



Winter Competition Rules (V4.1)

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1. Definitions and Interpretations

1.1 Defined Terms

Association means Ballina Netball Association

Borrowed Player means a Player who is filling in for a Team but normally plays for a different Team.

Club means any Affiliated Club deemed as a Club in accordance with Ballina Netball Association Constitution who have applied for membership and been approved by the Executive Committee

Committee means the Executive Committee of Ballina Netball Association

Competition means Ballina Netball Association Winter Competition

Competition Rules means the rules of the Competition as articulated within this document

Division means the grouping of ages, abilities and/or genders, that the competition is played in

Dual Registration means when a player is registered to play in a second team

Finals Series means the Major Semi Final, Minor Semi Final, Preliminary Final and Grand Final of the Competition

Independent Team means a team that is not affiliated with a club

Match means any netball match or game, excluding training matches, played by or between Teams within the Competition

Minor Round Matches means the series of Matches played in the competition prior to the Finals Series.

Player means any person who has registered with the relevant Team

Score Bench means the official area for the scoring of Matches

Team means each of the Club teams and Independent teams granted the right to compete in the Competition by Ballina Netball Association

Team Officials means the officials involved in management, preparation and participation of the Team, including coach, manager, doctor and other support staff.

Umpire means an umpire appointed by Ballina Netball Association to officiate a Match

Umpiring Supervisor means the person appointed to this position by Ballina Netball Association

2. Competition Information

2.1 General Information

- 2.1.1 Subject to these Competition Rules, the Ballina Netball Association Constitution and any other document, the Committee shall have the authority to enquire and adjudicate all questions and disputes arising out of the Competition. If a matter is not provided for in the Competition Rules, the Ballina Netball Association Constitution or any other document, the Committee may make a determination and the decision shall be final.
- 2.1.2 Ballina Netball Association has the power to waive compliance with the Winter Competition Rules when satisfied that extenuating circumstances exist.
- 2.1.3 Any request to waive compliance with the Winter Competition Rules must be submitted in writing, addressed to the Competitions Manager.
- 2.1.4 Any participating Team or Player refusing or neglecting to abide by a decision of the Committee may be excluded from the Competition for such time as the Committee shall determine.
- 2.1.5 Ballina Netball Association may deduct points from any team if they are found to have contravened or disregarded any rules of the Winter Competition.
- 2.1.6 All relevant correspondence shall be addressed to the Secretary of Ballina Netball Association and marked attention of the Competitions Manager
- 2.1.7 All outward correspondence shall be dispatched from the Secretary of Ballina Netball Association and directed to the Club Secretary or Independent Team nominated contact person
- 2.1.8 The Competition Rules will be reviewed by the Committee at the conclusion of each season.

2.2 Venue and Dates

- 2.2.1 All matches will be played at Ballina Netball Courts, Owen Street, Ballina unless otherwise determined by Ballina Netball Association.
- 2.2.2 The Winter Competition dates will be advised to Clubs by Ballina Netball Association via email and posted on the Ballina Netball Association website and social media pages

2.3 Uniforms and Equipment

- 2.3.1 Uniforms as determined by the Club or Team are compulsory for Teams playing in the Senior competition, but it is not required for all players in a Team to wear an identical uniform.
A range of styles is encouraged to allow for Players with different requirements to be comfortable.
- 2.3.2 Uniforms as determined by the Club are compulsory for Teams playing in the Junior competition, but it is not required for all players in a Team to wear an identical uniform.
A range of styles is encouraged to allow for Players with different requirements to be comfortable.
- 2.3.3 Players in NetSetGO Teams can choose to wear a Club uniform or a NetSetGO T-shirt. It is not required for all players in a team to wear an identical uniform.
- 2.3.4 Each team is to supply their own set of position patches. All players on the team must wear patches of the same style and colour.
- 2.3.5 Ballina Netball Association will provide match balls and scoresheets

2.4 Complaint Handling

- 2.4.1 All complaints lodged with Ballina Netball Association in relation to the Competition will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures of the relevant Netball NSW Policy.
- 2.4.2 All registered Players, Umpires, Team Officials are required to abide by the [Netball NSW Code of Behaviour](#).
- 2.4.3 All participants of the Competition including but not limited to Players, Umpires, Bench Officials and Team Officials, who have breached the [Netball NSW Code of Behaviour](#) or [Netball NSW Member Protection Policy](#) and/or the [Netball NSW Disciplinary Policy](#), may be subject to disciplinary action as listed within the corresponding Policy.

3. Competition Structure

3.1 Team Qualification

- 3.1.1 Teams from affiliated Clubs are eligible to enter teams into the Competition
- 3.1.2 The Committee may agree to admit Independent Teams into the Competition

3.2 Player Eligibility

- 3.2.1 All players entered in the competition must show as financial registered members of Netball NSW in the Netball NSW member database and be registered in the current Ballina Netball Winter Competition, prior to participating in the Competition.
- 3.2.2 All players entered into the Junior Competition will be aged 7 – 17 years as at 31 December in the year in which they participate in the competition.
- 3.2.3 All players entered into the Senior Competition will be aged 14 years or older as at 31 December in the year in which they participate in the competition.
- 3.2.4 Players must register to play in their correct age group. A player can play up one year higher than their actual age, with the approval of their Club. For example, a player who is 9 years old can play as a 10 year old, but not as an 11 year old.
- 3.2.5 A player can play up more than one year higher than their actual age, or lower than their actual age with the approval of the Committee.

3.3 Dual Registered Players

- 3.3.1 A player may register to play in both a Junior competition team and a Senior competition team for the same club or different clubs.
- 3.3.1 A player may not play in more than 3 Matches per day.

3.4 Team Nomination and Entry

- 3.4.1 The closing date for Team nominations will be notified to Clubs and promoted on Ballina Netball Association website and social media pages.
- 3.4.2 Team nominations for the Competition must be lodged in accordance with procedures as determined by Ballina Netball Association and received by the published time and date for close of entries.
- 3.4.3 Teams shall have a minimum of seven (7) players by the closing date of entries for the Competition.
- 3.4.4 Teams in the Senior competition shall have no more than twelve (12) players registered
- 3.4.5 Teams in the Junior competition shall have no more than ten (10) players registered.

3.5 Late Registrations

- 3.5.1 Additional players may register late into a Team at the discretion of the Club or Independent Team manager up to round 5 of Competition. After round 5 of Competition, late registration of a player must be ratified by the Committee.
- 3.5.2 Additional teams may enter after the closing date for Team Nominations at the discretion of the Committee

3.6 Divisions and Team Grading

- 3.6.1 Clubs are required to grade their teams and nominate into a preferred division.
- 3.6.2 Mixed teams can only play in a division for mixed teams.
- 3.6.3 Ballina Netball Association reserves the right to combine or abandon divisions, depending on the number of teams registered.
- 3.6.4 Ballina Netball Association reserves the right to move any team to a higher or lower Division up to and including round 8 of competition.

4. Competition Rules

4.1 General Rules

- 4.1.1 The Competition will be conducted with reference to the [International Netball Federation Official Rules of Netball](#) and International Netball Federation Regulations (INF Rules) as published by the INF from time to time, unless where modified in these Competition Rules.
- 4.1.2 Ballina Netball Association may at any time change the competition structure, competition match procedure or format, where it is deemed necessary to comply with any legislation, government regulation or order, including but not limited to those related to COVID-19

4.2 Competition Structure

- 4.2.1 Competition Matches are to be played as advised by Ballina Netball Association.
- 4.2.2 The fixtures for the Competition will be available at PlayHQ.com one week prior to the commencement of the Competition.
- 4.2.3 Divisions of up to eight (8) teams will play each other twice in minor round Matches.

- 4.2.4 The top four (4) teams in each Division as determined by the final ladder placings will play in Finals Series Matches.
- 4.2.5 Ballina Netball Association will make the final decision as to the draw and the scheduling of Matches.
- 4.2.6 Should a Division consist of less than eight (8) teams, Ballina Netball Association reserves the right to re-format the Competition Structure to best suit the number of teams entered.
- 4.2.7 The Junior competition is a sporting activity for female, male and non-binary players.
- 4.2.8 The Senior competition is a sporting activity for female, male and non-binary players.

4.3 Match Duration and Match Format

- 4.3.1 A Match Duration will be as follows:
 - (i) for players aged 8 years and under, 4 x 8 minute quarters, with intervals of 2 minutes.
 - (ii) for players aged 9-10 years, 4 x 10 minute quarters, with intervals of 2 minutes.
 - (iii) for players aged 11-12 years, 4 x 12 minute quarters, with intervals of 2 minutes.
 - (iv) for players aged 13 years and older, 4 x 14 minute quarters, with intervals of 2 minutes.
- 4.3.2 The Umpire's whistle will start and finish a Match on indication from the central timing device.
- 4.3.3 A Team may claim a forfeit five (5) minutes after the signal to start the Match if the opposing Team does not have at least five Players on court and ready to play.
- 4.3.4 Injury time may be taken in accordance with official INF rules, but no additional time shall be added to the Match.
- 4.3.5 Match duration may be reduced at the discretion of the Competition Manager for reasons including, but not limited to, extreme heat, delayed start, Umpire availability, other scheduling requirements.
- 4.3.6 If scores are equal at the end of regular time, a draw is recorded and each Team receives two (2) Competition points.

4.4 Finals Series Matches

- 4.4.1 The Finals Series format will be advised to Clubs and Independent Team managers by Ballina Netball Association via email and posted on the Ballina Netball Association website and social media pages prior to the commencement of the Finals Series.
- 4.4.2 Finals will not be played for Net or Set divisions. Finals will be played for Go division.
- 4.4.3 All players registered with a team are eligible to play in finals series matches for that team. A Borrowed Player who has played in three (3) or more minor round matches for a team, is also eligible to play for that team in finals series matches.
- 4.4.4 Finals Series Matches are individually timed and time will be added to the quarter if injury time is taken.
- 4.4.5 If the scores are equal at full time in a Finals Series match, extra time will be played.
 - (i) a three (3) minute interval will be taken.
 - (ii) play will commence and 2x 5 minute halves played, with a three (3) minute interval between
 - (iii) during all intervals, teams will change ends and may make substitutions
- 4.4.6 If the score is still equal at the end of extra time, the Umpire will indicate that play continues and the first Team to score a two (2) goal advantage will be declared the winner.

4.4.7 During extra time, normal injury or illness procedures shall apply, in accordance with INF rules.

4.5 Match Points

4.5.1 The competition shall be conducted on a point score basis

4.5.2 Points Table:

Win	Loss	Draw	Forfeit	Bye	Abandoned
3	1	2	3/0	0	2

4.5.3 At the conclusion of the Minor Round Matches, Teams will be ranked according to:

- (a) points awarded for a win, loss or draw as outlined in 4.5.2
- (b) in the event of Teams having the same level of points at the end of Minor Round Matches, the respective placing shall be determined by ranking the Teams according to the goal average.

The goal average for each team will be decided as follows:

$$\frac{\text{goals scored}}{\text{goals scored against}} \times \frac{100}{\text{matches played}^*}$$

** number of Matches played includes a Match the team has forfeited but does not include a Match where the team has received a forfeit.*

- (c) In a Division where Teams have an uneven number of byes, the Teams will be ranked according to match ratio first, then goal average.

4.5.4 In the event that due to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances a Match cannot be completed, and has been declared an abandoned Match, the following will apply:

- (a) A drawn result shall be declared if the match was stopped prior to half time. Each team involved in that Match will be awarded two (2) Competition points.
- (b) If the Match was stopped at or after half time, the result as per the scoresheet will be recorded as the final result.

4.6 Competition Results

4.6.1 Each Team is to provide one (1) non-participating scorer, aged 16 years or older, for each Match.

4.6.2 One (1) official from each Team is to tick the Players in attendance and sign the completed score sheet.

4.6.3 The winning team is to return the score sheet to control at the end of the Match.

4.6.4 No disputes will be entered into regarding scoresheets.

4.6.5 Match results and competition ladders for competitive divisions (11 years and older) will be published on Ballina Netball Association website

4.6.6 Match results for non-competitive divisions (10 years and under) will be published on Ballina Netball Association website. Competition ladders will not be published.

4.7 Mixed Teams

4.7.1 Up to three (4) male players can be on court at one time. Male players must play in positions in different thirds of the court. For example: GS or GA, WD or C or WA, GD or GK.

4.8 Borrowing Players

- 4.8.1 A Team may borrow player/s from the same or a lower Division, provided:
- (i) at least four (4) Players registered to the Team are on the court at all times during the Match
 - (ii) no more than 1 borrowed player is from the same division
- 4.8.2 A player may be borrowed, subject to the following conditions:
- (i) additional Match must be for a team from the same affiliated Club.
 - (ii) a maximum of five (5) Minor Round Matches can be played for any one (1) team that is not the team the Player is registered to play with
- 4.8.3 For the purposes of borrowing players, Independent teams are deemed to belong to the same 'Independent Club' and may borrow players from other Independent Teams subject to clauses 4.8.
- 4.8.4 For the purposes of borrowing players, Dual Registered players are deemed to belong to the grade and club of both Teams they are registered with and may be borrowed by any grade for which they are eligible. However, they may not play in more than 3 games per round.
- 4.8.5 Borrowed Players must be added to the scoresheet. This can not be rectified historically. If not entered on the day it will not count.
- 4.8.6 Clubs and Independent Team managers are responsible for ensuring that any Borrowed Player meets the requirements outlined in clause 4.8. If a team is found to have borrowed a player who does not meet the requirements in clause 4.8, they will receive no points for that match.

PENALTY: A team that uses a borrowed player that does not comply with clause 4.8, will not receive any points for the match and three (3) points will be awarded to the opposition.

4.9 Cancellations

- 4.9.1 When Matches are cancelled due to an event which Ballina Netball Association determines was beyond its control or beyond the control of either Team, Ballina Netball Association may reschedule the match to a spare round. If the Match is not rescheduled, the match will be deemed to be a draw and each Team will receive (2) competition points.
- 4.9.2 The [Netball NSW Adverse Weather Conditions Policy](#) will be referred to when making a decision on the continuation or suspension of any matches.
- 4.9.3 Decisions regarding cancellation of matches due to adverse weather will be made by the Committee Member/s on duty in consultation with the Umpire/s.

4.10 Awards

- 4.10.1 A trophy, medal or other gift will be presented to each player from the winning and runner up Team in each Division by Ballina Netball Association.
- 4.10.2 A trophy, medal or other gift will be presented to the Coach and Manager of the winner and runner up Team in each Division by Ballina Netball Association.

5. Team Officials

5.1 Coaches and Managers

- 5.1.1 Coaches must hold a current Working with Children check and be a current registered financial member of Netball NSW
- 5.1.2 Managers must hold a current Working with Children check

6 . Umpires

- 6.1.1 Umpires must be current registered financial members of Netball NSW
- 6.1.2 Ballina Netball Association will determine the umpiring format for the Competition and undertake the allocation of Umpires to all Matches.
- 6.1.3 The Umpiring roster will be posted to the Ballina Netball Association website and Facebook page prior to the day of Competition. Umpires may not swap their allocated matches without prior approval from the Umpire Coordinator.
- 6.1.4 Umpires will be paid by Ballina Netball Association according to their qualification. No further payment to Umpires by Clubs or Teams is permitted.
- 6.1.5 All umpires must be dressed in a white top/shirt.
- 6.1.6 Umpires must comply with the Umpire Coordinator's instructions at all times.