



GRAFTON NETBALL ASSOCIATION

WINTER PLAYING RULES



Effective April 2024

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1. REGISTRATION

- a) Only registered players may play in any Association Competition.
- b) Each team is limited to a registration of ten (10) players at one time even if it is necessary to de-register players to keep their total number at ten (10). Senior team may register twelve (12) players if there are extenuating circumstances, with the approval of the Executive.
- c) Late player registrations (meaning registrations after the final grading meeting) must be approved by the Grading Committee before any such player can be added to an already graded team. Such requests may be provided verbally by a Club Delegate and approval granted verbally on the same day.
- d) Players may transfer from one club to another with the approval of both Club Delegates and the Executive. Subject to approval of the Executive within 7 days of the release being received.
- e) Only 3 representative players per team to be allowed in any Junior Team.
- f) Registration fees contain four (4) components – Netball AU, Netball NSW, Association, and Club. The Association component will only be considered for a refund due to serious illness / injury, pregnancy, or if a player leaves the district. Any refund requests must be put in writing by the Club Delegate to the Association. For information regarding refunds of the Netball NSW component, please see the *Netball NSW Affiliation and Membership Policy*. For information regarding refunds of the Club component, please see the Club Delegate.
- g) Players turning 12 years old in the year of competition, may dually register in a Junior team and a Senior A, B, or C grade team with the approval of the Executive. Dual registration requests must be put in writing by the Club Delegate and submitted to the Association.
- h) Players registered in C or D grade may dually register in an A grade team with the approval of the Executive. Dual registration requests must be put in writing by the Club Delegate and submitted to the Association.
- i) Male players may register in any appropriate team up until they are 14 years old. Male players above 14 years of age wishing to register must seek approval from the Committee first. This is to ensure the necessary duty of care is applied to all players concerned. Requests must be put in writing by the Club Delegate and submitted to the Association.

2. GRADING

- a) The Grading Committee will consist of the Club Delegates, the Registrar, and the President. If the President is unavailable, the position will be filled by a nominated Executive member.
- b) Grading meetings will be held after the sign on days before the commencement of the season, on a date set by the Council.
- c) Grading meetings may be called mid-season if necessary at the discretion of the President and / or Executive.

3. UNIFORM

- a) All players registered in a team must wear one of the relevant team uniform options. Any exception to this rule must be approved by the Club Delegate.
- b) The only hats permitted on court are soft brimmed hats approved by the Association.
- c) Appropriate undergarments must be worn under team uniforms. See Club Delegate for clarification.

4. SCORING

- a) Teams are responsible for their own scoring and should sit side by side. If a team fails to supply a scorer, then they must rely on the score as given by the team providing the scorer.
- b) Prior to taking the court players are responsible for signing the Score Sheet. (Players in the 7/8/9/10 years age groups / divisions can simply have their name ticked off on sheet if necessary).
- c) Players who are substituting from another team should sign the scoresheet in the appropriate section, including indicating the team in which they are registered.
- d) All score sheets must be signed by the Umpires.
- e) Points will be awarded as follows:
 - 4 for a win or forfeit against
 - 1 for a loss
 - 2 for a draw
 - 0 for a forfeit

5. WET / HOT WEATHER

- a) The decision to abandon play shall be made by the Executive.
- b) If play commences and the match is abandoned because of the weather, the results shall be as follows:
 - If play ceased before half time, the match shall be considered a draw.
 - If play ceased at or after half time, the result of the match shall be decided based on the score at the time the match was abandoned.
- c) If all Senior timeslots set down to be played on a particular day, or any of the Junior timeslots, are unable to be completed due to the weather, those rounds may be played at a date and time set down by the Executive.
- d) If some Senior timeslots set down to be played on a particular day are completed and some are not (due to the weather), those matches that were not completed will be played at a date and time set down by the Executive.
- e) The Executive reserves the right to reduce the playing time of matches during excessive heat.

6. UMPIRING

- a) All umpires, senior and junior, must be the holder of a current theory pass to be eligible to umpire GNA competition matches. New umpires in the Association must produce proof of theory pass before being eligible to umpire GNA competition matches.
- b) Umpires cannot change during the game without the consent of the Umpires Convenor.
- c) All umpires must move through the Umpire Level Progressions as stipulated by the Umpires' Convenor.
- d) Beginner umpires must attend two (2) umpire clinics run by the Umpires' Convenor and pass their online theory exam prior to umpiring any matches.

7. GAME RULES

- a) Play must start within five (5) minutes of the bell by Control commencing the game. Any team not fielding five (5) players who are registered in that team must then forfeit.
- b) Injury Rule as per the Rules of Netball - International Netball Federation.

- c) A player may play in TWO (2) matches only for each day of competition. Players who are dual registered and play in both their regular games, may not fill in for another team on the same day.
- d) A player may fill-in for another team, as long as it is for a team from their registered club in a higher grade.
- e) No more than two (2) players from another team are allowed to be substituted.
- f) A team that can field seven (7) players cannot borrow from another team.
- g) Substitutes and team changes are as per Rules of Netball – World Netball 2024 when making substitutions and/or team changes during an interval or when play is stopped for injury/illness of a player or blood.
 - i) GNA has adopted the Rules for Rolling Substitutions as per Netball NSW Memo dated 30.1.2024, 2024 Rules of Netball Update page 5, attached excerpt as Appendix 1
- h) A player must have played at least five (5) matches in their registered team/s to be eligible for Semi-Finals, Finals and Grand Finals.
- i) Competition matches as set down must be played on or before the set date. Permission must be obtained from the GNA President or Vice President via the Club Delegate to pre-play a game and a member of the Executive must be present.
- j) If a team forfeits three (3) times per season, the Executive Committee will decide if they can continue in the competition. If a team is forfeited against, the team who wins on the forfeit will have the game counted in their games played tally.
- k) Only players turning 12 years or older are permitted to fill in for a senior team (defined as Grades A/B/C).
- l) Players can only fill in for the same team twice. If the player fills in for a third time, they will then be deemed to be a part of that team and continue the rest of the season with them.

8. CANTEEN DUTY

- a) The Association may allocate each club to be rostered for Canteen duty throughout the Winter Season. It will then be at the discretion of the Club to allocate team duties

9. FINALS

- a) Minor Premiers shall be the winners of the Point Score total. Minor Premiers shall receive medals only if the team is not a Major Premier or Runner Up.
- b) Major Premiers shall be the winners of Grand Finals.
- c) At the end of the season:
 - Semi Finals shall be played between position 1 and 2 and position 3 and 4 on the point score tally.
 - Finals shall be played between the loser of the 1 v 2 Semi Final and the winner of the 3 v 4 Semi Final.
 - Grand Finals shall be played between the winner of the 1 v 2 Semi Final and the winner of the final.

The Executive shall have the power to alter this if required.

- d) Semi Finals, Finals and Grand Finals will be played on a day as set down by the Executive.
- e) In the event of a draw in the Final series an extra five (5) minutes each way will be played with a two (2) minute break prior to commencement of the extra time. At the end of the first five (5) minutes extra time, there will be a change of ends. Substitutes may be made during this change of ends taking no more than 20 seconds. If at the end of the extra time, there is still a draw the team scoring the first goal is declared the winner.

10. NET SET GO

- a) Players up to 9 years of age shall participate in Net Set Go which will run independent of the Saturday competition.

11. ASSOCIATION RULES

- a) Grafton Netball Association is guided by the policies of its Governing Body - Netball NSW and upholds these policies where applicable.
- b) Grafton Netball Association upholds a NO Smoking Policy. No Smoking is permitted within 15 metres or within the log fenced area of the courts, club rooms or surrounding grounds. No Smoking Policy includes cigarettes and E-Cigarettes.
- c) Grafton Netball Association upholds an Alcohol-Free Zone. No Alcohol is permitted within 15 metres or within the log fenced area of the courts, club rooms or surrounding grounds.

- d) Animals including dog on/off a leash are not permitted within 15 metres or within the log fenced area of the courts, club rooms or surrounding grounds on competition and training days.
- e) Bikes/scooters/skates are not permitted on the courts or within the log fenced area of the courts and club rooms, especially on competition and training days.
- f) A meeting for Executive members and Club Delegates may be called with twenty-four hours' notice, to discuss matters pertaining to the competition.
- g) In the case of extenuating or unforeseen circumstances, any of these rules and procedures (1-11) may be amended at the discretion of the Executive Committee and Club Delegates.

12. APPENDIX 1

Rules for Rolling Substitutions While play is in progress, any team may choose to use rolling substitutions provided the rolling substitution is performed with players on the team bench who have been named on their team sheet.

(a) The rolling substitution stands at the designated area. This is normally set up as a small box or line to the side of each team's bench, next to the score bench. At community level this designated spot may be in line with the centre circle or some other area as advised by the competition organisers.

(b) Before leaving the designated area, the substitute tags (with hands) the player leaving the court.

(c) Only 1 rolling substitution per team can be made at a time.

(d) Play is not to be held up for rolling substitutions. If play is delayed, the player will be penalised under Rule 19. Foul Play, Unfair Play 2. Delaying Play, which state a player or team may not intentionally waste time or delay play.

(e) Players must observe the offside rules as they enter/leave the court, in the event a player goes offside: Sanction: Free pass where the infringement occurred (offside area) unless this places the non infringing team at a disadvantage when the sanction will be given where the ball was when play stopped, or advantage applied.

(f) Players must not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution, in the event a player interferes with an umpire: Sanction: Free pass where ball was when play stopped unless this places the non-infringing team at a disadvantage when advantage will be applied.

(g) If a player leaves the court as a rolling substitution and there is no player at the designated area, the replacement player will be treated as a late player under the rules and can enter at a "break in play" (defined in the Rules of Netball 2024 Edition)