



GEELONG CENTRAL Netball Association Inc.

GEELONG CENTRAL NETBALL ASSOCIATION INC

REGISTRATION NUMBER

A0056523W

COMPETITION BY-LAWS

EFFECTIVE FROM

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DEFINITIONS

“Association” means the Geelong Central Netball Association Inc

“Club” means a non-profit incorporated body which has an interest in netball and is affiliated with the Association

“Bylaws” means these bylaws of the Association as amended from time to time

“Committee” is the governing body of Geelong Central Netball Association Inc

“Constitution” means the constitution of the Association as amended from time to time

“Club Delegate” is a representative of a Club or Team who liaises with the Committee

“Ineligible player” is a player who is not entitled to participate in a game, which may include a player who has not qualified or a player not eligible to play in that section

“Team” is a team that is not affiliated with a governing club at any Geelong Central Netball Association Competition

INDEX

1. Association Meetings
2. Correspondence
3. Finances
4. Information to teams
5. Registration
6. Netball Victoria Membership
7. Age Requirements
8. Grading
9. Dress Code
10. Conduct of Games
11. Scoring
12. Progressive Ladders
13. Borrowing Players
14. Floaters
15. Finals
16. Forfeits
17. Cancellations
18. Representative Squad
19. Umpires
20. Awards
21. Fundraising
22. Courses, Seminars & other opportunities
23. Accreditation
24. Dispute Resolution
25. Risk Management
26. Inclusive Environments
27. Special Circumstances/Provisions Clause
28. Indemnity

These Bylaws are the rules governing the internal affairs of the Association. They are the operating procedures that determine the conduct and direction of the organisation.

1. ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

1.1 To be held on the first Thursday of each month or as determined by the Committee members

2. CORRESPONDENCE

2.1 All correspondence must be in writing (including emails) to the Association Secretary and/ or an appropriate committee member.

3. FINANCES

3.1 Fees

- a) The Committee shall determine the team fees.
- b) All players must have a current Netball Victoria membership.
- c) All monies due must be paid by the nominated due date.
- d) All players shall be fully paid members of their own Team.
- e) Any individual with outstanding debt to the Association shall not be permitted to take the court for a Team under any competition or team governed by the Association until the outstanding debt is paid.

3.2. Reimbursements/Payments

- a) Committee members may be entitled to claim authorised expenses incurred whilst acting in an official capacity from the Association. Receipts must be supplied to the Association in order for any reimbursement to be made.
- b) Umpires will be receive a travel allowance at the rate determined by the Association.
- c) Other Association personnel may be entitled to claim authorised expenses incurred whilst acting on behalf of the Association as determined at the discretion of the Association on a case-by-case basis.

4. INFORMATION TO TEAMS

4.1 The Association shall provide fixtures via Association website or Facebook/MyNetball

5. REGISTRATION

5.1 Teams

- a) To compete in the Association's competitions, clubs wishing to enter teams must complete the official registration form online via the GCNA website.
- b) A player may be added to a Team list at any time. All players must be members of GCNA through MyNetball or GCNA website.

- c) The Association reserves the right to reject the registration application of any Club or Team applying to the Association for registration to participate in a competition.
- d) All Clubs and Teams will have access to relevant Netball Victoria policies, procedures, regulations and Codes of Conduct via the Netball Victoria website

5.2 NetSetGO Program

- a) To participate in the Association's NetSetGO program, the official registration form must be completed online via MyNetball for GCNA.

6. NETBALL VICTORIA MEMBERSHIP

6.1 Netball Victoria membership fee is set annually by the Victorian Netball Association Inc.

6.2 All players, coaches, umpires (badged or trainee) participating in Association competitions or programs must be a current Netball Victoria member with GCNA Inc even if a registered member of another club or Association. Volunteers of the Association must purchase an off the court Netball Victoria membership.

6.3 No player will be permitted to take the court without a current Netball Victoria membership.

6.4 Single Game Vouchers for non-current Netball Victoria members.

- a) Individuals may purchase a Single Game Voucher. This purchase will allow the individual to participate as a player in the Associations activities only for the particular game or activity to which the Single Game Voucher relates.
- b) A player must purchase a Single Game Voucher through the nominated process ie online through the Geelong Central Netball Association Inc website prior to becoming eligible to participate in the relevant game or activity.

7. AGE REQUIREMENTS

7.1 Teams are trusted to obtain and provide correct dates of birth.

7.2 It is recommended that Players aged 5-10 years will participate in NetSetGO! program/competition

7.3 Minimum age requirements are:

- a) Junior sections – 5 years.
- b) Senior sections – 14 years and over.
- c) Players aged 17 or under shall be classified as a junior player. Junior players playing in a senior team shall pay senior match fees.
- d) Players aged 18 and in their final year of secondary school are eligible to play in the junior competition.

7.4 Male Participation

- a) The Association observes the Netball Victoria Gender Regulation in regard to male participation.
- b) Males who are 13 years (and older) are not permitted to participate in female competition. This means that males must be under 13 years of age (actual age) as at the first day of the season; and

- c) Males that turn 13 during that season or competition will be permitted to participate for the duration of that season but will cease participation at the end of that season.

7.5 Mixed Competitions

- a) The Association observes the Netball Victoria Gender Regulation regarding mixed competitions
- b) Mixed competition for the 11 & Under age group and Under 13-year-old boys will have NO restrictions applied on the basis of gender.
- c) The minimum number of males in a mixed team (14 years of age and older) is ONE
- d) A mixed team must only have a maximum of 3 males on court at any one time
- e) A mixed team must only have one male in each third on court. For the avoidance of doubt this means either
 - (i) Goal Keeper or Goal Defence
 - (ii) Wing Defence, Centre or Wing Attack
 - (iii) Goal Attack or Goal Shooter

8. GRADING

- 8.1** The Convenor on the night will evaluate, grade and re-grade all teams.
- 8.2** Re-grading may occur at any time within the first 5 weeks of any season. Where there is an obvious discrepancy after this time, the Convenor may make the necessary changes.
- 8.3** Re-grading requests submitted by a Team or Club will be considered by the Convenor without any requirement for the Convenor to take any further action.
- 8.4** The Convenor will be the ultimate adjudicator of all grading decisions.
- 8.5** All sections are graded by ability, but age is also taken into consideration.
- 8.6** If a Team or Club is re-graded during a season, premiership points and goals for and against accrued in the initial games in that season will be transferred and apply in the new grade the Team or Club has been entered into for the remainder of the season.
- 8.7** Points or goals for and against will not be recorded for the first 3 weeks of the season for any Team or Club

9. DRESS CODE

9.1 Players

- a) To take the court all players must be in full uniform in their Team nominated uniform including positional bibs, sports brief or shorts. Any exemption will be at the discretion of the Convenor only.
- b) Gloves are not permitted except upon receipt of a doctor's certificate.
- c) Fingernails must be cut short & smooth. If necessary, taped using the correct nail tape.
- d) Black or navy leggings/ Tracksuit Pants (no pockets) can be worn the entire year, but a skirt or shorts (mixed only) must be worn over the leggings/ tracksuit pants.

- e) Teams/players will receive only ONE warning before a penalty as determined by the Association

9.2 Jewellery

- a) Wedding rings or medical alert bracelets must be securely taped (no band aids).
- b) Studs (if cannot be removed) must be taped securely (no band aids)

9.3 Umpires

- a) Umpires shall wear regulation uniform, white skirt/dress/shorts and Association t-shirt or a white t-shirt with no other Association or advertising displayed. Suitable footwear shall be worn and ALL umpires must provide their own whistle and method of keeping track of centre passes. White rain jackets and tracksuit pants/leggings are permitted.

9.4 Representative Squad

- a) The Association Representative Squad uniform consists of;
 - (i) Official Association Netball Uniform
 - (ii) Official Association training singlet
 - (iii) Black bike shorts
- b) All Representative Squad uniform items must be purchased through the Association to maintain consistency.
- c) Players will not be permitted to take to the court unless they are in full uniform

10. CONDUCT OF GAMES

- 10.1** The Association adheres by the rules as stated in Netball Australia's Official Rule Book, as well as Netball Victoria's regulations.
- 10.2** The length of quarters varies depending on the age/section of the players. The Association will determine the length of quarters for each competition prior to the season commencing.
- 10.3** Timing will be operated by a central time clock or automated timing.
- 10.4** If games are centrally timed there will be no injury time. A game may be stopped by the umpires in extenuating circumstances to ensure a safe playing area is maintained.
- 10.5** Stoppages: Injury/Illness or Blood refer AA Rule Book
 - a) The game is stopped - the clock is not stopped.
 - b) Player leaves the court - substitution rules apply to both teams (within 30 seconds).
 - c) Play is resumed.
 - d) If the player is unable to leave the court due to the severity of the injury, the game will be abandoned or moved to another court if available
 - e) If no other court is available the game will be abandoned by the Association and 2 points awarded to both teams

- 10.6** In Mini NetSetGO sections, as fewer goals are scored, the umpires shall use their own discretion when allowing a player to return to the game. This applies to players arriving late as well as players who have left the game for injury or under the blood policy.
- 10.7** NetSetGo rules can be applied to 10.6. These modified NetSetGO rules are available on our GCNA website
- 10.8** Fixtures will be arranged for all competitions indicating courts and times on the Association Website and Facebook

11. SCORING

- 11.1** The Association will provide the Official Scoresheet.
- 11.2** Each team should provide a non-participating scorer (if possible) for all games.
- 11.3** One (1) official scoresheet will be used for each game. This Scoresheet will list the complete names (both given and surname) of all players intending to take the court. The Scoresheet should indicate the positions played each quarter and the game score. New players MUST be added to the scoresheet and advised to the Convenor prior to the match.
- 11.4** At the game conclusion, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the official scoresheet is correct, the official scoresheet is to be signed by;
- a) The captains of both competing teams, and
 - b) The scorers
 - c) The officiating umpires only sign the scoresheet to state they officiated the game.
 - d) The officiating umpires will indicate the overall voting with a maximum of 3 players to receive 3, 2, 1 (total of 6 votes) clearly stated.
- 11.5** If a scorer or Team believes the scoresheet is incorrect, they must not sign it and follow the grievance procedures to protest.
- 11.6** A team wishing to protest must:-
- a) Not sign the Official Scoresheet and notify the Convenor of the intention to protest.
 - b) Lodge the protest in writing with the Association Hearing Officer within 48 hours of the game being played.
- 11.7** The Hearing Officer will advise the result of the protest and this decision shall be final.

12. PROGRESSIVE LADDERS

- 12.1** A ladder for each grade are available on the Association's Website and MyNetball App.
- 12.2** Premiership points are recorded during the season as follows:
- a) 4 points for a win or bye
 - b) 2 points for a draw
 - c) 4 points will be awarded If a team abandons a match after half time, the non-offending team receives the 4 points and the score stands.

- d) 4 points will be awarded if a team forfeits a match prior to commencement of the game, the non-offending team receives 4 points and a score of 10-0 awarded to the non-offending team.
- e) 4 points will be awarded to the non-offending team if a protest is won, with a score of 10-0 awarded to the non-offending team.
- f) 4 points will be awarded to the non-offending team if a penalty is applied by the convenor for a rule/bylaw discrepancy of an offending team and the score stands.
- g) 2 points will be awarded to both teams if the match is abandoned any time prior to half time due to extenuating circumstances.
- h) 2 points will be awarded where both teams forfeit the match prior to the game start.
- i) 0 points for a loss
- j) If a match is abandoned after half time due to extenuating circumstances the score stands and points are awarded as per the Official Scoresheet.

12.3 In the event that a team forfeits prior to the game clock starting, games shall only be awarded to up to 12 players of the non-offending team. No games shall be awarded to players of the offending team.

13. BORROWING PLAYERS

13.1 Players shall only be permitted to play in a higher Junior section.

13.2 Where there are two or more teams from the same Club/ School graded in the same section, players can only play with their registered team in that section.

13.3 A player may transfer between Club/ School teams into a higher section. If that player takes the court for their fourth game the player must remain with that team for the remainder of the competition.

13.4 Players may play a maximum of three (3) games in higher section for their club/ school team.

14. FLOATERS

14.1 For Senior Competitions only

- a) In the event of a team requiring an extra player a "floater" from another team in the same or lower section may be used.
- b) A "floater" is only permitted to play WA or WD for the entire game and must be identified on the Official Scoresheet with the letter F beside their name.
- c) A maximum of 2 "floaters" can be used for any one game.
- d) Permission must be sought from the Convenor prior to taking the court.
- e) No votes for Best & Fairest Awards will be awarded to a "floater".

15. FINALS

15.1 Finals will be played at the conclusion of the rounds in each section, except Mini NetSetGO! competitions.

- 15.2** The number of points gained during the season shall determine teams qualifying for finals. In the event of teams being equal on points, positions shall be determined by the percentage of goals scored for and against. In the event of teams being equal on percentage, positions shall be determined by the greater number of goals scored for.
- 15.3** Players must play at least three (3) games in a grade throughout the season to be eligible to participate in that grade's Final Series. Grading games are not taken into account.
- 15.4** Where a short season is offered there is no minimum games required to play.
- 15.5** Teams found playing an ineligible player during finals will be considered to have forfeited that game.
- 15.6** If a final does not reach half time due to exceptional circumstances, the Committee shall decide how the games will be finalised.
- 15.7** Drawn games Refer to the Official Rules of Netball for the procedure for extra time where a winner is required.
- a) The duration of extra time shall be 2 x 5 minute halves, 2 minute break then teams return to the same end they finished before the drawn game. Teams then change ends after first half of play. Positional changes/substitutions may be made prior to extra time starting for all junior games.
 - (i) If the score is still a draw then play shall continue until one (1) team is two (2) goals clear. Positional change/substitutions may be made prior to this extra time starting for all junior games
- 15.8** On Grand Final day, Mini NetSetGO teams will participate in a round robin.
- 15.9** The Committee will determine awards for Premiers and Runners-up.

16. FORFEITS

- 16.1** A fine determined by the Committee will be imposed and MUST be paid by the offending team prior to taking the court for their next scheduled game.
- 16.2** If a team notifies the Association Convenor 24 hours prior to match day of its intent to forfeit, no penalty will be imposed.
- 16.3** If a team forfeits and play commences in the first match of the round but the competition for the remainder of the night is cancelled, the forfeit shall stand.
- 16.4** If a team forfeits and play is cancelled by the convenor prior to the first match commencing, the forfeit shall stand.
- 16.5** If there are not at least five (5) players present to commence a scheduled match, one goal per minute (as determined from the central timing system) will be added to the opponents' score. If after seven (7) minutes of the starting time there are fewer than five (5) players present then the match will be declared a forfeit.
- 16.6** In the event of a forfeit, the non-offending team shall be awarded a win and the score shall read 10-0 in favour of the non-offending team and 4 points will be awarded to that team.
- 16.7** In the event that a team forfeits games shall only be recorded for players of the non-offending team. No games will be awarded to players of the offending team.

17. CANCELLATIONS

- 17.1** When games are cancelled prior to commencement on account of power failure, inclement weather e.g. heavy rain, hail, lightning, thunder or some other cause, teams will be awarded two (2) points each and the competition will continue the following week as per the fixture.
- 17.2** In the event that a game has commenced and is cancelled due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, games can only be awarded to a maximum of twelve players, for each team. If after half time the score shall stand and points awarded accordingly.
- 17.3** Should circumstances occur in which successive rounds need to be cancelled, the Committee will consider the position and determine a suitable course of action via the Association FACEBOOK.

18. REPRESENTATIVE SQUAD – REFER TO SELECTION POLICY UPON REGISTRATION.

- 18.1** The Association representative Coordinator will organise the Representative Squad Selection trials
- 18.2** Selection trials will be conducted as follows:
- a) All players who have submitted a Player Registration Form shall be informed of the date, time and place where selection trials will be held.
 - b) Team Selection Panels.
 - (i) Team Selectors will be appointed for each trial and may be made up of Team Coach and other nominated selectors.
 - (ii) Team Selectors may be appointed to more than one team trial.
- 18.3** Players shall be notified of the outcome of Selection Trials.
- 18.4** Players may request feedback from the Team Selectors.
- 18.5** The Team Selectors decision is final and no appeals regarding selections made under this Bylaw are available.

19. UMPIRES/MENTORS

- 19.1** In the event of a game/s being cancelled due to inclement weather, power failure, exceptional event or walkover for the round and the umpire or trainee is in attendance or travelling to Kardinia Park for that round, Travel Allowance will be in full at the current rate as determined by the Committee. **Please note** this is for all games cancelled within 30 minutes of the scheduled game time. If an umpire or trainee umpire has been appointed for another round on that night and the game is cancelled, no payment will be made for this game. All reimbursements must be signed for on the relevant sheet.
- 19.2** Walkovers and/or games cancelled – umpires shall be contacted immediately by the Umpires Convenor if a walkover has been advised by the Convenor. Game forfeit notifications with no prior warning will be given full fees if umpire or trainee is in attendance.
- 19.3** All badged umpires must hold current accreditation, AA theory pass, Foundation Level 1, be a current NV member and follow the Netball Victoria point system over 4 years.
- 19.4** Mentors must hold current accreditation, AA theory pass, Foundation Level 1, be a current NV member and have attempted the online Mentoring course. If over 18 hold a current volunteer Working with Children certificate & provide copies to the Umpire Coordinator.

20. AWARDS

- 20.1 All NetSetGO! and Mini NetSetGO Competition participants will receive an appropriate participation award.
- 20.2 Best & Fairest & Runner Up awards for each section will receive an award at the Grand Final.
- 20.3 An award for Best on Court in Junior & Senior Grand Finals will be presented.
- 20.4 Any other forms of recognition will be awarded by the Committee as deemed appropriate.
- 20.5 Junior Umpire of the Year may be selected by the Umpire Coordinator.

21. FUNDRAISING

- 21.1 The Association may conduct fundraising activities during each year.
- 21.2 The Committee shall determine the fundraising activities.
- 21.3 Individual Teams/Clubs must seek approval from the Committee for any individual fundraising activities

22. COURSES, SEMINARS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- 22.1 The Association shall provide notification of opportunities for all members who wish to improve their skills by attending courses, seminars and other personal development activities.

23. ACCREDITATION

- 23.1 The Association shall ensure that all officials have current appropriate minimum qualifications.
- 23.2 Where minimum qualifications/accreditation standards are not met, the Association shall encourage and support the member/s to achieve the minimum standards.
- 23.3 The Association will not appoint any person to an official position unless the person to be appointed has achieved the minimum standard qualification/accreditation or is in the process of acquiring the minimum standard accreditation required.

24. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 24.1 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.
- 24.2 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 48 hours of receiving the penalty or decision made. The Hearings Officer may then:
 - a) Discuss the issue with the relevant party and then make a decision regarding the matter. A decision will be given either verbally or in writing.
 - b) Have an informal meeting with the relevant party/s in order to discuss and resolve the issue.
- 24.3 Any penalty imposed under Bylaw 23.2 is final

25. RISK MANAGEMENT

25.1 Risk Assessment

- a) Safe Netball app will be completed prior to the beginning of all Association competition and events.

25.2 Injury Reporting

- a) All Teams are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player (or players' guardian for players under 18) on the Injury Reporting Sheets located in the Office.

25.3 First Aid

- a) The Association will provide a First Aid Kit. Ice will be provided on request.
- b) ii) The Kit will be stored in a convenient location and all appropriate personnel (including court supervisors, umpires and coaches) will have access to it.
- c) The Association will maintain the first aid kit supplies. An inventory is to be completed during each competition season.
- d) The Association will have a designated room or area for the treatment of injuries. The room or area should be kept clean and accessible at all times.
- e) It is recommended that every team provide their own basic First Aid kit.

25.4 Netball Victoria CyberSafety Policy - as per NV policy

25.5 Netball Victoria Competition Regulation - as per NV policy

25.6 Pregnancy - as per Netball Australia Member Protection Policy

25.7 GCNA Constitution

25.8 Emergency Procedures - to be displayed within our Clubrooms

25.9 Injury/Illness or Blood Policy - as per the Official Rule Book

25.10 Weather - in the case of extreme weather conditions the Association shall refer to the Associations weather policy

25.11 Smoke Free - the Association adopts a Smoke Free policy. Smoking is banned within 10 metres of our outdoor public sporting venue organised by the Association for all sporting events and training sessions.

25.12 Sun Protection - the Association adopts a Sun Smart policy for all events.

25.13 Codes of Behaviour - available in the Competition Office.

25.14 Drug Policy - as per NV policy

25.15 Member Protection - as per NV policy

25.16 Responsible serving of alcohol - no alcohol is to be consumed within the netball precinct. Alcohol will not be available at any club functions organised at our Clubrooms.

25.17 Gender Equality Regulation as per NV policy

26. INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS

26.1 The Association actively support the participation of all groups and populations including; girls, boys, women, aged, indigenous, disabled and culturally & linguistically diverse.

26.2 The Association may conduct cultural awareness training & inclusive workshops to ensure your club is providing a welcoming environment and creating awareness around cultural views and barriers.

26.3 Think ability not disability.

27. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES/PROVISIONS CLAUSE

27.1 Where this By-law is silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the Association is maintained at all times.

27.2 The Committee may in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in these bylaws relating to the Association.

28. INDEMNITY

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