



Gosford Netball Association Competition Policy

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PLAYERS AND TEAMS

1.1 PLAYERS AND TEAMS – General

- 1.1.1 Pregnant players or umpires may participate as described in the Netball NSW Member Protection Policy – Pregnancy Policy upon provision of proof of medical advice (as per Netball NSW Member Protection Policy – Pregnancy Policy 3.12).
- 1.1.2 Participants who have any pre-existing medical condition/s participate at their own risk.

1.2 PLAYERS AND TEAMS – Borrowed Players

- 1.2.1 A registered team (team 1) of an affiliated club will be permitted to borrow a player or players from another registered team (team 2) of the same affiliated club to play for team 1 in a competition game. The player will be known as a “borrowed player” and is permitted:
 - 1.2.1.1. only if the team has less than seven (7) team members available to take the court at any point during the game;
 - 1.2.1.2. provided they are not replacing a player that is a current team member who is medically fit on the day of play, in the higher grade team;
 - 1.2.1.3. and if a registered team member arrives during the course of the game and is medically fit to play, then the borrowed player shall be substituted at the next break in play, by the registered team member (“break in play” – refer to rules);
- 1.2.2 A registered team of an affiliated club may borrow up to three (3) players from their lower senior and junior teams as permitted under the following rules, however, the registered team must have at least four (4) of the original registered team members on the court at commencement of the competition game and the subject of the following guidelines:
 - 1.2.2.1. Net Mod, Net Play and junior players can only participate in competition games 2 years above their current age as at 31 December in year of play;
 - 1.2.2.2. 15 and Under division players must be 15 years or over as at 31 December in year of play to participate in any senior competition games;
 - 1.2.2.3. Players shall only be eligible to play in a higher graded team as per the Borrowing Guideline as published each year following final Association grading.
- 1.2.3 If a team does not comply with the clauses 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 when playing a borrowed player, that team shall be deemed to have played an illegal player and shall be penalised four (4) competition points.
- 1.2.4 A player may not play more than two (2) games in a higher grade in any one team without the permission of the Junior or Senior Grading Convenors and after written approval with the majority of the Grading Committee. This request must be submitted as per clause 1.1.4 of the Registration Policy. If approved, the player will become an eligible registered member of that team in accordance with clause 1.1.4. of the Registration Policy.
 - 1.1.4.1 It is the responsibility of the club to monitor games played by Borrowed Players and ensure that clause 1.2.4 is not breached.

- 1.2.5 Players may play a maximum of two (2) club competition games per week.
- 1.2.6 Players in the representative program may play two (2) club games plus a Representative Program game per week prior to Finals series.

1.3 PLAYERS AND TEAMS – Illegal players

- 1.3.1 If a player has played a competition game prior to being given permission to play by the Junior and Senior Grading Convenors:
 - 1.3.1.1. that player will be deemed to be an unregistered/illegal player and
 - 1.3.1.2. the team for which the illegal player has played will lose 4 competition points.
- 1.3.2 Players that have not complied with clauses 1.1.5 and 1.1.6 of the Registration Policy by week 3 of competition:
 - 1.3.2.1 that player will be deemed to be an illegal player and
 - 1.3.2.2 the team for which the illegal player has played will lose 4 competition points
- 1.3.3 If an Affiliated Club has two (2) teams or more teams graded into the same Division, then the registered team members of each affiliated club team cannot be interchanged between the two teams in the same division.
- 1.3.4 A player may not transfer as a registered team member from one team to another team within an Affiliated Club:
 - 1.3.4.1. without the Member Change Request form (MCR) being completed;
 - 1.3.4.2. without the approval of the Grading Committee.
- 1.3.5 An affiliate club shall provide written approval to the Association for a registered member to transfer to another affiliate club, unless the registered member is unfinancial with that club.

1.4 PLAYERS AND TEAMS – Withdrawal of a team from competition

Should a team find that it is unable to compete and requires to withdraw from the competition, notification of their withdrawal must be in writing to the Association Secretary as soon as possible.

- 1.4.1 All teams that are affected by the withdrawal will be notified by the Association Secretary.
- 1.4.2 The competition draw will be adjusted accordingly by the Competition Co-ordinator, to reflect the withdrawal.
- 1.4.3 The draw will be updated and available on the Association website.
- 1.4.4 Withdrawal by a team after final grading will result in each player being ineligible for a refund of the GNA registration fee.

2. COMPETITION

2.1 COMPETITION – Competition Day

- 2.1.1 All games are to be conducted as per the Official Rule Book as issued by Netball Australia and will be adopted at Association level as defined by the Association Constitution, Polices and Association procedures documentation current at the time.
- 2.1.2 Competition games between registered teams shall be controlled by the Council and shall be played in accordance with such regulations as shall be approved by Council.
- 2.1.3 The competition shall consist of up to 15 weeks and semi finals, finals and grand finals.
- 2.1.4 Competition game scoring – all scores must be completed on the official Association scoresheet as per GNA Scoresheet Procedure.
- 2.1.5 All players participating in games must have names printed or written on the scoresheet.

2.2 COMPETITION – Competition Games

- 2.2.1 The fixtures shall be organised for at least two (2) rounds, plus:
 - 2.2.1.1. semi-finals, finals and grand finals for grades with six (6), seven (7) and eight (8) club teams and
- 2.2.2 The competition draw shall be available on the Association website no later than two (2) weeks after finalisation of all appeals following notification of final grading.
- 2.2.3 All teams within each grade must have an equal number of games scheduled that qualify for competition points prior to Finals series, or in the event of regrading equal number of scheduled games prior to regrading.
- 2.2.4 Competition games will be played as set down in the competition draw on the Association website. In the event that there is regrading the following shall apply to each team in the division affected following regrading:
 - 2.2.4.1 Must have an equal number of games scheduled that qualify for competition points.
 - 2.2.4.2 Must have at least one game scheduled against each team in the division.
- 2.2.5 Invitation teams will not be eligible to play in the Finals series. Game scores against invitational teams shall be recorded as 1 – 0 to the winner
- 2.2.6 The umpire's whistle will start and finish games on the indication from the central timing device.
- 2.2.7 Competition games will be of four (4) quarters.
- 2.2.8 The duration of the games shall be played as follows:
 - 2.2.8.1. Competition games shall be 4 x 15 minute quarters;
 - 2.2.8.2. Non-competition games shall be 4 x 10 minute quarters.

- 2.2.9 Injury time may be taken according to the rules, but no additional time shall be added to any competition game during weeks 1-15.
- 2.2.10 In the event of a draw at full time in Weeks 1 – 15 there is no extra time played.

2.3 COMPETITION – Commencement of Competition Games

- 2.3.1 The game must commence at time set down as per the Association competition draw.
- 2.3.2 If a team has only four (4) medically fit players available to commence the game, then a 5 minute period is to be allowed before a forfeit is claimed by the non-offending team.
- 2.3.3 When only five (5) players from one team are available to play, that team has the right to forfeit the game, provided that this is recorded on the score sheet and signed by both team captains and the umpires.
- 2.3.4 If, at the end of five (5) minutes, neither team has arrived, the game should be declared a “no game” and no points shall be awarded to either team.

2.4 COMPETITION – Team Forfeits

- 2.4.1 Any team who is unable to play and who wish to forfeit their game prior to the day of play, must advise the Association Secretary as soon as the team becomes aware that they are unable to play.
- 2.4.2 The opposing team’s Affiliated Club Secretary will be advised of the forfeiting team’s decision. The non-offending team need not attend the competition game to claim the forfeit.
- 2.4.3 Teams forfeiting who have allocated umpiring duties are still required to fulfil their allocated umpiring duties.
- 2.4.4 Teams forfeiting three (3) consecutive games are automatically withdrawn from the competition for the remainder of the season without further penalty.
- 2.4.5 The Association’s decision to abandon games will override any notification of forfeit.

2.5 COMPETITION – Competition Points and Placings

- 2.5.1 Points shall be awarded in competition games as follows:
- 2.5.1.1. 4 points for a win
 - 2.5.1.2. 2 point for a draw
 - 2.5.1.3. 1 points for a loss
 - 2.5.1.4. 4 points for a win by forfeit
 - 2.5.1.5. 0 points for a bye
 - 2.5.1.6. 0 points for a No Game
 - 2.5.1.7. 0 points for an Association No Game
 - 2.5.1.8. loss of 4 points (-4) for failure of a team to play a representative team

2.6 COMPETITION – Competition Penalties

In such cases, where penalties have not been specified within this Constitution or Policies, the Executive Committee shall decide the penalty in keeping with the infringement.

2.7 COMPETITION – Semi-Finals, Finals and Grand Finals

2.7.1 The four (4) teams within each Division with the highest point score after the last competition day will be eligible to play in the semi-finals.

2.7.2 If there are teams equal on points within a Division, a count-back of goals scored “for and against” will decide their final positions as follows:

Total number of goals scored by the team, divided by the total number of goals scored against the team, multiplied by 100 and divided by the actual number of matches played by the team.

$$\text{i.e.} \quad \frac{\text{goals scored}}{\text{goals scored against}} \times \frac{100}{\text{matches played}}$$

2.7.3 The Finals is to be decided from the following formats:

2.7.3.1. Finals series involving four (4) teams with the highest points score will be played over three (3) playing days

2.7.3.1.1. 1st day – Semi final
Major = 1st v 2nd
Minor = 3rd v 4th

2.7.3.1.2. 2nd day – Final
Loser of Major v Winner of Minor

2.7.3.1.3. 3rd day – Grand Final
Winner of Major v Winner of Final

2.7.4 The timeslot for each grade shall be determined by the Competition Co-ordinator and be ratified by the Executive and notified by the Association Secretary prior to the Semi Finals. Any request for a change in timeslot shall be made to the Association Secretary and cannot be guaranteed until agreed by the opposition team.

2.7.5 In the event of a draw at full time in Semi Finals & Finals series the winner will be determined as per Netball Australia rules. In the case of a drawn Grand Final after the initial extra time, the score will stand and joint winners will be acknowledged.

2.7.6 In the case of implementation of wet weather conditions during semi-finals, finals and grand finals - refer to the Competition Wet Weather Conditions clause within the Policy (section 3.1).

- 2.7.7 All players participating in the final series must have played at least three (3) competition games (weeks 1-15) as a registered team member of the team in which they intend to represent during the finals series.

3. COMPETITION WET WEATHER CONDITIONS

3.1 COMPETITION WET WEATHER CONDITIONS – Weeks 1 to 15

- 3.1.1 All decisions regarding wet weather games to be made by the President and Competition Co-ordinator.
- 3.1.2 Decisions regarding postponement or cancellation of games shall be made for each time slot, unless the weather is inclement (severe) and the whole day is cancelled.
- 3.1.3 Games will be classified as “Wet Weather Cancellation” when “a playing day or evening or a complete junior or senior grade is washed out before play commences” and will be managed as follows:
- 3.1.3.1. In these cases, all games for that playing division are **cancelled** and teams will receive **NO POINTS**;
 - 3.1.3.2. The only exception is for grades that have a Bye, where 2.2.3 needs to be applied.
- 3.1.4 When a **whole division is playing at the same time** and the games are washed out after play has commenced:
- 3.1.4.1. Prior to half time – those games are to be played as half games as scheduled by the Competition Co-ordinator – known as Wet Weather Postponement. If the rescheduled game is rained out then games are classified as per 3.1.3.
 - 3.1.4.2. During or after half time – score stands at the time the game was stopped.
- 3.1.5 Where **divisions are played in split timeslots** and some games have been completed and games in progress have been abandoned due to wet weather:
- 3.1.5.1. Prior to half time – those games are to be played as half games as scheduled by the Competition Co-ordinator – known as Wet Weather Postponement. If the rescheduled game is rained out then games are classified as per 3.1.3.
 - 3.1.5.2. During or after half time – score will stand at the time the game was stopped.

3.2 COMPETITION WET WEATHER CONDITIONS – Final Series

- 3.2.1 Should the semi-finals be washed out, first will play fourth and second will play third on the following Saturday with the winners to play in the grand final.
- 3.2.2 If the semi-final is played and the finals are washed out, the finals will be re-scheduled for the following day (Sunday).
- 3.2.3 If this Sunday is washed out then the highest placed team after 15 weeks that was to play the final, will play in the grand final.
- 3.2.4 If games are washed out on grand final day:
- 3.2.4.1. the first option is for games to be played the following day (Sunday);
 - 3.2.4.2. if this Sunday is washed out the following Saturday will be scheduled;

- 3.2.4.3. if this Saturday is also washed out the grand final will then be scheduled for the next day (Sunday);
- 3.2.4.4. if the last possible Sunday is also washed out then the team highest on the ladder at Week 15 that was to play the grand final will be declared the winners.

4. SCORE SHEETS

- 4.1 Each team shall provide a scorer.
- 4.2 Scorers must be at least 15 years of age.
- 4.3 The team winning the toss at the beginning of the game becomes the official scorer and shall use the official Association scoresheet supplied. The scoresheet shall have the names printed of all registered players for those teams playing in each game.
- 4.4 The official scorer must have the scoresheet in clear view of scorer of the opposing team and both shall sit near the middle of a sideline.
- 4.5 Failure to comply with rule 4.4 above, will result in the opposing team becoming the official scorer.
- 4.6 All scoresheets must be signed by Scorers.
- 4.7 All borrowed or graded reserve players require details of their name and grade to be recorded on the scoresheet.
- 4.8 The team winning the game is responsible for the delivery of the scoresheet to the Association office at the conclusion of each game.
- 4.9 The Competition Co-ordinator shall ensure that the scores are reflected on the Gosford Netball Association Competition Website.
- 4.10 The Competition Co-ordinator is responsible for review of scoresheets to ensure teams have not played illegal players. The Competition Co-ordinator shall ensure that any adjustments due to infringements are entered on MyNetball with relevant information. This information is considered notice to club/team.
- 4.11 Any scoresheet that is not completed correctly after week 3, as per GNA Scoresheet procedure, will incur a penalty of 2 competition points for the responsible team/s.
 - 4.11.1. All penalties incurred as per Clause 4.11 shall be updated on My Netball prior to the next scheduled day of competition.