



ALBERTON FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE INC.

NETBALL BY-LAWS

Revised January 2020

1. REGISTRATION & ACCREDITATION

- (a) A player must be registered with a Club, the League and Netball Victoria before taking the court for official competition with the Club of their choice. Penalty – loss of four (4) Premiership points from the grade in which such unregistered player participated.
- (b) A coach must be registered with a Club, the League and Netball Victoria before round one (1) of competition.
- (c) A club must supply a list of coaches for all grades and age groups to the AFNL Board of Management prior to the commencement of round one (1).
- (d) All club coaches must have a minimum of Foundation Accreditation from Netball Victoria. All A Grade coaches must have a minimum of Development Accreditation from Netball Victoria. These qualifications must be obtained by Round Six (6). If not, these coaches are unable to continue coaching. A penalty fine of \$100.00 per coach, per game, will apply.

2. CLEARANCES

- (a) Clearance is required if a player wishes to transfer to another Club within Alberton FNL during the current season. (Not Applicable to 11 & Unders playing for the opposition)
- (b) Clearance applications close at 30th June.
- (c) No player will be granted more than one (1) clearance per season.
- (d) Clearances should be handled between Clubs concerned and League Coordinator notified of outcome.
- (e) Clubs have seven (7) days after written clearance application is received to grant clearance.
- (f) Players who owe outstanding playing fees or are in possession of Club property (uniform, equipment) will not be granted a clearance.
- (g) Two (2) Premiership points penalty will be incurred if playing a player without a clearance in each grade said player plays.
- (h) Any dispute arising from clearance restrictions will be dealt with by the AFNL Board of Management.
- (i) Games played carry over for finals eligibility if changing Clubs mid-season.

3. UNIFORMS

- (a) All teams to be in registered uniform.
- (a) The Secretary of each Club shall register any variation of the colours of their team uniform, including bib, shirt, skirt, dress, sports nicks and socks. Application to be made to the Board of Management.
- (c) No Club shall make any change in colours or uniform of its team during the season without obtaining permission from the Board of Management.
- (d) All Clubs will have sports nicks, dark or matching their uniform and in suitable material. Bikini pants/Boxer shorts are not acceptable. If suitable pants are not worn, the offending player may be ordered from the court until such is obtained.
- (e) **No** gloves to be worn without permission from the Board of Management.
- (f) No jewellery or body piercing may be worn on the Netball Court. A wedding ring is accepted if taped. Braids or plaits or dangerous hair pieces including plastic headbands are not allowed to be worn.
- (g) Uniform for 11 & Under is to be black skirt/shorts and white top or club colours.
- (h) UMPIRES: All umpires must be dressed in predominantly white uniform (see By-Law 14).

4. BOOKS AND ACCOUNTS

- (a) The League Coordinator shall keep the minutes of each League meeting for distribution to all member clubs.
- (b) The League Coordinator and/or Treasurer shall accept all monies on behalf of the League.
- (c) The League Coordinator shall keep a record of all the scores and teams.
- (d) The financial year of the League shall be from Annual General Meeting to Annual General Meeting.

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR MATCH DAY

- (a) The Alberton Football Netball Board of Management shall arrange the draw. All matches of the League shall be played on a Saturday or as is dictated by the draw at the same location as the Football.
- (b) Match day checklist to be completed before the start of play for the day by two (2) officials. One from each club participating on the day.
- (c) Matches will start at:

A Grade	2:30 pm
B Grade	1:15 pm
C Grade	12:15 pm
17 & Under	11:15 am
15 & Under	10:25 am
13 & Under	9:35 am
11 & Under	9:00 am

If Clubs do not have all their teams, games automatically start at the later time unless mutually agreed by both clubs by Thursday night. A Grade will always start at 2:30 pm.

- (d) Timing of games:

11&Under – Four (4) x seven (7) minute quarters with a one (1) minute break between each quarter. The half time break will be two (2) minutes.

13 & 15&Under – Four (4) x ten (10) minute quarters with a two (2) minute break between each quarter.

17&Under & C Grade - Consist of four (4) twelve (12) minute quarters with a two (2) minute break between each quarter.

A & B Grade - Consist of four (4) fifteen (15) minute quarters with a two (2) minute break between each quarter. The halftime break will be five (5) minutes.

If both teams agree, less time between each quarter is permissible.

- (e) Late start one (1) goal per minute will be awarded to the attending team at the discretion of the umpires.
- (f) Points are awarded as follows:

Win	- 4 Points
Draw	- 2 Points
Forfeit	- 4 Points plus 20 goals
Abandonment	- 2 Points to both sides
Bye	- 0 Points
Non fielded	- 4 Points plus 20 goals
- (g) There shall be no points awarded for 11&Under matches. Scores are to be kept for the purpose of tracking interchanges and centre passes but not displayed on match day. 11&Under will not play a finals series.
- (h) Clubs should make all reasonable efforts to field teams in all grades of the Alberton Football Netball League. If a Club is unable to field all senior grades the order of teams fielded shall be from higher grade (A Grade) to lower grade (C Grade).
 - (i) If a Club needs special consideration they are required to apply in writing to the Board of Management, have it approved by the Board of Management and a recommendation will be made.
- (i) A Club may withdraw its lowest Senior Grade or any Junior team if experiencing difficulties fielding said side. This must be done by Round Seven of season without incurring penalties of forfeit ruling. Games played before the withdrawal become a non-fielded game with points and percentages adjusted accordingly.
- (j) A player may play more than one match in a day.
- (k) The number of games played in a higher grade shall be seven (7) with the 8th game forfeiting eligibility for any lower grade.
- (l) 17&Under and 15&Under players (ineligible for 13&Under & 11&Under) may play unlimited games in A Grade whilst returning to play in their own grade level.
- (m) Games are not to commence until there is an umpire for both sides of the court, two (2) umpires. If a team cannot supply an umpire a player from that team must umpire.
- (n) A coach MAY NOT umpire and coach their team on the same day.

6. FORFEITS

- (a) Where a match results in a forfeit prior to the match clock starting, the non-offending team will:
 - (i) Be awarded the four (4) premiership points with match scores of twenty to zero (20-0);
 - (ii) Credit games to only seven (7) nominated players on the official score sheet for finals qualifications;
 - (iii) No games shall be credited to players of the offending team;
 - (iv) In the event of a forfeit in a senior grade, a lower team from the Club must be forfeited before a higher team.

- (b) Where a match results in a forfeit after the commencement of the match clock starting:
 - (i) The result of the match will be twenty to zero (20-0) if the forfeiture is caused by the winning team.
 - (ii) The score of the winning team or 20-0 (whichever is greater) will stand if the forfeiture is caused by the losing team. The losing team will be stripped of its score and credited with zero (0).
 - (iii) No games shall be credited to players of the offending team.
- (c) A team forfeiting a match must:
 - (i) Notify the League Coordinator in writing within seven (7) days the reason for the forfeit.
 - (ii) A penalty of \$50 will apply and cheque must accompany letter.
 - (iv) Opposing Club Official must also be notified as soon as practicable.
 - (v) Once the decision to forfeit a Grade has been made it shall be final.

Note: Also refer to By-Law 5(f).

7. AGE GROUP STIPULATIONS

- (a) Players in the restricted age competition must be of that age or younger as of the 31st December in the year they are playing to qualify for said age group.
- (b) In the 13&Under age group, boys are eligible to play but cannot play if they have turned 13 during the season. There is no limit to the number of boys who can play as long as they meet the age requirement.
- (c) In 2020 only, the 15&Under competition will be a Mixed Competition, eg 15&Under Mixed division. Age group eligibility will be the same for girls and boys, eg players may not turn 15 before the start of the season, however they may turn 15 during the season. A maximum of two boys only may take the court in the Mixed 15&Under competition provided they play in different sections of the court at one time, eg in the Goal third (GS, GA), in the Centre third (WA, C, WD) or in the Defensive third (GK, GD). The decision to have a Mixed 15&Under competition for 2020 will be reviewed at the end of the 2020 season.
- (d) Boys are eligible to play in 11 & Under age group. Boy's numbers are unlimited and they may play in any position at any time.

8. FINALS ELIGIBILITY

- (a) Eligibility to play finals - A player must play one third of the home and away playable rounds in that season with their Club.
- (b) The number of games played in a higher grade shall be seven (7), unless 8(c) applies. These matches will only be counted during the home and away draw. A player playing their 8th game in a higher grade final will NOT become ineligible to play in the lower grade final.
- (c) For JUNIOR grades, there will be no limit on games played up in junior grades, eg 15&Under and 17&Under games. This rule will be reviewed at the end of the 2020 season.
- (d) A player who has played in more than one SENIOR grade during the home and away season may only become eligible to play in the lower grade final if they have played an equal number or more in the lower grade – than the higher grades combined total.
- (e) 17&Under and 15&Under players (ineligible for 13&Under & 11&Under) may play unlimited games in A Grade whilst returning to play in their own grade level. However following the 8th A Grade game senior finals participation will be governed by arrangement for play 8(c). To be eligible to play in the Junior grade finals a player must play one third of all home and away games in that season with the team they wish to play finals with.
- (f) Any team who plays an ineligible player in the home and away games shall forfeit that game and incur a loss of four (4) premierships points from the team's premierships ladder.

If the team has no premiership points a fine of \$50 shall be incurred. Any team who plays an ineligible player in the finals shall forfeit that game and incur a penalty of \$50.

9. SUBSTITUTIONS AND TEAM CHANGES

- (a) Substitution is when a player leaves the court and is replaced by another player.
- (b) Team changes are when players on court change playing positions.
- (c) Both teams have the right to make substitutions and/or team changes either:
 - (i) At an interval; or
 - (ii) When play is stopped for injury or illness. However in this case the injured or ill player for whom play has stopped must be involved in that team's substitutions and/or team changes.
- (d) There is no limit to the number of substitutions which can be made by a team provided that players used do not exceed the twelve named for the match.

10. ABANDONMENT OF GAMES

- (a) Games may be stopped by the two (2) umpires or the two (2) umpires with two (2) officials from both clubs.
- (b) When matches are cancelled on account of a total strike (e.g. power), weather or some other cause, both teams will be credited with two (2) points and five (5) goals each and the competition will continue as per the fixture.
- (c) Four (4) points can only be awarded for fully completed games.
- (d) If a game is stopped after half time the current score stands as the final score.
- (e) If play is abandoned before half time the teams take two (2) premiership points each, or the game is rescheduled by agreement of two (2) officials from both clubs.
- (f) In the event that a match is cancelled due to weather, games can only be awarded to seven (7) nominated players for each team.
- (g) Should circumstances occur in which successive rounds need to be cancelled, the Board of Management will consider the position and determine a suitable course of action.

11. TRIBUNAL

- (a) This League shall have a Tribunal to deal independently with disputes and reports. Each Club shall nominate one (1) person eligible to sit on the Tribunal. A vote is then taken by secret ballot, the first five (5) to fill positions on the Tribunal whilst the remaining seven (7) to be listed in proxy order. This election to take place at least one (1) week prior to the pre-season League Meeting.
- (b) The Director of Netball shall have the right to be an ex-officio member of the Tribunal.
- (c) Any player reported for disputing an umpires decision or any misconduct on court is liable to appear before the Tribunal.
- (d) All reports must be lodged with the League Coordinator within 48 hours of incident and in writing four (4) days after the match and shall be reviewed by the Tribunal before the next official game. A fee of \$50 (fifty dollars) must accompany this report/dispute.
- (e) Any appeal regarding the outcome of Tribunal Meeting will be handed to the League Coordinator within 48 hours of the decision. This appeal against the decision of the Tribunal must be accompanied by a fee of \$500 (five hundred dollars) and contain new evidence. Such appeal to be heard by an outside body.
- (f) Any player suspended by the Tribunal shall not be eligible for League Best and Fairest Player Awards.

12. PROTESTS AND REPORTS

All protests and reports must be lodged with the League Coordinator within 24 hours of incident and in writing within two (2) days after the match and shall be reviewed by the Tribunal.

13. OFFICIALS FOR HOME AND AWAY GAMES

- (a) The home team shall provide the time keeper and score board. Both teams shall provide a scorer and umpire. Both umpires must control the complete match.
- (b) There shall be two (2) scorers who shall:
 - (i) Keep a written record of the game score together with a record of the centre passes;
 - (ii) Call the centre pass if appealed to do so by the umpire.
- (c) The scorers are to be seated together throughout the match and to check score at the end of each quarter. If any discrepancy in any quarter occurs it shall be worked out on centre passes.
- (d) Club Official to be responsible for providing correct score sheet before commencement of play.

NOTE: *Home team is the first named on the official score sheet.*

14. UMPIRES

- (a) Each club shall supply one umpire who shall be suitably attired:
- (b)
 - (i) White t-shirt (long sleeved or short), windcheater or wet weather garment;
 - (ii) White skirt, shorts or tracksuit pants
 - (iii) Leggings, skins and any other "bottom half" attire other than what is listed is not permitted;
 - (iv) Clothing not white or cream is not permitted;
 - (vi) Clothing containing club colours or branding is not permitted.
 - (vii) If shirts have a logo, it must be current to Netball Victoria or Alberton Football Netball League.
- (c) All umpires must be VNA registered before umpiring their first game.
- (d) It is preferred that umpires hold a minimum of a C grade badge.

15. SCORING REPORTS

- (a) Score sheets are to be completed online by 10AM Friday the week of play - Penalty \$5 fine per grade not entered.
- (d) Score sheet to be carefully checked and signed by Scorers from each team. Score sheet to show Christian and Surnames of both team's players as well as the interchange and substitution player if played. Player's names not listed on score sheet cannot be counted as a qualifying game (therefore not eligible for Best and Fairest Votes.)
- (e) Incorrect names on score sheets will result in penalty of four (4) premiership points.
- (f) A stroke shall signify one (1) goal.
- (g) The home team must ensure that the Score Report Sheet results are entered on the N.V. website by 6.00pm on the day of each match. Failure to comply with this will result in a fine of \$25.00
- (h) All official records of both football and netball games shall be collected by the home club Secretary who shall send them to the League Coordinator in Express Post envelopes provided by the league to be received on or before the Wednesday following the game. Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$50.

16. BEST AND FAIREST

- (a) Both umpires to confer and select 1st, 2nd and 3rd Best and Fairest Players on the court. Vote Cards MUST be signed by BOTH UMPIRES. A penalty of \$20 per card will be incurred by both clubs in the event that the umpires fail to sign the card. Players voted for on the card are not to lose their points (votes).
- (b) Umpires may be asked to complete club votes for individual teams, providing no delays to match times occur. Umpires are not obliged to complete this task and may refuse the request at any time.

17. LADDER

If teams are level on points, the position shall be determined by the percentage of goals scored for and against. This applies to all grades apart from 11&Under.

18. FINALS

- (a) The Finals Series shall be played the same as the football.
- (b) Neutral umpires with current A or B Badge, preferably from another Association, shall umpire throughout the finals series.
- (c) Neutral scorers and timekeepers to be provided. In the event of a disagreement between Club scorers, independent scorers decision will be final.
- (d) In the event of a draw for A and B grade matches, there shall be a two (2) minute interval at the end of full time, extra time will consist of two (2) halves of seven (7) minutes each, with an interval of one (1) minute at half-time. Teams shall change ends at half-time. The centre pass is taken by the team entitled to the next centre pass. During both of these intervals, substitutions and/or team changes may be made. In the event of a tie remaining 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.
- (e) In the event of a draw for C Grade and 17&Under matches, 17(d) rules apply except extra time will consist of two (2) halves of six (6) minutes each.
- (f) In the event of a draw for 15&Under and 13&Under matches, 17(d) rules apply except extra time will consist of two (2) halves of five (5) minutes each.
- (g) During extra time, normal injury or illness procedures will apply. However, during the extra time:
 - (i) the first stoppage for each team shall be up to two (2) minutes;
 - (ii) each subsequent stoppage for each team shall not exceed thirty (30) seconds.

19. MEETINGS

- (a) Notification of all meetings to be telephoned, issued by mail or email.
- (b) The absence of a Club delegate from a League Football and Netball meeting and netball delegate at League Annual General Meeting will mean a fine of \$100 to be paid within (14) fourteen days of written notification from the Board of Management.

The Alberton Football Netball League Inc. Board of Management has the power to make decisions in cases not covered by these By-Laws.