



Winter Competition Rules (V5.0)

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1. Definitions and Interpretations

1.1 Defined Terms

Abandoned Match means a Match or Matches that Ballina Netball Association, in its absolute discretion, deem are unable to be continued or re-scheduled

Association means Ballina Netball Association

Borrowed Player means a Player who is filling in for a Team that is not the team they are registered to play with.

Club means any Affiliated Club deemed as a Club in accordance with Ballina Netball Association Constitution who have applied for membership and been approved by the Executive Committee

Committee means the Executive Committee of Ballina Netball Association

Competition means Ballina Netball Association Winter Competition

Competition Rules means the rules of the Competition as articulated within this document

Divisions mean the competition divisions for the Winter Competition

Dual Registration means when a player is registered to play in two (2) teams in the Winter Competition

Finals Series means the Major Semi Final, Minor Semi Final, Preliminary Final and Grand Final of the Winter Competition

Ineligible Player means a player who has not met the criteria and rules as outlined in this document to participate in the Winter Competition

Independent Team means a team that is not affiliated with a club and has been approved to play in the competition

Match means any netball match or game, excluding training matches, played by or between Teams within the Competition

Minor Round Matches means the series of Matches played in the competition prior to the Finals Series.

Player means any person who has a current financial registration with Netball NSW and who has been registered with the relevant Team

Rules of Netball means the Rules of Netball as published and updated from time to time by World Netball, the internationally recognised governing body for Netball

Score Bench means the official area for the scoring of Matches

Team means each of the Club teams and Independent teams granted the right to compete in the Competition by Ballina Netball Association

Team List means the list of players registered to play in the Competition for a Team.

Team Officials means the officials involved in management, preparation and participation of the Team, including coach, manager, primary carer and other support staff.

Umpire means an umpire appointed by Ballina Netball Association to officiate a Match

Umpiring Supervisor means the person appointed to this position by Ballina Netball Association

2. Competition Information

2.1 General Information

- 2.1.1 Subject to these Competition Rules, the Ballina Netball Association Constitution and any other document, the committee shall have the authority to enquire and adjudicate all questions and disputes arising out of the competition. If a matter is not provided for in the Competition Rules, the Ballina Netball Association Constitution or any other document, the Committee may make a determination, and the decision shall be final.
- 2.1.2 Ballina Netball Association has the power to waive compliance with the Winter Competition Rules when satisfied that extenuating circumstances exist.
- 2.1.3 Any request to waive compliance with the Winter Competition Rules must be submitted in writing to secretary@ballinanetball.com.au
- 2.1.4 All matches will be played at Ballina Netball Courts, Owen Street, Ballina unless otherwise determined by Ballina Netball Association.
- 2.1.5 The Winter Competition dates will be set by Council each year and posted on the Ballina Netball Association website.
- 2.1.6 Ballina Netball Association may at any time change the competition structure, match procedure or format, where it is deemed necessary to comply with any legislation, government regulation or order, including but not limited to those related to COVID-19.
- 2.1.7 Correspondence will be dispatched from the Secretary or the Registrar of Ballina Netball Association and directed to the Club Secretary for disbursement to their members or Independent Team nominated contact person.
- 2.1.8 The Competition Rules will be reviewed by the Committee at the conclusion of each season.

2.2 Uniforms and Equipment

- 2.2.1 Players in a Team must play in matching playing uniforms. Matching uniform may be different styles, (dress, shorts and singlet), however the design (colours, patterns) must be matching across all pieces. A range of styles is encouraged to allow for Players with different requirements to be comfortable. Exemptions can be requested in writing to registrar@ballinanetball.com.au
- 2.2.2 Players in NetSetGo teams are not required to wear a uniform.
- 2.2.3 Each team is to supply their own set/s of position patches. All players on the team must wear patches of the same colour.
- 2.2.4 Ballina Netball Association will provide match balls and scoresheets.
- 2.2.5 Hats and caps with a SOFT brim are permitted to be worn.

2.3 Complaint Handling

- 2.3.1 All complaints lodged with Ballina Netball Association in relation to the Competition will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant Ballina Netball Association and Netball NSW Policy.

- 2.3.2 All registered Players, Umpires and Team Officials are required to abide by the Netball NSW Code of Behaviour.
- 2.3.3 All participants of the Competition including but not limited to Players, Umpires and Team Officials, who have breached the Netball NSW Code of Behaviour, Netball NSW Member Protection Policy, Netball NSW Child Safeguarding Policy and/or Netball NSW Disciplinary Policy, may be subject to disciplinary action as listed within the corresponding Policy.
- 2.3.4 All Netball NSW Policies referred to in clause 2.4 can be accessed on the Netball NSW website at the following link, ([Policies – Netball NSW](#)).

3. Competition Structure

3.1 Eligibility

- 3.1.1 Ballina Netball Association affiliated Clubs are eligible to enter teams into the Competition.
- 3.1.2 Ballina Netball Association may approve Independent Teams to enter the Competition.
- 3.1.3 All players and team officials participating in the competition must be a financial registered member of Netball NSW in the Play HQ database and be registered to play in the current Ballina Netball Winter Competition, prior to their participation in the competition.
- 3.1.4 The minimum age for any player to play in the Winter Competition is:
 - a) In the Senior divisions the minimum age to qualify is turning 14 in the year of play.
 - b) In the Junior divisions the minimum age to qualify is turning 10 and the maximum age is turning 18 in the year of play.
 - c) In the NetSetGo divisions the minimum age to qualify is turning 6 and the maximum age is turning 10 in the year of play.
- 3.1.5 The age of the players shall be determined by their ages as at December 31 in the year of play.
- 3.1.6 Players are to play in their correct age group. A player can play up one year higher than their actual age, with the approval of their Club. For example, a player who is 9 years old can play as a 10 year old, but not as an 11 year old.
- 3.1.7 A player can play up more than one (1) year higher than their actual age, or lower than their actual age with the approval of the Committee. Any request for players to play in an age group more than one (1) year higher than their actual age, or in an age group lower than their actual age, must be submitted in writing to registrar@ballinanetball.com.au for approval by the Committee prior to the Competition.
- 3.1.8 A player may register to play in both a Junior competition team and a Senior competition team for the same club or a different club.
- 3.1.9 The Junior competition is a sporting activity for female, male and non-binary players.
- 3.1.10 The Senior competition is a sporting activity for female and non-binary players.

3.3 Team Nomination and Entry

- 3.3.1 Team registrations will close on a date to be fixed by Council each year.
- 3.3.2 Team registrations for the Competition must be lodged by Clubs into PlayHQ by the agreed time and date for close of entries.
- 3.3.3 Clubs are to register teams with a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of twelve (12) players' names for the senior divisions.
- 3.3.4 Clubs are to register teams with a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of ten (10) players' names for the junior divisions.

3.4 Late Registrations

- 3.4.1 A late player registration may be accepted at the discretion of the Club up to round 5 of Competition. After round 5 of Competition, late player registration must be approved by the Committee.
- 3.4.2 A late team entry may be accepted after the closing date for Team registrations at the discretion of the Committee.

3.6 Divisions and Team Grading

- 3.6.1 Clubs are required to nominate their teams into the age group of the oldest player in the team.
- 3.6.2 Where more than eight (8) team entries are received for an age group, teams may be graded into Divisions A, B etc.
- 3.6.3 Where divisions apply, Clubs may submit a request for their preferred division. Grading will be done using player history and if needed in consultation with Clubs. Ballina Netball will endeavour to divide teams equally as far as possible to ensure equal number of teams across divisions.
- 3.6.4 The final grading decision will be made at the discretion of Ballina Netball Association.
- 3.6.5 Ballina Netball Association reserves the right to move any team to a higher or lower Division up to and including round five (5) of competition.

4. Competition Rules

4.1 General Rules

- 4.1.1 All Competition Matches will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Netball, unless where otherwise stated within these competition rules.
- 4.1.2 Playing times of matches will be as follows:
 - for players aged 8 years and under, 4 x 8 minute quarters, with intervals of 2 minutes.
 - for players aged 9-10 years, 4 x 10 minute quarters, with intervals of 2 minutes.
 - for players aged 11-12 years, 4 x 12 minute quarters, with intervals of 2 minutes.
 - for players aged 13 years and older, 4 x 14 minute quarters, with intervals of 2 minutes.
- 4.1.3 Match duration may be reduced at the discretion of the Competition Manager for reasons including, but not limited to, extreme heat, delayed start, Umpire availability, other scheduling requirements.

- 4.1.4 Injury time may be taken according to Rules of Netball, but no additional time shall be added to the match.
- 4.1.5 The umpire's whistle shall start and finish games on the indication from the central timing device. If scores are equal at the end of regular time, a draw is recorded.
- 4.1.6 A team may claim a forfeit five (5) minutes after the umpire's whistle to indicate commencement of play on the indication from the central timing device if the opposing team does not have at least five (5) players on court and ready to play. The umpires will sign the official score sheet attesting to the forfeit.
- 4.1.7 In mixed divisions, up to three (3) male players can be on court at one time. Male players must play in positions in different thirds of the court. For example: GS or GA, WD or C or WA, GD or GK.

4.2 Competition Format

- 4.2.1 Ballina Netball Association will, based on the number of entries received be responsible for determining the format of the competition.
- 4.2.2 The fixtures will be available on PlayHQ at least one week prior to the start date of the competition.
- 4.2.3 Competition shall consist of at least one (1) full round, followed by a Finals Series.

4.3 Match Points

4.3.1 Points Table: Winter Competition

Win	Loss	Draw	Forfeit	Bye	Abandoned
4	0	2	4/0	0	2*

* points awarded as per Clause 4.5.1

4.3.2 Goal Average

(a) If two or more Teams finish on equal points after the final round of matches, positions shall be decided on goal averages.

b) The goal average for each team shall be decided 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.

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

The number of matches actually played includes a match a Team has forfeited, but does not include a match where the Team has received a forfeit.

- 4.3.2 In Divisions where Teams have an uneven number of byes, the Teams will be ranked according to match ratio first, then goal average.

4.4 Rolling Substitutions

- 4.4.1 In addition to standard substitutions during intervals and stoppages, teams will be allowed to make rolling substitutions during play.
- a) Rolling Substitutions can only be made where a team has a minimum of one (1) player on the team bench.
 - b) There is no limit to the number of substitutions that can be made.
 - c) Only one substitution may be made at any time, provided five (5) players remain on court at all times.
 - d) Time will not be held for rolling substitutions.
 - e) The substitutions zone will be in line with the centre circle on either side of the court.
 - f) The substitute entering the court cannot leave the Substitution Zone until the Player leaving the court has entered the Substitution Zone.
 - g) Players must observe the offside rules as they enter/leave the court and must not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution.

Sanction: Free pass from where the ball was when the interference or offside entry/exit occurred.

4.5 Finals Series Matches

- 4.5.1 Finals will be played for all Junior and Senior divisions. Finals will not be played for NetSetGo divisions.
- 4.5.2 The Finals Series format will be advised to Clubs and Independent Team managers by Ballina Netball Association via email.
- 4.5.3 All players registered with a team are eligible to play in finals series matches for that team.
- 4.5.4 A Borrowed Player who has played in three (3) or more minor round matches for a team, is also eligible to play for that team in finals series matches.
- 4.5.5 Finals Series Matches will be individually timed, and extra time will be added if injury time is taken.
- 4.5.6 If the scores are equal at full time in a Finals Series match, extra time will be played:
- (i) a two (2) minute interval will be taken.
 - (ii) play will commence and 2x 5 minute halves played, with a two (2) minute interval between
 - (iii) during all intervals, teams will change ends and may make substitutions
- 4.5.7 If the score is still equal at the end of extra time, the Umpire will indicate that play continues and the first Team to score a two (2) goal advantage will be declared the winner.
- 4.5.8 During extra time, normal injury or illness procedures shall apply, in accordance with INF rules.

4.6 Cancellation

- 4.6.1 When Matches are cancelled due to an event which Ballina Netball Association determines was beyond its control or beyond the control of either Team the following will occur:

- a) When matches are cancelled prior to commencement, in consultation with the Teams concerned Ballina Netball may reschedule the matches. If matches are not rescheduled, all matches cancelled will be deemed to be a draw and each Team will receive two (2) competition points. No points will be awarded for teams having the Bye.
- b) Where a match has commenced and is abandoned prior to half time, the match will be deemed to be a draw, and each team will be awarded two (2) competition points.
- c) Where the match had commenced and is abandoned at or after half time, a win will be awarded to the Team with the highest score at the time in which the Match was stopped and the score at this time will be recorded.

4.6.2 The [Netball NSW Adverse Weather Conditions Policy](#) will be referred to when making a decision on the continuation or suspension of any matches.

4.6.3 Decisions regarding cancellation of matches due to adverse weather will be made by the Committee Member/s on duty in consultation with the Umpire/s.

4.7 Scoresheets

4.7.1 Each Team is to provide one (1) non-participating scorer, aged 16 years or older, for each Match. Scorers should sit together in line with the centre circle.

4.7.2 One (1) official from each Team is to tick the Players in attendance and place a line through players who are not in attendance.

4.7.3 Borrowed players must have their full name and registered team recorded on the scoresheet.

4.7.4 All score sheets must be signed by both team captains or coaches, both scorers and both Umpires

4.7.5 Score sheets are to be returned to Control by the winning team immediately after each match.

4.7.6 No disputes will be entered into regarding scoresheets. Scores cannot be changed after the scoresheet has been submitted to control. Players cannot be added or removed from the scoresheet after it has been submitted to control.

4.7.7 Match results and competition ladders for Junior and Senior divisions will be published on PlayHQ.

4.7.8 Match results for NetSetGo divisions will be published on PlayHQ. Competition ladders will not be published.

4.8 Borrowing Players

4.8.1 A Team may borrow player/s from the same or a lower Division, provided:

- (i) at least four (4) Players registered to the Team are on the court at all times during the Match
- (ii) no more than two (2) borrowed players on court are from the same division
- (iii) NetSetGo teams may borrow any number of players from any other NetSetGo team

4.8.2 A player may be borrowed, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) additional Match must be for a team from the same affiliated Club. If a club does not have a team in the division immediately below, they may borrow players from another club
- (ii) a maximum of five (5) Minor Round Matches can be played for any one (1) team that is not the team the Player is registered to play with

- (iii) NetSetGo teams may borrow players from any other NetSetGo team regardless of affiliated club and a NetSetGo player may play any number of matches for any other NetSetGo team.
- 4.8.3 For the purposes of borrowing players, Dual Registered players are deemed to belong to the grade and club of both Teams they are registered with and may be borrowed by any grade for which they are eligible. However, they may not play in more than three (3) games per round.
- 4.8.4 Clubs and team officials are responsible for ensuring that a Borrowed Player meets the requirements outlined in clause 4.7 and that the name and registered team of the borrowed player is recorded on the scoresheet.
- 4.8.5 Any disputes in relation to the use of an ineligible Borrowed Player must be referred by the party alleging a breach of the rule to the Team Captain and/or Coach of the offending player's team prior to the start of the Match or at the first interval break following the player taking the court. Suitable attempts to resolve the dispute should be made by both parties before or during the Match.
- 4.8.6 If any dispute in relation to the use of ineligible Borrowed Players is unable to be resolved by completion of the Match, the dispute may then be referred to the Committee. This must happen in writing within 24 hours of completion of the match by emailing secretary@ballinanetball.com.au
- 4.8.7 Any dispute in relation to the use of ineligible Borrowed Players that is not referred to the Committee within the time frames stipulated in clause 4.8.5 and 4.8.6 above will not be dealt with. At no time will any anonymous complaint in relation to the use of ineligible Borrowed Players be dealt with or considered.

4.9 Awards

- 4.9.1 A trophy, medal or other gift will be presented to each player from the winning and runner up team in each Junior and Senior division by Ballina Netball Association.
- 4.9.2 A trophy, medal or other gift will be presented to each player in NetSetGo divisions by Ballina Netball Association.

5. Team Officials

5.1 Coaches and Managers

- 5.1.1 Coaches and Managers must hold a current Working with Children Check which Clubs are responsible for verifying.
- 5.1.2 Coaches and Managers must be a current registered financial member of Netball NSW in PlayHQ prior to the commencement of the Competition.

6 . Umpires

- 6.1.1 Umpires must be current registered financial members of Netball NSW in PlayHQ
- 6.1.2 Ballina Netball Association will determine the umpiring format for the Competition and undertake the allocation of Umpires to all Matches, except NetSetGo – SET matches.

- 6.1.3 The Umpiring roster will be posted to the Ballina Netball Association Facebook page prior to the day of Competition. Umpires may not swap their allocated matches without prior approval from the Umpire Coordinator.
- 6.1.4 Umpires will be paid by Ballina Netball Association according to their qualification. No further payment to Umpires by Clubs or Teams is permitted.
- 6.1.5 All umpires must be dressed in clothing that is distinct from the team's playing uniforms with suitable sports footwear. Umpires must wear a white top with a white or black skirt or shorts.
- 6.1.6 Umpires must always comply with the Umpire Coordinator's instructions.

7 . Penalties

- 7.1.1 Except where these Competition rules provide that a specific penalty is to apply, any breach of these competition rules may result in any one or more of the following penalties being imposed on a Club or Team by Ballina Netball Association in its absolute discretion.
 - (a) a fine
 - (b) loss of competition points and/or goals scored
 - (c) removal from the competition