



NETBALL RULES & REGULATIONS

Open Competition 2026

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1. DEFINITION AND INTERPRETATION

- a) The Eastern Football Netball League (EFNL) Netball Rules and Regulations are the statement of rules of the competition.
- b) Where the EFNL Netball Rules and Regulations are silent on a particular matter, refer to the EFNL Bylaws, which shall apply. In exceptional or extenuating circumstances, the League may, acting reasonably, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in these Rules and Regulations relating to the League. The League may also apply, at its discretion, one of its Bylaws in relation to the Netball competition.
- c) As a Netball Victoria (NV) Affiliated competition; players, officials (including league umpires) and spectators are to abide by all NV stipulated Codes of Behaviour.

2. AFFILIATION

- a) All netball teams entered into the League are affiliated with an EFNL Football Netball Club
- b) Where a team is seeking entrance into the EFNL Netball Competition and does not have an affiliation to a current EFNL Football Netball Club, a formal request of entrance must be supplied and addressed to the league's board and CEO for consideration and approval.
- c) Where a non-affiliate Netball team is granted entrance into the competition, the team and club must agree to adhere to the rules and regulations set by the EFNL, its bylaws and affiliation, thus adherence to, Netball Victoria's codes of conducts.

3. PERSONNEL

- a) Netball Coordinator is an employee of the Eastern Football Netball League appointed to coordinate the Netball competition.
- b) Umpire Manager is an employee of the Eastern Football Netball League appointed to oversee the recruitment, development and badging of all umpires throughout the season.
- c) Venue Manager is an employee of the Eastern Football Netball League appointed to manage the venue on competition nights.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) All correspondence from the club must be from the Club Committee member or authorised contact to the EFNL.
- b) All correspondence from the Eastern Football Netball League shall be directed to the Club Committee member or the Authorised Netball Contact.

5. CLUBS/TEAMS CONDITIONS

- a) A Club applying for entry into the Competition shall:
 - i. agree to abide by the policy and rules of EFNL
 - ii. agree to abide by the rules and conditions of entry of the venues
 - iii. agree to abide by Netball Victoria Codes of Conduct
- b) In the event of a Club withdrawing a team from the competition:
 - i. Once competition matches have commenced – there will be no reimbursement of Club Registration fees received.

6. MEMBERSHIP/REGISTRATIONS

- a) EFNL club registration fees for 2026 will be \$TBF
- b) Netball Victoria's membership fee is set annually by the Victorian Netball Association Inc. and shall be communicated to all Club's annually.
- c) All players, coaches and umpires must be registered with the Eastern Football Netball League on both Game Day and Netball Connect.
- d) All players must have a current Netball Victoria Membership (NVM) prior to taking the court or commencing participation. 2026 VNA fees are: \$94.00 (senior) and \$73.00 (junior)
- e) Penalty for playing a player who is not registered with the league and/or financial with Netball Victoria:
 - i. Loss of 4 Premiership Points; and/or
 - ii. \$50 fine
 - iii. Second offence: penalty to be determined by the League.

7. TRANSFERS/CLEARANCES

- a) Any player wanting to obtain a transfer permit to another Club prior to or during the season must have their new club apply for a transfer on GameDay.
- b) Transfers will be required for submission to the league where the player has played for another EFNL club within the last 24 months.
- c) Where a primary club was from pre-2024, a transfer will not be required.
- d) No player will be granted more than one (1) transfer permit per season. No transfer permit shall be granted after the seventh (7) round of matches.
- e) A players' transfer must be approved before the player can take the court.
- f) A transfer permit may also be refused if there are any outstanding fees or equipment.
- g) The exiting club has six (6) business days to respond to the transfer or the player will automatically transfer to the new club.
- h) If the transfer permit is refused by the club, then it is up to the player to ensure that the issue is resolved before another transfer permit is submitted.
- i) The number of games played in the current season will NOT transfer with a player to the new club, i.e., they will need to qualify for finals with the new club.

Penalties: Penalty for breaking any part of Rule (a)-(c), shall result in a forfeit with a 10-nil score or the highest winning margin from that round, recorded in favour of the non-offending team, as well as a fine of \$100 for each game an unregistered or uncleared player takes the court.

8. PLAYERS

- a) Players must have a current Netball Victoria Membership (NVM) to take the court. Any fill in player(s) will need to complete the EFNL Netball Connect registration form online.
- b) Single game vouchers will only be available to purchase online through Netball Connect. Single game voucher needs to be purchased before the start of the game.
- c) Any Player found playing in the competition with no current NVM will incur the penalties as outlined in 6.e).
- d) Players must also be registered on GameDay before playing any game.
- e) Players playing in the Open competition must have turned or be turning 15 during the season to compete in the competition.
- f) A player is eligible to play in a competition if they are listed on the Clubs/Team entry for that competition.

- g) Players may not take the court in more than one game on a night.
- h) If a club enters teams into multiple sections, players may transfer between teams until that player plays their fourth home and away game with a particular team, they may not play further games for any lower section during the Home and Away season or during finals.
- i) A Player may play no more than four games in a higher division to be able to return down to the lower division.
- j) Players must take the court and compete in four games with the same team during the home and away season to be eligible to participate in that team's finals.
- k) They must have played one of those games before the last four rounds.
- l) Teams found playing an ineligible player during the home and away season and finals series will be considered to have lost the match.

9. COACHES

- a) All official coaches must hold a senior Netball Victoria Membership (NVM)
- b) All coaches must hold a current Working with Children Check (WWCC).
- c) Coaching is permitted during any stoppage by the appointed coach. That coach shall be the only person that may approach the players at the sideline. Bench players may also approach the sideline if coaching occurs.
- d) During a stoppage any Team Official may approach the players at the sideline for the purpose of providing rehydration.
- e) Coaching is not permitted from the team's allocated scorer at any point throughout play or at any stoppage. During breaks, the scorer can approach the bench.
- f) At no time during a match (including intervals) are coaches permitted to approach umpires. Any discussion made with the umpires MUST be made by the team captain.

Penalty: \$100.00 fine to the offending club for any breach of the above.

10. UMPIRES

- a) The Eastern Football Netball League will appoint an Umpire Manager to oversee the recruitment, development and badging of all umpires throughout the season.
- b) Umpires will be appointed to matches by the Eastern Football Netball League Netball Coordinator in consultation with the Umpire Manager.
- c) Umpires officiating must be A, B or C Grade accredited or approved trainees through the umpire development program.
- d) All umpires must hold a current Working with Children Check (WWCC).
- e) Umpires under the age of 18 shall wear a green wrist band as part of the green band program.
- f) All EFNL Netball Umpires will be dressed appropriately in umpire's attire: White T-Shirt, White shorts or skirt and appropriate sports shoes.
- g) Finals Umpires will be appointed by the Netball Coordinator in consultation with the Umpire Manager.
- h) Umpires will be required to complete a Match Report after each game, noting any warnings/cautions given, team, player and crowd behaviour or any other notes the umpire deems necessary to report to the Netball Manager.
- i) Any conduct deemed to be unbecoming or bringing the game into disrepute (behaviour that is beyond the issuing of a warning/sanction) will be reportable by one or both officiating umpires.

- i. Any incident report is to be recorded and submitted to the Eastern Football Netball League by 10am Monday post-match. The Eastern Football Netball League will not consider any report submitted after this time. Offenders may receive any or all the following penalties as deemed suitable by the Eastern Football Netball League.

Penalty: Loss of Premiership points for the team, suspension from EFNL Netball home and away games & finals or club fines.

11. BEST AND FAIREST VOTING

- a) Voting for Best & Fairest shall be as follows:
- b) The match umpires shall award votes of the three best and fairest players in each Home and Away game, voting shall be 3 votes for the best and fairest player, 2 votes for the second best and fairest player and 1 vote for the third best and fairest player.
- c) Votes are to be recorded on the Umpire Match Report and then handed to the Venue Manager or EFNL Netball Coordinator.

12. DRESS CODE

- a) Each Club must register its uniform prior to the commencement of the season.
- b) In the Clubs first year in the competition, uniforms may be a club-coloured skirt, shorts, tops or dresses. From year two onwards, Clubs shall register an official EFNL Netball uniform.
- c) All players are to be in correct uniform for matches with the whole team being in the same uniform.
- d) No bikini pants, see through pants, slacks, leggings or track suit pants are permitted.
- e) Skins/bike pants may be worn under dress but must not extend below the knee.
- f) If there are religious or medical reasons why a player should wear particular head coverings or other items of clothing, the club or team must notify the Netball Coordinator in writing BEFORE the season commences, or as soon as possible, if for medical reasons. It must state the reason for the non-standard uniform. Only the player(s) named in the correspondence will be permitted to be "out of uniform" during match times. Any item to be worn must not interfere with play or be a hindrance or danger to other players on the court.
- g) Players are not permitted to wear gloves unless they have been granted permission by the league (medical reasons) prior to the commencement of the season.
- h) For future compliance, the final design of new uniforms must be approved by the EFNL and must include the EFNL logo on the right-hand breast. Uniforms must be ordered through the leagues FOUR licenced suppliers (Gilbert, Sherwood, New Balance and TGI Sport). Club sponsor logos positioned on the front of the dress are to be no more than 80mmW x 30mmH. Club sponsor logos positioned on the rear of the dress are to be no more than 250mmW x 80mmH.

Nails

- a) Nails must be short and smooth OR taped using the approved material tape – one piece of tape over the top and one piece of tape around the nail.

Jewellery

- b) No item of jewellery except a wedding ring and or a medical alert bracelet may be worn and shall be taped.

- c) All piercings must be covered with approved material taping – covering front and back. Paper tape and Band-Aids will not be deemed satisfactory. No adornment that may endanger player safety may be worn.

Penalty: The Umpire shall have the right to send off a player out of uniform before the start of a game, however once they have taken the court, they may not be removed. However, if a nail or jewellery infringement occurs during the match, the player may be asked to remove the jewellery.

13. GRADING

- a) First 3 rounds will be soft grading rounds. Points will count for the season and if a team needs to be moved, they will carry their wins and losses with them. No votes and individual player stats will move with the player if regrading occurs.
- b) After the soft grading games, adjustments will be made if required. The Netball Coordinator shall have the final decision regarding grading.
- c) Team allocations will be subject to final ladder positions from the previous season.

14. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

- a) All matches shall be played on a Friday night at Melba College, Knox Regional Netball Centre, HE Parker, Oakleigh Recreation Centre and Oxley College.
- b) Matches will be scheduled at the following timeslots: 6.45pm, 7.40pm, 8.35pm and 9.30pm. HE Parker timeslots will be slightly different to accommodate their junior program. Timeslots will start at 6.50pm, 7.45pm, 8.40pm and 9.35pm
- c) Premier Division and Division 1 will play 4 x 15-minute quarters with an interval of 2 minutes between the first and second quarters, an interval of 3 minutes at half time and another 2 minutes between third and fourth quarter.
- d) Division 2 and Division 3 will play 4 x 12-minute quarters, with an interval of 1 minute between first and second quarters, a 2-minute half time, and 1 minute interval between third and fourth quarters.
- e) All other divisions will play 4 x 10-minute quarters with an interval of 1 minutes between the first and second quarters, an interval of 2 minutes at half time and another 1 minutes between third and fourth quarter.
- f) The timing of each quarter and break must be displayed on the courts clock (if available)
- g) Teams must have a minimum of 5 eligible players to take the court.
- h) Rolling Substitution Rule shall be used across all matches.
- i) All players must be listed on the score sheet.
- j) Team lists can be updated in Gameday until Thursday 6pm. Any updates to the team lists following this time will require approval by the league, as matches will be locked 24 hours prior to the first round of the night.
- k) Where a player has been handwritten on the scoresheet, and player eligibility breaches occurred, the offending club will be ineligible for any appeals.
- l) Any team failing to start on time shall, forfeit a goal per minute to the non-offending team, and a further goal per minute until 10 minutes has elapsed. A forfeit shall then be declared, providing the non-offending team has at least 5 or more players present.
- m) The first named team on the scoresheet shall be awarded the centre pass, and the second named team will have choice of end.
- n) If two teams have similar coloured uniforms and an obvious 'clash' exists or the officiating umpire(s) requests; the second named team will be required to wear an alternate colour bib. Clash bibs will be provided by the league

Game and Match Management

- a) Whereby a player has been issued with a 2-minute suspension under the Game and Match Management rules of netball, the offending club shall be issued with a financial penalty to the amount of \$50.00.
- b) Whereby a player has been ordered off under Game and Match Management rules of netball, the offending club shall be issued with:
 - c) Financial penalty to the amount of \$100.00 and,
 - i. Loss of 4 Premiership points and/or,
 - ii. Set penalty to be set at the discretion of the league.

Injury Time/Blood Policy

- a) No injury time – All matches will be centrally timed. A match may be stopped by the Umpires in extenuating circumstances to ensure a safe playing area is maintained however the clock will not stop. If a player calls “injury time” they will be required to leave the court within 30 seconds.
- b) The bleeding player shall leave the court; substitution rule applies with no time allowance.
- c) Should blood be present on the ball the spare match ball provided will be used.
- d) Play is resumed.
- e) Relocating Games (due to injury) – A 3-minute guideline whereby officials shall decide on whether a game should move courts (where possible) where an injured player cannot be safely moved will be followed.
- f) Where relocation of the match can occur, play shall resume in alignment with the current time remaining for the remainder of the stadium.

Rolling Substitution Rule

- 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.
- b) Before leaving the designated area, the substitute tags (with hands) the player leaving the court.
- c) Only one (1) rolling substitute 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 19.2. Delaying play.
- e) Players must observe the offside rules as they enter/leave the court.
 - i. **Sanction:** Free pass where the infringement occurred (offside area) unless this places the non-infringing team at a disadvantage, or advantage is applied.
- f) Players must not interfere with the umpire’s movement during the substitution.
 - i. **Sanction:** Free pass where the ball was when play was stopped (advantage may be applied).
- g) If a player leaves the court as a rolling substitution, and there is no player in the designated area, the replacement player is treated as a late player (as per Rule 3.8) and must wait until a break in play to enter the court.
- h) Any late player may, after advising the umpire, take the court in the vacant position/s at the next break in play.
 - i. **Action:** Any late player is sent from the court until the correct time for entry and possession is awarded to the opposing team where the ball was when play stopped.
 - ii. **Terminology:** Incorrect entry
- i) “Break in play” is defined as after a goal is scored, during a stoppage or interval or when a sanction or action is awarded.

15. SCORING

- a) Each team must provide a scorer for all matches. Scorers must sit together at scorer's bench.
Scorers must be 14 years or over.
 - i. **Penalty:** \$20.00 fine to the offending club.
- b) All players are to be listed on the score sheet with complete given name and surname of those players intending to take the court prior to the commencement of play. Any player, who takes the court without having been named on the score sheet, must be removed immediately and cannot participate in the remainder of the match.
- c) The score sheet must also indicate the player's positions played each quarter, the goals they score and the match score.
- d) At the conclusion of the match, the score sheet needs to be signed by:
 - i. The captains of both competing teams
 - ii. The officiating umpires
 - iii. The scorers.
 - a. **Penalty:** \$20 fine to offending Club.
- e) The EFNL shall be responsible for entering of all results onto the Leagues website, and is to include the following
 - i. Team players
 - ii. $\frac{1}{4}$ by $\frac{1}{4}$ scores and Full-time scores
 - iii. Goals.

16. LADDERS

- i. Four (4) premiership points will be awarded for a win in the Home and Away matches.
- ii. Zero (0) premiership points will be awarded for a loss in the Home and Away matches.
- iii. Two (2) premiership points will be awarded to each side in the event of a drawn Home and Away match.
- iv. No premiership points for a bye.
- v. Two (2) premiership points to be awarded to each side in the event of the game being abandoned due to equipment fault, before half time.
- vi. If a game is abandoned due to equipment fault, four (4) premiership points will be awarded to the team which is leading after half time.

Forfeits

Penalty for forfeits:

- i. A 10- nil score line or the greatest winning margin from the night's games, whichever is greater, four (4) Premiership points will be awarded to the non-offending team and 4 premiership points taken from the offending team.
- ii. In the event of a forfeit the penalties outlined in rule 16. (g) apply and in addition the offending team shall be fined \$150.
- iii. If a team forfeits prior to the match clock starting, games shall only be awarded to nominated players of the non-offending team. No games shall be awarded to players of the offending team.
- iv. Persistent forfeits may result in that Club/Team being excluded from further competitions.
- v. Forfeits must be notified no less than 24 hours prior to commencement of the match.
Penalty: \$175 to the offending club

Match Ratio

- a) In competitions involving an uneven number of byes for competing teams, the League shall also prepare a match ratio ladder which reflects the number of wins by each team against the number of matches played by each team.

17. FINALS

- a) The number of points gained during the season shall determine teams qualifying for finals. In the event of teams being on equal points, positions shall be determined by percentage of goals scored for and against. In the event of teams being equal in percentage, positions shall be determined by the greater number of goals scored for.
- b) Teams found playing an ineligible player during the finals will be considered to have lost that match and be subject to a fine set by the Eastern Football Netball League.
- c) Matches shall be conducted for finals as per home and away matches. The start time may vary, and clubs will be advised accordingly.
- d) All sections shall consist of a minimum of a top 4 for finals purposes. However, the number of teams eligible for finals may increase at the discretion of the Netball Manager should it be determined the number of teams in each division warrants an increase in the number of finalists.

Drawn Games in Finals

- a) There is to be a one-minute time allowance to enable teams to change ends and scores to be verified on score sheet.
- b) Positional changes and/or substitutions may be made during change over time and at half time.
- c) 2 x 5-minute halves to be played.
- d) Should there still be a draw at the end of the second half of extra time, play continues until one team has a 2-goal advantage.

18. PROMOTION / RELEGATION PROTOCOLS – PREMIER DIVISION – DIVISION 4

- a) Premier Division through to and inclusive of Division 4 will be held to promotion/relegation protocols.
- b) Premiership winning teams will move up one division.
- c) Teams positioned in 8th/9th position will be relegated to the division below.
- d) All other teams will remain in their respective division as at the completion of the home and away season.
- e) Clubs must submit a formal request by March 1st of that year to the league should their team see significant changes. This request should include the specific information relating to the team that is deemed to fit the eligibility for the divisional change.
- f) Additional team movements may be made via direct division swap upon the agreement of both Clubs.

19. APPEALS /PROTESTS/DISPUTES RESOLUTIONS

- a) A team wishing to protest a scoring issue must:
 - i. Not sign the Official score sheet, immediately notify the Netball Coordinator of the intention to protest.

- ii. Lodgement of the protest in writing to the Netball Coordinator within 24 hours of the match being played.
- b) A club shall have the right to appeal to the Eastern Football Netball League within 24 hours of notification of a penalty and must do so in writing to the CEO. If a club wishes to appeal a cheque of \$250 should be forwarded to Eastern Football Netball League of which: \$200 will be returned to the club if the appeal is upheld.
 - i. Up to \$150 will be returned to the club if the appeal is dismissed. (At the discretion of the EFNL).
 - ii. Up to \$150 will be returned to the club if the appeal is not heard. (At the discretion of the EFNL)
- c) The club will be notified in writing if the appeal will not be heard.
- d) The Eastern Football Netball League decision is final.

20. AWARDS

- a) The following player awards will be presented for each section for each season.
 - i. Best and Fairest in each division
 - ii. Most goals scored in each division
 - iii. EFNL Team of the year for each division.
- b) Other forms of recognition will be awarded by Eastern Football Netball League as deemed appropriate.

Presentation Night

- a) At the conclusion of the playing season, a Presentation Night shall be held alongside the Senior Football Presentation night.
- b) Presentation of the above awards shall be made on the evening.

21. RISK MANAGEMENT

Injury Reporting

- a) All Clubs/teams are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or players' guardian (if a minor) on the back of the official scoresheet.

Pregnancy

- a) As per Netball Victoria policy – Pregnancy in Netball

First Aid

- a) Trained First Aid personnel and first aid kits will be provided at the venue.
- b) Extra services such as trainers must be provided by the club.

21.2 BLOOD POLICY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- a) The EFNL will adopt Netball Victoria Info net U4 and RM6 relating to blood policy and infectious diseases.

21.3 CODES OF CONDUCT

- a) Please refer to the EFNL By-Laws codes of conduct. The EFNL will also adopt Netball Victoria's codes of conduct.

21.4 VILIFICATION & DISCRIMINATION POLICY

- a) Please refer to the EFNL By-Laws Vilification & Discrimination Policy.

21.5 CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT POLICY

- a) The EFNL will adopt Netball Australia Pathways Youth and Community Netball Concussion Guidelines in line with the Australian Institute of Sport's Concussion Guidelines.

21.6 CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

- a) The EFNL is committed to providing everyone with a positive and safe environment. As part of this commitment and dedication, EFNL is committed to ensuring the safety of all its members, including all children and young people. The EFNL will adopt Netball Australia Child Safeguarding Policy.

21.7 TRANSGENDER & GENDER DIVERSE POLICY

- a) The EFNL will adopt Netball Victoria's Transgender & Gender Diverse Policy.

22. CROWD BEHAVIOUR

- a) No alcohol is to be brought into, consumed, or sold at any EFNL Netball venue at any time. Any person found to be consuming alcohol will be asked to leave the venue and the offending club shall receive a fine to be determined by the EFNL and a loss of 4 premiership points.
- b) Crowd behaviour that is deemed to be inappropriate, cause disruption to the game and/or players or is offensive to any or all persons participating in the league will not be tolerated.
- c) Offending spectator(s) will be given two (2) warnings to discontinue their behaviour.
- b) Should the behaviour continue after the second warning, the Venue Manager will reserve the right to undertake either of the following actions:
 - i. Ask the offending spectator(s) to leave the venue for the remainder of the evening or;
 - a. Stop the game and declare a forfeit
 - ii. Should a clear association between the offending spectator(s) and a competing team be able to be determined, this team will be considered to have forfeited the game. A 10- nil score line or greatest winning margin from that round (whichever is greater) and 4 premierships points will be awarded to the non-offending team.
 - iii. Should no association with either team or club be able to be determined the game will be stopped and, if after half time, the scores at half time will stand as the final score. Should the game not have reached half time the game will be considered a draw, and 2 premiership points will be awarded to both teams.
- c) The Venue Manager reserves the right to use their discretion in taking either action, whichever is deemed more appropriate.
- d) The EFNL will apply a warning to the Club of which the offending spectator(s) holds an association with. Should a Club receive two warnings in relation to crowd behaviour they will be subject to a fine to be determined by the EFNL.
- e) The Venue Manager will be responsible to contact the Netball Manager and provide a written report to the EFNL as soon as possible after the incident has taken place.
- f) Should the situation be perceived to be threatening, Venue Managers are advised to call 000.

23. PHOTOGRAPHY

- a) No photography shall be permitted at any match by any person, unless approval has been granted by the league.
- b) Any person wishing to take photographs/video footage is required to complete the online photography permission form. Permission shall not be deemed granted by submitting the

form. Permission shall only be deemed granted once formal approval has been provided by the league.

- c) Approved photographers will be required to check in with an EFNL venue manager who will request identification and provide a lanyard that the photographer shall be required to wear. Following the completion of the match, the photographer shall be required to return the lanyard to the venue manager.