



**SEYMOUR DISTRICT JUNIOR
FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE**

**NETBALL BY LAWS
9 April, 2021**

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These By-laws are the rules governing the internal affairs of the Seymour and District Junior Football Netball League (SDJFNL). They are the operating procedures that determine the conduct and direction of the organisation.

“Constitution” means the constitution of a League or Club. It may otherwise be referred to as the Rules of Incorporation. If an incorporated League does not have its own Constitution the model rules will apply.

“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.

A League or Club should have a clause in the Constitution that provides the power to the Board or Committee to make Bylaws.

1. Club Delegate Meetings

- a) A minimum of 2 Club Delegates meetings will be held annually
- b) All Clubs must be represented by at least one Delegate at all Club Delegates Meetings
Penalty: fine to be determined by the Committee
- c) Coaching Development – a minimum of 2 participants from each Club must attend League coaching development workshops.
No representation from a Club: Fine \$50 per club
- d) Umpire Development – a minimum of 2 participants from each Club must attend League umpire development workshops.
No Representation from a Club: Fine \$50 per Club

2. Correspondence

- a) All correspondence must be in writing from the Club Secretary or authorised person to the League Operations Manager
- b) All correspondence from the League will be addressed to the Club Secretary or authorised person

3. Information to Clubs

- a) The League shall provide the following information in writing to all Clubs prior to the start of the season:
 - i. League contact details
 - ii. League venue details
 - iii. League Constitution and By Laws
 - iv. Fixtures
 - v. League Calendar of Events
 - vi. Vote Cards
 - vii. Scorebooks

4. Finance

- a) All fees are set by the SDJFNL, as per the By Laws

5. Netball Victoria Membership

- a) Netball Victoria membership is set annually by Netball Victoria
- b) All players, coaches and umpires participating in a SDJFNL competition must be a current Netball Victoria member

- c) Single game vouchers may be used. The voucher must be purchased prior to participating

6. Age Requirements

- a) The SDJFNL shall endeavour to have four (4) age groups: 11 & Under, 13 & Under, 15 & Under and 17 & Under. These age groups may be changed at the discretion of the League, at a Special General Meeting and on application.
- b) The League may develop a Division 2 where applicable in any grade that may have sufficient numbers and agreed to by all Clubs
- c) Participant age is determined as at 1 January of that year the season will be played
 - i. A player must be 8 years old prior to 1 January to be eligible to play in the League
 - ii. Players should be under 11 years of age on 1 January to be eligible to in the 11 & Under competition
 - iii. Players should be under 13 years of age on 1 January to be eligible to in the 13 & Under competition
 - iv. Players should be under 15 years of age on 1 January to be eligible to in the 15 & Under competition
 - v. Players should be under 17 years of age on 1 January to be eligible to in the 17 & Under competition
- d) Inclusive Environments
 - i. The League is committed to providing a safe, fair and inclusive sporting environment where all people can contribute and participate. The League endeavours to provide opportunities for all genders to participate in mixed and female competitions
 - ii. The League supports participation in netball on the basis of gender with which a person identifies. If an issue arises, the League will seek guidance from the applicable Victorian discrimination laws for each circumstance
 - iii. The League observes the Netball Victoria Gender Regulation in regard to male participation and as such applies the following to the respective competition:
 - 1. 11 & Under, 13 & Under Mixed and 15 & Under: Maximum of up to two males may play on the court at the same time, with each player playing in different thirds of the court at one time
 - 2. 17 & Under: No male participation
- e) Penalty for playing an ineligible player without the approval of the League: Loss of 4 Premiership points

7. Dress Code

- a) Each Club must register its uniform at the League Annual General Meeting
- b) The League must approve all uniforms colours and designs

- c) Clubs must notify the League in writing of any proposed changes to their uniform. The League has final approval of all changes
- d) Uniforms must also meet Netball Victoria requirements
- e) Players will not be permitted to take the court unless they are in correct uniform

8. Clearances

- a) A Clearance is required if a player wishes to transfer to another Club during the current season
- b) No player will be granted more than once clearance per season
- c) A clearance will not be granted after 30 June of that season between Clubs within the League
- d) Player who have outstanding finances or property of once Club will not be permitted to receive a clearance to another Club
- e) A player must have received notification in writing from the League before playing for a new Club.
Penalty: Fine as determined by the League
- f) The existing Club has 7 days to complete the clearance or the League will automatically clear the player to their new Club

9. Conduct of Matches

- a) Game rules shall be those of Netball Australia except
 - i. 11 & Under – 4 x 10 minute quarters with quarter breaks of 2 minutes, 3 minutes and 2 minutes allowed for quarter, half and three quarter time breaks
 - ii. 13 & Under – 4 x 12 minute quarters with quarter breaks of 2 minutes, 3 minutes and 2 minutes allowed for quarter, half and three quarter time breaks
 - iii. 15 & Under – 4 x 15 minute quarters with quarter breaks of 2 minutes, 3 minutes and 2 minutes allowed for quarter, half and three quarter time breaks
 - iv. 17 & Under – 4 x 15 minute quarters with quarter breaks of 2 minutes, 3 minutes and 2 minutes allowed for quarter, half and three quarter time breaks
- b) Game times
 - i. 11 & Under: 11:00am
 - ii. 13 & Under: 12:00pm
 - iii. 15 & Under: 1:05pm
 - iv. 17 & Under: TBC

- c) If teams are more than one quarter late to start a match, then the game is forfeited, otherwise 1 goal penalty for every minute late will be awarded to the non-offending team
- d) Teams may consist of unlimited registered players, however only a maximum of 12 players may participate in any one game
- e) Fixtures will be arranged for all competitions indicating courts and times. The home team is the team first listed on the match
- f) It is the home team's responsibility to supply the match ball. This ball should be the WorkSafe ball supplied through Netball Victoria. Where a WorkSafe ball cannot be used, the ball should then be approved by both officiating umpires
- g) The timekeeper will advise both umpires simultaneously when the specified time for the end of a quarter is reached via an audible signal i.e. airhorn. Before the game begins, the scorers are to advise the umpires of their intended audible signal to be used. Timekeepers are no longer required to follow the umpires.
- h) The League shall follow and adopt the Netball Australia rules regarding Injury Time, Blood Rule and Warning of players

10. Scoring

- a) Each team must provide a non-participating scorer for all matches. The scorer must be capable and able to complete the task
- b) The scorers from each Club must sit together for the duration of the match
- c) The League will provide each team with an Official Scoresheet
- d) One official scoresheet will be used for each game provided by the Home Team. These scoresheets will list the complete names (given and surname) or all players intending to take the court prior to the commencement of play. Substitutes may be added to the scoresheet after the commencement of the game, prior to the player taking the court
- e) At the match conclusion, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the Official Scoresheet is correct, the Official Scoresheet is to be signed by the:
 - i. The captains of both competing teams,
 - ii. The officiating umpires, and
 - iii. Scorers
- f) The Home Team must return the scoresheet to the League by no later than

the Friday following the match

11. Borrowing/Qualifying Players

- a) Players must play a minimum of four (4) games in particular age group to be eligible for finals with that team i.e. For an 11 & Under player to participate in the 13 & Under Finals, that player must also play 4 games in the 13 & Under competition
- b) Unless being used to make a seventh player in a team, players are permitted to play in a higher age group for 4 games only. Once a player plays their fifth game in the higher age group they are then committed to that higher age group for the remainder of the season, If the player returns to the original, lower age group, the penalty shall be a loss of four (4) Premiership points
- c) Two final may be played in the one day, provided the player is required to make a seventh player in the second team, or unless required by injury to make the seventh player
- d) Team found playing an ineligible player during finals will be considered to have lost that match

12. Finals

- a) Finals will be played at the conclusion of the home and away season
- b) The number of Premiership points gained during the season shall determine teams qualifying for finals. In the event of teams being equal on points, positions will be determined by the higher percentage of goals scored for and against. In the event of teams being equal on percentage, positions will be determined by the greater number of goals scored for
- c) The top four teams in accordance with Sections 12. b) and 12. b) shall play in the finals
- d) The procedure for matches tied at the end of four quarters during finals shall be:
 - i. There is one minute time allowance to enable team to change ends and scores to be verified on the Official Scoresheet
 - ii. Positional changes and substitutions are permitted during the change over time
 - iii. 2 x 5 minute halves
 - iv. Teams must switch ends after the first five minute half
 - v. Positional changes and substitutions are permitted during the change over time
 - vi. Should there still be a tie after both halves of extra time, play will continue until one team has a two goal advantage
 - vii. In the event of injury or illness during extra time, positional changes and/or

substitutions can be made

13. Forfeits

- a) The minimum number of players to take the court is 5. Once a team has less than 5 players, it shall be deemed to forfeit the match and four Premiership points shall be awarded to the opposition. The League shall endorse a practice match in the forfeited match's place
- b) In the event that a team forfeits prior to the match clock starting, games shall only be awarded to seven nominated players of the non-offending team. No games shall be awarded to the players of the offending team
- c) A forfeit fine of \$50 will be imposed and must be paid before the next fixtured match of the offending team
- d) If a team notifies the opposing team and League by 9:00pm on the preceding Thursday that it intends to forfeit, no penalty shall be imposed.

14. Team Officials

- a) Coaches must have a minimum Foundation Coaching accreditation. New coaches without accreditation must complete the Foundation Coaching Course prior to 30 May
- b) Umpires must be at least:
 - i. 14 years of age to umpire 11 & Under
 - ii. 15 years of age to umpire 13 & Under
 - iii. 18 years of age to umpire 15 & Under and 17 & Under
- c) It is recommended all umpires endeavour to obtain a minimum C Badge Umpire Accreditation

15. Risk Management

- a) All Clubs are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or players' guardian
- b) A Game Day Checklist must be completed prior to the commencement of League matches, programs and training on the Netball Victoria approved application – Safe Netball App. Any hazards identified need to be
 - i. Documented
 - ii. Rectified, if possible, and
 - iii. Reported to the appropriate agency (local council and/or reserve committee) if major repair is required
- c) First Aid
 - i. All participating teams shall ensure they have a well maintained and

- adequate First Aid Kit that shall be available for trainings and match days
 - ii. Teams shall ensure they provide their own First Aid Kit when playing home or away and must allow appropriate personnel to have access to it
 - iii. Teams shall ensure that a qualified First Aid attendant be present at all matches
 - iv. Teams shall adhere to all blood and infectious disease policies when treating injuries
- d) Ambulance, doctor, physiotherapist, health clinic and Victoria Police phone numbers must be displayed near the First Aid Kit. The Emergency Procedure Plan is also to be displayed by the First Aid Kit
 - e) In case of extreme weather conditions, the decision to call off the game will be made between the coach of each team and umpires
 - f) The League shall adopt the Victorian Legislative Tobacco Act (1987) as amended from time to time. Smoking is banned within 10 metres of an outdoor public sporting venue during organised underage sporting events and training sessions
 - g) The League will adopt a Sub Smart policy as prescribed by the Cancer Council Victoria
 - h) The League will adopt Codes of Behaviour as prescribed in the Netball Victoria Member Protection Regulation
 - i) The League does not support 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. The Netball Victoria Drug Policy is implemented for all League matches

16. Protests and Appeals

- a) Protests and appeals must be in writing form the team contact with the League
- b) A team wishing to protest must:
 - i. Notify the opposition Coach as well as the Umpires at the conclusion of the match that they intend to protest
 - ii. Lodge the protest in writing with the League Operations Manager within 48 hours of the match being completed
- c) The League will consider with the protest, with no one connected to either team to be able to make a ruling
- d) The Clubs concerned will be notified of the protest outcome
- e) A player/official of a club shall have the right of appeal against a decision

made by the Committee. Such appeal is to be made in writing to the SDJFNL Association Secretary no later than forty-eight (48) hours following receipt of that decision. The appeal will be heard by the SDJFNL Executive Committee and those concerned notified of the decision, which will be final.

17. Special Circumstances

- a) Where these By laws are silent, a determination can be made that ensures the integrity of the League is maintained at all times.
- b) The League may un using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in these By laws relating to the League.

18. Indemnity

- a) Except where provided or required by law and such cannot be excluded, the League 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 1 – COVID By Laws

Governing Principals

- That the health and safety of the community remains the highest priority
- That whilst balanced competition is important, that the opportunity to participate whenever possible be of higher priority
- That where possible the Home & Away and Finals shall be conducted within the traditional timeframes
- Equality in the draw be ignored for opportunity to participate whenever possible
- That a premiership be awarded once a minimum of 8 Home & Away games be achieved
- That a minimum viable season which triggers a finals series be the maximum number of games possible and not influenced by traditional fixture requirements and expectations
- That a Finals Series be played with a minimum of 1 week (1 v 2) and up to a traditional final's series of 3 weeks
- Should any scenario occur which is not covered within these By Laws then the matter shall be referred to the League Executive to determine at their absolute discretion

1. Positive COVID TEST

- 1.1 Player/Official immediately notify AFL Goulburn Murray Region Manager.
- 1.2 AFL Victoria Region Manager notify AFL Victoria Country Manager
- 1.3 AFL Victoria notify Public Health Authority
- 1.4 Club always follows advice of the Public Health Authority
- 1.5 Public Health Authority to instruct AFL Victoria of Return Strategy

Subject to changes in the Federal or State Government COVID Restrictions and AFL Victoria Protocols, a season may be impacted which shall trigger the implementation of the following By Laws.

2. Impact of a COVID Interruption on a Single Round

- Should an entire Round of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team
- The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round.
- The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

3. Impact of a COVID Interruption on a consecutive Rounds

- Should consecutive Rounds of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team for the abandoned Rounds
- The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round.
- The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

4. Impact of a COVID Interruption on a Multiple Rounds

- Should multiple Rounds of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team
- The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round.

- The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

5. Impact of a COVID Interruption on individual matches within any Round

- Should individual matches within any Round be abandoned, team shall be awarded 2 points each and the average weekly percentage
- The individual games shall not be rescheduled
- The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

6. Return to Play following a COVID Interrupted Round or Match

- If 1-3 consecutive Rounds have been abandoned, then the season may recommence at the next scheduled round at the discretion of the league
- If 4-6 consecutive Rounds have been abandoned, then the season shall recommence at the next scheduled round following a minimum of 7-day training period at the discretion of the league
- If more than 6 consecutive Rounds have been abandoned, then the season shall recommence at the next scheduled round following a minimum 14-day training period at the discretion of the League
- Should the recommencement following any period of abandonment occur during the scheduled Finals Series, then the Finals shall be adjusted at the direction of the League Executive in consultation with the Region Commission and AFL Victoria

7. Impact of a COVID Interruption on an individual FINALS matches

- League may reschedule FINALS matches at their absolute discretion
- Where time does not permit for a FINALS game to be rescheduled, should an individual FINALS match, excluding the GRAND FINAL be abandoned, the team with a higher ladder position shall be deemed the winner by virtue of higher ranking

8. Impact of a COVID Interruption on a GRAND FINAL

- League may reschedule the GRAND FINAL matches at their absolute discretion
- GRAND FINAL must be completed by **29 August, 2021**
- Where time does not permit for the GRAND FINAL to be rescheduled and the GRAND FINAL be abandoned, the team who entered the Grand Final first by way of victory in the Second Semi or if not applicable, by a higher ladder position, shall be deemed the winner

9. Final Qualifications in a COVID interrupted Season

- Should a season be impacted on by COVID the League may determine FINAL Qualifications limits at their absolute discretion at any stage during the season

10. Consequence of a suspension in a COVID interrupted Season

- All suspensions MUST be served in accordance with the AFL Victoria Country Rules and suspensions apply to games played and not dates

11. Matters not covered by COVID By Laws

- Should any scenario occur which is not covered within these By Laws then the matter shall be referred to the League to determine at their absolute discretion