



# **Palmerston Netball Association**

# **PLAYING REGULATIONS**

Updated October 2021

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## 1) Introduction

- a) The purpose of these Playing Regulations (the regulations) is to set out the guidelines that apply to the conduct of competitions and activities managed by Palmerston Netball Association (PNA).
- b) The regulations will be issued to all clubs prior to the start of the playing season and will remain in force throughout the season unless amended by the PNA Management Team (PNA MT). Any changes to the regulations will be communicated in writing to all clubs as soon as practicable.
- c) Any clarification or feedback regarding the regulations shall be submitted to PNA MT in writing from a club representative. The matter will be raised as an agenda item in the next practicable PNA meeting and decided upon by the PNA MT.
- d) At the end of each season, PNA welcome feedback from clubs for the planning of the following season. Such feedback should be submitted to PNA in writing from a club representative prior to 1 September each year.

## 2) Club Administration

- a) Clubs, both new and existing, seeking to affiliate with PNA must:
  - i) Be a member of PNA
  - ii) Agree to abide by PNA's Constitution and Playing Regulations
  - iii) Submit a nomination in writing to PNA MT prior to the commencement of the playing season outlining their intention to register team(s) in the forthcoming season
  - iv) Include club name, committee members' names, preferred contact details, outline of club's operations and history, uniform design, and club colours in the written nomination
  - v) Ensure their uniform design is distinct from those of existing clubs, umpires and PNA officials.
- b) PNA may request clubs provide an alternative name, design or colour.
- c) PNA MT will decide upon club affiliation requests as soon as practicable, in the next meeting. Clubs will be notified of the PNA MT decision in writing.
- d) Upon application to affiliate with PNA, clubs will receive a copy of PNA's Constitution and Playing Regulations.
- e) PNA may call meetings throughout the season where a club delegate will be expected to attend.
- f) Clubs will be invoiced for any fees payable as soon as practicable and must be paid to PNA in accordance with the terms stated on the invoice.
- g) Clubs may be rostered to carry out game day duties.
- h) All clubs affiliated with PNA must adhere to principles of good sportsmanship, as defined by the International Netball Federation. Good sportsmanship extends to all playing and non-playing club members and associates.

## 3) Player and Team Administration

- a) Every player must be registered with a club, via the online registration system endorsed by Netball Northern Territory (NNT), to be eligible to compete in PNA competition.
- b) Any player that wishes to change clubs, must approach their new club to apply for a clearance from their previous club. Applying for clearance from one club to another must be done via the online registration system endorsed by NNT. Player clearance must be completed before the player can commence competition for their new club.

- c) Any player commencing the competition with a new club before gaining clearance from their previous club shall be deemed unregistered. Clubs shall be held accountable for any unregistered players playing in competition games.
- d) After 3 rounds, no player may compete in competition games unless wearing the registered uniform of that club. A breach of this regulation will incur a \$25 penalty, payable by the club to PNA. A club may request an exemption from PNA MT for extraordinary circumstances. As guidance, PNA MT is unlikely to accept anything other than plain black sports apparel in lieu of the registered uniform.
- e) A player can be nominated for one club team.
- f) Each team must be nominated by a club and must include:
  - i) A minimum of 7 registered players
  - ii) A nominated coach
- g) Each club must nominate an equal number of umpires and teams.
- h) Any team competing with an unregistered player will result in that game being forfeited and the greater of 20-0 or the score of the game played recorded.
- i) Where a club has more than one team nominated in a grade, each team must be identified differently.
- j) Team nominations submitted after the closing date will only be considered by the PNA MT if accepting the team would remove a bye game from the nominated grade.
- k) Subject to the following conditions, clubs can have up to 3 players per season who are unassigned to a specific team and can play in different teams. These will be known as Flexible Players. Failure to comply with the conditions will deem the player to be unregistered and therefore regulation 3h) above will apply to the game. The conditions are:
  - i) The player is officially registered with the club and NNT/PNA fees have been paid in full
  - ii) The player's full name is recorded on the team list for the game in which they played
  - iii) Player grade eligibility is per regulation 4
  - iv) The player plays for one team per round. They cannot play across grades or divisions in the same round
  - v) The player is considered part of the team, and therefore no longer able to play in other teams, once being named on a team list for the 6<sup>th</sup> time during the season
  - vi) The player is eligible for finals with a specific team once they have played 12 quarters with that team, as per Regulation 10h).

## 4) Grades and Divisions

- a) A grade is the age level a player nominates to compete in.
- b) A division is the playing level within a grade.
- c) Grading is the process used to determine divisions within a grade.
- d) Where possible, there will be:
  - i) An even number of teams in each grade
  - ii) A minimum number of 6 teams per grade.
- e) A player's age on 31st December determines the player's age group for each year.
- f) Minimum quarters of play are determined by clubs and not regulated by PNA.

- g)** The following rules apply to NetSetGo/10 & Under Grade:
- i) If teams have less than 5 players for a scheduled game, discretion may be used by coaches for extra players from other teams and clubs (in the same grade) to fill in
  - ii) Emphasis is on all children participating with enjoyment
  - iii) PNA will not allocate umpires to these games.
  - iv) Coaches are encouraged to umpire games as it is an extension of their weekly coaching session
- h)** Male athletes can play in the junior competition up to and including the playing year when they are 15 years of age as of 31 December.
- i)** The following rules apply to mixed competition:
- i) Male athletes can play in PNA competition up to and including the year they are 15 years of age as of 31 December.
  - ii) A maximum of 3 male athletes per team are allowed on court at any one time.
  - iii) A maximum of one male athlete is permitted in each of the three areas of a court:
    - a. Defence (Goal Keeper and Goal Defence)
    - b. Middle (Wing Attack, Centre and Wing Defence)
    - c. Shooting (Goal Attack and Goal Shooter).
- j)** An open player is anyone nominating for the open grade aged 16 years and older as of 31 December of the playing year. Clubs may request, in writing, PNA MT approval for a younger athlete to play in the open competition.
- k)** PNA MT may create divisions within grades should 12 or more teams be nominated, with Division 1 seen as the higher division.
- l)** Once graded, teams may be regraded prior to completion of one third of the season round games in exceptional circumstances.
- m)** Where any team is affected by regrading, the team being moved shall retain their competition points. Clubs will be advised by the Registrar as soon as possible of the division in which their teams have been placed.
- n)** The following applies to players playing in different grades/divisions:
- i) A player “playing up” is used in the case of a team of 7 who wish to have one spare player, not at the exclusion of players already registered for that team
  - ii) A registered player may play additional games to fill-in for a club team 1 grade higher than that which they are registered to play, including 18 & under and open grades
  - iii) Clubs may request dispensation from PNA MT for any player to play for a team 2 or more grades higher than that which they registered, including juniors playing in open grade games
  - iv) Dispensations to play up should be sought at least 1 week in advance, in writing, to allow PNA MT a review of the athlete’s capabilities and time to deliberate; however, in extraordinary circumstances PNA MT may deliberate on a verbal request in a lesser time
  - v) A player may fill-in for a higher grade for no more than 5 games of the season, excluding finals
  - vi) Any fill-in player who plays 6 games in a higher grade will be considered registered with the higher grade, must continue the season with that team, and cannot play again for their original team
  - vii) Players cannot play up for more than one team during the same round (e.g. no team swapping during the round)
  - viii) Names of players who are playing up must be entered on score card before the game commences.

- ix) Players cannot play across the same grade or division during a season
- x) Players cannot play down a grade or division during a season without dispensation being granted by PNA MT.
- xi) Clubs may request dispensation from PNA MT for any athlete to play in a lower age grade than that defined in regulation 4e) if:
  - a. The athlete's parent/care giver has requested dispensation and it is for reasons such as a diagnosed or imputed physical, cognitive sensory or social/emotional need
  - b. Dispensation is sought in writing to PNA allowing sufficient time for PNA MT or delegate to review the athlete in an on-court setting if necessary.
- xii) PNA will consider all dispensation requests on a case-by-case basis, including reviewing the athlete's on-court ability and other relevant factors, to consider any potential unfair advantage to the lower-grade team.

## 5) Game Play

- a) Game start times shall be set by the PNA MT on receipt of all team nominations by clubs.
- b) Matches are to be umpired and played according to the guidelines set by Netball Australia.
- c) Central timing shall be used for the season.
- d) Game durations are as follows:
  - i) Net-Set-GO            4 x 10-minute quarters
  - ii) All other grades      4 x 12-minute quarters
  - iii) Breaks are 2-minutes after the first and third quarters and 3-minutes at half time.
- e) Before the game:
  - i) Captains or team managers collect their scorecard and ensure that it is filled in as required
  - ii) Captains toss for first centre pass or choice of goal ends, and advise the umpires of their decision
  - iii) Have their team ready to take the court with positional bibs on, in time for the game to start at the scheduled time.
- f) Play may only be delayed when:
  - i) A team member is delayed because of an umpiring commitment
  - ii) The umpire is delayed through an umpiring or playing commitment
  - iii) Inclement weather or extraordinary circumstances
  - iv) At the discretion of the PNA MT.
- g) Competition points are awarded as follows:
  - Win:    2
  - Draw:   1
  - Loss:   0
  - Bye:    2
- h) After the game, captains and team managers ensure the names of all players who took part in the game, including late arrivals and replacements, have been included on the team list

## 6) Forfeits

- a) The opposing team in any forfeit receives the win and the scorecard is recorded as 20-0.

- b)** A notified forfeit is awarded when a team notifies PNA in writing more than 24 hours prior to the game starting time.
- c)** An unnotified forfeit is awarded when a team notifies PNA less than 24 hours prior to the game starting time.
- d)** An unnotified forfeit is awarded if a team fails to provide a minimum of 5 players, 5 minutes after the game has started.
- e)** The team that has an unnotified forfeit will lose 2 competition ladder points and incur a \$100 penalty, payable by the club to PNA. The opposing team will not incur any umpire fee charges for that game.
- f)** PNA will inform the opposing team club of any forfeit and will complete the scorecard.
- g)** A team that forfeits more than 3 times in a season may be suspended from the PNA competition.

## **7) Umpires & Bench Officials**

- a)** Umpires must:
  - i)** Be dressed in white or as stipulated by PNA
  - i)** At a minimum, have completed, or working towards completion of, Netball Australia's Foundation Umpire course
- b)** PNA's Umpire Coordinator will allocate umpiring duties for competition rounds as follows:
  - i)** Team-nominated and PNA-sourced umpires form a pool of umpires, known as the PNA Umpires
  - ii)** PNA Umpires will be notified of allocations they must attend, known as PNA Allocations
  - iii)** Umpires will not be allocated to games where they are a player or coach.
  - iv)** Where a PNA Umpire is not available, clubs will be notified of games they must provide umpires for, known as Club Allocations
  - v)** Clubs must notify the PNA Umpire Coordinator of their Club Allocation umpire's details, including full name and qualification, no later than 24 hours prior to the commencement of the game
  - vi)** Club Allocations will be determined by PNA, based on the number of club teams playing in correlation with the number of club team-nominated umpires available in each round
  - vii)** Clubs will be invoiced \$20 (plus GST if applicable) per PNA Allocation provided for their teams, regardless of the accreditation held by the PNA Umpire
  - viii)** PNA will pay each PNA Umpire directly, based on the following rates per game:
    - a.** \$15 for developing (unbadged) umpires
    - b.** \$25 for National C Badge accredited umpires
    - c.** \$30 for National B Badge accredited umpires
    - d.** \$40 for National A Badge accredited umpires
    - e.** Negotiated amount approved by PNA MT for any National AA badge accredited umpire.
- c)** Clubs are responsible for their Club Allocation and any incurred costs and/or payments. For clarity, this means that clubs are responsible to pay any umpires that are allocated to a game as a Club Allocation.
- d)** Failure to provide an umpire may result in PNA issuing the responsible club with a fine equivalent of the current PNA C Badge umpire payment rate.
- e)** Continued failure by a club to provide an umpire may result in further penalties at the discretion of PNA
- f)** If an umpire cannot carry out the allotted game, it is the responsibility of the club to provide a suitable replacement. If a suitable replacement cannot be found, a player from the team having not provided an umpire shall be required to umpire the game.

- g) Bench Officials:**
  - i) Are a minimum of 14 years of age
  - ii) Sit together on the side of the court
  - iii) Jointly score the game.
- h) Each team must supply a responsible bench official for their game.**
- i) During the final season, Bench Officials shall:**
  - i) Be appointed by PNA MT; and
  - ii) Score and time keep for games at a designated seating area.

## **8) Scoring**

- a) Only scores recorded on the official score card will be accepted by the Registrar.**
- b) Team details must be filled out correctly, including names of all players and all positions played in each quarter. Failure to comply may result in the loss of 2 points and the greater of 20-0 or the game score recorded.**
- c) Teams failing to supply a bench official must accept without challenge the score submitted by the opposing team.**
- d) The captain or manager of each team is responsible for ensuring that the score card is duly completed and submitted before the next game starts.**
- e) Failure to comply with regulation 8 d) may result in no points being awarded for that game.**

## **9) Weather / Extraordinary Circumstances**

- a) In the event of inclement weather or extraordinary circumstances, PNA MT will decide if games will be played, delayed, postponed, amended, abandoned or cancelled. PNA MT will communicate any changes to clubs as soon as practicable.**
- b) If play is interrupted due to extraordinary circumstances pertaining to the courts, such as failure of lighting, broken goal post, etc., and there is a vacant court at that time, the game shall resume on the vacant court.**
- c) No points will be given to byes, forfeits, or games that are cancelled because of inclement conditions or extraordinary circumstances.**
- d) If for some reason there is a conflict of representational and association games, PNA MT may reschedule games or suspend the season depending on the number of affected teams and clubs.**

## **10) Finals**

- a) Final Series shall be played using a top four finish as follows:**
  - i) The top four shall be the first four teams with the highest competition points on the final season ladder, with the team finishing on top of the ladder being recognised as the minor premiers

- ii) Where there is more than one team with the same number of points, the team with the highest percentage of goals for and against shall take the higher position, calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{Goals for} \times 100}{\text{Goals against}}$$

- iii) Where there is an equal number of teams with the same points and percentage, a count back system shall be used, based on the ladder position after the first three rounds and if equal than after the first four rounds and so on.

**b) Finals Games shall be played as such:**

- i) First semi-final 3rd placed v 4th place
- ii) Second semi-final 1st place v 2nd place
- iii) The preliminary finals shall be played between the winner of the first semi-final and the loser of the second semi-final
- iv) The Grand Final shall be played between the winner of the 2nd semi-final and the winner of the preliminary final.

**c) If any finals game is drawn at the end of full time in normal play, the following happens:**

- i) There will be a break of 2 minutes where substitutions and changes can be made prior to the commencement of extra time
- ii) Extra time commences with teams changing ends and playing 5 minutes each way with a one (1) minute break.
- iii) No substitutions or changes are permitted once extra time has commenced except for injury
- iv) If the score is drawn at the end of extra time, play will continue until a team has a 2-goal advantage.

**d) Finals may be rescheduled, postponed, amended, or cancelled by PNA MT for extraordinary reasons.**

**f) Timekeeping and scoring will be controlled by bench officials nominated by PNA for each game during the finals.**

**g) Players, including Flexible Players, cannot play in more than one team during the finals**

**h) Teams can only bring players up from lower grades/divisions during the finals when:**

- i) Prior to the start of the game, PNA is advised of the player who is playing up
- ii) The team has 7 or less registered players
- iii) the total number of team players does not exceed the original registration amount; for example, a team that registers with 8 players, cannot have more than 8 players during the finals
- iv) The player has played 12 quarters throughout the regular playing season with the team they are playing for.

## 11) Penalties & Complaints

- a) When a club has been penalised, they shall be notified by PNA in writing explaining the nature of the penalty.
- b) Any appeal must be lodged by the club in writing to PNA within 48 hours, with the intent to resolve the dispute within 5 days of the incident.

- c) PNA aims to support participants within our sport to make and resolve any complaints they may have in a fair, timely, confidential and effective way. A complaint may be made in writing to [palmerstonnetball@hotmail.com](mailto:palmerstonnetball@hotmail.com) within 48 hours of the alleged incident occurring. It should include specifics about the complaint such as location, date, time and witnesses and details of the section/s of these regulations, International Netball Federation Rules or other relevant provisions that the Complainant alleges have been breached.
- d) PNA follows Netball Australia's Member Protection Policy and is supported by NNT with the provision of Member Protection Information Officers which members can access through the NNT Executive Officer or the NNT website.

## 12) Invitational Teams

- a) Invitational teams may apply to the PNA MT to play in the competition managed by PNA. These teams must:
  - i) Apply to be part of the competition before it has begun
  - ii) Abide by the PNA Constitution and Player Regulations
  - iii) Pay all fees and charges set by PNA
  - iv) Register all players and officials in the online registration system endorsed by PNA
  - v) Adhere to good sportsmanship in accordance with clause 2h).
- b) Invitational teams will not be recognised as a club and therefore will not have any of the rights conferred by affiliation, nor pay any club fees.
- c) Participation of invitational teams in competition finals is at the discretion of the PNA MT.

## 13) PNA Representative Teams

- a) Opportunities will exist for athletes, coaches and officials to be selected to represent PNA in netball competitions, locally and interstate. To be selected to participate in these competitions, nominees must be a registered member of a club playing in the PNA competition and must satisfy the necessary conditions set out in the relevant competition's rules.
- b) A representative athlete selection panel will be formed by the PNA MT and will include:
  - i) A minimum of 3 persons
  - ii) The relevant head coach, or coaches, if appointed.
- c) PNA MT will communicate representative dates with clubs as soon as practicable.
- d) PNA MT will appoint a Head Coach to oversee the PNA academy pathways programs.
- e) PNA academy athletes may play for a PNA junior or open representative team, in addition to their club team, exempt from regulation 3(e) but in accordance with regulation 4 Grades and Divisions.
- f) Representative coaches, umpires and/or officials will be appointed by the PNA MT upon tabled discussion of expression of interests as soon as practicable prior to representative events.
- g) Representative opportunities relating to development pathways will be facilitated by PNA MT in accordance with relevant Netball NT policies.

**DOCUMENT HISTORY**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary of Major Changes</b>
2021.1	17 January 2021	Refer below
		Reg 4g) and 4h) amended to include mixed gender teams in the competition up to and including age 13. Resultant numbering changes moves old h) to i) and so on and inserts new Reg 4m).
2021.2	30 January 2021	Refer below
		Reg 1f) adds due date for season feedback from clubs. Reg 7 change to PNA organising and paying umpires and sets the rates of pay. Reg 11d) & e) amended. Re 12 amended including to insert new f) & g). Other minor changes for consistency, completeness and clarity of interpretation, and to include representation (development opportunities) beyond athletes.
2021.3	30 October 2021	Refer below
		Various grammar edits to follow Australian Government Style Manual. Various renumerations. Changed 'senior' competition to 'open' to align with Netball Australia. Changed 'match' to 'game' as per Rules of Netball. Reg 2 amended to clarify the affiliation requirements including membership of the association Reg 2b) moved from 2a) so it is a standalone regulation for clarity Reg 2g) amended to reflect removal of game day BBQs from roster Reg 3d) added penalty for breach of uniform regulation Reg 3 f)ii) removed and new Reg 3 g) added to clarify umpire nominations requirements and that the nominated umpire is for a pool, not necessarily umpiring a particular team Reg 3h) added greater of 20-0 or score of the played game to not penalise a winning team. Reg 3k) added in include Flexible Players Reg 4h) amended to include males 15 years and to show on-court position rules Reg 4j) (previously 4i) removed 'special circumstances' Reg 4n) xi) addition of playing down dispensation guidelines Reg 5d) quarter duration changed for 18 & Under and Seniors/Opens from 15 minutes to 12 minutes Reg 5g) about Bench Officials moved to Reg 7 Reg 6 amended to define notified and unnotified forfeits and introduce penalty for unnotified forfeits. Reg 7 title changed and regulations edited for greater clarity. Reg 8 added. Includes previous regulations relating to score cards plus Reg 8b) "the greater of 20-0 or the game score" replacing "the match being forfeited 20-0". Previous Reg 9a) deleted soft-brimmed visors as covered elsewhere in INF rules and policies Previous Reg 9c) removed as rescheduling will not occur. Subsequent sections renumerated Reg 9d) adds clarity to points awarded due to inclement weather or extraordinary circumstances. Reg 10a) (ii) addition of how per cent is calculated. Reg 10c) (ii) updated to correct timing of extra time in a finals game Reg 10g) updated to include Flexible Player Reg 10h) edited for clarity and distinction between specific details, such as amending 3 games to 12 quarters, and time frame for notifications. Reg 11 edited for clarity. Appeal timeframe shortened from 15 days to 48 hours to encourage prompt resolution and minimise any impact on the playing season. Edited to include reference to MPIOs. Reg 13a) edited to clarify that the participant must also satisfy the eligibility rules of the representative event. Edited to change 'player' to 'participant' as the rule also applies to non-players.