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NETBALL ACT

COMPETITION RULES

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CONTENTS

1. OBJECTIVES	3
2. DEFINITIONS.....	3
3. CONDUCT OF THE MATCHES	4
3.1 Rules of the Match	4
3.2 Competition Structure.....	4
3.3 Nominations	4
3.4 Grading	5
3.5 Draws.....	5
3.6 Match Duration and Format.....	5
3.7 Points Score	5
3.8 Competition Fees	6
4. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS	7
4.1 Minimum Participation Age	7
4.2 Player Registration	7
4.3 Finals Eligibility	7
4.4 Playing Between and/or within Divisions.....	8
5. MATCH OPERATIONS.....	8
5.1 Starting a Match	8
5.2 Names of Scoresheets	9
5.3 Uniform Regulations.....	9

5.4	Umpires	9
5.5	Incomplete Matches.....	9
5.6	Withdrawals	10
6.	INJURIES, HEALTH AND SAFETY.....	10
6.1	General Health and Safety.....	10
6.2	Injuries.....	10
6.3	Insurance Claims.....	10
6.4	Pregnancy	10
6.5	Drugs and Alcohol.....	11
6.6	Hot Weather Guidelines.....	11
7.	DISCIPLINARY RULES.....	11
7.1	Application.....	11
7.2	Codes of Behaviour	12
7.3	Misconduct.....	12
7.4	Reporting Process.....	12

1. OBJECTIVES

The Netball ACT Evening Competitions are focused on participation for individuals of all skill levels. Hosted in indoor centres across Canberra, the Competitions are run with both ladies and mixed netball offered across a variety of Divisions.

The following Competition Rules have been provided to ensure the objectives of the Netball ACT Evening Competition are met. These objectives are to provide an environment to enhance:

- a) Fitness
- b) Fun
- c) Inclusion
- d) Safe Environment

2. DEFINITIONS

“Competition” Competition staged by NACT and run at a time and duration as stated by NACT;

“Competitions Coordinator” refers to the NACT employee responsible for promoting and implementing the Competition in line with the Competition Rules;

“Competition Points” points awarded to a Team based on the outcome of their Match which is used to determine the Teams position on the Ladder;

“Competition Rules” NACT Evening Competition Rules as amended by NACT from time to time;

“Court Supervisors” NACT Staff responsible for the running of Matches each evening;

“Division” Separation of the Competition offered;

“Draw” the arrangement of the competitions into schedules in which the season is split into Competitions Rounds that specify Match times, venues and oppositions for Teams;

“Finals Round” Semi Final or Grand Final Rounds at the conclusion of the Rounds played between the top 4 Teams on the Ladder;

“Forfeit” a method in which a Match automatically isn’t played due to one Team being unable to meet the basic standards for playing the Match or where a Team has been found to have broken the rules in a Match in which they won;

“Grading” a series of Rounds run to appropriately separate Teams into Divisions;

“Insurance” a contract in which players can receive financial protection or re-imbursments against losses in the case of an injury;

“Ladder” an arrangement of Teams in order of their position in the Competition;

“Match” an individual Match in a round where one Team plays another Team;

“MyNetball” Netball Australia online database;

“NACT” ACT Netball Association Incorporated trading as Netball ACT, the governing body for netball in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT);

“Player” any person participating in a Match;

“Round” a series of Matches that occupies a specified times, contains a certain number of Teams, and allows each Team to play each other;

“Scoresheet” NACT approved document for scoring of Matches;

“Team” any entity granted the right by NACT to participate in the Competition;

“Team Contact” Person responsible to be the point of contact for their Team;

“Umpire” refers to the NACT official responsible for officiating the Match; and

“Umpire Coaches” refers to the NACT official responsible for providing support and training to Umpires;

3. CONDUCT OF THE MATCHES

3.1 Rules of the Match

3.1.1 The Competition will be conducted in accordance with the INF Rules of Netball and INF Regulations as amended from time to time unless modified in the Competition Rules or any other document produced by Netball Australia or NACT from time to time

3.1.2 Mixed Divisions are played as follows:

- a) A maximum of three (3) males and a minimum of one (1) male are permitted on the playing court at any time
- b) One (1) male is allowed in each third of the court. i.e., one (1) male as GD or GK, one (1) male as WD, WA or C, one (1) male as GA or GS

3.2 Competition Structure

3.2.1 NACT will conduct two (2) Competitions annually

- a) Winter Competition will be run from April to September each year
- b) Summer Competition will run from October to March each year

3.2.2 Each Competition consists of

- a) A maximum of five (5) Grading Rounds
- b) No less than 15 weeks (inclusive of bye rounds) and no more than 17 weeks conducted in a Round robin format
- c) Two (2) Finals Rounds

3.2.3 Matches will not be scheduled on public holidays

3.3 Nominations

3.3.1 All Teams wishing to participate in the Competition must complete the online Team nomination form via the MyNetball system.

3.3.2 When nominating the Team will select an evening and Division they wish to participate

- 3.3.3 You will receive an automatic confirmation of the online nomination being successful
- 3.3.4 NACT reserves the right to refuse a Team nomination if the team has a history of not paying fees for a previous season
- 3.3.5 Nominations are accepted until each Division on each night is at capacity

3.4 Grading

- 3.4.1 Grading will occur at the beginning of each new season and in accordance with clause 3.2.2a)
- 3.4.2 NACT has the right to re-grade Teams at any stage of the competitions if deemed necessary
- 3.4.3 NACT reserves the right to combine Divisions (where appropriate) to provide a viable Competition to participants

3.5 Draws

- 3.5.1 Draws will be available one week prior to the Competition starting date
- 3.5.2 Draws will be developed for the Grading Rounds, at the end of the Grading period, the Draw for the remainder of the season will be available to Teams
- 3.5.3 All Draws are available on the MyNetball website
- 3.5.4 Draws may be altered throughout the season as required
- 3.5.5 All Draw changes are updated to the published Draw online on the MyNetball website and the nominated Team Contact will be notified of any changes

3.6 Match Duration and Format

- 3.6.1 All Matches are centrally timed as follows:
 - a) Lyneham runs in forty five (45) minute timeslots
 - b) Tuggeranong runs in fifty (50) minute timeslots
- 3.6.2 All Matches will be conducted as follows:
 - a) Forty (40) minutes divided into four (4) quarters, each of ten (10) minute duration
 - b) Lyneham; The quarter time and half time intervals will be a period of (1) minute, the interval between Matches will be a period of two (2) minutes
 - c) Tuggeranong; The quarter and half time intervals will be a period of one (1) minute, the interval between Matches will be a period of (5) minutes

3.7 Points Score

- 3.7.1 The official Score Sheet is the only true record of the Match. Once the Score Sheet is submitted to the Court Supervisors the score is considered true and final.

- 3.7.2 Competition Points will be awarded as follows:
- a) Three (3) Competition Points for a win or Forfeit to
 - b) Two (2) Competition Points for a draw
 - c) One (1) Competition Point for a loss
 - d) Zero (0) Competition Points for a Forfeit by, disqualification or if fees are outstanding
- 3.7.3 The Team who was Forfeited against will be awarded a 10 to nil goal difference
- 3.7.4 The finals format will be as follows;
- a) 1st Semi Final 1st v 4th
 - b) 2nd Semi Final 2nd v 3rd
 - c) Grand Final Winner of 1st Semi Final v winner of 2nd Semi Final
 - d) Where there is a split division, finals will also be undertaken for the following four teams on the division ladder if total amount of teams allow.
- 3.7.5 The top four positions will be decided by the Points Ratio (Points/Matches Played) after the final Round of Matches
- 3.7.6 Where two Teams are on the same Point Ratio, positions for Semi Finals shall be decided on the goal percentages calculated by the NACT nominated competition software package (MyNetball)
- 3.7.7 Where Divisions have been combined, a change in the outlined finals format (clause 3.7.4) will be advised by NACT in writing at the beginning of the season

3.8 Competition Fees

- 3.8.1 A registration fee will be charged to each Team at the commencement of each competition
- a) The registration fee will be determined by NACT and communicated to the Teams at the time of nominating
 - b) The registration fee is payable by the end of the Grading Rounds
 - c) The fee covers a maximum of 10 Players
 - d) An additional fee as determined by NACT will be charged for each registered player registering after the 10th registered Player
- 3.8.2 A Match fee will be charged to a team for each game played
- a) Match fee will be determined by NACT and communicated to the Teams at the time of nominating
 - b) This fee must be paid in full before the Match can begin
 - c) This fee must be paid in one transaction, no split payments between team members
- 3.8.3 Fees can be paid by the following methods on the evening you play:

- a) Cash or Eftpos at Lyneham
 - b) Cash only at Tuggeranong
 - c) Bulk payments can be made for the Team to pay their fees in full up front, or in correct denominations of number of games to be paid ie: four (4) Games prepaid
- 3.8.4 Should a Match be called off by NACT for any reason the following will occur:
- a) Match called off before half time; Match fee payment credited to the Team/s for their next Match
 - b) Match called off at or after half time; no refund of Match fees.
- 3.8.5 A Forfeit fee as specified by NACT will be incurred to any Team Forfeiting a Match during the season. This forfeit fee must be paid within 3 weeks of forfeit date.

4. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

4.1 Minimum Participation Age

- 4.1.1 The minimum participation age is 16 as at December 31st in the year of play
- 4.1.2 Any Team found to be playing an underage Player will be considered to have Forfeited the Match in which the underage Player has taken part

4.2 Player Registration

- 4.2.1 All players must be registered within My Netball to their respective teams by Round 12.
- 4.2.2 If a team does not have a minimum of 5 players registered to the team by round 12, a \$10 penalty will be charged every week this is not completed.
- 4.2.3 To be eligible to participate in the Competition, Players must use the MyNetball self-registration system to register as an Evening competitions Player for the season
- 4.2.4 The Team Contact is responsible for ensuring all Players taking the court on each night are registered Players
- 4.2.5 Players playing in multiple Evening Competitions teams must register for each team to ensure they are on each team's squad list
- 4.2.6 If a Player plays unregistered, he or she is not covered by Insurance and cannot make an insurance claim

4.3 Finals Eligibility

- 4.3.1 Only Players registered with a Team on MyNetball are eligible to play finals for that Team. Players must have played 4 games to be eligible to play finals.

- 4.3.2 Players must have played in a minimum of four (4) Matches during the Competition to be eligible to play finals. The Player must sign next to their name on the score sheet, for the match to be recognised for eligibility
- a) For the purpose of finals eligibility, Grading Matches are not recognised as part of the Competition
- 4.3.3 Any Team found to be playing an unregistered Player will be considered to have Forfeited the Match in which the unregistered Player has taken part in

4.4 Playing Between and/or within Divisions

- 4.4.1 Players cannot play permanently for two Teams in the same Division on the same evening, unless after the grading period NACT has combined/regraded the two divisions. In which players must have been registered with both teams during the grading period
- 4.4.2 The following rules apply to Players playing in multiple Teams on the same evening of Competition:
- a) A Player in a lower Division may fill in for any Team in a higher Division
- b) A maximum of two (2) higher Division Players may fill-in in a lower Division each Match
- c) A Player may fill in for a team they are not registered with as long as they:
- i. Are registered to the competition in accordance with clause 4.2.1
 - ii. Write their name and sign the Score Sheet in accordance with clause 5.2
- d) A player cannot play for two teams in the same division during the finals series.

5. MATCH OPERATIONS

5.1 Starting a Match

- 5.1.1 The Scoresheet for each Match cannot be taken from the court supervisors until both Teams have paid the weekly Match fee
- 5.1.2 Teams can start a Match with a minimum of five (5) Players
- 5.1.3 Mixed Teams must have one (1) male on court for the game to start and at least one (1) male on court for the duration of the match
- 5.1.4 Should a Team not be able to field a minimum of five players, five minutes after the clock starts, that Team shall be deemed to have Forfeited the Match
- a) A Forfeit fee will be applied in this circumstance

5.2 Names of Scoresheets

- 5.2.1 When a player completes the self-registration online they select the Team they are playing for, in doing so they are joining the Teams squad list
- 5.2.2 Squad lists are printed on the Match Scoresheet each week
- 5.2.3 Players must sign next to their name on the scoresheet each week to reflect they participated in the Match for finals qualification and insurance purposes

5.3 Uniform Regulations

- 5.3.1 Teams are required to wear suitable sports attire for each Match
- 5.3.2 Jewellery is not permitted for any Match with the exception of:
 - a) A wedding band which must be taped
 - b) A medic alert bracelet which must be taped
- 5.3.3 Nails must be short and smooth; gloves may be worn if nails are too long

5.4 Umpires

- 5.4.1 Where available two (2) Umpires will be allocated to all Matches by NACT
- 5.4.2 Allocations will be based on ensuring the Umpires are allocated to the most appropriate Match
 - a) Umpire Coaches will provide input to the Court Supervisors as to the experience of Umpire required for the skill level of the Match
 - b) Once allocations are made, they are not to be altered without the approval of the Umpire Coaches (where applicable)/Court Supervisors

5.5 Incomplete Matches

- 5.5.1 NACT may cancel or stop a Match at any time either temporarily or indefinitely due to extraordinary circumstances including:
 - a) Unplayable or unsafe court or facility
 - b) Equipment damage or failure
 - c) Serious injury to a Player
 - d) Multiple or serious misconduct of a Player and/or Team that presents a risk to the safety of other Players
- 5.5.2 Should a Match be called off by NACT for any reason, the following procedures will be followed;
 - a) Match called off before half time - draw
 - b) Match called off after half time - current result stands

- c) Match abandoned prior to commencement of the match will result in a 10 – all draw

5.6 Withdrawals

- 5.6.1 A Team may withdraw at any time during the Competition
- 5.6.2 A Forfeit fee will apply to any Team withdrawing from the Competition in the same week they have a scheduled Match
- 5.6.3 In the case of a Team withdrawing from the Competition the Draw will be redeveloped

6. INJURIES, HEALTH AND SAFETY

6.1 General Health and Safety

- 6.1.1 Any Players with blood must leave the court immediately and may be substituted as per Rule 9.3.1 Injury/Illness or Blood of the INF Rules of Netball
 - a) Should blood get on the Players clothing, the Player is not allowed back on the court until they change their clothing

6.2 Injuries

- 6.2.1 An injury that occurs during a Match must be reported using the injury report form on the evening available from the Court Supervisors
- 6.2.2 Should a serious injury occur during a Match the Match will be stopped until deemed safe to continue or called off accordingly

6.3 Insurance Claims

- 6.3.1 All Registered Players within My Netball can make an insurance claim for any injury reported during participation in the Competition.
- 6.3.2 Injury Insurance claim forms are available on the NACT website or from the Competitions Manager
- 6.3.3 The Competitions manager is required to sign the Injury Insurance claim form verifying the injury occurred (via injury report) and the Player was registered through MyNetball at the time of sustaining the injury
- 6.3.4 Claims may be denied if an injury report is not filed at time of incident

6.4 Pregnancy

- 6.4.1 NACT has adopted Netball Australia's Pregnancy in Netball Policy accessible on the [Netball Australia website](#)

6.5 Drugs and Alcohol

- 6.5.1 Any Players or spectators believed to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol when on the NACT premises will be ordered to leave the Centre and will take no further part in their Match
- 6.5.2 If a person refuses to leave, they are in breach of the conditions of entry to the Centre, the Police will be called to attend the premises to escort the offender from the venue
- 6.5.3 If the removal of a Player from a Match means the team is unable to compete, that team shall be deemed to have Forfeited the Match. Match points would be awarded in accordance with forfeited matches in clause 3.7.2

6.6 Hot Weather Guidelines

Hot weather guidelines are applied to ensure safety of players in extremely hot temperatures. The Competitions Manager along with the Court Supervisors will be responsible for determining temperatures. The Following Process will take place:

- 6.6.1 Phase One: 32 degrees Celsius in the Centre
 - a) All Teams will be advised by the Court Supervisors to increase the intake of fluids.
- 6.6.2 Phase Two: 35 degrees Celsius in the Centre
 - a) All Matches will be reduced to seven (7) minute quarters
 - b) A one (1) minute break will be enforced at the four (4) minute mark in each quarter
 - c) Quarter time breaks will be extended to 2/4/2 minutes respectively
- 6.6.3 Phase Three: 38 degrees Celsius in the Centre
 - a) Matches will be abandoned – Match result will be 10-point draw

7. DISCIPLINARY RULES

7.1 Application

- 7.1.1 Each Team, Player and Official acknowledges that in order to meet the stated objectives of these Competition Rules, its terms must be strictly complied with and its spirit and intent honoured. NACT has the right to impose sanctions to enforce and encourage such compliance (Disciplinary Sanctioning – Appendix Two)
- 7.1.2 NACT may enforce the terms of these Competition Rules and impose sanctions only if it has given the party alleged to have breached these Competition Rules reasonable notice of the alleged breach; and the opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in relation to that alleged breach and possible sanction

- 7.1.3 All participants of the Competition including but not limited to Players and Umpires, who have breached the Code of Behaviour or [Netball Australia Member Protection Policy](#) may be subject to disciplinary action as listed within the Netball Australia Member Protection Policy

7.2 Codes of Behaviour

- 7.2.1 All participants taking part in the Competition are required to act in accordance with the National Codes of Behaviour published as part of the Netball Australia Members Protection Policy as amended from time to time (Appendix One)

7.3 Misconduct

- 7.3.1 An incident of potential misconduct may have occurred before, during or after the Match. The incident must have occurred within the confines of the Match venue or its immediate surrounds, or elsewhere if directly related to Competition activity of any sort, and may be made regardless of any action taken by the Umpires during the Match

7.4 Reporting Process

- 7.4.1 All complaints lodged with NACT in relation to the Competition will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures of the Netball Australia Member Protection Policy.
- 7.4.2 An incident must be reported to the Competitions Manager within 2 business days (48 hours) of the incident occurring

Appendix One:

The following information has been extracted from the Netball Australia Codes of Behaviour. The National Codes of Behaviour should be read in its entirety, the following excerpts have been supplied for convenience of players, umpires and spectators. For a full copy of the Netball Australia National Codes of Behaviours – [Click Here](#)

Player Code of Behaviour

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow players, coaches, officials and spectators.
2. Refrain from conduct which could be regarded as sexual harassment, discrimination, bullying or victimisation.
3. Respect the talent, potential and development of fellow players and competitors
4. Participate fairly and safely
5. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner relating to language, temper and punctuality
6. Abide by the rules and respect the decision of the umpires. Be courteous and use the correct process when seeking rule clarification
7. Applaud all good play, by your own team, and opponents.
8. Co-operate with your coach, team mates, opponents and officials at all times
9. Respect and acknowledge the contribution of those who create the opportunity for you to play

Umpire Code of Behaviour

1. Umpire in accordance with the Official Rules of the Game
2. Treat all players, coaches, bench officials, and other umpires with respect
3. Place the safety and welfare of the players above all else, including by:
 - Ensuring the court and its surrounds are compliant with the rules.
 - Taking appropriate action to manage dangerous play
4. Maintain a high standard of personal behaviour at all times

5. Be a positive role model through behaviour and personal appearance projecting a favourable image of netball and umpiring at all times
6. Refrain from conduct which could be regarded as sexual harassment, discrimination, bullying or victimisation
7. Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction with other netball participants
8. Be honest and do not allow your qualifications/ accreditation to be misrepresented

Spectator Code of Behaviour

1. Remember that most players (in particular children) participate in netball activities for fun. They are not participating for entertainment of spectators only.
2. Applaud good performance and efforts of all players. When watching a game congratulate both teams on their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
3. Respect the decision of the umpires. Encourage players to play according to the rules and the official decisions, and develop your own knowledge of the rules
4. Never ridicule or abuse a player for making a mistake during a competition
5. Refrain from conduct which could be regarded as sexual harassment, discrimination, bullying or victimisation
6. Do not use foul language, sledge or harass administrators, coaches, players, umpires or other spectators
7. Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by administrators, coaches, players, umpires or other spectators.
8. Be honest and do not allow your qualifications/ accreditation to be misrepresented

APPENDIX TWO:

Disciplinary Sanctioning

Type of offence (please select):

All levels below are to be used as a guideline only. NACT reserves the right to change levels based on evidence and reporting.

Fighting (Level 7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Striking (Level 7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Verbal Threats of Violence (Level 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Racial or Discriminatory Abuse (Level 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abusive or Obscene Language (Level 4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deliberately Tripping or Elbowing (Level 3)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Undue Rough Play (Level 2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disputing Decisions (Level 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeated Deliberate Infringements (Level 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action taken by umpires (please select):

No Action (Level 0)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cautioned (Level 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Official Warning (Level 2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Suspension (Level 3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ordered Off (Level 5 +)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Additional information

Table of offences:

<u>Sum of Levels - Reportable Offence</u>	
Level 1 - 2	Record is kept for future reference, if repeated in the same season – further action to be taken by NACT
Level 3 - 4	Written warning is sent to persons involved – suspension
Level 5 - 6	Automatic 1 week suspension
Level 7 +	Minimum 2 week suspension – Pending further investigation under the Netball Australia Member Protection Policy