



OPERATIONS MANUAL

2023



November 2022
2023 Version 3



NORTHERN NETBALL LEAGUE



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INTRODUCTION

The Northern Netball League (NNL) Competition is designed to provide an opportunity for the best Association Representative players in specified age groups to come together and compete against their peers from across North Queensland. It exists to provide critical development for athletes and officials to bridge the gap between Association club netball and the Queensland Hart Sapphire Series.

The Northern Netball League (NNL) is conducted under the authority of the Northern Rays Ltd. and its Constitution.

The Northern Rays Ltd vests responsibility for the day-to-day operation and management of the competition under the NNL Competitions Subcommittee and appointed Coordinator.

NNL shall consist of three divisions: 16/Under & 18/Under and Open which will be played as a combined event. NNL may choose to add other age groups, Boys and or Men's divisions to their Competitions at any time.

NNL may also serve as a platform for selection into Northern Rays State Titles Representative Squads.

The NNL will be conducted and played under the rules outlined in the Official International Netball Rules 2020 and in accordance NNL Competition Manual.

The Competition Manual shall consist of the competition rules and operational procedures to be adhered to by all teams involved in the event.

The Northern Netball League also aims to provide the highest level of competition not only for players, but for coaches, umpires and officials that serves as an effective performance pathway to drive retention and grow the game of netball in North Queensland.

COMPETITION CONTACTS

Role	Person and Contact Details
Competitions Coordinator - Chair	Lyn Law board@northernrays.com.au nnl@northernrays.com.au
Administrator Umpire Allocations	Lyn Ward 0422 105 450 umpire@northernrays.com.au nnl@northernrays.com.au
Competition Committee Representative	MNA - Sharon Sutherland TCNA - Natalie Parsloe MIANA – Nicki Barlow / Jen Tyrell CNA - Chloe Butler



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COMPETITION DETAILS / RULES

The NNL Competition will be conducted in accordance with:

- The INF Rules of Netball and NNL competitions Manual 2023 unless otherwise stated
- Teams will only be able to participate in the fixtures of this competition once nomination fees have been paid in full.
- Where Associations are unable to field a team in the competition due to lack of players, Associations may submit a joint written application requesting permission to enter a combined team. This application must be signed by an authorised representative from each Association.
- Teams who are unable to fulfil the participation requirements outlined in this manual will be unable to participate in the Competition.
- Netball North Queensland Ltd. may deduct points from any team if they are found to have contravened or disregarded any rules of the competition.

TICKETING

Indoor Stadiums may be ticketed. If so, cost will be kept to a minimum.

- Teams and their officials will have complementary tickets.
- Bench Officials will have complementary passes.

FORMAT FOR GAMES

The Northern Rays reserves the right to use the competition format it believes is the best for each competition. This may be amended at any time to suit the competition.

The NNL Competition Subcommittee is responsible for developing the competition draws.

The draws will be posted on Netball Connect and emailed to registered teams prior to the Competition.

The NNL Competition Subcommittee will determine the day and times of matches and this will be communicated via the draw to all participating teams.

Game format will be as follows:

- Four (4) x ten (10) minute quarters
- Quarter time (3 minutes), half time (5 minutes) and three-quarter time (3 minutes) breaks.

Divisions may be allocated into Pools for the betterment of the competition depending on the number of teams nominating.

All matches will be Live Scored through Netball Connect and paper NNL score sheet by the bench officials.

It will be the responsibility of the Team Managers to correctly submit player tracking of Netball Connect during matches.

FEE STRUCTURE

The fee for each team nominated is \$495 PER TEAM

The nomination fee covers the venue hire, payment of officials and trophies to host the event.

Teams who fail to pay the nomination fee by the due dates will be unable to take the court until the fees are paid.



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UNIFORMS

Players may only take the court if they are wearing the team's registered and approved uniform unless they have been provided with a specific exemption, along with appropriate sports footwear as per INF Rulebook 2020.

Each team must nominate their uniform design and colour when nominating for a competition.

Positional patches shall be worn on the front and back of uniforms above the waist. Lettering shall be a minimum of 150mm height, and clearly visible.

In the event of a clash of colours, the second mentioned team on the draw shall change their bibs to an alternative colour.

TEAMS

Each team is required to have the following members:

- Maximum twelve (12) Minimum of nine (9) registered players.
- One (1) Coach
- One (1) Assistant Coach (optional)
- One (1) Manager
- One (1) Primary Carer (can be the manager) (minimum Senior First Aid certificate)
- One (1) Scorer/Timekeeper – known as bench officials.
- Two (2) Umpires (Badged)

Players

A player must be a current member of Netball Queensland.

Restrictions:

- Players in the 16U Division must be turning 16 years of age before December 31 in the year of competition.
- Players in the 18U Division must be turning 18 years of age before December 31 in the year of competition
- Players in the Open Division shall be over 18 years of age in the year of competition.

Any exemptions to the above, need to be forwarded in writing to the NNL Competitions Committee for consideration.

No player shall be registered with or represent more than one (1) Association/ Invitational Team in this competition in any one year. For the avoidance of doubt, a team entered on behalf of two or more Associations does not count as a second Association for this purpose.

Import Players

Any Association may invite players from another Association to play for them so that they can make up a full team. Once a player has taken the court for a nominated Association, they are then deemed to be part of that team for the duration of the Competition.

Teams receiving Import Players must obtain a letter of release from the association the player belongs to. This letter must be submitted to the NNL Competition Subcommittee with a written application for an import player prior to the close of team nominations.



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Coaches

Coaching staff must hold a recognised Netball Australia Coaching Accreditation and Netball North Queensland recommend that Coaches hold a minimum Development Coaching Accreditation. Coaches working with Age Teams also require to hold a current working with children Blue Card.

Managers

Managers working with Age Teams also require to hold a current working with children Blue Card.

Managers may also be a team's primary carer if they hold a current Senior First Aid Certificate.

Managers need to hand signed team sheet to the score bench no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to commencement of the match.

All Team Officials are expected to adhere to a dress code when representing their Association/Teams during competition day. Team Officials must be wearing and Association/Team polo.

Bench Officials

- Each nominated team must nominate at LEAST one (1) official scorer/timekeeper per team. Training and development for scorers and timekeepers will be given to those requesting assistance.
- Scorers and Timers shall report to the Match Supervisor on arrival at the venue.
- For each game there shall be one (1) Scorer/Live Score and one (1) Timekeeper.
- All Scorers and Timers should arrive no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to commencement of matches and remain until the completion of the last fixture round to which they have been rostered.
- Scoresheets, substitution cards and team list for use during the competition will be supplied by the NNL Competition Subcommittee.

Umpires

The NNL Competition Subcommittee will appoint an Umpire Supervisor who is responsible for umpire allocation to games and mentoring.

- For each nominated team, Associations must nominate at least two (2) Umpires. These umpires need to hold a minimum National C Badge (working towards their National B) and is a registered member of Netball Queensland.
- Details of the Umpire must be submitted to NNL Committee via the Team Nomination Process on NetballConnect by the due date.
- Umpires may nominate separately if their Association is not sending a team/s by completing a Request to Nominate form.
- It is the responsibility of the Umpire to be fully aware of the Rules and Regulations of the competition.
- Umpires must be ready to umpire 15 minutes prior to the commencement of each match.
- Umpires must be available for allocated reserve duties and shall remain at the Score Bench throughout the game unless required to officiate the game.
- If an umpire is unable to perform their duty, they or their Association/University must notify the Umpire Supervisor and find a suitably qualified replacement umpire.



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Primary Carers

The NNL Competition Committee will provide qualified Sports Medicine personnel at all matches, the cost of which should be included in the Competition Fee charged by the NNL Competition Committee.

The Sports Medicine personnel will hold a current minimum Senior First Aid Certificate. The responsibility of the Sports Medicine personnel is to continue treatment of injuries after the Primary Carer has removed the injured player/s from the court.

Each team may appoint a Primary Carer who can sit on the team bench for each match of the competition (the Manager may also be the Primary Carer).

- The Primary Carer must hold a current minimum Senior First Aid Certificate
- Teams are required to register their Primary Carer on the team registration form.
- Primary Carers must hold a current Working with Children Positive Notice Blue Card.

The Primary Carer for each team is primarily responsible for the initial attention to injured players within their team. Once the injured player has been removed from the court, the Sports Medicine personnel may continue treatment as appropriate.

The Primary Carer must carry their pass with them at all times when on the bench, so they are identifiable by the umpires.

Personal Injury Claim Form:

The Personal Injury Claim Form is to be used by any player (or team official) injured at training or during competition. This form can be accessed via <http://www.willisnetball.com/>.

Instructions:

- a. Go to <http://www.willisnetball.com/>.
- b. Click – Download a Personal Accident Claim Form
- c. Ensure all sections are complete.
- d. Forward the completed form to the Claims Service address on the first page. Any queries should be directed to the claims enquiries number.

Your initial claim must be lodged within six (6) months from the date of the injury. You can lodge your initial claim as soon as you wish and then forward receipts as they are issued.

Please note any player who is not registered to Netball Queensland will not be covered through this insurance policy.

Video and Photographer Accreditation

Each team may be permitted to have one (1) official Video Operator and one (1) Photographer per match.

Any person who the Team designates as a Video Operator and or Photographer must hold a current Working with Children Positive Notice Blue Card and must be registered on the team form.

Associations and Teams are responsible for ensuring that all spectators, family and friends are aware of the Child Protection Policy and the implications for the recording of video or taking of photographs at games. Parents, friends, supporters wishing to record video or photographs of any matches must first seek permission from the opposition team manager prior to the match commencing. By not seeking permission, the photographer or videographer may be asked to leave the match area.



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PRE-COMPETITION MEETING

The NNL Competitions Subcommittee will host a meeting via Zoom, for all divisions at least 2 weeks prior to the first round of competition for all teams.

NNL committee will hold a pre competition meeting with participating teams, at the venue on the first morning prior to the start of competition.

COMPETITION

The NNL Competition will be governed by the Netball Queensland Codes of Conduct, Behaviour and Policies listed on the Netball Queensland website at the time of the event.

Age Groups

The NNL competition will consist of the following age groups.

- Opens (18+)
- 18U Division must be turning 18 years of age before December 31 in the year of competition.
- 16U Division must be turning 16 years of age before December 31 in the year of competition.
- 14U Development / Competition yet to be finalised.

Competition Draw

- The NNL Competition Subcommittee is responsible for developing the competition draws.
- The draws will be posted to NetballConnect prior to the commencement of the Competition.

Team Sheets

Team sheets must be handed to the score bench at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of the match, with a maximum of ten (10) players and up to four (4) team officials to be listed on the team sheet. Names cannot be added/alterd to the team sheet after this time.

The list must show the starting seven (7) and their positions, up to three (3) reserves and the name of the “on court” captain.

The Team Manager shall specify on the team sheet any replacement players and what competition/division the Replacement Player has been drawn from (e.g., 16U, 18U).

Match Points

Points will be awarded as follows:

- 3 Points for a win
- 2 Points for a draw
- 1 Point for a loss
- 0 Points for a forfeit

Results and Ladders

The NNL Competition Subcommittee will be responsible for ensuring the competition results and ladders on the Competition website.

All competition results will be posted within 24 hours of the conclusion previous round of games, on the basis that winning team managers input the scores.

Forfeits

Failure to Take the Court (*Rule 8.1.1: in the 'Official Rules of Netball' (2020)*) applies to this competition.

The NNL Competition Subcommittee must be advised as early as possible of a team's intention to forfeit a match. When NNL Competition Subcommittee has been notified of a forfeit, the opposing team will automatically be awarded the three (3) points for this match and the scorecard will reflect this with a 15-0 score line for goals for/against to the winning team.

Finals

The NNL Competition Subcommittee will decide prior to the competition what format finals, if played, will take. This decision will be made after consultation with the member Associations.

Final games will take the format of games played throughout that competition.

In the case of a draw:

- There will be a **two (2)-minute** interval at the end of full-time (end of fourth quarter).
- Substitute and team changes may be made during the two-minute interval.
- Teams change ends and the game is restarted by the team entitled to the next centre pass.
- Extra time of **2 x 5-minute** halves will be played with a **one (1) minute** interval between the two halves.
- Teams change ends at the end of the first 5-minute half. Substitutions an/or positional changes may be made during the one (1) minute interval.
- The game is then restarted by the team entitled to the next centre pass.
- In the event that there is still a tie at the end of extra time, a visual signal shall be used to indicate that play shall continue until one team has a two (2) goal advantage.

Rolling Substitution

Rolling substitutions will be operational after consultation with the Associations.

Teams will be allowed to make unlimited substitutions during play. Substitutions can be made, and more than one substitution may be made at any time during play. Play will not be held for substitutions.

For a substitution during play:

- The substitution zone will be clearly marked out on or near the court and will be no more than 1m by 2m
- The substitute(s) stands wholly inside the team's substitution zone to indicate a substitution is to be made
- Before leaving the substitution box, the substitute tags (with hands) the player leaving the Court
- A player leaving the court **must** return to the team bench.
- There is no need to supply the bench official with any detail advising of substitutions made unless that player is the Goal Shooter or Goal Attack (for statistics).
- Players must observe the offside rules as they enter/leave the court and must not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution

SANCTION: Free pass where the ball was when the interference or offside entry /exit occurred

NOMINATIONS

In any Division, should there be a large number of teams entered making a single round of fixtures unmanageable within the time frame, the NNL Competition Subcommittee may choose to create two or more pools of teams to play in round robin format through the year. The NNL Competition Subcommittee would then determine an appropriate finals format to determine the winning team for the competition.

A nomination will only be considered with the completion of the *Team Nomination Process* by the due date.

Team Nomination

As an Association/Invitational team, for your nominations to be accepted, the following needs to be completed.

- The team nomination is lodged through NetballConnect – you must login and follow the instructions provided on a separate document.
- The team Nomination is paid at the time of nomination.
- The NetballConnect Team Nomination/Registration Process 'How to Guides (Team, Player, Official)' documents will be provided separately to each Zone Committee prior to nominations opening.
- All players and team officials must be registered on NetballConnect by the due date specified.
- For each player and team official that is not registered in NetballConnect by the date specified in an additional \$50.00 (incl. GST) fine will be incurred.
- Fines are required to be paid prior to the competition commencement or the team will be deducted two match points each round until all players are registered on NetballConnect.
- Late nominations will be accepted at the discretion of the Competition Committee/Coordinator, and a fee of \$100.00 per team (incl. GST) **may** apply.
- A nomination is considered late if any of the components are not completed by the Team Nomination Process due date as specified.
- In the event that a team withdraws from the competition after nominations close, all fees that have been paid may be retained by the NNL Competition Committee.
- If the nomination procedures are not completed by the due dates, then the NNL reserves the right to reject the Association/Invitational Team nomination.

Replacement Players

Where a registered player needs to be replaced, and the Association/Team/Club wishes to select a player from outside their registered squad, approval from NNL Competition Subcommittee is required in writing and the Association/ Team/Club will be required to provide a medical certificate or similarly valid documentation to NNL Competition Committee.

The replacement player must be registered to the NNL Competition. The replacement player may play in place of the injured/missing player for the period that the injured or unavailable player is stated to be unavailable for on their medical certificate or similarly valid documentation.

Protests and Complaints

Any protest or complaint must be lodged in writing addressed to the Competitions Coordinator. Should a protest or complaint relate to a particular match, such protest must be lodged within 48 hours of the conclusion of that match.

Any protest or complaint must include:



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- Association,
- Team name,
- Opposition team name,
- Division,
- Time,
- Nature of protest or complaint,
- The names of people involved (if applicable).
- The protest or complaint must be co-signed by an Association/University Committee Member.

Eligibility for NNL Competition Final Series

To be eligible for finals all players must;

- Be financial with Netball Queensland.
- For the purposes of NNL Competition Finals eligibility, one (1) quarter is considered to be the completion of a full match quarter in their respective NNL Competition.
- In order to be eligible for NNL Competition Finals a player must have played a minimum of 4 games during competition.
- In the instance that a registered player has been replaced in the team due to injury or other unforeseen circumstances, a request for an adjustment must be submitted to NNL Competition Subcommittee for permission to take the court during finals.

Awards

NNL Competition Subcommittee will provide the following awards.

- Winning team trophy and plaque
- Medals (14) for winning team members
- The NNL Competition Subcommittee will be responsible for medals for winning teams. The cost of these is included in the NNL Competition Fee.
- NNL Competition Subcommittee may also choose to determine a player of the Final.



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APPENDIXES

Appendices as attached:

- Appendix 1 Competition Timeline
- Appendix 2 Competition Schedule
- Appendix 3 Replacement Player Form



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APPENDIX 1

COMPETITION TIMELINE

Due Date	Description
01/01/2023	Team Nominations OPEN
01/03/2023	Player and Officials Self Registration OPEN
14/04/2023	Team Nomination CLOSE
14/04/2023	Team Competition Fee DUE – Direct EFT
10/04/2023	Players and Officials Registrations CLOSE
20/04/23 (COB)	Draw Distributed Umpire Bench Officials Mentors
01/01/2023	Team Nominations OPEN



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APPENDIX 2

2023 COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Competition Schedule Options:

5 (TBC) Games within each division

First past the post

Saturday

9:00am	Open and 14U(Development)
10:15am	18U and 16U
11:30am	Open and 14U (Development)
12:45pm	18U and 16U
2:00pm	Open and 14U (Development)
3:15pm	18U and 16U
4:30pm	Open and 14U (Development)

Sunday

8:00am	18U and 16U
9:15am	Open and 14U(Development)
10:30am	18U and 16U

A brief Presentation will follow the competition of Round 2 games.
All teams are encouraged to stay for Presentations.

APPENDIX 3

REPLACEMENT PLAYER FORM

Association Details				
Contact Name				
Position held within Association				
Team	Name		Division	
Division				

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use this form when the replacement player is outside of your registered squad.
- Form must be received at least one day prior to the match where the player will participate.
- Forms may be emailed through to the **NNL Competition Coordinator**.
- Permanent Replacement Player Forms must accompany a Replacement Team Sheet.

PLAYER REGISTRATION DETAILS

Name of Player being replaced			
Type of Replacement	Temporary / Permanent		
Replacement Players Name			
Replacement Players Association			
Date of Birth		NQ Member Registration Number	
No. of Competition Round			

AGREEMENT

Replacement Player's Signature

Date

Association Official Signature

Date

Please return to: **NNL Competition Coordinator** – nnl@northernrays.com.au