpire warning, the Umpire requests the Game Day Supervisor remove them from the playing area for the remainder of the match (including any contact with the team during stoppages.
- (d) In a serious case, the Umpire may request the Game Day Supervisor to remove a person from the playing area for the remainder of the match without a previous warning.

PENALTY:

- *During the Game: Proactive advice; penalty on court - Warning issued - Excess or unauthorised persons must leave the Team Bench immediately and for the duration of the game*
- *First and Subsequent Offences: Club fine – 0.5 Penalty Unit - Player fine – 0.5 Penalty Unit per player per incident - And/or referred to the Netball Tribunal*
- *Additionally: Team Officials and/or Players involved will be ineligible to compete in Finals for the Team and/or Club + Referred to the Netball Tribunal*

13.14 Game Day Supervisor

- (a) A Game Day Supervisor must be present at the courts for the duration of all games.
- (b) The role is to act as a liaison between both Clubs' officials.
- (c) Each Club must nominate their Game Day Supervisor on the match Scoresheet.

PENALTY:

- *First Offence: - Warning from the League Netball Manager*
- *Second Offence: Club fine – 0.5 Penalty Unit*
- *Third & Subsequent Offences: Club fine – 0.75 Penalty Unit - Plus an additional 0.25 Penalty Unit added for each further offence - And/or referred to the Netball Tribunal.*

14. MATCHDAY

14.1 Match Day Paperwork Preparation

- (a) The League will provide Clubs with the required Match Day Paperwork before the season, including:
 - Match Day Envelopes
 - Best & Fairest Voting and other Award slips
- (b) The Home Club must:
 - Supply all required paperwork on match day
 - Print all Scoresheets for the day's games from PlayHQ.

14.2 Match Day Data Entry

- (a) The Home Club is responsible for entering match results into PlayHQ by:
 - 7:00pm on the same day for standard games
 - 12:00pm the next day for Night or Twilight games
- (b) Data entry must include:
 - Quarter-by-quarter scores
 - Final score
 - Best players (both teams)
 - Successful goals and goal attempts
 - Quarters played for each player
 - Injury reports

- (c) The Home Club must check all data is correct before entering results.

PENALTY:

- > *First Offence: Warning from League Netball Manager*
- > *Second Offence: Club fine – 0.5 Penalty Unit*
- > *Third & Subsequent Offence: Club fine – 0.75 Penalty Unit*
- *0.25 Penalty Unit added for each further breach*
- *May be referred to the Netball Tribunal.*

- (d) Clubs who consistently fail to meet data entry deadlines may result in formal League review.

PENALTY: > *Fine to be determined by the League and/or the Netball Tribunal.*

14.3 Submission of Match Day Paperwork

- (a) The Home Club must seal all Scoresheets and Best & Fairest and Other Award votes in the Match Day Envelope and deliver to the GDFNL Office by 10:00am on the Monday or next working day following the game.

PENALTY:

- > *First Offence: Warning from League Netball Manager*
- > *Second Offence: Club fine – 0.5 Penalty Unit*
- > *Third & Subsequent Offence: Club fine – 0.75 Penalty Unit*
- *0.25 Penalty Unit added for each further breach*
- *May be referred to the Netball Tribunal.*

- (b) Clubs who consistently fail to deliver paperwork may result in formal League review.

PENALTY: *Fine to be determined by the League and/or the Netball Tribunal.*

14.4 Team Sheets

- (a) Final Team Sheets must be entered into PlayHQ by 12:00pm Friday before Match Day which enables the Home Team to print accurate Scoresheets

PENALTY:

- > *First Offence: Warning from League Netball Manager*
- > *Second Offence: Club fine – 0.5 Penalty Unit*
- > *Third & Subsequent Offence: Club fine – 0.75 Penalty Unit*
- *0.25 Penalty Unit added for each further breach*
- *May be referred to the Netball Tribunal.*

- (b) Clubs who consistently fail to enter Team Sheets on time may be formally reviewed by the League.

PENALTY: *Fine to be determined by the League and/or the Netball Tribunal.*

15. SCORING & TIMEKEEPING

15.1 Match Day Setup

- (a) The Home Club must provide a scoreboard for all games on both courts. If manual, a non-participating scoreboard attendant is required.
- (b) The first-named team or Club is responsible for scoring the match.
- (c) Each team must provide a trained, non-participating scorer.
- (d) Minimum age requirements for scorers and timekeepers:
- Junior Grades: 14 years or older
 - Senior Grades (A–E): 17 years or older
- (e) Both the scorer and timekeeper must:
- Sit or stand together on the sideline at centre circle level
 - Have an unobstructed view of the court
 - Remain unchanged for the full match.

PENALTY: > *Club fine - 0.2 Penalty Units*

15.2 Scorebench Roles & Requirements

- (a) The Home Club Scorer completes the official Scoresheet.
- (b) The Away Club Scorer acts as:
- Check Scorer
 - Timekeeper
 - Electronic scoreboard operator (if used)
- (c) Both Home and Away Team Managers must complete their Position Tracking and Substitution Forms.
- (d) The Timekeeper must: (i) Signal match time using a siren or horn
- Notify umpires when 30 seconds and 10 seconds remain before start of play or interval

- Ensure the Scoresheet and Timing Device are always visible to both scorers.

PENALTY: > Club fine - 0.2 Penalty Units

15.3 Official Match Documentation

- (a) Each game must include the following documents:
- [League Official Scoresheet](#)
 - [Home and Away Position Tracking Sheets](#)
 - [Any Goaler Substitution Forms](#)

15.4 Completing the Official Match Documents

- (a) The Scoresheet must:
- List full names (first and surname) of all players
 - Indicate starting positions
 - Record quarter-by-quarter scores and final score
 - Track goal attempts and goals scored
 - Keep a record of centre passes
 - Record any injuries
 - Note umpire-reported incidents
- (b) The Position Tracking Sheet must:
- List all players
 - Show every position played by players quarter-by-quarter, including substitutions
- (c) The Substitution Form must:
- List full names of players making Goaler-only changes
 - Be handed to scorers as soon as change occurs

15.5 Scoring Procedure During the Game

- (a) Tally goals per quarter per Goaler
- (b) Cross off cumulative total at end of quarter
- (c) Record centre passes as taken
- (d) Goals recorded against GS and GA determine the official score.

15.6 Quarter & Game End Duties

- (a) At end of each quarter:
- Tally and circle cumulative score
 - Confirm centre pass with umpire
- (b) At end of the game:
- Captains, umpires, scorers, and timekeepers must sign and print names on Scoresheet
 - Team Managers and Coaches must sign Position Tracking Sheet
- (c) Essential:
- Scorers must watch the game and umpires at all times, especially for 'no goal' calls.

15.7 Scoresheet Alterations

- (a) Goals entered incorrectly must be corrected immediately.
- (b) Final score may only be adjusted if tally errors are found (no extra goals can be added later).

PENALTY: > Club fine – 1.0 Penalty Unit
 > If Club wins: Forfeit match points and scored goals
 > If Club loses: Forfeit scored goals
 > Opponent receives match points and keeps scored goals
 > Disputes may be referred to Netball Tribunal

15.8 Player Eligibility on Scoresheet

- (a) Up to 12 players must be listed, including a Captain.
- (b) Names must be listed on:
- Official Scoresheet
 - Position Tracking Form
- (c) Players not named before match start cannot take the court.
- (d) In A Grade:
- Players without Player Points cannot be added or played.

PENALTY: > Club fine – 1.0 Penalty Unit
 > If Club wins: Forfeit match points and scored goals
 > If Club loses: Forfeit scored goals
 > Opponent receives match points and keeps scored goals
 > Disputes may be referred to Netball Tribunal

15.9 Legibility & Name Accuracy

- (a) All Scoresheets must be legible and contain correct spelling and full names.
- (b) Clubs will be warned for first name/surname errors.

PENALTY:

- > Club fine – 5.0 Penalty Units
- > Both players involved (real and name used) are suspended for 2 weeks immediately
- > Forfeit match points and goals (if win)
- > Forfeit goals (if loss)
- > Opponent retains goals and receives match points
- > May be referred to the Netball Tribunal.

15.10 Post-Match Signatures & Disputes

- (a) Official Scoresheet Signatures
At the conclusion of the Game, to confirm the information recorded on the Official Scoresheet is correct, it must be signed by:
 - The Captains of both competing Teams and/or Clubs
 - The Scorer and Timekeeper of both competing Teams and/or Clubs
- (b) Position Tracking Form Signatures
To confirm the accuracy of the Position Tracking Form, it must be signed by:
 - The Captain of the Club
 - The Team Manager of the Club
 - The Coach of the Club

PENALTY: > One (1) Premiership Point will be deducted for Teams with incorrect or incomplete Scoresheets, or failure to comply with By-Laws 15.1 to 15.20.

15.11 Umpire Signatures

- (a) The officiating Umpires must also sign the Official Scoresheet and Position Tracking Forms to confirm they officiated the Game.

PENALTY:

- > Club fine – 0.2 Penalty Unit
- > Umpire fine – 0.2 Penalty Unit

15.12 Score Disputes

- (a) If a Scorer, Team, or Club believes the Official Scoresheet is incorrect:
 - They must not sign the Scoresheet
 - They must immediately notify the League Netball Manager
- (b) A formal dispute must be:
 - Lodged in writing
 - Submitted to the League Netball Manager within forty-eight (48) hours of the Game
- (c) The League and/or Netball Tribunal will determine the outcome of the dispute, and their decision will be final and binding on all parties.

16. GDFNL NETBALL PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM

16.1 Overview

The GDFNL Netball Player Points System (PPS) applies to the A Grade competition and is designed to support the equalisation, development and long-term sustainability of community netball across all GDFNL Clubs.

The PPS promotes:

- competitive balance across the League
- player loyalty and junior development
- club sustainability and volunteer retention
- a fair and orderly system for player movement
- strong and engaging community netball environments

Clubs must comply with the GDFNL Netball Player Points System Policy, PPS By-Laws, and all administrative procedures issued by the League. All interpretation and application of the PPS sits with the GDFNL Netball Player Points Panel (PPP).

16.2 Policy Framework

- (a) GDFNL Clubs and Competitions must follow the GDFNL Netball Player Points System Policy
- (b) All interpretation and application of the policy is at the discretion of the GDFNL Netball Player Points Panel (PPP).

16.3 Pre-Season Requirements – Player Points Assessment Register

- (a) Each year the League issues a Player Points Assessment Register (Google Sheet) for each Club.
- (b) Clubs must assess all A & B Squad players using the PPS Policy, PPS Categories, and PPS Calculator.
- (c) Clubs must enter all required historical information and total points for each player into the Register.

- (d) The completed Register must be returned to the League Netball Manager by the advised pre-season deadline.
- (e) The League reviews all submissions, confirms allocations, and locks the competition management platform from further Club edits.

PENALTY: > *Missed deadline: 2.0 Penalty Units*
> *Additional 1.0 Penalty Unit for every 7 days late.*

16.4 Total Team Points (TTP)

- (a) Each Club is issued a Total Team Points allocation annually, calculated using the approved tiered ladder model and the Club's three-year average A Grade ladder position.
- (b) The Total Team Points Allocation Schedule is released annually after the conclusion of the home-and-away season.
- (c) A Grade match-day team must not exceed the Club's TTP allocation.
- (d) Clubs may recruit players whose combined squad points exceed their TTP, but the selected match-day team must be compliant.

16.5 Game Day Requirements

- (a) Clubs must refer to the final Register or platform values for each player's approved points.
- (b) Player Points cannot be altered once a match has commenced.
- (c) Any substituted player must have an approved points allocation prior to taking the court.
- (d) The League conducts compliance checks after each round.

PENALTY: > *If Club wins: Forfeit match points and scored goals*
> *If Club loses: Forfeit scored goals*
> *Opponent receives match points and keeps scored goals*
> *Disputes may be referred to Netball Tribunal*

16.6 New/Unlisted Player Assessment

- (a) For any player not listed on the Club's Register who may be selected for A Grade:
 - A New Player Points Assessment Form (Google Form) must be submitted by 8:00pm Thursday prior to the player's intended match.
 - The League will confirm the allocation by 8:00pm Friday.
 - The player must not take the court until written approval is received.
 - Once approved, the League enters and locks the allocation in the competition platform.

PENALTY: > *Player is ineligible to play in the game*
> *Club fine - 1.0 Penalty Unit*

16.7 Player Point Categories and Allocations

- (a) Player categories and base points are determined using the GDFNL Netball Player Points Categories Schedule, including Category 1 Home Players through to Category 6 Tier 1 International/National Competition Players.
- (b) Category 1 (Home Player) is assessed strictly per Policy and may apply to more than one Club.
- (c) For all other players, the highest playing level achieved in the previous three seasons determines the starting category.
- (d) Additional points and deductions apply as detailed in the PPS Policy (e.g., 3 Clubs in 3 Seasons, Transfers to Competing Clubs, Seasons of Service).

16.8 GDFNL Netball Player Points Panel (PPP)

- (a) The PPP consists of a minimum of three members, including GDFNL League Executive, League Netball Manager, and AFL Barwon PPS representatives or staff.
- (b) The PPP oversees:
 - individual player assessments
 - reassessment applications
 - Total Team Points allocation reassessments
 - decision-making where clarification or interpretation is required

16.9 Individual Player Reassessment Applications

- (a) Clubs may apply for reassessment within 7 days of the allocation being issued, and no later than 3 days before the player's first A Grade game.
- (b) Applications are reviewed weekly on Wednesday mornings, with outcomes advised by 5:00pm.
- (c) Applications received after 9:00am Wednesday roll to the next week.
- (d) Once a player has taken the court in A Grade, retrospective reassessments are not permitted.
- (e) All decisions of the PPP are by majority vote and provided in writing.

16.10 Considerations for Individual Reassessments

When assessing an application for an individual player points reassessment, the GDFNL Netball Player Points Panel (PPP) may consider the following scenarios. These considerations are a guide only and their application remains at the absolute discretion of the PPP.

- (a) Contracted Player
 - Any player receiving over \$80 per Senior game is ineligible for a points reduction.
- (b) University Relocation
 - No reduction to base points will be applied.
 - Additional points may not be applied where:
 - Relocation is due to study
 - Acceptable proof of current enrolment is provided
 - Travel distance makes returning to the former Club unreasonable
- (c) Employment Relocation
 - No reduction to base points applies.
 - Additional points may not be applied where:
 - The player has been relocated by their employer
 - Employer documentation confirms the relocation
 - Travel distance prohibits reasonable return to the previous Club
- (d) Limited Playing Opportunities
 - A reduction may be considered where:
 - A player missed games due to injury or pregnancy
 - The previous Club did not field a team in the relevant grade
- (e) Playing History
 - Where a player has registered with three (3) Clubs in thirty-six (36) months, the additional point may be waived if the player:
 - Played five (5) games or fewer in either of the previous two seasons.

16.11 Club Total Points Reassessments

- (a) Clubs may request reassessment of their TTP allocation within 7 days of allocations being issued.
- (b) Late submissions may be considered only under exceptional circumstances.
- (c) The PPP determines all reassessment applications, with outcomes issued in writing.

16.12 Appeals

- (a) Clubs may appeal PPP decisions to the GDFNL League Executive within:
 - 2 business days for individual player assessments
 - 5 business days for Total Team Points assessments
- (b) Appeals must demonstrate that PPP did not apply the considerations required under the PPS By-Laws.
- (c) An Appeals Panel of three Executive Members will determine the outcome by majority.
- (d) Decisions are final.

16.13 Enforcement

- (a) Breaches of PPS requirements may result in penalties including:
 - fines
 - loss of premiership points
 - suspension from finals
 - player or official suspensions
 - any further penalty determined by the League
- (b) The League may consider whether the breach was:
 - unintentional
 - interpretive
 - intentional.

17. JUNIOR PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

17.1 League Commitment

- (a) The League is committed to encouraging junior participation and supporting the long-term development of players in netball.
- (b) This includes maintaining player interest, improving retention, and promoting fairness and enjoyment throughout all Junior Competitions..

17.2 Mercy Rule

- (a) The Mercy Rule is in place to protect junior players from excessive score margins and to promote sportsmanship and participation.
- (b) This rule applies in the 11 & Under, 13 & Under and 15 & Under age group competitions.
- (c) Coaches are expected to prevent the Mercy Rule from being triggered by applying strategies such as:
 - Giving more court time to developing players
 - Rotating GS and GK
 - Playing athletes in unfamiliar positions
 - Instructing players to play “off” their opponent
- (d) Mercy Rule is activated when:
 - 11 & Under: Score margin reaches 35 goal
 - 13 & Under: Score margin reaches 35 goals
 - 15 & Under: Score margin reaches 50 goals
- (e) At this point:
 - Scorers notify umpires
 - Play is stopped
 - Scoreboard is turned off or cleared
 - No more goals are added to scoreboard
 - Scoring continues on official Scoresheet for final stats
- (f) A 3-minute timeout will occur for Coaches to adjust teams. If invoked within 3 minutes of a scheduled break, adjustments occur after the break.
- (g) The scoreboard margin must be reduced during the remainder of the match. If it is not, further strategies must be implemented, including:
 - Sharing stronger players using spare bibs
 - Giving all centre passes to the losing team until the score is even
 - Additional player rotations into new positions
- (h) Coaches must work together to ensure the game becomes more balanced in a respectful and sportsmanlike way.
- (i) The Mercy Rule may be applied in any home and away game, but does not apply during Finals.

PENALTY:

- > At discretion of League, Netball Manager, and/or Tribunal:
- > Loss of four (4) premiership points
- > Club fine – 2.0 Penalty Units
- > Coaches may be referred to the Netball Tribunal for a potential breach of the [Netball Victoria Code of Conduct – Coach](#)

17.3 Court Time Expectations

- (a) The League expects Clubs to provide fair and developmentally appropriate court time to junior players across the season.
- (b) Court time is to be calculated on a pro-rata basis, allowing for absences due to illness, injury, or holidays.
- (c) The League Netball Manager will provide resources to assist Coaches and Junior Coordinators with applying these expectations.

17.4 Court Time Guidelines by Age Group

GRADE	GAME STRUCTURE	SQUAD SIZE	% COURT TIME (PRO RATA)
11 & UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of players and diversity of playing positions are the primary focus in these age groups. • Court time is to be distributed evenly across the playing groups. • Players are encouraged to play in a range of positions. • Starting positions are at Coaches’ discretion. 	9 Players	=75% court time by end of season.
		10 Players	=70% court time by end of season.
13 & UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players may start to be specialised in positions within a team. 	9 Players	=70% court time by end of season.
		10 Players	=65% court time by end of season.
15 & UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players may start to be specialised in positions within a team. 	9 Players	=70% court time by end of season.
		10 Players	=65% court time by end of season.
17 & UNDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players may be playing in specialised positions. • Team structure and combinations may want to be used by coaching staff and court time requirements have been adjusted to allow for this flexibility. 	9 Players	=65% court time by end of season.
		10 Players	=60% court time by end of season.

18. COMPETITION LADDERS

18.1 Ladder Availability

- (a) Competition Ladders will be provided and updated by the League during the competition season.

18.2 Premiership Points

- (a) Points will be awarded for each game as follows:
- 4 points – Win or Bye
 - 2 points – Draw
 - 0 points – Loss, Forfeit, or Abandonment

18.3 Ladder Rankings

- (a) If two or more Teams or Clubs are equal on premiership points, positions will be determined in the following order:
- Goal percentage – calculated as goals scored for, divided by goals scored against
 - If still equal, the Team or Club with the greater number of goals scored will be ranked higher

18.4 Uneven Competitions

- (a) If a Competition has an uneven number of Teams or different number of matches played, the League may apply a Points Ratio Ladder.
- (b) A Points Ratio Ladder is calculated by dividing a Team's total ladder points by the number of games played

19. FINALS

19.1 Finals Format

- (a) Finals will be played after the conclusion of the regular Home & Away season.
- (b) The Captain of the higher-ranked team (based on final ladder position) tosses the coin. The winner chooses the end or Centre pass.
- (c) Finals player eligibility must meet requirements in By-Law 20 – Player Qualification.
- (d) Presentations will be made after each game.

19.2 Finals Structure

FINAL	FORMAT
WEEK 1 - BYE	1st on ladder – week off
WEEK 1 - QUALIFYING FINAL (Day 1 Sat)	2nd vs 3rd
WEEK 1 - ELIMINATION FINAL (Day 2 Sun)	4th vs 5th
WEEK 2 - 2 ND SEMI FINAL (Day 1 Sat)	Winner of Qualifying Final vs 1st
WEEK 2 - 1 ST SEMI FINAL (Day 2 Sun)	Loser of Qualifying Final vs Winner of Elimination Final
WEEK 3 - PRELIMINARY FINAL (Sat)	Loser of 2nd Semi Final vs Winner of 1st Semi Final
WEEK 4 - GRAND FINAL (Sat)	Winner of 2nd Semi Final vs Winner of Preliminary Final

19.3 Finals Qualification

- (a) Ladder positions at the end of the regular season will determine Finals qualification, based on By-Law 18 – Competition Ladders.
- (b) By-Law 13 – Conduct of Games also applies during Finals.
- (c) If a Final does not reach half-time, it must be rescheduled.

19.4 Drawn Finals

- (a) Drawn games will be resolved according to the International Rules of Netball.
- (b) If scores are tied at the end of regulation game time:
- A 2-minute break is taken to check scores correctly. Then extra time is played as follows:

GRADE	TIMINGS
A GRADE	2x 7-minute halves
B GRADE	2x 6-minute halves
C GRADE	2x 6-minute halves
D GRADE	2x 6-minute halves
E GRADE	2x 5-minute halves
19&UNDER	2x 6-minute halves
17&UNDER	2x 5-minute halves
15&UNDER	2x 5-minute halves
13&UNDER	2x 5-minute halves
11&UNDER	No Finals

- (c) Before start of first half of extra time, teams continue goaling at the same end as the 4th quarter - no change of ends - and may make substitutions
- (d) After the first half of extra time, 1-minute break is taken, teams change ends, no substitutions can be made.
- (e) If scores are still tied after extra time, play continues until one team has a 2-goal advantage.
- (f) Normal injury/illness procedures apply during extra time.

19.5 Premiership Awards

- (a) League will determine Premiers and Runners-Up awards.

19.6 Finals Duties

- (a) All Clubs will be rostered to perform Finals duties as advised.

PENALTY: > *Club fine – 0.5 Penalty Unit*

19.7 Forfeits In Finals

- (a) Clubs must notify the League Netball Manager by Tuesday prior if unable to play a Final.

PENALTY: > *Senior Game – 5.0 Penalty Units*
> *Junior Game – 1.0 Penalty Unit*

- (b) If a Team forfeits Week 1, the 6th-ranked Team may be promoted, and ladder adjusted accordingly.
- (c) For subsequent rounds, a Walkover is given to the opposing Team.
- (d) Any Team that forfeits a Final cannot participate in later Finals that season.

PENALTY: > *Team ineligible for further Finals that season*

19.8 Weather Conditions

- (a) Finals will be played in all weather unless deemed unsafe.
- (b) Procedure for unsafe weather:
 - 10-minute break
 - Umpires consult with League Netball Manager
 - Umpires decide to resume or abandon the game
 - Decision is recorded on the Scoresheet

19.9 Timekeeping and Scoring

- (a) The League will appoint an Independent Scorer for each Final.
- (b) All Clubs (whether playing or not) will be rostered to provide Scorers/Timekeepers, with names submitted by 8:00pm Wednesday prior to Finals.

PENALTY: > *Club fine - 1.0 Penalty Unit*

- (c) Each Game is individually timed. The Timekeeper signals the end of quarters using a siren or horn.
- (d) League will provide Scorers/Timekeepers for A & B Grade. Clubs supply volunteers for other Grades.

19.10 Team Selections

- (a) Final Team Sheets must be entered in NetballConnect by 8:00pm Thursday before each Finals Game.

PENALTY: > *Late submission – Club fine 1.0 Penalty Unit*
> *Players not on submitted Team Sheet – Ineligible to play or sit on bench*
> *Club fine – 1.0 Penalty Unit*

- (b) For A Grade Grand Final, teams and positions must be emailed to League Netball Manager by 8:00pm Wednesday for media publishing.

PENALTY: > *Club fine - 0.5 Penalty Unit*

19.11 Game Day Paperwork

- (a) League supplies Scoresheets for all Finals.
- (b) Starting line-up and Team Officials must be completed in the clubroom office 30 minutes prior to Game start.

PENALTY: > *Club fine - 0.5 Penalty Unit*

- (c) Substitution Forms will be supplied and must be completed for every substitution and handed to Scorer during breaks.

19.12 Game Data Entry

- (a) League will appoint 2 Independent Officials to assist with NetballConnect data entry.
- (b) The League Netball Manager will conduct final data checks.

19.13 Umpires

- (a) Panel Umpires will be appointed by the League for all Senior and Junior Finals matches.

19.14 Team Officials

- (a) Clubs must lodge a list of Team Officials and their NV Registration numbers with the League Netball Manager by 8:00pm Wednesday prior to Week 1 of Finals.

PENALTY: > *Club fine - 0.5 Penalty Unit*

19.15 Bench & Officials

- (a) A Team Bench may include:
- Coach
 - Assistant Coach
 - Team Manager
 - Primary Carer
 - Medical staff (doctor or trainer)
- (b) Maximum of five (5) Officials per bench.
- (c) If the team has a Playing Coach, the bench is limited to four (4) Officials.
- (d) Up to five (5) Players may be listed as Substitutes – 12 total players max.
- (e) Only listed and approved individuals may be on the bench.
- (f) Clubs may request an additional Statistics Official in writing.

PENALTY: > *Club fine – 1.0 Penalty Unit*
> *Unlisted individuals will be removed from all Finals roles*

- (g) Injured players:
- Must be in full uniform and listed as Players to sit on the bench
 - Players on crutches, in moon boots, or not in uniform must be listed as Officials.
- (h) Bench Officials must stay in the assigned area during the Game, except Carers/Trainers for injury.

PENALTY: > *First offence – Warning*
> *Second offence – Club fine 1.0 Penalty Unit and removal from Finals involvement*

19.16 Coaches and Assistant Coaches

- (i) Team Managers and medical staff do not need NV registration Memberships.
- (a) Only the Coach and Assistant Coach may actively coach during the Game.
- (b) Carers and Team Managers may not coach during play.

PENALTY: > *First offence – Warning*
> *Second offence – Club fine 1.0 Penalty Unit and removal from Finals involvement*

- (c) All Coaches must have:
- Current Netball Victoria Membership
 - Current [Coaching Accreditation](#) applicable to the grade (Refer to By-Law 25.1)

PENALTY: > *Coach ineligible to participate in Finals*
> *Club fine – 2.0 Penalty Units*
> *Coach fine – 1.0 Penalty Unit*

19.17 First Aid

- (a) Each Club is responsible for first aid, ice, and taping as per regular matches.
- (b) Trainers can use designated marquees.
- (c) Paramedics will be present on all Finals days.

19.18 Equipment

- (a) League will supply new Netballs for Finals as required.
- (b) Use of new balls is at discretion of Panel Umpires.

19.19 Entry to Finals

- (a) The League will advise all Clubs of Finals Series entry procedures prior to the start of the Finals.

20. PLAYERS' ELIGIBILITY

20.1 Participant Age

- (a) A Player's age is determined as at 31 December of the year prior to the current season.
- Refer to By-Law 8 – Age Requirements.
- (b) Junior Players can play in Senior Grades A–D from the age of 15 years.
- Refer to By-Law 8 – Age Requirements.

20.2 Registrations in Other Football/Netball Leagues

- (a) Senior Players A Grade
- A Senior Player can be registered and/or play for another Club in a different Football/Netball League and still play A Grade for a GDFNL Club during the home and away season.
 - All A Grade Players must have Player Points assessed and applied as per the GDFNL Netball Player Points System.
 - Refer to By-Law 16 – Netball Player Points System.
- (b) Senior Players – B, C, D and E Grade
- A Senior Player can be registered and/or play in another Football/Netball League and still play B, C, D or E Grade for a GDFNL Club during the home and away season.
- (c) Junior Players – 19&Under and Below
- A Junior Player can be registered and/or play in another Football/Netball League and still play Junior and/or Senior Grades for a GDFNL Club during the home and away season.
 - Refer to By-Law 21.7
 - A Junior Player playing in the Geelong Junior Netball (GJN) Tuesday or Friday Night Competition (run by AFL Barwon) can also play Juniors and/or Seniors for a GDFNL Club during the home and away season.

PENALTY:

- > *If the offending team wins the game: forfeit all match points and scored goals.*
- > *If the offending team loses the game: forfeit all scored goals.*
- > *Opposing team is awarded match points and retains all scored goals.*
- > *Matter may be referred to the Netball Tribunal.*

20.3 Games Permitted Per Round

- (a) Senior Players may play up to 2 Senior Games per round during the home and away season.
- (b) Junior Players may play the following combinations per round during the home and away season:
- 2x Junior + 1x Senior Game
 - 2x Junior Games
 - 2x Senior Games
- (c) Junior Players may participate in the following Senior Grades:
- A Grade
 - B Grade
 - C Grade
 - D Grade
- (d) Junior Players are not eligible to play in E Grade.
- (e) The number of Junior Player quarters played does not affect the number of Senior Player quarters played.
- (f) For purposes of By-Laws 19.5 and 19.6, the 19&Under Grade is classified as Junior.

PENALTY:

- > *If the offending team wins the game: forfeit all match points and scored goals.*
- > *If the offending team loses the game: forfeit all scored goals.*
- > *Opposing team is awarded match points and retains all scored goals.*
- > *The matter may be referred to the Netball Tribunal.*

21 PLAYER QUALIFICATION

21.1 Finals Eligibility - Games Played

- (a) Senior and Junior Players must have taken the court and played in at least eight games in a division during the home and away season to be eligible to play in that division's finals series.
- (b) Only when played in games where team sheets were submitted count toward this total.

21.2 Replacement Players

- (a) If a qualified Senior or Junior Player is unable to compete in Finals, Clubs may apply to the League for a Replacement Player.
- (b) The Replacement Player must have also played on court in the home and away season and be listed on team sheets.
- (c) Once a Replacement Player is approved, the original Player cannot return to participate in Finals.

PENALTY:

- > *Player is ineligible to play Finals*
- > *Club fine - 0.5 Penalty Unit*

21.3 Pro Rata Rule for Reduced Games

- (a) If a Club Team plays less than 75% of scheduled games, a pro rata calculation will apply to determine the required quarters for qualification.

21.4 Grade Lock In After Qualification

- (a) Once a Player plays their 9 games, they are deemed qualified for that Grade and may not drop to a lower Grade.
- Example: Qualified in A Grade = Cannot play B Grade
 - Example: Qualified in B Grade = Cannot play C Grade.

PENALTY: > *Player is ineligible to play Finals*
> *Club fine - 0.5 Penalty Unit*

21.5 Senior Grade Drop Down Rule

- (a) A Senior Player cannot play two Grades lower than their most recent division.
- Example: A Grade → Cannot drop to C Grade
 - Example: B Grade → Cannot drop to D Grade
 - Example: C Grade → Cannot drop to E Grade

PENALTY: > *If the Club wins: forfeit match points and scored goals.*
> *If the Club loses: forfeit scored goals.*
> *Opposing team awarded match points and retains goals.*
> *The matter may be referred to the Netball Tribunal.*

21.6 Higher Level Representative Players

- (a) The following players are only eligible to play in specified Grades:
- Suncorp Super Netball / Australian Netball Championship / VNL Championship / Netball Vic 19&Under and 17&Under (within last 12 months):
- May only play A Grade
 - VNL 23&Under – current or past 12 months:
- May only play A or B Grade
- (b) Exceptions for VNL Championship players to play B Grade only:
- Homegrown Player (developed within Club or played at Club prior to rep selection)
 - Returning from injury or pregnancy (requires prior approval from League Netball Manager and medical clearance if needed)

PENALTY: > *If the Club wins: forfeit match points and scored goals.*
> *If the Club loses: forfeit scored goals.*
> *Opposing team awarded match points and retains goals.*
> *The matter may be referred to the Netball Tribunal.*

21.7 Finals Participation Limits

- (a) Senior Players can only play 1x Game per Finals weekend.
- (b) If qualified, a Player can play a different Grade on the following weekend.
- (c) Junior Players may play up to 3x Finals per weekend:
- 2x Junior + 1x Senior Final; or
 - 2x Junior Finals
- (d) The 19 & Under Grade is considered Junior.
- Refer to By-Law 20
- (e) Suncorp Super Netball and/or Australian Netball Championship Players can qualify for Finals by playing 8 A Grade games in the League home and away season.

21.8 Ineligible Players in Finals

- (a) If a Team or Club plays an ineligible Player during Finals, that Team will be deemed to have lost that game.

PENALTY: > *If the Club wins: forfeit match points and scored goals.*
> *If the Club loses: forfeit scored goals.*
> *Opposing team awarded match points and retains goals.*
> *The matter may be referred to the Netball Tribunal.*

22 FORFEITS

22.1 Notifying a Forfeit

- (a) If a Team needs to forfeit a Game, they must notify the following at least 24 hours before the Game start time:
- League Netball Manager
 - Opposing Team
 - Umpires

PENALTY: > *A & B Grade: Club fine - 2.0 Penalty Units*
> *C, D, E Grade: Club fine - 1.0 Penalty Units*
> *19 & Under, 17 & Under, 15 & Under, 13 & Under: Club fine - 0.5 Penalty Units*
> *If a Team forfeits and fails to notify authorities, an additional Penalty Unit 1.0 fine applies per team, plus all Umpire costs*

22.2 Walkovers

(a) Late Starts

A Team not ready to start on time will:

- Forfeit 5 goals after 5 minutes
- Forfeit 1 additional goal per minute until 10 minutes
- After 10 minutes, the Umpires (Match Officials) will declare a Walkover, if the opposing Team has 5 or more Players present

(b) In a Walkover

- Score recorded as 10–0 in favour of the non-offending Team
- Offending Team cannot submit a Team Sheet
- Non-offending teams can submit a Team Sheet with minimum 5 and maximum 7 Players.

PENALTY: > Penalties apply as per By-Laws 22.2 (a) and (b)
 > Club fine - 1.0 Penalty Unit
 > If a Team walkovers and fails to notify authorities, an additional Penalty Unit 1.0 fine applies per team, plus all Umpire costs

22.3 Player Umpire Allowance

- (a) Players who umpire must be given time to change between games.
 (b) Walkover penalties do not apply in this case, but Players must not cause delays between games.

PENALTY: > Club fine - 0.5 Penalty Unit

23. CANCELLATIONS

23.1 Uncontrollable Events

- (a) If a Game is cancelled due to reasons outside of the Team or Club's control (e.g. power outage, extreme weather, or other extenuating circumstances), the following will apply:
- The Game will be recorded as a Draw
 - Both Teams will receive 2 premiership points
 - Each Team will be credited with 5 goals
 - The competition will continue as per the fixture
- (b) 4 premiership points will only be awarded to a Team for a fully completed Game.

23.2 Player Eligibility in Cancelled Games

- (a) If a Game is cancelled due to weather, a maximum of 12 Players per Team may be marked as having participated in the Game.

23.3 Multiple Cancellations

- (a) If multiple rounds are cancelled, the League Netball Manager, League Executive, and/or Netball Tribunal will assess the situation and determine the best course of action for the competition.

24. REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

24.1 Representative Coach Appointment

- (a) The League will appoint Representative Coaches for all official GDFNL Representative Teams for a minimum term of one year.
 (b) To be eligible for selection in a GDFNL Representative Team, a Player must be registered with a GDFNL Club.

24.2 Junior Representative Teams

- (a) The League will develop and apply a Team Selection Policy for all junior representative teams.
 (b) Nominated League Selectors must complete the 'Select for Success' online learning module (or equivalent training).
 (c) The League will coordinate representative squad selection trials.
 (d) Selection trials must meet the following criteria:
- All Players who submit a registration form will be notified of the trial date, time, and location.
 - At least 10 days' notice must be given before the selection trial.

24.3 Team Selection Panels

- (a) A Selection Panel will be appointed for each representative team.
 (b) Panels may include the Team Coach and other nominated selectors.
 (c) Selectors may be appointed to more than one panel.
 (d) Players will be informed of selection outcomes within a timeframe set by the League.
 (e) Players may request feedback from Team Selectors.
 (f) The League's selection decisions are final — there are no appeals.

24.4 Senior Representative Teams - Interleague

- (a) Players and/or Coaches who are:
- Selected by the League, or named in the Team of the Year previous season are expected to make themselves available for the following season's Interleague Match (if held) if they are still part of the League.
- (b) Acceptable reasons for non-participation include:
- Injury, illness, or pregnancy
 - A certified medical certificate is required
 - The Player must still attend the match and sit on the bench
 - The Player will be ineligible to play with their Club the following week
 - Any exceptions must be approved by the League Netball Manager
- (c) If selected Players or Coaches are unavailable:
- The League may invite other Players/Coaches
 - Selection trials may be held
 - Selections will follow the same process as outlined in 24.3 (a) to (f)

24.5 Netball Victoria Association Championships Finals Day

- (a) If Interleague is not held, the League's selected Senior Representative Team may compete in the Netball Victoria Association Championships Finals Day (held in June).
- (b) The same rules for participation, non-participation, and selection in 24.4 apply.

PENALTY: > Club fine - 1.0 Penalty Unit
> At discretion of League Netball Manager: Player suspension for 2 weeks (ineligible to play for their Club for 2 weeks following the Interleague or Finals Day game)

25. TEAM OFFICIALS

25.1 Coaches

- (a) All A Grade and B Grade Coaches must hold a minimum [Development Coaching Level Accreditation](#) to coach in the League.
- (b) All C Grade, D Grade, E Grade, 19&U, 17&U, 15&U, 13&U, 11&U Coaches must hold a minimum [Foundation Coaching Level Accreditation](#).
- (c) Coaches may begin coaching these grades while completing the required accreditation if actions have commenced prior to 30 June of the current season and the League Netball Manager has been informed.

PENALTY: > Club fine - 2.0 Penalty Unit
> Coach fined - 1.0 Penalty Unit and ineligible to Coach until accreditation is completed

- (d) All Coaches and Assistant Coaches must provide:
- Name and address
 - Accreditation number and expiry
 - Netball Victoria (NV) number
 - Signed confirmation by Club Netball Delegate/Coordinator that information is true and correct.

PENALTY: > Club fine - 1.0 Penalty Unit

- (e) All Coaches and Assistant Coaches must maintain a valid [Working With Children Check \(WWCC\)](#), as required by [Netball Victoria's Child Safety in Netball Code Of Conduct](#) and [Child Safety in Netball Policy 2017](#).
- (f) WWCC number and expiry date must be provided to the League Netball Manager before Round 1.
- Refer By-Law 32.2 Risk Management, Child Safety in Netball.

PENALTY: > Club fine - 2.0 Penalty Units
> Coach fine - 1.0 Penalty Unit and ineligible to Coach until completed

- (g) Coaches must not approach Umpires before, during, or after a match. Any queries must be directed through the Team Captain or another Player.

PENALTY: > First offence - Warning
> Second offence - Coach fine - 1.0 Penalty Unit
> Third offence - Subject to disciplinary action per By-Law 34

- (h) Only the Coach and Assistant Coach may actively coach a Team during a game. Other Team Officials (e.g. Primary Carers or Team Managers) may not coach.

PENALTY: > First offence - Warning
> Second offence - Coach fine - 1.0 Penalty Unit and persons involved may not act in Team Official capacity for the remainder of the game

- (i) Coaches are subject to [Netball Victoria's Code of Conduct – Coaches](#).

25.2 Club Netball Coordinators

- (a) Act as Game Day Supervisor and main liaison with the Opposing Club.
 (b) Ensure match results and club stats are entered into NetballConnect by 6:00pm on Game Day.
 (c) Deliver all match paperwork and Best & Fairest votes to GDFNL Office by 10:00am the following Monday.

25.3 Team Managers

- (a) A Team Manager must be appointed for each team.
 (b) Responsible for completing the Position Tracking Forms.
 (c) May not coach or leave the official bench during games.

25.4 Primary Carer

- (a) Each team must appoint a qualified Primary Carer (minimum First Aid level).
 (b) Primary Carers may enter the court for injury, illness, or blood rule.
 (c) Must wear a fluoro vest for identification (not in club colours).

25.5 Scorer and Timekeeper

- (a) Scorers must complete:
- Quarter-by-quarter player position changes for Goalers
 - Official Scoresheets
 - Sign-off by Umpires and Captains
- (b) Each team must provide a Scorer. The Home team must also supply a Timekeeper.
 (c) Both must sit together courtside at centre and remain there for the full match.
 (d) Must be:
- 17+ years for Senior Games
 - 14+ years for Junior Games

PENALTY: > Club fine - 0.5 Penalty Unit

25.6 Panel Umpires

- (a) Panel Umpire Coordinator appointed annually.
 (b) Panel Umpires must:
- Apply through League
 - Hold a minimum "C" Grade badge
 - Register via NetballConnect
 - Provide contact info
 - Support Clubs and Representative teams
- (c) Panel Umpires are assigned to A & B Grade matches weekly and paid by the League. See By-Law 3.2.

25.7 Club Umpires

- (a) Each Club must supply Umpires for:
- C Grade, D Grade, E Grade
 - 11&U, 13&U, 15&U, 17&U, 19&U
- (b) Must complete [Rules of Netball Theory Examination and Foundation Umpire Course](#) before umpiring.
 (c) Coaches cannot umpire their own teams. A substitute coach must be appointed in emergencies.
 (d) Umpires can only be changed during a game in the case of injury.

PENALTY: > Club fine - 0.5 Penalty Unit

- (e) Trainee Umpires may run with a badged Umpire in junior games.
 (f) Umpires are responsible for:
- Submitting Best & Fairest votes
 - Signing Umpire Report Forms when needed
 - Signing Scoresheets and amendments
 - Bringing their own whistle
- (g) Clubs must have:
- Netball Rule Book
 - By-Laws
 - Spare white skirt.

PENALTY: > Club fine - 0.2 Penalty Unit

- (h) Umpiring Limits:
- Max 2 consecutive games
 - 1 game break allowed
 - Max 3 games total per day
 - Unless you have approval from the League.

PENALTY: > *Club fine - 0.5 Penalty Unit*
> *Umpire fine - 0.5 Penalty Unit*

- (i) Players who umpire must be allowed sufficient time to change. They must not delay between games.
- (j) Each Club must have at least 2 Umpires attend League umpire meetings/training each season.

PENALTY: > *Club fine - 1.0 Penalty Unit*

25.8 Captain & Vice-Captain

- (a) Home Captain tosses coin; Away Captain calls.
- (b) Captains or Players may approach Umpires for rule clarification during intervals.
- (c) Captains may be requested by Umpires to speak with Players as needed.
- (d) Captains must sign the Scoresheet at match end.

25.9 Bench

- (a) Each team is allocated an official bench for Team Officials and reserve players.

25.10 Codes of Conduct

- (a) All Team Officials must abide by:
 - Netball Victoria Codes of Conduct
 - Fair Play Code (Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Safety)

PENALTY: > *As determined by the League and/or Netball Tribunal in accordance with By-Law 34.*

26 AWARDS

26.1 Best and Fairest

- (a) Best & Fairest trophies shall be awarded to the player who receives the highest number of votes in each grade.
- (b) Runner-up trophies shall be awarded to the player with the second highest number of votes in each grade.
- (c) Players suspended during the season are ineligible for Best & Fairest or Runner-Up awards.
- (d) In the event of a tie, joint trophies will be awarded.
- (e) Best & Fairest votes transfer with a player who transfers clubs mid-season.
- (f) The League is responsible for:
 - Counting all Best & Fairest votes
 - Awarding all Best & Fairest trophies

26.2 Club Championship

The Club Championship Trophy shall be awarded to the club with the most Home & Away wins across all grades during the season.

26.3 Champions

A team that remains undefeated throughout the entire season, including finals, shall be declared Champions.

26.4 Goal Shooting Awards

- (a) A trophy will be awarded to the top goal shooter in each grade based on goals scored during the Home & Away season.
- (b) In the event of a tie, joint trophies will be awarded.

26.5 Best In Finals

A Best on Court medallion will be awarded in each Grand Final, as voted by the Umpires.

26.6 Premiership/Championship

- (a) A Premiership/Championship Cup will be presented on Grand Final Day to the winning team in each grade.
- (b) Grade-specific Cup Names::
 - A Grade - Buckleys Cup
 - B Grade - Elders Insurance Cup
 - C Grade - P&R Foods Cup
 - D Grade - Routleys Cup
 - E Grade - A&K Tucker Excavations
 - 19&U - Kempe Cup
 - 17&U - Kempe Cup
 - 15&U - Kempe Cup
 - 13&U - Kempe Cup
- (c) All Players and Coaches in the winning team receive a medallion on Grand Final Day.
- (d) Each Premiership team's Club will receive a Premiership Flag at the following Season Launch..

26.7 Life Membership

- (a) Refer to the GDFNL By-Laws for criteria and process.

26.8 Rookie Of The Year Award

- (a) Refer to the GDFNL By-Laws for criteria and process..

26.9 Team Of The Year Award

- (a) Each Club's A Grade Coach must nominate up to:

- Twelve (12) players
 - One (1) coach
- (b) Final selections are made at the discretion of the League.

26.10 Service Award

- (a) Refer to the GDFNL By-Laws for criteria and process..

26.11 President's Award

- (a) Awarded to a Club Netball Delegate or Administrator in recognition of outstanding service to the League.

27. SENIOR VOTE COUNT

27.1 Event

- (a) The League shall host a Senior Netball Vote Count Night annually.
- (b) The date and format of the event will be determined by the League Executive.

27.2 Event Name

- (a) The official name of the event is the Margaret Webb Medal Night.
- (b) The A Grade Best & Fairest Medallion is known as the Margaret Webb Medal.

27.3 Vote Counts Announced

- (a) The following Netball Best & Fairest Vote Counts are announced during the event:
- 19 & Under
 - E Grade
 - D Grade
 - C Grade
 - B Grade
 - A Grade (Margaret Webb Medal)

27.4 Additional Awards Presented

- (a) The following additional awards are presented:
- Highest Goal Scorer A Grade (Eleanor Tubbs Medal)
 - Highest Goal Scorer (for each grade listed above)
 - Rookie of the Year (Melissa Bragg Medal ConnectTel)
 - Team of the Year

27.5 Recognition

Recognition of all awards listed in this By-Law shall take place at the Senior Presentation Night.

28. SENIOR PRESENTATION NIGHT

28.1 Event

- (a) A Presentation Night shall be held annually by the League for both Netball and Football.
- (b) The date and format of the event shall be determined by the League Executive.

28.2 Netball Awards Presented

- (a) The following League Netball awards shall be presented on the night:
- Best & Fairest Awards as per By-Law 27.3 (a)
 - Highest Goal Shooter Awards as per By-Law 27.4 (a)
 - Rookie Of The Year Award – Melissa Bragg Award as per By-Law 26.8
 - Premiership/Championship Awards as per By-Law 26.6
 - Club Championship Netball as per By-Law 26.2

28.3 Other Awards Presented

- (a) The following additional awards are presented:
- President's Award as Per By-Law 26.11
 - Service Awards as per By-Law 26.10
 - Life Membership as per By-Law 26.7

29. JUNIOR VOTE COUNT & PRESENTATION NIGHT

29.1 Event

- (a) A combined Junior Netball Vote Count and Presentation Night shall be held annually by the League.
- (b) The date and format of the event shall be determined by the League Executive.

29.2 Event Name

- (a) The official name of the event is the Megan Dean Medal Night.
- (b) The 17&Under Best & Fairest Medallion is known as the Megan Dean Medal.

29.3 **Vote Counts Completed & Presented**

- (a) The following Netball Best & Fairest Vote Counts are completed and presented during the event:
- 13 & Under
 - 15 & Under
 - 17 & Under (Megan Dean Medal)

29.4 **Additional Awards Presented**

- (a) The following additional awards are presented:
- Highest Goal Scorers (for each grade listed above)
 - Rookie of the Year
 - Team of the Year

29.5 **Other Recognition**

- (a) The following other recognition is announced:
- Junior Netball Representative Team Players and Coaches.
 - Teams In Finals.
 - Clubs with most Teams in Finals.
 - Best Performing Teams by % per Grade and Club.
 - Best Attacking Teams by % per Grade and Club.
 - Best Defending Teams by % per Grade and Club.
 - Most Goals Scored - by Junior Club, by Junior Team
 - Most Accurate Goaler - by Player, by Grade, by Team, by Club
 - Highest Average Goals - by Player, by Grade, by Team, by Club
 - Best & Fairest Team - by Grade, by Team, by Club.

30. COURSES, SEMINARS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

30.1 **Notification**

The League shall provide notification of opportunities for all members to improve their skills by attending relevant courses, seminars, and personal development activities.

30.2 **Support**

The League shall encourage and support members who wish to attend appropriate courses, seminars, and other personal development activities.

31. ACCREDITATION

31.1 **Minimum Qualifications**

The League will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all Team Officials have the appropriate minimum qualifications.

31.2 **Support to Achieve Accreditation**

Where minimum accreditation standards are not met, the League will encourage and support members to achieve the required accreditation.

31.3 **Appointment to Official Roles**

The League will not appoint any person to a Team Official position unless:

- (a) They have achieved the minimum accreditation, or
- (b) They are in the process of acquiring it.

32. RISK MANAGEMENT

32.1 **Injury Reporting**

- (a) All injuries must be recorded on an [Injury Report Form](#).
- (b) Details must also be entered into PlayHQ against the Game record.

PENALTY: > Club fine - 2.0 Penalty Unit

32.2 **Child Safety in Netball**

- (a) All Clubs must uphold the [Child Safety in Netball Policy](#), including the [Working With Children Check Regulation](#).
- (b) Refer to [Netball Victoria's Child Safeguarding Resource Hub](#) including [11 Child Safety Standards](#).

PENALTY: > Club fine - 2.0 Penalty Unit

32.3 **Photography/Video Footage**

- (a) Photographer to be approved by the League to take game day photos.
- (b) All Clubs must uphold the [Netball Victoria Cyber Safety Policy](#).

- (c) Consent must be obtained from the opposing Club Netball Coordinator, Coach or Team Manager before taking photos or videos of any Games.
- (d) No photos or videos are to be uploaded or shared on any social media platform, with the exception of League Media, without the permissions of any players, team officials or umpires in said images.
- (e) A [Photographic/Filming Registration Form](#) must be completed and retained by the Club.
- (f) A list of Teams that may not be photographed will be provided by the League.

PENALTY: > *First offence - Club fine 1.0 Penalty Unit*
 > *Second offence – Club fine 2.0 Penalty Unit*
 > *Subsequent offences - +0.25 Penalty Unit per offence*

32.4 Pregnancy

- (a) Players should refer to the [Netball Australia Pregnancy in Netball Policy \(Nov 2013\)](#).
- (b) Medical advice and regular reviews are recommended.
- (c) Participation is a personal decision, while maintaining player and unborn child safety.
- (d) Clubs must respect and support pregnant players.

32.5 Game Day Checklist

- (a) A [Game Day Checklist](#) must be completed before all games, training or events.
- (b) Both Home & Away Clubs are responsible for ensuring safe playing conditions.
- (c) Any hazards must be:
 - Documented,
 - Rectified if possible,
 - Reported if major.
- (d) Submit completed checklist in Match Day Paperwork envelope.

PENALTY: > *Club fine - 2.0 Penalty Unit*

32.6 First Aid

- (a) League venues: First Aid Kit provided by League.
- (b) Away games: Clubs must provide their own First Aid Kit.
- (c) All Clubs must ensure:
 - First Aid Kit is accessible at all times.
 - Qualified First Aider is present at each competition.
 - Ice is available courtside.
 - A designated first aid area is available and maintained.

32.7 Emergency Procedures

Emergency numbers and procedures must be clearly displayed.

32.8 Weather

- (a) If a weather incident occurs:
 - Umpires call a 10-minute break
 - Consultation with Club Coordinators
 - Final decision made by two Umpires
 - Record of decision made on Scoresheet including time called.
- (b) In matches with Junior or Trainee Umpires, the decision may involve a Club Executive member.
- (c) Another court or an indoor option can be considered.

PENALTY: *Club fine - 1.0 Penalty Unit for interruptions of decision making process.*

32.9 Heat

- (a) If temperature is 28°C+: Adjust quarters and breaks as follows:

COMPETITION	QUARTERS	BREAKS
11 / 13 / 15 / 17&UNDER	7 mins	3 / 5 mins
19&UNDER, C/D/E GRADE	7 mins	3 / 5 mins
B GRADE	9 mins	4 / 5 mins
A GRADE	12 mins	5 / 7 mins

- (b) If temperature exceeds 35°C:
 - Decisions made by both Clubs and Umpires.
 - Sunscreen must be readily available.

- 32.10 Smoke Pollution**
Umpires and/or Club Netball Coordinators will refer to [Netball Victoria's Smoke Pollution Guidelines \(Feb 2020\)](#) to determine whether to continue play.
- 32.11 Smoke Free**
[Smoking is banned within 10 metres of outdoor sporting venues](#) during junior events or training.
- 32.12 Responsible Serving of Alcohol in Sporting Clubs**
(a) [No alcohol is permitted at the courts.](#)
(b) The League supports the [Responsible Serving of Alcohol Policy.](#)
- 32.13 Sun Protection**
The League will adopt a [sun smart policy.](#)
- 32.14 Adoption of Governing Policies**
The League will uphold all [Netball Victoria](#), [Netball Australia](#), [Fair Play Code](#) and other relevant State and Federal government policies, including codes, procedures, and regulations as updated.

33. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 33.1 General Enforcement**
(a) If a By-Law outlines a specific penalty, it may be applied directly.
(b) If no specific penalty exists, the League has the discretion to apply a fair and proportionate one.
(c) If a complaint arises that is not expressly addressed within this policy, or where procedural guidance is absent, GDFNL will manage the matter in accordance with the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness. In doing so, GDFNL will ensure that all decisions are made impartially, align with relevant legislation and organisational policies and promote an equitable outcome for all parties involved.
- 33.2 Independent Netball Tribunal**
(a) Comprises three independent members, including a Chairperson and Minute Taker, appointed by the League Executive.
(b) All reports by Umpires or direct referrals by the League will be heard on the Tuesday following the incident.
(c) The Tribunal can handle:
 - Conflict of interest situations
 - Serious or unprecedented matters
 - Cases requiring efficiency or independence
- (d) Important:
 - Once referred, no discussion may occur with any Executive, Tribunal, or unrelated parties. All proceedings are strictly confidential.
 - Sanctions, fines, or suspensions handed down by the Tribunal are final, subject only to the appeal provisions (see 33.8).
- 33.3 Tribunal Decisions**
(a) Decisions are based on:
 - GDFNL Netball By-Laws
 - [GDFNL Constitution](#)
 - [Netball Victoria & Australia Policies](#)
 - [INF Rules of Netball](#)
 - [Child Safety & Fair Play](#) Codes
- (b) If the matter cannot be resolved internally, Netball Victoria will be contacted for further guidance.
- 33.4 Representation at Tribunal**
(a) No legal representation (e.g. Barristers or Solicitors).
(b) Support persons allowed for emotional support only, not participation.
(c) Players under 16 must be accompanied by a Parent/Guardian and Club Representative (non-participating).

33.5 Complaints

- (a) All complaints will be managed in line with the [GDFNL Grievance Policy](#) and [Netball Victoria Policy Framework for Dispute Resolution](#).
- (b) All complaints must complete the [Official Grievance/Complaint Form](#).

33.6 Appeals

- (a) Appeals only permitted if:
- New evidence is available.
 - Penalty is inconsistent with the regulations.
 - Procedural error significantly affected the outcome.
- (b) Must be lodged in writing to the League Executive promptly.
- (c) Must include a \$500 deposit:
- \$500 refunded if appeal is successful.
 - Up to \$150 refunded if appeal is dismissed or not heard (at the Tribunal's discretion).
- (d) The decision of the Appeals Tribunal is final.

PENALTY: > *Suspension and/or fine at Tribunal's discretion*
> *Non appearance = automatic suspension*

34. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

34.1 Interfering with League Officials

- (a) Any Official, Coach, Player, Committee Member or Club Member who:
- Abuses,
 - Harasses,
 - Threatens,
 - Attacks, or
 - Intimidates
- a League Official, Tribunal Member, Witness, or Appointed Committee Member — in person, in writing, electronically, or physically — as a result of their official duties, will be subject to disciplinary action.
- (b) This includes behaviour occurring at any time, including during or after a match, online or offline.

PENALTY: > *At the full discretion of the League Executive and/or Netball Tribunal*

34.2 Bringing the Game into Disrepute

- (a) Any Official, Coach, Player, Committee Member or Club Member whose behaviour is deemed by the League to be:
- Unbecoming, or
 - Likely to damage the reputation of the League or Netball as a sport,
- will be considered to have brought the game into disrepute and may face disciplinary action.

PENALTY: > *At the full discretion of the League Executive and/or Netball Tribunal*

34.3 Discipline of a Member

- (a) Regardless of other penalties in these By-Laws, the League retains the authority to discipline any:
- Club,
 - Club Official,
 - Player,
 - Umpire, or
 - Person associated with the League,
- if their conduct is, in the League's opinion:
- Unbecoming,
 - Prejudicial to the League, or
 - Brings discredit to the League or its members.
- (b) This applies to conduct on or off the court that impacts the League or its community.

PENALTY: > At the full discretion of the League Executive and/or Netball Tribunal

35. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES/ PROMISSO CLAUSE

35.1 League Discretion on Unspecified Matters

- (a) Where these By-Laws do not address a specific situation or issue, the League Executive has the authority to:
- Make a decision deemed necessary to protect the integrity of the League Netball Competition.
 - Apply an appropriate penalty as required.

35.2 Waiving or Altering Requirements

- (a) In exceptional or extenuating circumstances, the League Executive, acting reasonably, may:
- Alter,
 - Vary,
 - Update, or
 - Waive
- any of the requirements set out in these By-Laws. This flexibility ensures the League can respond fairly and efficiently to unforeseen circumstances.

36. INDEMNITY

36.1 Liability Disclaimer

- (a) Except where provided or required by law and such cannot be excluded, the League, including its:
- Directors
 - Officers
 - Members
 - Servants
 - Employees
 - Agents
- are absolved from all liability, however arising, for injury or damage sustained by any person:
- While participating in League activities,
 - As a Member of the League,
 - Regardless of how such injury or damage was caused.

[END]