



ELLINBANK & DISTRICT FOOTBALL NETBALL
LEAGUE

NETBALL- BY-LAWS

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Match Officials

Umpires

1. (a) Two (2) representatives from each club affiliated with the League shall attend an Umpire Supervisors' Workshop/Umpires' Workshop annually.
- (b) All affiliated clubs have current Netball Victoria registered umpires, who are badged and accredited, to officiate A, B, C and 17&U matches.
- (c) All affiliated clubs have Netball Victoria registered umpires who are badged and accredited, or have completed the online Level 1 Umpire Course and online Theory Examination (learner umpire) to officiate the 15&U and 13&U matches.
- (d) Each club is to supply one umpire for each match:
 - (i) Umpires must wear predominantly white top and skirt/shorts. Weatherproof pants are acceptable during inclement weather and must be white in colour. Suitable shoes shall be worn.
 - (ii) Umpires must not be substituted during a match unless in the event of injury or illness. In any other case, both teams must agree.
 - (iii) Umpires will perform their duties in accordance with the Official Rules of Netball.
- (e) All umpires participating in any given match shall discuss and award League Best and Fairest votes at the completion of that match, in accordance with By-Law 22.
- (f) All umpires must print name and Netball Victoria number on score sheet and sign it.
- (g) Umpires are not permitted to coach a team participating in a match in which he/she/they has officiated from start to completion of that match.
- (h) An umpire is ineligible to umpire a game during a finals series in which his/her/they club is represented in that game during that finals series, except under certain circumstances (eg. illness). The Director of Netball and Netball Operations Manager shall have the authority to rule on such circumstances as they may arise.
- (i) *A monetary fine, the value of which is set in accordance with these By-Laws, shall be imposed on clubs failing to comply with By-Laws 1(a), (b), (c) & (g).*

Learner Umpires

2. (a) Learner Umpires officiating in 15&U and 13&U matches must be supervised by an experienced umpire, without a whistle, approved by the Umpires Coordinator, in accordance with By-Law 1. The supervising umpire must record their name and signature on the score sheet.
- (b) Learner Umpires may officiate in 15&U and 13&U matches, following approval by the Umpires Coordinator, and supervised as per 2(a).
- (c) *A monetary fine, the value of which is set in accordance with these By-Laws, shall be imposed on clubs failing to comply with By-Law 2(a) & (b).*

Team Officials

3. (a) All affiliated clubs will ensure that all coaches have the following current accreditation/s:
 - (i) Netball Victoria full registration;
 - (ii) Working With Children Check (if over 18 years of age);

- (iii) Minimum 70% mark in Rules of Netball Theory Exam;
- (iv) Minimum Accreditation in accordance with Netball Australia's National Coach Accreditation Framework (currently "Foundation").
- (b) Failure to comply with By-Law 3(a) will result in an un-accredited coach being ineligible to coach within the EDFNL.
- (c) All affiliated clubs will ensure that all coaches' names, full contact details, accreditation details and supporting documentation (as listed at By-Law 3(a)) be lodged with the Netball Coach Coordinator prior to coaching in the League competition.
- (d) Failure to comply with By-Law 3(c) will result in an un-accredited coach being ineligible to coach within the EDFNL.
- (e) In the event that a Coach and/or Medically trained personnel is/are involved in a match as a player, he/she/they may be allowed to leave the court in order to attend to an injured/ill player during a stoppage for injury or illness. In such cases, the coach and/or medically trained personnel shall make themselves known to the umpires prior to the commencement of play to avoid confusion during what can be a stressful time.
- (f) A monetary fine, the value of which is set in accordance with these By-Laws, shall be imposed on clubs failing to comply with By-Laws 3(a) and (b).

Scorers and Timekeepers

- 4. Each club shall supply one scorer to be fourteen (14) years and over for each match. Scorers from both clubs to sit together for the duration of the match in which they are officiating. The home club shall supply one timekeeper for each match which shall be separate to the scorer.

Match Times and Duration

- 5. (a) 13&Under
 - (i) commence at 9.00am
 - (ii) are to play four (4) x ten (10) minute quarters, with a break of three (3) minutes at half time, and two (2) minutes at quarter and three-quarter time.
- (b) 15&Under
 - (i) commence at 10.00am
 - (ii) are to play four (4) x ten (10) minute quarters, with a break of three (3) minutes at half time, and two (2) minutes at quarter and three-quarter time.
- (c) 17&Under
 - (i) commence at 11.00am
 - (ii) are to play four (4) x twelve (12) minute quarters, with a break of three (3) minutes at half time, and two (2) minutes at quarter and three-quarter time.
- (d) C Grade
 - (i) commence at 12 noon
 - (ii) are to play four (4) x twelve (12) minute quarters, with a break of five (5) minutes at half time, and three (3) minutes at quarter and three-quarter time.
- (e) B Grade
 - (i) commence at 1.00pm
 - (ii) are to play four (4) x fifteen (15) minute quarters, with a break of five (5) minutes at half time, and three (3) minutes at quarter and three-quarter time.

- (f) A Grade
 - (i) commence at 2.15pm for home and away matches and 2.30pm for finals.
 - (ii) are to play four (4) x fifteen (15) minute quarters, with a break of five (5) minutes at half time, and three (3) minutes at quarter and three-quarter time.
- (g) Visiting teams are allowed fifteen (15) minutes 'grace' in the event of unforeseen travelling circumstances.

Player Eligibility

Registration

- 6. (a) All players must have full registration with Netball Victoria. Minimum age for registration is ten (10) years.
- (b) *Teams playing unregistered players will be liable for the loss of four (4) premiership points and goals scored for each game in which the offending player/s participated.*
- (c) Players and club officials must register themselves to their club and pay online with Netball Victoria prior to taking the court.
- (d) League registrations close on July 15th of the current playing year.

Clearances

- 7. (a) Players registering with affiliated clubs after leaving other clubs within the league must acquire a clearance from the previous club before taking the court for the new club.
- (b) If a Clearance is refused by the previous club, the player may appeal to the Director of Netball and the Netball Operations Manager.
- (c) If a Clearance is refused after taking appeal action, the player must remain unregistered within the League for a period of twelve (12) months or more in order to move to another club.
- (d) Clearance is not required for players who have been unregistered with the League for a period of twelve (12) months or more.
- (e) Clearance forms must be sent to the Netball Operations Manager before or on the day of play or sent with relevant score sheets.
- (f) *Failure to comply with By-Law 7(a) and/or (c) shall cause the infringing team to be liable for:*
 - (i) *the loss of goals scored in the offending games;*
 - (ii) *the loss of four (4) premiership points for each game the offending player plays prior to receipt of the Clearance form;*
 - (iii) *games will not be credited to the offending player as qualifying games.*

Eligibility

- 8. (a) Players participating in 13 & Under must be thirteen (13) years or under and a minimum of ten (10) years of age as at the 31st December in the year they are playing to qualify for the said age group. The 13 & Under section is a mixed competition.

- (b) Players in 15&Under must be fifteen (15) years of age or under as at the 31st December in the year they are playing to qualify for the said age group. The 15 & Under section is female only competition.
 - (c) Players in 17&Under must be seventeen (17) years of age or under as at the 31st December in the year they are playing to qualify for the said age group.
 - (d) *Teams playing over-aged players will be liable for the loss of four (4) premiership points and goals scored for each game in which the offending player/s participated.*
9. (a) A player must play five (5) matches on five (5) separate match days in the current playing season with the club in which the player is registered in order to qualify to play in the finals series on behalf of that club.
- (b) *Failure to comply will result in the match being awarded to the opposing team.*
10. (a) A senior grade player may play a maximum of six (6) "A" Grade games and retain eligibility to play "B" Grade.
- (b) A senior grade player may play "A" Grade and "B" Grade games, total of which is not to exceed six (6) games, and retain eligibility to play "C" Grade.
- (c) A senior grade player may play any number of "C" Grade games and "B" Grade games and retain eligibility to play "A" Grade.
- (d) A senior grade player may play any number of "C" Grade games and retain eligibility to play "B" Grade.
- (e) Any player who plays in the VNL championship grade during the same year is only eligible to play "A" Grade.
- (f) A junior player may play any number of higher grade games and retain eligibility to play "17&U", "15&U" or "13&U" games in accordance with By-Law 8 (Player Eligibility) but is subject to the same conditions as a senior grade player in accordance with By-Laws 10(a) to 10(e) inclusive.
- (g) *Failure to comply with By-Law 10(a) to (f) inclusive shall be the loss of four (4) premiership points and goals scored.*
- (h) The qualifying six (6) game limit applies throughout the home and away matches and all finals games including the Grand Final.
- (i) On the competition day that a player will record her seventh (7th) game in the higher grade, if she has already played a lower grade on the same day, then the lower grade would result in a loss of four (4) premiership points and goals scored or, in the case of a final, the game awarded to the opposing team.
- (j) All senior Grades (A,B & C) are female only competitions.

Player Responsibilities

11. (a) Players must wear correct uniform as approved by the League, as follows:
- (i) All clubs will have sports nicks, dark or matching their uniform and in suitable material. Bikini pants/Boxer shorts are not acceptable. If suitable pants are not worn, the offending player may be ordered from the court until such is obtained.
 - (ii) Socks to be of uniform colour, either white or white with narrow band/s of uniform colour.

- (iii) Uniform to follow the guidelines as stated by Netball Victoria with the exceptions being made for players providing a Doctor's Certificate to the Director of Netball and Netball Operations Manager.
 - (iv) Sports gloves may not be worn. Exceptions shall be made for medical reasons and/or the express permission of the Board of Management.
 - (v) Asthma sprays may not be worn in any part of the playing uniform.
 - (vi) No jewellery or body piercing may be worn on the netball court. A wedding ring or medical alert bracelet is accepted if taped. Dangerous braids/plaits/hair pieces, including plastic headbands, are not allowed to be worn.
- (b) *Failure to comply with By-Law 11(a) will result in Umpire removing player from court until they comply.*

Club Responsibilities

12. (a) If a club has insufficient players registered to fill all three (3) senior grade teams, the club must give priority to filling "A" Grade, then "B" Grade. "C" Grade to be surrendered in such cases.
- (b) *A monetary fine, the value of which is set in accordance with these By-Laws, shall be imposed on clubs failing to comply with By-Law 12(a).*
13. (a) Representatives from both clubs shall set a squad and select teams for each grade prior to match day, by a time determined by the League. The home club will print the scoresheet for each grade from the website prior to the match. The home club will provide a device that live scoring can occur on.
- (i) In the event of late changes, names must be added or removed manually to the score sheet and Netball connect updated prior to commencement of the match.
 - (ii) Any manually added names must appear on the scoresheet as they appear on Netball Connect.
- (b) The home team score sheet/ live scoring is the official score sheet.
- (c) Each club shall be responsible to check that the following information is recorded on the score sheet:
- (i) Umpires' signature, printed first and last name and Netball Victoria Membership number;
 - (ii) Captain's signature and printed first and last name
 - (iii) Scorer's signature and printed first and last name
 - (iv) Correct scores;
 - (v) Quarterly positional changes;
 - (vi) Coach's name and Netball Victoria Membership number
- (d) The home team club representative shall enter the scores online by 7.00pm on match day.
- (e) Both club representatives shall complete the score sheets online by 12.00pm on the Sunday following match day, or by 7.00pm of a Sunday match. This includes:
- (i) only the players that took the court;
 - (ii) the goals scored;
 - (iii) other details, including best players, are optional.

- (f) Both Clubs shall email the home and away score sheets to the Netball Operations Manager. The Netball Operations Manager must receive the original home score sheets no later than the Wednesday following the match.
 - (g) *A monetary fine, the value of which is set in accordance with these By-Laws, shall be imposed on clubs failing to comply with By-Laws 13(a), (c), (d) and (f).*
14. (a) The home club shall provide a size 5 netball for all matches. The home club must also provide a spare ball located at the official's bench.
- (b) Clubs must ensure that netball ring nets are fitted to the ring, clearly visible and open at top and bottom. The minimal length of the net is 380mm (15 inches) and maximum 457mm (18 inches). The goal post padding must be of uniformed thickness not more than 50mm (2 inches) thick and extending the full length of the pole. Inserted/sleeved in the ground so when it is knocked there is a minimal amount of movement and it remains stable.
 - (c) *A monetary fine, the value of which is set in accordance with these By-Laws, shall be imposed on clubs failing to comply with By-Law 14(b).*

Draw Management

15. The EDFNL Board of Management shall arrange the fixture. All matches of the League shall be played on a Saturday or as is dictated by the fixture at the same location as the football.

(a) Rolling Substitution (all grades)

- (i) The rolling substitution stands at the designated area.
- (ii) Before leaving the designated area, the substitute tags (with hands) the player leaving the court.
- (iii) Only one (1) rolling substitute per team can be made at a time.
- (iv) Play is not to be held up for rolling substitutions. If play is delayed, the player will be penalised under Rule 19.2. Delaying play.
- (v) Players must observe the offside rules as they enter/leave the court.
Sanction: Free pass where the infringement occurred (offside area) unless this places the non-infringing team at a disadvantage, or advantage is applied.
- (vi) Players must not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution.
Sanction: Free pass where the ball was when play was stopped (advantage may be applied).
- (vii) If a player leaves the court as a rolling substitution, and there is no player in the designated area, the replacement player is treated as a late player (as per Rule 3.8) and must wait until a break in play to enter the court.

3.8. Any late player may, after advising the umpire, take the court in the vacant position/s at the next break in play.

Action: Any late player is sent from the court until the correct time for entry and possession is awarded to the opposing team where the ball was when play stopped.

Terminology: Incorrect entry

Ladder

16. If teams are level on points, the position shall be determined by the percentage of goals scored for and against. This applies to all grades.

Byes

17. No (0) premiership points shall be awarded to teams who have a Bye pertaining to the League fixture.

Rescheduling Matches

18. (a) The League have the authority to instruct any club that, in the event of tournaments falling on a Sunday of a scheduled League home and away game, that those clubs participating be instructed to play on a day/night preceding that Sunday.
- (b) In the event of junior player availability being adversely affected by external commitments, games may be played at a time (prior to scheduled match) and venue that is mutually agreed upon by both clubs, and approved by the Board of Management

Forfeits

19. (a) Where a match results in a forfeit prior to the match clock starting, the non-offending team will:
- (i) Be awarded the four (4) premiership points with match scores of twenty to zero (20-0);
 - (ii) Credit games to only seven (7) nominated players on the official score sheet for finals qualifications;
 - (iii) No games shall be credited to players of the offending team;
 - (iv) In the event of a forfeit in a senior grade, a lower team from the club must be forfeited before a higher team.
- (b) Where a match results in a forfeit after the commencement of the match clock starting:
- (i) The result of the match will be twenty to zero (20-0) if the forfeiture is caused by the winning team.
 - (ii) The score of the winning team or 20-0 (whichever is greater) will stand if the forfeiture is caused by the losing team. The losing team will be stripped of its score and credited with zero (0).
 - (iii) No games shall be credited to players of the offending team.
- (c) A team forfeiting a match must:
- (i) Notify the League Netball Operations Manager in writing within seven (7) days the reason for the forfeit.
 - (ii) A penalty of \$200 will apply and must be paid before the following round.
 - (iii) Opposing club official must also be notified as soon as practicable.
 - (iv) Once the decision to forfeit a grade has been made it shall be final.

Cancellations

20. (a) Games may be stopped by the two (2) umpires or the two (2) umpires with two (2) officials from both clubs.
- (b) When matches are cancelled on account of a total strike (eg. power or situation created by a prolonged petrol strike), weather or some other cause, both teams will be credited with two (2) points each and the competition will continue as per the fixture.
- (c) Four (4) points can only be awarded for fully completed games.
- (d) In the event that a match is cancelled due to weather, games can only be awarded to seven (7) nominated players.
- (e) Should circumstances occur in which successive rounds need to be cancelled, the Board of Management will consider the position and determine a suitable course of action.
- (f) If a game is stopped after half time the current score stands as the final score.
- (g) If play is abandoned before half time the teams take two (2) premiership points each.

League Best and Fairest

21. (a) Umpires shall award votes in the following format:
 - (i) Three (3) votes to best and fairest player on court;
 - (ii) Two (2) votes to second best and fairest player on court;
 - (iii) One (1) vote to third best and fairest player on court;
 - (iv) If any of the three (3) names recorded on the vote cards are found to be illegible or incorrect in any way, that vote to be declared invalid only, not entire card;
 - (v) Both umpires to sign best and fairest vote card and also back of envelope.
- (b) Best and Fairest votes shall be publicly counted and tallied at a date, time and venue arranged by the League, notice of which shall be given to each Club Secretary no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the proposed date.
- (c) In the event of Best and Fairest votes being equal, awards will be given to all players receiving the equal highest number of votes, No "count back" will be applied.
- (d) Any player that has been suspended during the current home and away season will be deemed "ineligible".
- (e) *A monetary fine, the value of which is set in accordance with these by-laws, shall be imposed on Clubs failing to comply with by-law 21.(a)(iv) and 21.(a)(v)*

Representative Program

22. Refer to the Representative Program Policy which will be reviewed annually by the Netball Sub-Committee and shall be made available to all clubs.

Finals

23. (a) Host Club Responsibilities:
 - (i) Player/Umpire safety with regard to court surfacing;
 - (ii) Court security (players/umpires safety during match);
 - (iii) Ensure availability of warm-up area and changing facilities for players and umpires;
 - (iv) Arrangements for portable toilets where necessary.
- (b) Score Sheets:

- (i) All names of players and bench officials must be submitted on the template provided to the League Netball Operations Manager by 5.00pm on the Friday prior to the match.
 - (ii) Using the same form, player starting positions are to be submitted at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the commencement of the match.
 - (iii) The team manager must submit player positions to the official bench at each interval, using the template.
- (c) Neutral umpires with current A or B Badge, preferably from another League/Association, shall umpire throughout the finals series.
 - (d) A result must be achieved in all finals matches. The Rules of Netball pertaining to extra time shall be applied.
 - (e) All premierships teams to be awarded medals and junior runner-up teams to be awarded runners-up medals – thirteen (13) medals for each team, ie. twelve (12) for players and one (1) for coach. All senior A, B and C Grade premierships teams to be awarded a premiership cup.
 - (f) Any team undefeated throughout the season shall be called Champions. Any team undefeated but with the loss of premierships points due to an administrative error should be called Champions.
 - (g) *A monetary fine, the value of which is set in accordance with these By-Laws, shall be imposed on clubs failing to comply with By-Law 23(b).*

Also refer to By-Law 1(h).

League

Special Circumstances/Provisions Clause

- 24. Where this By-Law is silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the EDFNL is maintained at all times. The Board of Management and/or Netball Sub-Committee may in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in this By-Law relating to the EDFNL.
- 25. The EDFNL is bound by Netball Victoria's Policies ie: Child Safety, Member Protection, Competition Regulations etc. and that all matters will be dealt with in accordance to the relevant policy.

Indemnity

- 26. Except where provided or required by law and such cannot be excluded, the EDFNL and its respective directors, officers, members, servants or agents are absolved from all liabilities however arising from injury or damage, however caused, arising whilst participating as a member.

Dispute Resolution

- 27. (a) Where a member breaches a Bylaw, and that Bylaw prescribes a penalty for such breach, then the Committee may impose such penalty. For any other breach of the Bylaws, the Committee will impose any other penalty it sees fit in accordance with these Bylaws and the Constitution.

- (b) Any member who does not agree with a penalty or action of the Committee made under this Bylaw, may advise the Committee in writing within a timely manner following the penalty or decision being made. The Committee may then:
 - (i) Discuss the issue with the relevant party and then make a decision regarding the matter. The Committee shall inform the party/s involved of their decision either verbally or in writing; or
 - (ii) Have an informal meeting with the relevant party/s in order to discuss and resolve the dispute.
- (c) Any penalty imposed under Bylaw 27.2 is final.