



HCF STATE LEAGUE COMPETITION RULES

13 July 2020

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1. OBJECTIVES

The Netball ACT HCF State League (HCFSL) is the premier netball competition in the ACT, consisting of several Divisions. Teams that compete in the HCFSL are representative of Netball ACT District Associations and invitational District Associations from around the region.

The following Competition Rules have been provided to ensure the objectives of the HCFSL Competition are met. These objectives are to:

HCF State League – 19U

- Identify and develop talented athletes within or having the potential for NACT pathways
- Provide elite competition opportunities for athletes
- Provide a regular competition environment
- Provide elite competition opportunities for NACT State Team fringe athletes
- Provide elite competition opportunities for coaches, umpires and officials

HCF State League – Division 1 and 2 (Open competition)

- Identify and develop emerging national athletes
- Bridge gaps between age representative structures and national competitions
- Provide elite competition opportunities for athletes
- Provide a regular competition environment
- Provide elite competition opportunities for coaches, umpires and officials

HCF State League – Mens League

- Provide representative competition opportunities and exposure for athletes
- Provide a regular competition environment
- Provide development opportunities for coaches, umpires and official

2. DEFINITIONS

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

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

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

“Division” Separation of the competition offered

“District Associations” an organisation or association formed to promote netball in an area of the Australian Capital Territory with objects similar to the objects of the Association;

“Competition Manager” refers to the NACT employee responsible for promoting and implementing the Competition in line with the Competition Rules the specific title of which may be amended from time to time;

“INF” International Netball Federation

“Match” means all netball matches played between the Teams as part of the Competition and all netball matches between some or all of the Teams in respect of other events;

“MyNetball” NACT’s Membership and Competition Management Database;

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

“NACT Umpire Advisory Panel” A NACT appointed Umpire, who will allocate and where appropriate coach HCFSL umpires.

“Player” any person who is named on the NACT Team Form;

“Round” a series of matches that occupies a specified times, contains a certain number of teams, and allows each team to play each other

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

“Team Form” Official NACT document to register in the Competition

“Score Sheet” NACT approved document for scoring

3. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

3.1. Rules of Netball The game rules will be in accordance with the INF Rules of Netball and INF Regulations as amended from time to time unless modified in the Competition Rules

3.2. Competition Structure

- 3.2.1. All games are to be played at the SolarHub ACT Netball Centre or as scheduled by NACT.
- 3.2.2. At the discretion of the approved NACT Staff Member or Competition Manager, matches may be delayed, postponed or abandoned for any reason deemed justifiable including but not limited to poor conditions in the field of play, equipment damage or failure and recommendations made by the Umpire.
 - a) Where a delayed Match is unable to be resumed within 30 minutes of the scheduled start time, the Match will be postponed;
 - b) When a Match is postponed, it will be re-scheduled at the discretion of NACT at a time and place deemed suitable; or
 - c) Where a postponed Match is unable to be re-scheduled, the Match will be abandoned in which case the following will apply:
 - i. Both Teams will receive 3 Competition Points; and
 - ii. All players listed on the Score Sheet at the time of the abandoned round will be credited with playing 4 quarters.
- 3.2.3. There will be no deferment of games: teams will play their games as set down in the draw. If a District Association is unable to field a team, they must forfeit their game and pay the appropriate forfeit fee.
- 3.2.4. A forfeit fee of \$300 will be incurred when a team forfeits.
- 3.2.5. Each Player must play in the identical playing uniform.
- 3.2.6. Each team is to have second set of patches in an alternate colour.

- 3.2.7. The competition structure will comprise four divisions to be named:
- a) Division 1
 - b) Division 2
 - c) 19 & Under (19U)
 - d) Men's League
- 3.2.8. The Competition will be played in a home and away series comprising of ten (10) Rounds, plus finals. The ten (10) rounds will be played across thirteen (13) weeks.
- 3.2.9. The NACT Competition Manager will make the final decision as to the draw and the scheduling of Matches.
- 3.2.10. The top four (4) participating Teams from the Minor Round Matches for each Division will advance to the respective Finals Series for Division 1, 2, 19U and Mens League

3.3. Match Duration and Match Format

- 3.3.1. Matches shall be played for a period as follows:
- a) sixty (60) minutes divided into four (4) quarters, each of fifteen (15) minutes duration;
 - b) the fifteen (15) minute duration for each quarter will be actual playing time and will not include stoppages in play.
- 3.3.2. Intervals shall be taken between each quarter as follows:
- a) the quarter time intervals will be a maximum period of three (3) minutes;
 - b) the half time interval will be maximum period of five (5) minutes.
- 3.3.3. Only the officiating Umpires may stop a Match (temporarily or indefinitely) due to an extraordinary circumstance that may be deemed an emergency. This may include but is not limited to failure of equipment or facilities, a seriously injured Player, or any other reason deemed necessary by the officiating Umpires.

3.4. Point Score

- 3.4.1. The official score sheet is the only true record of the Match.
- 3.4.2. If due to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances a Match cannot be rescheduled or completed prior to half time, the teams involved will receive 3 Competition Points.
- 3.4.3. In the preliminary rounds, Competition Points will be awarded as follows:
- a) five (5) Competition Points for a win or forfeit to;
 - b) three (3) Competition Points for a draw;
 - c) one (1) Competition Point for a loss; and
 - d) zero (0) Competition Points for a forfeit by.

- 3.4.4. The team forfeited to will also be awarded a 15 to nil goal difference.
- 3.4.5. The finals format for Division 1, 2, 19U and Mens League will be as follows, unless otherwise formally advised in writing at the start of the Competition by the Competition Manager:
- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| a) 1st Semi Final | 3rd v 4th |
| b) 2nd Semi Final | 1st v 2nd |
| c) Preliminary Final | Loser of 2nd Semi Final v winner of 1st Semi Final |
| d) Grand Final | Winner of 2nd Semi Final v winner of Preliminary Final |
- 3.4.6. The top four positions will be decided on by the Competition Points after the final Round of matches.
- 3.4.7. Where two teams are on the same Competition Points, positions for Semi Finals shall be decided on the goal percentages calculated by MyNetball.
- 3.4.8. The number of games actually played includes games a team has forfeited, or where a team has received forfeits.
- 3.4.9. No disputes will be entered into regarding score sheets where the two team score bench representatives have signed the score as final.
- a) if there is a dispute about the score on the score sheet, then the dispute will be raised with the Competitions Manager who in consultation with the score bench will ascertain to the best of their ability the situation, and will decide the outcome of the game;
 - b) no further disputes will be entered into.

4. ELIGIBILITY

4.1. Player Eligibility

- 4.1.1. Players can only play for one District Association in the Competition.
- 4.1.2. To be eligible to participate, Players must be a registered member of their District Association and appear as financial on the MyNetball database or such database as amended for time to time.
- 4.1.3. District Associations are to fully complete and lodge the Team lists on the MyNetball database by the nominated date as set by NACT.
- 4.1.4. All District Association entries must list on the MyNetball database a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of (15) Players for each team entered as at the closing date of entries.
- a) any new Player after the closing date must be a registered member and be entered into the MyNetball database before taking the court.
- 4.1.5. A maximum of 12 players may sit on the team bench for each competition match.

- 4.1.6. New Player registration regulations will be:
 - a) not be accepted after Round 6 of the Competition;
 - b) any exemption requests are to be submitted in writing to NACT for consideration;
- 4.1.7. Players in 19U must not be older than 19 years of age as at 31 December in the year of play.
- 4.1.8. The minimum playing age for any Division is 15 as at 31 December in the year of play.
- 4.1.9. A Player may only play in a team one division lower than the team in which they are registered, and in accordance with rule 4.1.6 & 4.1.7.
- 4.1.10. Once a Player takes the court in twelve (12) quarters in a higher Division, on taking the court in the 13th quarter that Player will remain in the higher Division for the remainder of the season and will not be eligible for finals in a lower division.
- 4.1.11. Once a Player takes the court in eight (8) quarters in a lower Division, on taking the court in the 9th quarter will remain in the lower Division for the remainder of the season and will not be eligible for finals in the higher division.

4.2. Finals Eligibility

- 4.2.1. To be eligible for finals a Player must play a minimum of twelve (12) quarters in the Division they are registered.
- 4.2.2. An eligible Player may participate in more than one Division in a final series; however, they are not permitted to play in a Division lower than the Division they are qualified in.
- 4.2.3. With regards to 19U and Mens League, exemptions will be considered on application in writing to the Competition Manager.
- 4.2.4. Any team found to be playing an ineligible Player in the final series for a Division will be disqualified in that game in which the ineligible Player has taken part.
- 4.2.5. If there is a draw in the final series the game shall be continued to a result in accordance with the INF Rules of Netball.

5. MATCH OPERATIONS

5.1. Umpires

- 5.1.1. All HCFSL umpires are required to be registered and financial with a District Association.
- 5.1.2. NACT Umpire Advisory Panel will be responsible for the allocation and supervision of umpires during matches.

- 5.1.3. The NACT Umpire Advisory Panel shall have access to the Field of Play in designated areas to observe the Match, but without impacting on any operational requirements.
- 5.1.4. NACT is to be notified of all HCFSL umpire coach/mentors that will be coaching/mentoring umpires at HCFSL matches.
- 5.1.5. If an Umpire has not arrived 20 minutes prior to the commencement of the Match, a replacement Umpire may take the court, providing that they meet the allocation requirements of the match.
- 5.1.6. A NACT staff member will be appointed by NACT to communicate umpire allocations for the Competition.
- 5.1.7. NACT will provide a shirt for each umpire within the HCFSL Umpire Pool.

5.2. Score Benches

- 5.2.1. It is compulsory for teams to provide bench officials for the scheduled games:
 - a) the first named team in the draw is to provide two (2) bench officials for the game, who must be in attendance to commence the fifteen (15) minute warm up clock; and
 - b) the second named team is to provide one (1) bench official, who must be in attendance to commence the fifteen (15) minute warm up clock.
- 5.2.2. NACT will provide the bench with stopwatches, umpire alerts.
- 5.2.3. Teams will submit Team Lists fifteen (15) minutes prior to commencement of the Match and substitution forms as required during the Match.

5.3. Primary Carer

- 5.3.1. All teams are required to provide a Primary Carer for the matches and record them on the Team List.
- 5.3.2. It is compulsory that lanyards be worn by the Primary Carer for each team. Primary Carers will not be permitted on the court without this identification.
- 5.3.3. The Primary Carer cannot perform the role of any other Team Official during the Match (e.g. a Primary Carer cannot be a team Manager and Primary Carer for the same Match).

5.4. Uniform Regulations

- 5.4.1. Any modifications to team uniforms must be sent into NACT fifteen (15) weeks prior to the competition commencing. NACT will require the full supplier design PDF mock-up of the full team kit including any logo and bib sizing.
- 5.4.2. Teams are not to produce team kit until written confirmation from NACT is received.

6. DISCIPLINARY RULES

6.1. Application

- 6.1.1. 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
- 6.1.2. All participants of the Competition including but not limited to Players, Umpires, Coaches and Team Officials 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
- 6.1.3. The 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 it's 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

6.2. Codes of Behaviour

- 6.2.1. 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)

6.3. Reporting Process

- 6.3.1. 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.
- 6.3.2. An incident must be reported to the Competition Manager within 2 business days (48 hours) of the incident occurring

7. 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

Coach Code of Behaviour

1. Operate within the rules and spirit of netball, promoting fair play.
2. Develop a positive netball environment by emphasising enjoyment and by providing appropriate development and competitive experiences.
3. Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
4. Treat each person as an individual. Respect the rights and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background and religion.
5. Display control, courtesy and respect to all involved with netball.
6. Respect the decisions of umpires, officials, other coaches and administrators in the conduct of netball programs and competitions.
7. Act with integrity and objectivity and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
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