



MELBOURNE EAST NETBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

BY-LAWS

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1. TEAM ENTRY

- 1.1 A Club or Team must satisfy Melbourne East Netball Association (MENA) that it is prepared to field a team regularly.
- 1.2 A Club or Team must be in the position to meet the financial, constitutional and umpiring requirements of the Association.
- 1.3 Any Club or Team wishing to enter in a MENA Competition shall submit a team application form to the Association. All team application forms shall be completed with the necessary information and returned to admin@menanetball.com.au together with all required fees by the required date.
- 1.4 A Club or Team may register any number of teams or players during the season. Teams registered with less than five (5) players per team will not be accepted. Teams registered with five (5) or six (6) players will be accepted at the discretion of the Committee. After the start of the season new teams will only be registered at MENA's discretion.
- 1.5 Any Club or Team withdrawing a team after grading has taken place will not receive a refund of entry fees.
- 1.6 The Association shall determine from time to time the team registration fee and levies.
- 1.7 All outstanding monies must be paid before a Club or Team's entry will be accepted.

2. UNIFORM AND COLORS

- 2.1 Each Club or Team shall submit their uniform colours to the Association when registering.
- 2.2 No Team or Club shall make any changes in its colours or uniform without first obtaining the consent of the Association.
- 2.3 The Association shall determine the acceptability of colours submitted by each Club or Team
- 2.4 The Association shall maintain a register of all current Club uniform and colours
- 2.5 The uniform shall consist of:
 - a) shirt, skirt, positional bib and sports socks, or
 - b) shorts, shirt, positional bib and sports socks, or
 - c) dress, positional bib and sports socks, or
 - d) shirt, skort, positional bib and sports socks
- 2.6 Team uniform shall comprise either a) and b), b) and c), or b) and d)
- 2.7 Skirts and dresses shall not be shorter than 5 cm below the elastics in the legs of the briefs at the back.
- 2.8 Sports briefs must be the same colour as the uniform or black. No bikini pants are to be worn.
- 2.9 The shorts must be club colours and shall not have pockets.
- 2.10 Gloves are permitted.
- 2.11 Shorts may be worn, under the Club skirt or dress – shorts cannot exceed the length of the skirt.
- 2.12 The only exceptions are as per the Adverse Weather Policy or other dress code policy issued by MENA.
- 2.13 Positional bibs are to be worn by all on-court players. Letters are to be no less than 15cm high and worn front and back above the waist of the player. Sponsorship advertising on positional bibs is not permitted to be more than 5cm in height.
- 2.14 Each team member shall wear a uniform and positional bib of the same design and colour.
- 2.15 Two (2) weeks grace shall be given at the start of each season before all players have to be in the same uniform.
- 2.16 When a uniform does not comply with Rules 2.4 to 2.11, the player(s) concerned may be ordered by the Umpire to leave the court. A player ordered from the court shall not be

replaced by another player. When a centre player is ordered from the court, the captain (or coach in NetSetGO and 11U) may make one change only from players presently on the court. This player must remain as centre until the next interval or the infringing player returns.

- 2.17** Players ordered to leave the court for uniform infringements may take position back on the court at the next centre pass when in correct uniform. Players may return to the position from which they came, and any player moved to centre must return to the position they were playing.

3. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS AND CLEARANCES

- 3.1** All player's Netball Victoria Membership fee must be paid prior to playing. For occasional players see 3.4.
- 3.2** All players should complete the above prior to the first training session in order for insurance to cover any injuries that may occur.
- 3.3** Clubs shall keep and maintain a record of all registrations which MENA will have access to via Netball Connect.
- 3.4** If it is necessary to add a player to a team during the season the club should add them to the team via Netball Connect
- 3.5** A single game voucher is available for occasional players through the club registration on Netball Connect and must be purchased online prior to playing. Players without registration will be deemed ineligible as per 7.1.12.
- 3.6** Should a player legally change their name during the year and not wish to continue playing under their former name, they must update this information in Netball Connect.
- 3.7** A player shall be officially recognised as a registered player with a given Club upon participating for the first time in a match in the Competition.
- 3.8** A player cannot play for another Club in the same Competition unless the Permit Committee grants clearance.
- 3.9** The Association shall appoint a Permit Sub Committee after elections at the Annual General Meeting. The Permit Committee shall consist of three (3) members, minimum (1) Executive Committee and two (2) General Committee and shall have the power to grant or refuse clearances or permits in the interests of the Association. Clearances will only be considered by applying in writing to the Secretary.
- 3.10** In event of Club disbanding, its members shall be at liberty to play with any other Club, but no Club shall be considered disbanded unless written notice of such abandonment is received by the Association Secretary.
- 3.11** At the end of each season an open clearance is available for all players.

4. GENDER

- 4.1** Boys may play in the 9 & Under, 11 & Under and 13 & Under age sections, as per Boys Netball Policy. Sections higher than 13 & Under shall be deemed as either (a) female only sections or (b) other competitions as determined by MENA, e.g. Boys modified or Mixed.
- 4.2** Transgender individuals will be assessed on a case by case basis by MENA Executive.

5. AGE

5.1 Club Competition

- 5.1.1** The age groups of the competitions shall be drawn from 9 & Under; 11 & Under; 13 & Under; 15 & Under; 17 & Under and Open
- 5.1.2** Competitions will only run as deemed appropriate by MENA.
- 5.1.3** The age shall be determined as at the 31st December of the playing year
- 5.1.4** Players may only play one (1) age group above their age, apart from into 11 & Under.
- 5.1.5** To be eligible to play for the 11 and under section, players must be 8 years of age before 31st December of the year they are playing
- 5.1.6** To be eligible for the Open Section, players must be 15 years of age before the 31st December of the year playing
- 5.1.7** If a player turning 14 years of age before the 31st December of the year is temporarily required to fill in for an Open team an exception may be requested from the Competition Convenor on the day. Permanent exceptions must be requested in writing and will be determined by MENA Executive.
- 5.1.8** Exceptions may be requested according to competition rules
- 5.1.9** In special circumstances players may be allowed to play in age sections below their age. These exceptions must be requested in writing with relevant supporting medical documentation and will be assessed by MENA Executive.

5.2 Other Competition

- 5.2.1** Age requirements/restrictions for other competitions will be stipulated in the Competition Rules relevant for that competition.

6. UMPIRES

6.1 General

- 6.1.1** All Umpires Netball Victoria membership fees must be paid prior to umpiring.
- 6.1.2** Umpires will adhere to a dress code of wearing predominately white
- 6.1.3** Umpires will adhere to the Adverse Weather Policy or other policy as issued by MENA from time to time.

6.2 Club Competition

- 6.2.1** Each Club shall supply one Netball Victoria registered Umpire per game.
- 6.2.2** Clubs shall supply badged or approved training umpires for Open Age games.
- 6.2.3** After one (1) occasion of non- appearance of a club umpire the Club will be asked to provide an explanation. After two (2) occasions of non-appearance the Club will be asked to show cause why they should not be fined. Failure of a Club umpire to officiate at a fixtured match may result in a fine as determined by the Committee.
- 6.2.4** Each Umpire shall attend such meetings and courses as required by the Association.
- 6.2.5** It is highly recommended that beginner umpires attend an "Introduction to Umpiring" workshop in the first season of umpiring and must complete the "Rules of Netball" Theory Exam online with a pass mark of 70% before being allowed to umpire.
- 6.2.6** Badged Umpires must abide by the Netball Australia requirements to maintain their accreditation.
- 6.2.7** The Association Umpire Convenor will appoint umpires for all finals matches and at its discretion for any other games.

6.3 Other Competition

- 6.3.1** All umpires will be appointed by the Competition Umpire coordinator for all matches, including finals matches.

7. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

7.1 General

- 7.1.1** The playing rules shall be those of the All Australia Netball Association (also known as Netball Australia).
- 7.1.2** The Association shall appoint a Grading Committee
- 7.1.3** The Grading Committee shall grade games according to the standard of teams submitted and may re-grade teams throughout the season.
- 7.1.4** New teams are not necessarily members of the lowest grade.
- 7.1.5** All matches shall be played as arranged on the fixture and on courts as directed by the Association. Fixtures will be created before the start of the season, after re-grading, and may be recreated if a team withdraws after re-grading.
- 7.1.6** All rules pertaining to injury and substitutes as stated in the Official Rule Book shall apply.
- 7.1.7** No item of jewellery shall be worn on court, except a wedding ring or piercing. If a wedding ring or exposed piercing is worn, it shall be taped.
- 7.1.8** Fingernails shall be cut short and smooth or taped with correct tape prior to the game commencing
- 7.1.9** The Association will provide game balls where possible. If not available the "Home" team is the first named team on the fixture (and score sheet) and is responsible for providing a ball. The "Away" team may also provide a ball, which can be used for half the match. All balls used must meet the requirements as stated in the Official Rule Book. Should the Umpire decide that any team ball is not up to the required standard, the other team's ball shall be used.
- 7.1.10** The Association shall supply an official score sheet, which must be collected by the "Home" team prior to the game.
- 7.1.11** The Officials of the game shall be the two Umpires and the two Scorers. Each team is to provide a scorer, and both must be positioned together and record the scores on the score sheet and where available, on the electronic or flip scoreboard. Scorers should also check and update the names of their players taking to the court.
- 7.1.12** All players that take to the court need to have their Surname and First name recorded on the front of the Scoresheet. Names must be legible, if a name cannot be read that player will not be counted as having played this match. Any player who has not played in the team before (i.e. A new player to this team) MUST have their name and DOB recorded on the back of the score sheet. Failure to comply with any of these conditions may result in the team incurring a one (1) Premiership point penalty.
- 7.1.13** At the conclusion of the match all officials (Umpires, Captains and Scorers) are to sign the completed score sheet. Signing this sheet indicates you agree with the final score and players listed. The score sheet is then to be handed to the Competition Convener by the "Winning" team or the home team if the match is a draw. Should the score sheet not be handed in to the Competition Convener on the day of the match, the match will be treated as a draw and each team shall receive two (2) points and the score will be nil all.
- 7.1.14** The standard match results are: - four (4) points shall be awarded for a win, two (2) points for a draw and four (4) points for a bye. A team receiving a forfeit shall be awarded four (4) points and 10 goals to nil.

- 7.1.15** Grading match results points are determined by the committee as per Competition Rules.
- 7.1.16** The 9 & Under Competition shall be modified as per the NetSetGo Go rules.
<https://vic.netball.com.au/sites/vic/files/2020-01/Modified-Rules-summary.pdf>.
- 7.1.17** In the event of a Draw in a Final, two (2) five (5) minute halves for extra time shall be played. Substitutions can be made at the start of extra time. Should the result be another draw it is deemed “double extra time”. No substitutions can be made. Teams change ends, toss for the centre and play continues until:
 - a) For 11 and Under age sections – the first team to score two (2) goals shall win the match
 - b) For all other sections – the first team to lead by two (2) clear goals shall win the match
- 7.1.18** Players may only play for one (1) club during a season, unless granted clearance. See Rule 3.6. A player being registered with one team of a Club may not play with a lower age grade or lower section of the competition for the remainder of the season without a clearance from the Permit Committee. Players can play in a higher age, grade or section but once they have played the number of games nominated in the competition rules in a higher grade or section, they will be regarded as belonging to that team, for the remainder of the season. Clubs with two (2) or more teams in the same section may play players up from the lower ranked team into the higher ranked team. The rankings are as determined by the Grading committee.
- 7.1.20** Unlimited substitutions shall be allowed during the game however a maximum of 12 players may play in any one game.

7.2 Forfeits

- 7.2.1** In the event that a team does not have five (5) players present at the commencement of the game, the opposing team shall receive one (1) goal for each minute that play is delayed. The umpire shall determine the number of penalty goals allowed, making a note on the score sheet. Should the offending team not have five (5) players by 1/4 time, they will forfeit the game and the opposing team shall receive four (4) points and a score of 10 goals to nil.
- 7.2.2** In the case of a team forfeiting, the club or team forfeiting must as soon as possible contact MENA and receive acknowledgment including further instructions. The opposing team may submit a score sheet in order to qualify players. The result of the match is 10 goals to nil in favour of the opposing team. In the event that both team's forfeit, the result is nil - nil with neither team receiving any premiership points. In the event of a forfeit after 3pm on Friday the club must notify MENA and the opposing club.
- 7.2.3** In the event that a team forfeits after the commencement of the game, the team will be penalised 1 goal per minute that they are not on court until 10 goals have been accrued or the end of the game. At this point the scores will count but the team completing the game receives any championship points.
- 7.2.4** Any team forfeiting a match before commencement of the game will be fined \$70 and a deduction of 2 ladder points (-1 for Grading games). Unless it is considered to be under extenuating circumstances as determined by MENA Executive.
- 7.2.5** In the event of a team withdrawing from a competition after fixtures have been distributed, all future matches involving that team will be deemed forfeits and treated as per rule 7.2.2, until a new fixture is distributed. In this case rule 7.2.4 will not apply.
- 7.2.6** In the event of a team forfeiting two (2) consecutive matches or three (3) total matches in a season, the team shall show cause to the Association why it shall not be disqualified.

7.3 Cancellation of games

- 7.3.1** Refer to the Adverse Weather Policy for how games that are affected by weather are treated.
- 7.3.2** Where a Grading or Season match does not reach half a game of play, no result is achieved.
- 7.3.3** If no result is achieved, the match will be considered a draw and points awarded to each team.
- 7.3.4** In a Semi-Final where a match is cancelled, by MENA for health and safety of participants, or does not reach half a game of play, no result is achieved.
- 7.3.5** This Semi-final match will not be replayed.
- 7.3.6** If no result is achieved, the first and second placed teams on the ladder at the end of the season will go through to the Grand Final.
- 7.3.7** In a Grand Final where a match is cancelled and does not reach half a game of play, no result is achieved. In this instance the higher ranked team of the two teams playing in the Grand Final will be declared the winners of the season with the lower ranked being made runners-up.
- 7.3.8** The association reserves the right to shorten or abandon games during adverse weather – refer Adverse Weather Policy.

7.4 Eligibility

- 7.4.1** Should a team play a match with an ineligible player, then the goals scored by the offending team are set to 0, the non-offending team's goals remain, and the match result is recalculated. The offending team will also incur a -4 Premiership point penalty.
- 7.4.2** Should both teams play a match with ineligible players, then all goals scored are set to 0, and both teams will also incur a -4 Premiership point penalty.

7.5 Finals

- 7.5.1** Final ladder positions will be determined (1) by the number of championship points accrued during the season, (2) by goal percentage; i.e. goals for divided by goals against multiplied by 100, (3) by previous results between these teams in current season.
- 7.5.2** At the conclusion of the fixture, finals matches will be played as per competition rules.
- 7.5.3** The minimum number of matches players must play to qualify for finals will be determined by the competition rules. All matches can be counted, except Byes and being an offending forfeiting team. In the event of multiple washouts, the Executive Committee may reduce the number of matches required to qualify for finals.

7.6 Timing of Matches

7.6.1 General

- 7.6.1.1** All matches except Grading and NetSetGo 9 and under shall comprise four 10-minute quarters with a one-minute break at quarter-times and a three-minute break at halftime. Teams shall take the court immediately upon the timekeeper's request and be ready to recommence play.
- 7.6.1.2** A Central clock shall time all matches
- 7.6.1.3** There will be no "time off" for injuries

7.6.2 Grading

7.6.2.1 All Grading matches will be as per competition rules.

7.6.3 Tournaments

7.6.3.1 All Tournament matches will be as per Tournament competition rules.

7.6.3.2 All matches shall comprise two halves with one-minute break between games. Teams shall take the court immediately upon the timekeeper's request and be ready to recommence play.

7.6.4 Round Robin

7.6.4.1 Round Robin matches will be as per Round Robin competition rules.

7.6.5 Other as determined by Committee and Convenor

7.7 Protests

7.7.1 A team wishing to protest must submit their protest in writing to their club President/Secretary and this protest must be received from the club to Association within 3 business days of the match being played. Wherever possible the result of the protest shall be determined by the Association within 7 days

7.7.2 A protest may only be lodged for matters not covered by Netball Victoria's Child Safe, Member Protection policies or Competition Complaints Handling Regulations.

8. MATCHDAY MISCONDUCT

8.1 Any competition related offences and disputes are to be dealt with according to the Netball Victoria Child Safe Policy, Competition Complaints Handling Regulations and Member Protection Policy.

<https://vic.netball.com.au/sites/vic/files/2020-01/Child-Safety-Policy.pdf>

<https://vic.netball.com.au/sites/vic/files/2020-01/NV-Competition-Complaints-Handling-Regulations-Effective-1-January-2018.pdf>

https://netball.com.au/sites/default/files/2019-07/Member-Protection-Policy-and-Attachments_FINAL-APRIL-2017.pdf

8.2 As an overview:

8.2.1 The complaint should be written up using the Complaint Form available from the Netball Victoria website. Preferably this should be done on behalf of the person making the complaint by the Club president.

<https://vic.netball.com.au/sites/vic/files/2020-01/Complaint-Form-.pdf>

8.2.2 This form must come from the Club President and must be sent to the MENA Secretary secretary@menanetball.com.au as soon as practicable and within five (5) business days of the incident taking place.

8.2.3 MENA Secretary will send the Complaint Form to the MENA Complaints Manager who will ask the President of the Club that the person that the complaint is against to fill out a Respondent Form.

<https://vic.netball.com.au/sites/vic/files/2020-01/Respondent-Form.pdf>

8.2.4 This Respondent Form will be sent back to the Complaints Manager.

8.2.5 The Complaints Manager will determine under which policy/regulation the complaint will be dealt with – Child Safe, Competition Complaints Handling or Member Protection in this order.

- 8.2.6** Further information from umpires, witnesses and officials, complainant or respondent may be sought.
- 8.2.7** The Complaints Manager will then make a determination.
- 8.2.8** The complaint will either be upheld or dismissed at this point.
- 8.2.9** The Complaints Manager will either:
 - a) Determine that no disciplinary action is required and dismiss the Complaint
 - b) Decide in relation to the Complaint and impose the appropriate penalty in accordance with Part V of the Regulations
 - c) Determine that the matter should proceed to a Hearing.
- 8.2.10** An appeal may be lodged to the MENA Appeal Officer if one or more of the following applies <https://vic.netball.com.au/sites/vic/files/2020-01/Notice-of-Appeal.pdf>:
 - a) That significant new or additional evidence has become available
 - b) That the penalty imposed by the Complaints Manager or Hearing Panel is not in accordance with the Policy or Regulations
 - c) That the Complaints Manager or Hearing Panel failed to follow procedures or requirements of the Policy or Regulations to the significant detriment of the Respondent.

9. OFFICIALS, PLAYER AND SPECTATOR CONDUCT

- 9.1** Each Club or Team is responsible for the conduct of its officials, players and supporters before, during and after matches.
- 9.2** Umpires may warn a Club official or Team Captain when such conduct is inappropriate and must cease.
- 9.3** Should the Umpire see fit the game may be paused whilst the official, player or spectator is advised by the Umpire or Official to cease such behaviour.
- 9.4** Should such behaviour continue, the Umpire may abandon the game at their discretion.
- 9.5** In the event of a game being abandoned, the scores will stand but the 4 game points will be awarded to the non-offending Club. If both Clubs are at fault no points will be awarded.
- 9.6** All must adhere to the Netball Australia Codes of Behaviour.
- 9.7** The venue is a non-smoking area during competition/events.
- 9.8** The venue is alcohol free during competition other than approved functions within the prescribed areas in the Alcohol Management policy

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

- 10.1** The Association shall select representative teams in the following age groups: 11 & Under; 13 & Under; 15 & Under; 17 & Under; Open
- 10.2** All representative players shall pay a levy as determined by the Committee
- 10.3** All players shall purchase an Association uniform as determined by the Committee
- 10.4** All players must sign and adhere to the Representative Program Agreement

11. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- 11.1** A club or team may apply for special circumstances for any request that is outside these by-laws. The process of appealing to the Association under the special circumstance rules is as follows:

- 11.2** The Club or team must apply in writing to the Association via admin@menanetball.com.au prior to the match or season or relevant program seeking special circumstances clearly outlining the reasons.
- 11.3** The Executive Committee will consider each request on its merits and advise the Club or Team of its decision. The decision made by the Executive Committee will be binding.
- 11.4** Requests approved for players to participate under special circumstances may be monitored for a period as determined by the Executive Committee. At the end of the specified period, permission will either be granted for the player/team to remain in the grade or section or a decision made for them to return to the original grade.

12. COVID REGULATIONS

12.1 Vaccination Requirements

12.1.1 The vaccination requirements of all Association members, volunteers and spectators will be determined by the direction of the Victorian Government Directions and advised by Netball Victoria's Return to Community Netball Guidelines.

12.2 Reporting of Positive Covid Cases

12.2.1 All clubs are responsible for notifying their members and umpire convenor; the Association plus opposing club if a club member tests positive to COVID. Opposing club must notify their members and umpire convenor.

12.2.2 The Club and the Association will follow the most up to date Checklist for COVID Contacts as determined by the Victorian Department of Health.

12.2.3 The Association may apply a monetary fine should it become aware of a club who has knowingly breached or disregarded this by-law.

13. GENERAL RULES

- 13.1** In the event of any Clubs or Teams violating any rules of the Association or neglecting to comply with the directions of any Committee or sub-Committee, which may from time to time be appointed, such Clubs or Teams shall be liable to a fine, loss of points, suspension or expulsion as the Association shall determine. Any Clubs or Teams whilst under suspension shall forfeit all rights and privileges held under the Association, its delegates shall cease to act, and team members shall be liable to be debarred from competing in any match held under the auspices of the Association
- 13.2** Where fine money is not paid by the stipulated time, four (4) points may be deducted from the premiership points of the defaulting teams.

14. COMPETITION RULES

- 14.1** As per Association website

15. POLICIES

- 14.1** As per Association website

16. BYLAWS

- 15.1 By-laws may be altered as deemed necessary through the year by the committee
- 15.2 Notice in writing of by-laws changes will be forwarded to members
- 15.3 By-laws act with the Association policies
- 15.4 The Committee and Convenors will have the right to interpret the rules due to circumstances which may arise on the day of play.