

**MORNINGTON PENINSULA NEPEAN
FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

NETBALL BY-LAWS

2016

CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Definitions and Interpretations | 3 |
| 2. Meetings | 3 |
| 3. Correspondence | 3 |
| 4. Sub Committees | 3 |
| 5. Club Officials and Annual Reports | 3 |
| 6. Fees | 4 |
| 7. Commencement Date | 4 |
| 8. Structure | 4 |
| 9. Club Championship | 5 |
| 10. Awards | 5 |
| 11. Conduct of Matches | 6 |
| 12. Grading | 6 |
| 13. Registrations and VNA Payments | 7 |
| 14. Match Entries | 7 |
| 15. Age Requirements | 7 |
| 16. Clearances | 7 |
| 17. Ineligible/Unregistered Players | 8 |
| 18. Forfeits | 8 |
| 19. Uniforms | 8 |
| 20. Officials | 9 |
| 21. Umpires | 10 |
| 22. Court | 11 |
| 23. Pre Match Checklist | 11 |
| 24. Netballs | 11 |
| 25. Finals | 11 |
| 26. Player Finals Eligibility | 12 |
| 27. Interleague | 12 |
| 28. Weather | 12 |
| 29. Code of Conduct | 13 |
| 30. Risk Management | 13 |
| 31. Stoppages - Blood Policy and Infectious Diseases | 13 |
| 32. Pregnancy | 13 |
| 33. Working with Children Check | 14 |
| 34. Photography and Videography | 14 |
| 35. Complaints and Protests | 15 |
| 36. Protests | 15 |
| 37. Alcohol – Under Age Players | 15 |
| 38. Drug Policy | 15 |
| 39. Social Media | 15 |
| 40. Harrassment and Discrimination | 15 |
| 41. Infringements | 16 |
| 42. Official League Function | 16 |
| 43. Fines | 16 |
| 44. Amendments to Rules | 16 |
| 45. Special Circumstance Clause | 16 |
| 46. Indemnity Clause | 17 |
| 47. Appendix A – Schedule of Fines | 17 |
| 48. Appendix B – Codes of Conduct | 18 |
| 49. Appendix C – Court Supervisor | 19 |

1. DEFINITIONS and INTERPRETATIONS

In these netball by-laws, the following definitions and provisions apply:

‘Club’ shall, for the purposes of these By-Laws only, mean and include such member clubs of the MPNFL that field netball teams in such netball competitions conducted by the MPNFL and netball associates of the MPNFL.

‘MPNFL’ Netball” means such netball competition(s) as are conducted by the Mornington Peninsula Nepean Football League.

‘League’ means the Mornington Peninsula Nepean Football League Incorporated. Where there is any conflict between these By-Laws or the Rules of the MPNFL, the Rules of the MPNFL shall apply.

In the event that any matter arises which is not provided for in the MPNFL Rules, these By-Laws, or in the Netball Victoria Rules, the MPNFL shall have discretion to determine such matter. Reference to the MPNFL herein shall include any person delegated the responsibility of administering the Netball Competition as employed by the MPNFL or elected onto the MPNFL Board.

2. MEETINGS

- (a) A minimum of Four (4) Netball Club Meetings will be held annually. All Clubs must be represented by at least one delegate at all Club Meetings.
- (b) A calendar of events will be prepared by the MPNFL and distributed to clubs annually, which will include a meeting schedule.
- (c) A reminder notice of meeting will be sent to clubs at least one (1) week prior to a MPNFL Netball meeting including Notice of Meeting, Minutes of Previous meeting and the Meeting Agenda.
- (d) Clubs must submit any Agenda items to the league at least one (1) week prior to a MPNFL Netball meeting.

Penalty - *Failure by a club to be represented at a meeting will incur a fine as set out in the Schedule of Fines.*

3. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence from a Club must be from the Club President, Secretary, or nominated committee member and addressed to the relevant MPNFL employee. All correspondence from the MPNFL will be addressed to the Club President, Secretary or nominated Club administrator.

4. SUB COMMITTEES

MPNFL may appoint sub-committees to assist MPNFL throughout the season. Clubs may be requested to nominate members to sit on these committees and members do not have to sever ties at Club level to be involved on these committees.

5. CLUB OFFICIALS AND ANNUAL REPORTS

- (a) All affiliated Clubs must, within fourteen (14) days of the holding of their Annual General Meeting, notify the MPNFL, in writing, of the names of all office bearers, their address, telephone number(s) and

email address. Clubs who are not associated with a football club or who present separate financial reports at their AGM, must also submit to MPNFL a copy of their audited Annual Report as presented at their Annual General Meeting no later than 28 February.

- (b) Clubs must inform the League of any change of personnel or changes of communication details for any individual listed, within seven (7) days of the change.

Penalty - *Failure to provide a copy of a clubs audited Annual Report will incur a fine as set out in the Schedule of Fines.*

6. FEES

- (a) Each affiliated Netball Club or associate Netball Club shall pay to the League an Annual Fees as is fixed by the MPNFL and is due fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the season.
- (b) Payments can be made by direct deposit to the MPNFL Bank Account and must include the club name as a reference or by cheque made payable to MPNFL.

Penalty - *Failure to pay these fees will incur a fine set out in the Schedule of Fines*

7. COMMENCEMENT DATE

The date of commencement and duration of the season shall be determined by the MPNFL and shall be presented to the member clubs no later than the date of the Annual General Meeting.

8. STRUCTURE

The MPNFL consists of two Leagues: Nepean Football and Netball League and Peninsula Football and Netball League. Grades in each League shall be decided upon by the League on an annual basis and any other competitions as determined the MPNFL.

Clubs of the MPNFL Netball consist of the following Junior and Senior teams;

SENIORS

A Grade
B Grade
C Grade
D Grade

JUNIORS

17 & Under

Matches will be conducted under the following scheduled time frames;

PENINSULA

| Grade | Start Time | Quarter Length | Intervals |
|---------|------------|----------------|-----------|
| A Grade | 1.40pm | 4 x 15 minutes | 3 – 5 – 3 |
| B Grade | 12.20pm | 4 x 15 minutes | 3 – 5 – 3 |
| C Grade | 11.00am | 4 x 15 minutes | 3 – 5 – 3 |
| D Grade | 10.00am | 4 x 12 minutes | 2 – 3 – 2 |

NEPEAN

| Grade | Start Time | Quarter Length | Intervals |
|---------|------------|----------------|-----------|
| A Grade | 1.25pm | 4 x 15 minutes | 3 – 5 – 3 |
| B Grade | 12.05pm | 4 x 15 minutes | 3 – 5 – 3 |
| C Grade | 11.00am | 4 x 12 minutes | 2 – 3 – 2 |

9. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Club teams to be given points for wins during the season. The club finishing with the most points shall be declared Club Champions and shall be presented with a Trophy to recognise this achievement.

Points system:

| | |
|---------|----------|
| A Grade | 3 points |
| B Grade | 2 Points |
| C Grade | 1 points |
| D Grade | 1 Point |
| 17s | 1 point |

NOTE - ½ points for a draw

10. AWARDS

MPNFL shall award a medal for the 'Best and Fairest' and 'Runners Up' player in each grade of the netball competition each year. The voting for the League Best and Fairest Award/s shall be determined as follows;

- (a) At the conclusion of each home and away match, the umpires shall award three (3) votes to the player considered to be the best and fairest player in the match; two (2) votes to the player considered to be the second best and fairest; one (1) vote to the player considered to be the third best and fairest.
- (b) In the event of a tie for first place in a Best and Fairest Award, the award shall be shared and no count back shall apply.
- (c) MPNFL shall also make an award available for the Most Valuable Player (MVP) in the A Grade competition. This will be voted by the opposing A Grade coach each round.
- (d) In the Under 17s Competition, Umpires will nominate two players from each team for a 'Spirit of Sport' Medal, scoring in the categories of Fairness and Performance. These medals and a Certificate will be presented to the winning player by a member of Victoria Police.
- (e) A Sharp Shooter Award shall be presented to the player scoring the highest amount of goals in each grade.
- (f) Any player who is found guilty of a charge by the MPNFL Tribunal during the home and away matches shall be ineligible to win any MPNFL award for that season.
- (g) Other awards may be presented annually pursuant to such guidelines and voting system, as may be determined by the MPNFL.
- (h) Grand Final winners will receive a trophy, flag and medallion. Best on court will receive a Best on Court medallion. Runners Up shall receive a medallion.

11. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

- (a) The rules of play in netball matches shall be those of Netball Australia.
- (b) All matches shall be played as arranged in the fixture by MPNFL, however competing teams may with approval by MPNFL and by mutual agreement, play on a court or a time more convenient than that selected in fixtures.

- (c) In consultation with the umpires, competing teams may, by mutual agreement, alter the duration of quarters or breaks due to extenuating circumstances.
- (d) At the conclusion of each round of home and away matches, MPNFL shall prepare a ladder for each grade and in addition to awarding 4 points for each win, forfeit or bye and 2 points for a draw, shall also prepare a percentage table comparing the total points scored by each team against the total points scored against each team.
- (e) In the event that selection for the finals series is between teams with the same number of points, the team with the highest percentage will be entitled to participate in the finals series ahead of a team with the lower percentage points.
- (f) In the event that teams are level on points and percentage at the conclusion of the home and away matches, the higher position on the ladder shall be determined in the following manner: the team that has scored the most points 'for' shall be awarded the higher position on the ladder. In the event that the teams cannot be separated as in the team that has recorded the most 'away wins' shall be awarded the higher position on the ladder. In the event that the teams cannot be separated, the effected teams shall compete in a 'play off' match under such conditions as the MPNFL deems appropriate.

12. GRADING

- (a) All clubs must field teams in all Grades of their respective competitions as determined annually. Should a Club be unable to field a team in any of these grades, a letter to MPNFL prior to 21 days of the competition start date is to be sent for further consultation.
- (b) Should team re-grading be required, a team may 'carry' its premiership points (if any) to the higher or lower grade but not its percentage.
- (c) Junior players eligible to play in the Junior competition may play only **one** senior **game** per day (including finals) and remain eligible to participate in their own age group. Junior players must play a minimum of three (3) games in their respective Junior age group to be eligible to participate in the finals competition.
- (d) Junior or Senior Players who were selected/played the previous year or are currently playing/selected during the season to play in either the:
 - : Victorian Open team, Victorian 21 & under team, Victorian 19 & under team
 - : Victorian Netball League or National League (All Divisions)

SHALL only be permitted to play in "A" Grade in the MPNFL Netball Competition.

- (e) Junior players may continue in their respective age group competition.
- (f) Where a player (junior or senior) has played six (6) or more **games** in any grade, she is then ineligible to play in a lower grade (including finals).

13. REGISTRATIONS and VNA PAYMENTS

- (a) All players, coaches and umpires must be a current Netball Victoria Member **prior to the commencement** of the MPNFL season. The Club Administrator shall be responsible for ensuring all VNA payments for every player are received MPNFL at least one (1) week prior to the commencement

of their clubs Round 1 scheduled match. VNA payments can be made to MPFNL via direct debit, credit card, cheque or cash.

- (b) All players of the MPNFL must be registered to their club of that year **before taking the court** on Match Day.
- (c) Team selections must be entered for each game prior to the commencement of the game.

***Penalty** – Failure to do so will result in player/coach/umpire being ineligible to participate in the match and may be subject to the Unregistered/Ineligible penalties.*

14. MATCH ENTRIES

Each club is responsible for updating their own team changes that differ from their pre-game selections and the Home Team is responsible for entering the scores on My Netball by 6pm on Match Day. Disputes by either team are to be lodged no later than 9am Monday of the following week via My Netball.

***Penalty** - Failure to do so will result in the club receiving a fine as set out in the Schedule of Fines as determined by MPNFL.*

15. AGE REQUIREMENTS

Junior: Minimum age - 14 years old as at 1 January in the competition year being played
 Maximum age - cannot turn 18 in the competition year being played (1/1 to 31/12)

Senior: 15 years old as at 1 January in the competition year being played

The Senior and Junior competitions are considered separate and as such, qualifications are recognised individually.

16. CLEARANCES

- (a) A clearance is required if a Senior or Junior player requests to play with another Club within the MPNFL which is administered through My Netball.
- (b) Notification of clearances will be forwarded to the receiving club via automatic email generated by My Netball. Clubs must ensure that their email addresses are up to date on My Netball. A player cannot commence playing for the new club until the clearance has been granted nor are they to be registered with the club until the clearance has been granted by all parties.
- (c) A player shall not be granted more than one clearance in any one (1) season except in exceptional circumstances. A clearance shall not be granted after 30 June in any one season. Players who owe outstanding playing fees or are in possession of club property may not be granted a clearance.
- (d) If a response has not been received from the club after 5 days, the MPNFL will make a determination from the application.

***Penalty** – Where a player takes part in any match without an approved clearance she is deemed an ineligible player.*

17. INELIGIBLE/UNREGISTERED PLAYERS

In the event that the MPNFL substantiates that any player has played without first having been granted the necessary registration, clearance and or permit, ineligible due to age group, or any other breach to play required under these rules, and is therefore deemed ineligible, the club with which the player concerned has

played may submit a written explanation outlining the reason to the MPNFL for consideration following completion of the match. The club may be subject to:

If the club wins the game:

- i. Fine not exceeding \$250.00
- ii. Loss of match points
- iii. Loss of all points For pertaining to that game
- iv. And maybe subject to further penalty as determined by MPNFL

If the club loses the game:

- i. Fine not exceeding \$250.00
- ii. Loss of all points For pertaining to that game
- iii. And maybe subject to further penalty as determined by the MPNFL

18. FORFEITS and NON FIELDING SIDES

- (a) Notification of a forfeit must be given to the opposing club before 9pm on the Friday night prior to playing the match. In the event of a forfeit, the offending team will be awarded nil (0) premiership points and a nil (0) to twenty (20) score and will incur a fine as set out in the Schedule of Fines. The non-offending, opposing team will be awarded four (4) premiership points, club championship points and twenty (20) goals to nil score.
- (b) In the event of an un-notified forfeit, the offending team shall receive a fine as set out in the Schedule of Fines.
- (c) Opposing teams will be able to submit a player list for the forfeited match for player qualification purposes.

19. UNIFORMS

- (a) The Secretary of each club shall register the club uniform and club colours with the MPNFL, for approval before being adopted. A uniform is to comprise suitable netball attire – bodysuit with skirt, skirt, shirt, club socks and appropriate sports briefs.
- (b) Where a team's uniform colours are similar, the home team will wear their home bibs and the away team must change to another suitable colour.
- (c) Three (3) matches are allowed at the beginning of the season for teams to be fielded in their correct uniform.
- (d) Players shall not be permitted to wear leotards or tracksuits. Gloves are only permitted for medical purposes and require a medical letter to be submitted to the MPNFL for approval.

Penalty - Any MPNFL player out of uniform after the third match shall receive a fine as set out in the Schedule of Fines as determined by the MPNFL

- (e) No jewellery is permitted with the exception of a wedding ring which must be taped. A medical bracelet is acceptable and must be adequately covered.

- (f) A player is not permitted to play in a match with apparel or protective equipment which may cause injury to themselves or opponents. Approval for specialised protective equipment is to be sought in writing to MPNFL with documentation supporting the necessity of the equipment and the length of time needed to be worn.

20. OFFICIALS

- (a) The officials of the game shall be the scorers, a timekeeper, primary carers, court supervisor and the umpires.
- (b) Each team must be accompanied by a scorer and the home team is to provide a timekeeper and two time clocks.
- (c) The scorers must act together. Player positions are to be entered onto the scoresheet prior to the commencement of the game, whenever a positional change is made, and for each quarter. Scorers must verify the scores, after each goal, at interval and at the end of each match. Scorers are to record each centre pass.
- (d) No one under the age of 15 may score or time keep. Each junior scorer must be accompanied by a responsible senior over 18 at all times.
- (e) Timekeepers at ten (10) seconds to go, **MUST FOLLOW THE NEAREST UMPIRE** and notify him/her when the quarter has ended. At intervals timekeepers must notify umpires when thirty (30) seconds and then (10) seconds remains prior to the start of the game, the end of an interval or a stoppage.
- (f) All players' names must be recorded on the score sheet prior to the commencement of the game. Any player who does not take the court shall be deemed as not played and is to be deleted from the Team sheet by placing a line through their name.
- (g) In the event that a non-listed player on the scoresheet takes the court, as soon the umpire is notified and the infringement confirmed, the player is to leave the court immediately. A free pass is awarded to the non-offending team where the ball was when played stopped. The vacant position can be filled by a player listed on the scoresheet, after a goal, interval or injury and the infringing player may not participate for the remainder of the game.
- (h) Captains, Scorers and Umpires are to sign the score sheet.
- (i) Club Secretaries of each team are to ensure the official score sheet is completed and all names correct. All players must appear on the scoresheet as they appear on My Netball and registered with MPNFL. Club Secretaries have until the third round to correct any errors in My Netball.
- (j) Players who marry throughout the season are to play under the same name as registered with MPNFL and Netball Victoria at the beginning of the season.

Penalty – *Should a player take the court that is not named on the score sheet or incorrect names appear on score sheets, either Given or Surname, the offending team will receive a fine as set out in the Schedule of Fines.*

- ~~(k)~~ The secretary of the home team only shall forward the envelope containing the score sheets, ensuring full names of players and signatures of captain, scorers and umpires, MVP cards, umpire votes, match reports and match day checklist to MPFNL by 9.00am Monday.
- (l) **Primary Carers** – Each team's Primary Carer must be identifiable by wearing a first-aid armband or vest and be a suitably trained and competent primary carer. A Team Manager may be a Primary Carer.

(m) Court Supervisor – Refer to Appendix C for responsibilities

(n) No one may consume or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs whilst officiating.

Penalty - the offending club and/or official will receive a fine as set out in the Schedule of Fines as determined by MPNFL

21. UMPIRES

(a) All umpires must have their credentials up to date and have their VNA paid prior to umpiring in the MPNFL competition.

(b) An umpire may not play in the game in which she is respectively officiating.

(c) All umpires are to be dressed in white and skirt for females and shorts for males (no trousers or leggings) and player club tops are not to be worn.

(d) Each club is to encourage to have two (2) members to complete the Netball Victoria umpires theory exam and Level One on line course.

(e) An umpire may not umpire more than two consecutive MPNFL matches on any given day except in exceptional circumstances. Approval from the MPNFL must be obtained for more than 2 games to be officiated by an umpire.

(f) Preference will be given to umpires from outside the pool of MPNFL umpires for finals. The MPNFL may select badged umpires from within MPNFL who have been talent identified and hold a minimum B badge.

(g) An umpire must not criticise or coach any team while a competition match is in progress. Umpires shall adhere to Netball Australia's Code of Conduct. Disciplinary action may be taken by the MPNFL for an umpire's action that is deemed inappropriate.

(h) In the situation where a club umpire does not attend for a game:

- i. the offending team has the opportunity to supply an alternative umpire in a reasonable time; or
- ii. the non-offending team may provide the umpire if able; or
- iii. Failing all attempts to find a replacement, the team that has failed to supply the umpire will forfeit the match
- iv. Where this is a panel umpire, the MPNFL will consult with both clubs.

Penalty – For i. ii. or iii the club will receive a fine as set out in the Schedule of Fines as determined by the MPNFL

22. COURTS

(a) All club courts are to be situated outdoors, as the MPNFL is an outdoor competition. It has been resolved that due to the unavailability of some suitable local outdoor courts, clubs may apply to the MPNFL to play at an indoor venue. Each Club will endeavour to play their home matches within the confines of, or as close as possible to the ground where their Football Club is playing.

(b) Each home Club will be responsible for providing a court in fit condition, correct court markings & safe to play on which must be approved by MPNFL & Netball Victoria.

- (c) Goalposts must be padded the full length of the goal post and nets must be provided for all goal rings except where clubs are required to hire courts.
- (d) A scoreboard capable of clearly showing the names of the competing teams and scores shall be supplied and operated by the home club and courts shall be marked in accordance with the Rules of Netball.

Penalty – Failure to comply will result in a fine set out in the Schedule of Fines as determined by the MPNFL

23. PRE-MATCH CHECKLIST

- (a) A pre-match checklist is available via the Netball Victoria website and must be completed prior to all MPNFL matches by the home team in conjunction with the away team.
- (b) Any hazards identified will be documented, rectified if possible, reported to the appropriate agency (local council, reserve Committee) if major repair is required.

24. NETBALLS

For all home & Away matches, the home club shall provide a suitable Netball approved by MPNFL with the League sponsors logo. A spare netball shall be kept with the Timekeeper during the match.

25. FINALS

The control of all finals, including the allocation of courts, shall be determined by the MPNFL. ~~Board.~~

At the conclusion of home and away matches, there will be a final four.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Week One | 1 st Semi Final 3 rd v 4 th 2 nd Semi Final 1 st v 2 nd |
| Preliminary Final | Loser 2 nd Semi v Winner 1 st Semi |
| Grand Final | Winner 2 nd Semi v Winner Preliminary |

- (a) In the event of teams being level on points at the conclusion of home and away matches, the position shall be determined by the percentage of goals scored for and against.
- (b) To be eligible to participate in finals, clubs must pay all Football and Netball monies outstanding to MPNFL, MDSS, Netball Victoria and AFL Victoria.
- (c) MPNFL to supply the netballs for the finals series. The winning team of the Grand Final will receive the match ball.
- (d) In the event of a draw in a final, at the end of the game when scores are tied there is a two (2) minute break during which time there may be substitution and/or team changes.

- (i) At the end of the two (2) minute break, there shall be a further 2 x 5 minute halves played for 15 minute games and 2 x 3 minute halves for 12 minute games. The Centre Pass is taken by the team entitled to the next Centre Pass.
- (ii) There is a 1 minute interval at half time and teams change ends.
- (iii) **During both of these intervals substitutions and team changes can be made.**
- (iv) In the event of a draw remaining at the end of extra time, play shall continue until one team has a two (2) goal advantage. No substitutions or team changes are allowed.

26. PLAYER FINALS ELIGIBILITY

- (a) A player must play six (6) matches for their club on separate days to be eligible to participate in finals.
- (b) Players who qualified in a lower grade are permitted to play in a higher grade for their club in a final on the same day or weekend.
- (c) A junior player playing in the senior competition during the home and away season must play 3 games in their junior age grade to be eligible to participate in the junior finals series.
- (d) Grading eligibility is considered part of finals qualification.
- (e) Teams found playing an ineligible player during finals will be considered to have lost that match.

27. INTERLEAGUE

The MPNFL participates in interleague or representative competitions involving the Peninsula and Nepean netball competitions. The MPNFL will invite awarded Best and Fairest, MVP and Team of Year players to represent the respective Leagues and other players clubs may wish to nominate.

28. WEATHER

- (a) In the event of inclement weather in home and away matches, the umpires shall decide whether the court is fit for play.
- (b) A court is not fit for play in the event that lightning is visible at the venue of the court or its immediate vicinity. Play must be suspended in such circumstances. Umpires shall endeavour to resume play as soon as possible once the lightning risk is considered by the umpires to have abated.
- (c) If play has been commenced and then the game abandoned prior to half time, two (2) points will be awarded to each team. If play has commence and then the game is abandoned after half time, the score will stand.

29. CODE OF CONDUCT

- (a) The MPNFL adopts the Codes of Behaviour as prescribed in the Netball Victoria Member Protection Regulation for all players, coaches, umpires, administrators, officials, parents/guardians, and spectators in relation to the MPNFL Netball Competition.

- (b) Club officials, coaches and/or captains are expected to discourage, counsel and administer the necessary action for unsportsmanlike or inappropriate behavior. For serious misconduct, the MPNFL may refer the matter to the League Investigation Officer.

30. RISK MANAGEMENT

Injury Reporting

Clubs are responsible for recording all injuries on an Injury Reporting Form (refer to MPNFL Website or Netball Victoria) and all players in an MPNFL representative team are responsible for recording all injuries at the on the Injury Reporting Form.

First Aid

Each club shall provide a First Aid Kit which will be stored in an easily accessible location and all appropriate personnel (court supervisor, primary carers, umpires and coaches) will have access to it.

31. STOPPAGES - BLOOD POLICY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The MPNFL adopts Sports Medicine Australia's Infectious Diseases and Blood Policy and Guidelines that is endorsed by Netball Australia. References:

<http://sma.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/infdisdisease.pdf>

http://sma.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Blood_rulesOK-booklet.pdf

<http://netball.com.au/our-game/basic-rules-of-netball/>

32. PREGNANCY

MPNFL adopts Netball Australia's Policy and Guidelines for women participating in netball whilst pregnant. MPNFL recommends that each player carefully considers the risks and their physical wellbeing to themselves and their unborn child, and seeks regular medical advice throughout their pregnancy if choosing to play netball in the MPNFL competition.

Netball Australia's Policy Extract

Netball Australia is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable environment for all its members, including pregnant players. Netball Australia encourages all pregnant players to discuss their decision to continue playing during their pregnancy with their medical practitioner.

The following guidelines may assist clubs/ associations when a pregnant player is involved:

A Pregnant Player should be aware that her own health, and the wellbeing of her unborn child, is of utmost importance in her decision about whether to continue playing sport.

Obtain expert medical advice as to the risks associated with playing sport when pregnant. She should ensure she understands this advice and where necessary question the advice until she is sure she understands the risks taken in participating in Netball.

Have regular antenatal reviews with her doctor, including ongoing review of her exercise participation. Take into account her changed physical condition, use common sense and not take unnecessary risks. Remember that the ultimate decision to participate in Netball will always be hers, whilst having regard to all the circumstances

33. WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

This is applicable to all persons working with Juniors up to the age of 18. It is a mandatory By Law for all officials to obtain this check if they undertake any of the following roles:

Club personnel including coaches, primary carers etc appointed or seeking appointment for reward

- (ii) Volunteer personnel who will or are likely to travel away overnight with teams of players under 18 years of age
- (iii) Persons appointed or seeking appointment to a role in which that person is likely to have individual and unsupervised contact with players Under 18 years of age

The Working with Children Check Application is online at:
<http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren/>

All junior coaches and officials associated with the MPNFL require a current working with children check and associated clubs will need to have a photocopy of the card on file.

34. PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

- (a) Most people taking photos at sporting events are doing so for acceptable reasons and are using appropriate methods, for example, a parent videoing their child at a sports presentation or photographing their child on the field during play or a professional photographer taking photos for a Club. Where a sporting event is held on a Club's private property, privately owned land, a school or council owned facilities, the owner of private property or venue is able to restrict, ban or require permission of photography/videoing anywhere in their venue. (*Reference: Australian Sports Commission Website*)
- (b) MPNFL employs photographers to attend various ground locations and these photos are placed in the weekly record and on the MPNFL website. These photos are available to all clubs and players for purchase. Where players, clubs or parents of juniors request photos to not be taken, this needs to be submitted in writing to MPNFL or a requested to the MPNFL photographer on the day. Official League photographers are identified by MPNFL endorsed Media vests.

Videography

The requesting club is to complete the 'Request to Video Form' and submit to MPNFL a minimum of 48 hours prior to the scheduled match. Approval is required from the following parties before permission will be granted: the opposing team, venue proprietors (if applicable), parents of any players under the age of 18. Still shots (photos) are permitted. MPNFL will then confirm approval for the videoing to occur in writing to the requesting club.

Penalty – *For any of the above, the club will receive a fine as set out in the Schedule of Fines and further action that may be deemed necessary by the Board.*

35. COMPLAINTS and PROTESTS

- (a) A club may lodge a complaint or protest resulting from a match played in the MPNFL Netball competition for consideration to the MPNFL in writing within forty eight (48) hours of the conclusion of the last match when in the incident occurred.
- (b) If the matter requires investigating, a fee of \$250 must accompany a protest.

- (c) All protests will be referred to an Investigation Officer who will commence the investigation within 7 days of the matter being referred to the MPNFL, unless an extension is requested.
- (d) All parties will be kept informed to the progress of the protest and receive the final outcome in writing. All protests will be finalised within 30 days unless the matter requires a more timely response.

36. ALCOHOL – UNDER AGE PLAYERS

The MPNFL may fine a club or impose penalties for any player/s under 18 years of age who drink alcoholic beverages within the precincts of clubrooms and/or grounds.

37. DRUG POLICY

The MPNFL prohibits the use of performance enhancing substances and views any such use as detrimental to both the sport of netball and the spirit of the game.

For more information please refer to Netball Australia's Anti-Doping Policy

<http://netball.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Netball-Australia-Anti-Doping-Policy-effective-1-Jan-2015.pdf>

***Penalty** - the offending player will receive a fine as set out in the Schedule of Fines and as determined by the MPNFL Further action may apply by government agencies and/or suspension by an independent tribunal.*

38. SOCIAL MEDIA

Any player, official or club affiliate found to utilise a social media outlet to degrade, abuse, or defame another person, club or league associate or staff member will be subject to a fine, suspension and/or other penalties as deemed appropriate by the MPNFL

Please refer to website www.playbytherules.net.au for information pertaining to social media standards and guidelines.

39. HARRASSMENT & DISCRIMINATION

Any player, official or club affiliate found to discriminate or harass another person, club or league associate or staff member will be subject to a fine, suspension and/or other penalties as deemed appropriate by the MPNFL They may also be referred to other governing bodies for further investigation.

Refer to the Equal Opportunities Act 2010, www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au and www.playbytherules.net.au

40. INFRINGEMENTS

Clubs will be notified by MPNFL if they have infringed the rules or by-laws as soon as the League becomes aware of the breach. The offending club may be subject to a fine as set out in the Schedule of Fines or further penalties as applicable.

41. OFFICIAL LEAGUE FUNCTION

A Club shall not conduct a function on the same date as an official MPNFL Function. This shall include, but not be limited to, the Annual Presentation Dinner, MPNFL and/or League or Netball Vote Counting Night/s.

Penalty - Will incur a fine as set out in the Schedule of Fines as determined by the MPNFL ~~Board~~.

42. FINES

- (a) The MPNFL shall be empowered to issue fines in accordance with these By-Laws and the Statement of Rules.
- (b) All fines stated in the Rules and By-Laws shall be automatically levied, however, Clubs wishing to appeal against such fines shall do so in writing to the MPNFL
- (c) The MPNFL shall have the authority to confirm, reduce, amend or withdraw such fine. The decision of the MPNFL shall be final.

Refer to Appendix A.

43. AMENDMENTS TO RULES

Any direction from Netball Victoria or Netball Australia or amendments to the Rules of Netball shall automatically be amended and communicated to clubs.

44. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE CLAUSE

- (a) Where a by-law is silent or absent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the MPNFL Netball Competition is maintained at all times.
- (b) The MPNFL may, in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in these by-laws relating to the MPNFL, after first consulting with Members and relevant governing bodies.

45. INDEMNITY CLAUSE

Except where provided or required by law and such cannot be excluded, the MPNFL and its respective Directors, Officers, Members, Servants or Agents are absolved from all liability however arising from injury or damage, however caused, arising whilst participating as a member.

APPENDIX - A

MPNFL NETBALL BY-LAWS

Schedule of Fines

| BY-LAW | OFFENCE | AMOUNT |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| 2 | Non-attendance at MPNFL Meeting | \$50 |
| 5 | Non submission of Annual Report | \$250 |
| 6 | Non-payment of Affiliation Fees | \$250 |
| 11,12,13,20 | Playing ineligible player | Up to \$250 |
| 11 | Non registered players, coaches and/or umpires | \$100 |
| 20 | Failure to comply with official duties | \$25 |
| 20 | Failure to lodge paperwork by the due time | \$100 |
| 20 | Failure to upload match details online by 6pm on match day | \$50 |
| 21 | Failure to comply with court requirements (per offence) | \$50 |
| 26 | Failure to comply – Notification of Forfeit | \$25 |
| 26 | Failure to comply – Un-notified Forfeit | \$50 |
| 27 | Incorrectly dressed Umpires | \$25 |
| 27 | Umpire non attendance | \$50 |
| 29 | Incorrectly dressed player (after Round 3) | \$50 |
| 35 | Failing to attend training/play for Interleague/Representative side without due notice | \$50 |
| 38 | Under Age Drinking – club | \$100 |
| 39 | Performance enhancing drug use | \$100 |
| 42 | Holding a Club function on same day as an Official League | \$200 |

APPENDIX - B
CODES OF CONDUCT

<http://vic.netball.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2013/09/INFONET-COB-General.pdf>

<http://vic.netball.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2013/09/INFONET-COB-JuniorPlayer.pdf>

<http://vic.netball.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2013/09/INFONET-COB-Player.pdf>

<http://vic.netball.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2013/09/INFONET-COB-Coach.pdf>

<http://vic.netball.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2013/09/INFONET-COB-Umpire.pdf>

<http://vic.netball.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2013/09/INFONET-COB-Administrator.pdf>

<http://vic.netball.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2013/09/INFONET-COB-ParentGuardian.pdf>

<http://vic.netball.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2013/09/INFONET-COB-Spectator.pdf>

APPENDIX - C

NETBALL COURT SUPERVISOR

Role of the Court Supervisor

- This position will be the responsibility of the home club except during the finals series where it will be undertaken by MPNFL
- The appointed person may change for each game but not during the game
- The appointed person must be familiar with the rules and bylaws, and is mature and competent to make decisions relating to safety on the day
- The appointed person shall act in an unbiased manner at all times
- The appointed person must not be involved in any other role while acting as Court Supervisor
- The appointed person must remain court side for the duration of the game
- The appointed person is to wear the supplied High Visual vest
- The appointed person will act with the approval and authority of the MPNFL

Duties of the court Supervisor

- The Court Supervisor must ensure that the Pre Game checklist is filled in correctly and by a member of both teams
- Ensure time keepers are in place and aware of the rules and their responsibilities
- Ensure Scorers are in place and aware of the rules and their responsibilities
- Ensure Coaches and team members remain in the designated bench areas
- Ensure Primary Carers are clearly identifiable with vest or armband
- Attend to and resolve spectators and parents behaviour
- Address any officials, off court players and coaches conduct
- Should an umpire not be in attendance, the Court Supervisor is to contact the Umpire Coordinator and/or an MPNFL representative for guidance of an agreed resolution. If neither can be reached, the decision of the court supervisor will be deemed to be that of the MPNFL.
- Ensure the safety of umpires
- Ensure the court side is clear for umpire movement during play
- Ensure a copy of the MPNFL by laws are available court side

- Ensure all rules of Netball Victoria and by laws of the MPNFL are adhered to and administered fairly and without bias