



# NETBALL BY-LAWS

## BY-LAWS EFFECTIVE: March 2020

These **By-Laws** are the rules governing the internal affairs of the **Gippsland League Netball**. They are the operating procedures that determine the conduct and direction of the organisation.

“**Bylaws**” are additional rules, which apply to members, which generally deal with internal and administrative matters. The Bylaws are made under the Constitution. Accordingly, the Bylaws are subordinate to the Constitution and must not be inconsistent with the Constitution.

## Contents

1. REGISTRATION .....	2
2. GRADING AND AGE REQUIREMENTS.....	2
3. CONDUCT OF MATCHES .....	3
4. RISK MANAGEMENT .....	5
5. DRESS CODE .....	5
6. CLEARANCES .....	6
7. SCORING & BF VOTES .....	6
8. EIGHT GAME RULE.....	7
9. QUALIFYING PLAYERS .....	7
10. FINALS .....	8
11. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS .....	8
12. FORFEITS .....	8
13. CANCELLATIONS .....	9
14. PROTESTS .....	9
15. UMPIRES .....	9
16. PRE MATCH CHECKLIST .....	9
17. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES/PROVISIONS CLAUSE .....	9
18. INDEMNITY .....	9
19. DELAY OF PLAY .....	10
20. NETBALL USAGE .....	10
21. PENALTIES.....	10

## 1. REGISTRATION

- (a) Gippsland League clubs are to ensure all participants are registered electronically on MyNetball before taking of the court in any game. Players are required to have a primary or secondary NV membership with the GL club they are taking the court for.

If a player is not electronically registered prior to taking the court the game will be forfeited and points awarded accordingly.

### NETBALL VICTORIA MEMBERSHIP

- (i) Netball Victoria membership fee is set annually by the Victorian Netball Association Inc.
- (ii) All players, coaches and umpires participating in the GL season must be a current Netball Victoria member.
- (iii) Single Game Vouchers (SGV) may be used for unregistered players. The GL SGV form must be submitted electronically to the League and purchased prior to taking the court.
- (iv) Players with NV membership through another association must complete an electronic secondary registration with the GL club PRIOR to taking the court. Failure to do so will deem the player ineligible and penalties will apply as per By-Law 10
- (b) Clubs failing to register six teams (A, B, C, 17/U, 15/U, and 13/U) two weeks prior to the start of the season must appeal to the GL in writing and provide reasons for failing to register the required six teams.
- (c) **Coach Accreditation**
- (i) Clubs must ensure coaches obtain a coaching accreditation prior to round nine of the current season. Coaches must ensure they attend an accredited Netball Victoria coaching course to obtain their accreditation.

Failure to provide evidence you are an accredited coach will incur a fine of \$100 per game after round nine of the season.

## 2. GRADING AND AGE REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Participant age is determined as at 31st December of that year for A, B, C 17,15 & 13 Under playing grades.
- (b) The playing grades shall consist of A, B, C, 17/U, 15/U & 13/U.
- (c) Minimum age requirements are:
- (i) Open Sections - 14 years – Female competition
- (ii) 17/Under – 14 years – Female competition
- (iii) 15/Under – 12 years – Female competition
- (iv) 13/Under – 10 years – Female competition
- (d) In the 13 & Under grade, male participation age is determined as of the first day of the competition - Males under 13 years of age as at the first day of the competition or season may participate.
- (e) Each club starting with the highest grade first shall provide A, B and C Grades and 17/U, 15/U, 13/U or a combination of these teams agreed to by the Gippsland League.

### 3. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

- (a) Game rules shall be those of Netball Australia, except:

Timing of matches is as follows;

13/U, 15/U, 17/U & C grade matches will be timed as follows:

4 x 12 minute quarters, 2 min ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  time), 3 mins ( $\frac{1}{2}$  time)

A grade & B Grade matches will be as follows

4 x 15 minute quarters, 3 min ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  time), 5 mins ( $\frac{1}{2}$  time)

Injury/Illness or Blood stoppages:

- (i) The umpires hold time for blood when noticed or for injury/illness when requested by an on-court player (in extreme circumstances the umpires may hold time without a request being made).
- (ii) The player concerned must leave the court within 30 seconds and receive any treatment off the court. The timekeepers advise the umpires when 10 seconds remain.
- (ii) Only primary care person/s are permitted on the court to assess the player's medical condition and to assist the player from the court.
- (iii) In the event that the primary care person/s advise the umpires that the player concerned cannot be removed safely within 30 seconds, the umpires will extend the time for the player to leave the court.
- (iv) The umpires may authorise other persons (including team officials) to assist the player to leave the court if needed.
- (v) Any blood on the ball or the court must be cleaned before play restarts and any blood-stained clothing replaced.
- (vi) During the stoppage both teams may make substitutions and/or team changes, provided these are completed within the time allowed for the stoppage by the umpires.
- (vii) If no substitution is made for the injured/ill player, or for a player who is bleeding, play may resume with the position left vacant. If the player is the Centre and no substitution is made, one player must move to play as Centre to allow the match to continue.
- (ix) If the position is left vacant the player concerned or a substitute may.

DURING THE MATCH subsequently, after advising the umpire, take the court immediately after one of the following: (a) A goal has been scored (in this case the player or the substitute must play in the position left vacant) Sanction: Free pass where ball was when play stopped – the player is sent from the court until the correct time for entry, (b) A stoppage for injury/illness or blood, (c) An interval.

- (b) Game times will normally be as follows or as negotiated between clubs (e.g. night games) or determined by the Gippsland League (e.g. finals):

13/U – 9am

15/U – 10:05am

17/U – 11:10am

C Grade – 12:15pm

B Grade – 1:20pm

A Grade – 2:35pm

- (c) Clubs are to ensure that at all home games the following forms are available at courtside before each match
- GL Contact list
  - Official rule book from Netball Australia
  - Gippsland League By-laws
  - Reporting forms – Injuries and conduct report sheets
- (d) Clubs are to ensure that appropriate league jackets for court supervisor and primary carer are available and worn at each match
- (e) Court supervisors are to be appointed before each match and their roles and duties will be as follows:

#### **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 Gippsland League representative and members
- The appointed person may change for each game but not during game.
- The appointed person should be one who is aware of the rules and bylaws and is mature and competent enough to take in considerations of safety and make crucial decisions on the day.
- The appointed person shall act in an unbiased manner at all times
- The appointed person will not for the duration of the game be involved in any other role
- The appointed person will remain court side for the duration of the game
- The appointed person will wear the supplied High Vis vest for the duration of the game.
- The appointed person will act with the approval and authority of the Gippsland League

#### **Duties of the Court Supervisor**

- Attend to and resolve spectator issues. Where there is violence involved please contact police immediately.
- Ensure time keepers are in place and aware of the rules
- Ensure Scorers are in place and aware of the rules
- Ensure Coaches and team members remain in designated bench areas
- Should a no show by an umpire occur it will be the responsibility of the Court Supervisor to contact a member of the Gippsland League from the contact list provided for guidance or approval of an agreed upon resolution of the matter through consultation of both teams and should no Gippsland League member be contactable the decision of the court supervisor will be deemed to be that of the Gippsland League .
- Ensure safety of umpires
- Ensure clear area at court side for umpire movement during play
- Ensure umpires are dressed to the appropriate standard of the Netball Australia Rules
- Ensure a copy of the Gippsland League Netball bylaws are available court side
- Ensure all rules of Netball Victoria and bylaws of the Gippsland League are adhered to and administered fairly and without bias.

**\*\*\* Penalty for not supplying a court supervisor will be \$100 per instance.**

- (f) Clubs are to ensure a primary carer is supplied for the entirety of each match. They must wear supplied Gippsland League Vest at all times for identification by both umpires and court supervisors. Primary Carer requirements are as per stated in the Netball Australia rule book.

**\*\*\* Failure to supply a primary carer for each game will incur a \$100 fine per game.**

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

### **1. Injury Reporting**

- (a) All Clubs are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or players' guardian (player under 18) on the Injury Reporting sheets provided and kept by the club.
- (b) Major injuries should also be recorded on the back of the score sheet.
- (c) All players in GL representative teams are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injury player or players' guardian (player under 18) on the Injury Reporting Sheets provided.

### **2. First Aid**

- (a) Each club will provide a First Aid Kit complying with Netball Victoria Infonet RM2 – First Aid for Netball.
- (b) The GL will ensure that a qualified first aid person is present at finals.

### **3. Emergency procedures**

Local Emergency phone numbers - Ambulance, Doctor, Physiotherapist, Health Clinic and Police and an Emergency Procedure Plan is to be displayed by the phone and in the First Aid Kit. The home club is to assist the away club in an emergency.

### **4. Weather**

In the case of extreme weather conditions the GL will follow Netball Victoria policy.

### **5. Blood Policy and Infectious Diseases**

The GL will adopt Netball Victoria blood policy and infectious diseases.

### **6. Pregnancy**

As per Netball Victoria policy – Pregnancy & Netball

### **7. Pre-participation Screening/Medical Indemnity**

- (a) All personnel involved with the Gippsland League will be required to complete a medical indemnity form
- (b) A designated club official will store all forms and bring them to all events.
- (c) All forms will be destroyed at the conclusion of the season.

## **5. DRESS CODE**

- (a) The GL must approve all uniform colours and designs. Clubs must notify the GL in writing of any proposed changes to their uniform. The GL must then approve all changes and contact the required club official.
- (b) Bike pants/tracksuit pants worn underneath playing uniform may be permitted for medical reasons, cultural or religious beliefs. Pants must be a club colour as nominated on the uniform registration sheet. All permissions must be sought by the Gippsland League before this occurs.
- (c) Players will not be permitted to take to the court unless they are in full uniform.

Penalty \$50 per occurrence.

## **UNIFORMS**

The GL recognises that uniform modifications may be required such as (but are not restricted to) the wearing of traditional Muslim headscarf. Headscarves can be tied but not fastened with any pins or sharp objects, the wearing of long sleeve top to cover arms. The colour of headscarves and other garments to be in accordance with the teams club colours. (As per Netball Victoria)

## 6. CLEARANCES

- (a) A clearance is required if a player wishes to transfer to another Club within GL during the current season. The relevant paperwork must be completed by no later than 30th June of each season.
- (b) A player will only be granted one (1) clearance per season.
- (c) Players who owe outstanding playing fees or are in possession of Club property (uniform, equipment) will not be granted a clearance.
- (d) A player must have received notification in writing from the Gippsland League before playing for a new Club.
- (e) The player must complete all details on the top section of the clearance form and send to the GL Administrator.
- (f) The GL to forward the clearance request to the existing Club for approval.
- (g) The existing Club has 7 days to complete the clearance or the GL will automatically clear the player to the new Club.
- (h) If the Club refuses to clear the player (refer: conditions of clearance), the GL will notify the player and club advising the reason why. Any dispute arising from clearance restrictions will be dealt with according to the grievance procedure outlined in the Constitution.
- (i) The existing Club to advise the GL when clearance is approved.
- (j) The player will then receive notification advising that the clearance has been approved and copy is forwarded to both Clubs.
- (k) A clearance is not required between seasons.

## 7. SCORING AND B&F VOTES

- (a) Each team must provide a non-participating scorer for all matches. These people must sit together for the duration of the match. The home team shall provide a timekeeper, to also sit with the scorers.
- (b) Official Score sheets, at least 2, will be provided by the home club before each match. These sheets are to be printed off the MyNetball system. These Score sheets will list the complete names (both given and surname) of all players intending to take the court, **prior to the commencement of play**

Should a player take the court that was not on the score sheet prior to the commencement of play the following penalties shall apply:

**If the player has played 1 quarter or more** – The team will be liable for the loss of any premiership points for the game and the official result will be entered as a forfeit by the offending club. The game will continue after the breach has occurred and be played out in full.

**If the player has played less than 1 quarter** – Once the breach has been identified, the scorers are to sound the siren and notify the umpires of the offending player. The player will be removed from the court and the position left vacant until the end of the quarter. If the player was in the centre position in this case one player must move to the position for the rest of the quarter. The offending player will not be able to return for the remainder of the match.

The offending club in either case will incur a \$200 fine per breach.

- (c) The Score sheet shall record a running match score, centre passes taken and indicate the positions played each quarter by each player. Individual players goals should be recorded and tallied at the end of the match as per official GL scoring manual.

(d) At the match conclusion, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the Official Score sheet is correct, the Official Score sheet is to be signed by;

- (i) The captains of both competing teams, and
- (ii) Officiating scorers, and
- (iii) Officiating umpires

If a scorer, team or club believes the scoresheet is incorrect they must a) not sign the scoresheet and notify the League via email on the day of the match. The League will advise the result of the dispute and this decision will be final and binding on all parties.

- (e) At the conclusion of each match, the score sheets are to be entered onto the online MyNetball system. Clubs are to ensure that all results are to be entered no later than one hour after the conclusion of the 17&U game for Junior matches and one hour after the conclusion of A Grade for Senior matches. Any internet issues are to be advised to League as soon as possible.
- (f) The home team must send the original scoresheets via email to the League as per the matchday manual provided by the League, If the scoresheets match the home club is to send at least 1 hard copy to the GL Operations Manager and be received by no later than the Wednesday after the weekends game.
- (g) Once there becomes a 50 point difference in scores between 13&U sides, the use of the scoreboard must stop. Match scoring must also stop on the scoresheet with the match score to be recorded from the time the margin reaches 50 goals. Player positions must continue to be filled in each quarter on the scoresheet.

**\*\*\*Any breach of bylaw 6 will incur a \$100 per instance unless stated above.**

## PLAYER VOTES

Players in senior and junior grades are awarded votes (1, 2 and 3) from third best to best on court by the official umpires at the completion on games during the home and away season. Votes are placed in the sealed envelopes provided by the GL and returned to the Operations Manager with the team sheets by the home team.

## 8. EIGHT GAME RULE

- (a) Once a player has played eight (8) games in a particular senior grade throughout the home and away season, the player in question is no longer eligible to play in any lower senior grade but is eligible to play in a higher grade
- (b) Junior players who play in the senior grade are also subject to this rule but are still eligible to play in their own age grade.

## 9. QUALIFYING PLAYERS

- (a) Where senior players play in two grades in the same day only the game in the highest grade will count towards their qualifying quota of games.
- (b) A minimum of six (6) club games is required for a player to be deemed eligible to play finals for her club subject to the following:
- (i) Senior players must play a minimum of six (6) games in their respective senior grade to qualify for that grade's finals and higher.
  - (ii) Registered junior players must play four (4) out of the six (6) club games in their junior age grade to be eligible for that junior age grade's finals.



- (c) All players may only play up to eight (8) quarters of netball in any one given day.
- (d) Any additional players need to be registered on mynetball membership module prior to the start of any match (this needs to be completed by the player online).
- (e) Clubs requiring day passes for players in any season are required to register the player as “SGV or Single game voucher” on the mynetball system and are required to pay at the same time. Failure to follow this process will cause this player to be unregistered and if played the club in question will forfeit the game as per by-law 10.

## 10. FINALS

- (a) GL will play top five finals series.
- (b) The number of points gained during the season shall determine teams qualifying for finals. In the event of teams being equal on points, positions shall be determined by the percentage of goals scored for and against. In the event of teams being equal on percentage, positions shall be determined by the greater number of goals scored for.
- (c) Drawn matches in finals:
  - In the event that the scores are tied at full time, extra time will be played to determine a winner. The length of each half is specified below. The following procedure will apply:
  - There is an interval of 2 minutes at the end of full time– team changes & substitutions can be made during this time
  - Extra time consists of two halves of equal length, with a half time interval of 1 minute– team changes & substitutions can be made during this time. Teams change ends at half time.
  - The first centre pass in each half is taken by the team entitled to the next centre pass.
  - The game will then continue for appropriate length as per information below

### Specified extra time

- 2x7 minute halves if the main game was 4x15 minute quarters
- 2x6 minute halves if the main game was 4x12 minute quarters
- 2x5 minute halves if the main game was 4x10 minute quarters
- In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time, a visual sign (orange card) is placed at the official bench to indicate that play will continue until one team leads by 2 goals.

- (d) Injury time – see conduct of matches

## 11. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- (a) Ineligible players who participate in games either deliberately or inadvertently, or if unregistered are an unacceptable insurance risk.

In these instances the match in which the breach occurred will result as a forfeit to the offending team.

## 12. 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 premierships points with a match score of twenty to zero (20-0);
  - (ii) Credit games to only seven (7) nominated players on a 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.



### 13. CANCELLATIONS

- (a) When matches are cancelled on account of a total strike (e.g.; power, or situation created by a prolonged petrol strike), 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.
- (b) Four (4) points can only be awarded for fully completed games.
- (c) In the event that a match is cancelled due to weather, games can only be awarded to seven nominated players or quarters can be awarded to a maximum of twelve players totalling 28 quarters, for each team.
- (d) Should circumstances occur in which successive rounds need to be cancelled, the Gippsland League will consider the position and determine a suitable course of action.

### 14. PROTESTS

- (a) A team wishing to protest must lodge the protest in writing to the Gippsland League on an official letterhead with the prior consent from a club executive member within 48 hours of the match being played.
- (b) A Club shall have a right of appeal to the Gippsland League decision within 48 hours of notification of a penalty.

### 15. UMPIRES

- (a) Each club is responsible of the supply and payment to umpires during the home and away season. Minimum payment will follow the recommendation of Netball Victoria.
  - (i) Umpires should not officiate more than two games in any one given day.
  - (ii) All Clubs must supply a NV Current Badged umpire for all 'A & B' Grade Games
- (b) All umpires must be current to their badge grading.
- (c) All Umpires must wear suitable sports clothes that are preferably white or cream in colour. skirts or shorts no pants,
- (d) All umpires must wear suitable sports footwear.
- (e) All umpires are to have completed the On Line Level 1 course and passed the theory section.

### 16. PRE MATCH CHECKLIST

- (a) A pre-match check will be completed prior to all GL match day games, by members of both competing clubs.
- (b) Any hazards identified will be:
  - (i) Documented – completion of court audit form
  - (ii) Rectified if possible.
  - (iii) Reported to the Gippsland League if major repair is required and then the league will follow up with appropriate agencies.

### 17. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES/PROVISIONS CLAUSE

Where this By-law is silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the GL is maintained at all times. The League may in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in this By-Law relating to the GL

### 18. INDEMNITY

Except where provided or required by law and such cannot be excluded, the GL 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.

### 19. DELAY PLAY DUE TO SERIOUS INJURY

If play is required to be suspended due to a serious injury/incident the following shall apply.

- . Play is to be halted by the umpires. The match umpires will note the time of the incident and the time remaining in the current quarter with the scorers and this will be recorded on the match scoresheets.
- . Quarter breaks are not to be taken early.

**19.1 - If a second court is available to re commence the match.** The umpires will notify both clubs that the remainder of the match will be played on another court.

For play to commence the following must occur

- Both clubs will be required to sign off on the Netball Australia matchday checklist to approve the surface and surrounds for play.
- Both clubs must have a scorer courtside at the new court
- A scoreboard must be visible at the new court for both benches
- Once the above measures are in place off the umpires will be responsible for the recommencement of play. The match will be played out in full.

### **19.2 - If a second court is not available.**

The captains & match umpires will be responsible for determining when it is safe for play to recommence within a 30 minute period after the incident. If play resumes within the 30 minute period then the match will be played out in full and all other scheduled games after the current match will commence at the conclusion of the game.

If play has not recommenced 30 minutes after the time noted on the scoresheet; The match umpires and the two captains will meet and determine if the match will be abandoned. If the captains decide there is no immediate opportunity to recommence the match than it will be abandoned.

### **19.3 - Match Abandonment**

In the event that a match is abandoned the following shall apply:

Match abandoned before half time: The game will be classed as a draw and both teams will receive 2 points. The score will be entered in the MyNetball system as 0-0. Players that have taken the court will count towards finals eligibility. No League B&F votes will be done for any match abandoned before half time.

Match abandoned at half time or after half time: The final score for the match will be as is when play stopped by the umpires. Scorers are to confirm with the umpires that scoresheets are correct and the final score will be recorded on the scoresheet. Both captains and umpires will be required to sign off on the scoresheet and once signed off the match result is final. Players that have taken the court will count towards finals eligibility. League B&F votes will be completed and submitted by the umpires.

## **20. GIPPSLAND LEAGUE FOOTBALL AND NETBALL USAGE**

- i) Prior to each season the League will instruct the clubs via email of any League requirements for footballs and netballs usage in the upcoming season. This may include brand of balls to be used, sponsorship requirements or any other League requirements. In every match during the regular season match balls that meet these requirements must be used.
- ii) Clubs require written permission from the League to use and balls in matches outside of the stated requirements.
- iii) Any Gippsland League football match scheduled as twilight or night fixtures require a yellow ball to be used that also meets any requirements in 38 (i).
- iv) Fines for breaching 38 (i), (ii) or (iii) will be \$100 per instance.
- v) The League will be responsible for supplying finals footballs and netballs.

## **21. PENALTIES**

Along with penalties mentioned in individual By-Laws above, the following will also apply;

- Failure to provide at least 6 original scoresheets (one per grade), votes and match results as per section 6, incurs.
- Scoresheets for each grade must be electronically submitted on the matchday as per the instructions from the League.
- Teams must electronically submit League MVP votes for A Grade on the matchday as per the instructions from the League
- Failure to provide badged umpire for A&B Grade,

Any breach of the above rules will incur a \$100 fine per instance