2027 Autumn Club Competition

Melbourne East Netball Association (MENA) invites affiliated clubs to compete in the 2027 Club Competition.

TEAM ENTRIES CLOSE	SEASON COMMENCES	AGM
Sunday 6 December 2026	**Fri 29 / Sat 30 January 2027**	**Tuesday 18 May 2027**

Divisions

- **9 & Under GO** – NetSetGo Mixed (Females & Males – no restrictions)
- **11 & Under** – Mixed (Females & Males – no restrictions)
- **13 & Under** – Mixed (Females & Males – no restrictions)
- **15 & Under Female** – Males 13 & Under as at the first day of competition or season may participate
- **15 & Under Mixed** – Females & Males (restrictions apply)
- **17 & Under Female**
- **Open Female**
- **Open All Abilities** – Mixed

Entries must be submitted through Netball Connect and through the online Club Registration form.

Entering the Competition

When entering the competition, all teams agree to abide by the Association's rules. A full copy of the rules is available on the website and can also be requested from the Association. Clubs and teams must regularly field players and meet MENA's financial, umpiring, Club Competition Rules, By-Laws and Policy requirements.

Key Dates & Deadlines – Autumn Season

The Autumn calendar will be released in November.

Milestone	Date
Entries open	Now open
Entries close (Netball Connect) & Club Registration form	**Sunday 6 December 2026**
Team grading information due	**Sunday 6 December 2026**
Payment due	**Thursday 14 January 2027**
Fixture release	Week commencing 25 January 2027
Presidents & Secretaries meeting	**Tuesday 9 February 2027**
Season commences	**Friday 29 & Saturday 30 January 2027**
Semi final	**Saturday 5 June 2027**

Milestone	Date
9 & Under round robin	**Friday 18 June 2027**
Grand final	**Saturday 19 June 2027**

2027 Autumn Club Competition Fees

Fee	Amount
Club annual affiliation fee (once per year, per club)	$10 incl. GST
Team fee	$840 incl. GST per team

Team Entries

Step 1: Submit team entries

Submit team entries via Netball Connect Club Admin.

Step 2: Email grading forms

Email grading forms to admin@menanetball.com.au.

- Use the official grading template
- Create one worksheet per team
- Submit one file per club

Download the Grading Template

Step 3: Complete the online registration form

Complete the online Autumn 2027 Club Competition Registration Form

Step 4: Pay team registration fees

Pay by bank transfer to **Melbourne East Netball Association** – BSB **633-000**, Account **125149989**.

Netball Victoria Membership

Netball Victoria membership is required before training and playing for players, umpires, coaches and team managers. View the Netball Victoria membership prices.

Single Game Vouchers (SGV)

- Must be purchased via Netball Connect before playing.
- Up to 3 SGVs can be purchased per Club Competition season. After 3 games, a full Netball Victoria membership is required. The cost of SGVs is not deducted from the full membership cost.
- How to buy a SGV

Clubs manage player team lists via Netball Connect. Players must be registered in Netball Connect to the team they are playing for in order to qualify for finals.

> Failure to register may result in sanctions for the individual, team or club.

Game Scheduling

Friday

- Earliest game 4:25pm; latest game 5:55pm.

- Indoor courts can accommodate the modified lower goal posts, which are used in the lowest sections. Shorter posts help players build proper shooting mechanics, confidence and technique. Regulation-height posts (3.05m) are used in the highest sections.

Saturday

- Earliest game 8:00am; latest game 5:10pm.
- U11, U13 and U15 teams will continue to be scheduled earlier in the day, progressing from lower to higher sections.
- U17 and Open teams will rotate through the 5:10pm time slot.
- Open 1 will remain indoors, and All Abilities will continue at 3:30pm and 4:20pm indoors.
- Court allocations will rotate indoor/outdoor where possible.
- **U15 Female:** 12:10pm, 1:00pm, 1:50pm, 2:40pm
- **U15 Mixed:** 3:30pm, 4:20pm, 5:10pm

Games will be scheduled to avoid overlap where possible.

Match times are a guide only and will depend on the number of teams entered in the competition.

Game Timing

- A central timing system is used for all matches. The official time is the central timing system, not Netball Connect. There is no injury time.
- All matches (except NetSetGo): 4 × 10-minute quarters, 1-minute quarter breaks, 3-minute half-time.
- NetSetGo 9 & Under: 4 × 9-minute quarters, 1-minute quarter breaks, 2-minute half-time.
- Adverse weather: games may be shortened to 1 × 11-minute half + 1 × 10-minute half (1-minute break).
  - Indoor matches stay at their original time; outdoor matches may be rescheduled after.
- A game reaching halfway or more is counted as a completed match. If less than half is completed, the game is declared a draw.
- Open All Abilities – Mixed games are led by Eastern All Abilities and are usually scheduled for 3:30pm and 4:20pm.

Fixtures

- Available online via the MENA website or the Netball Connect app.

Match Conduct

- Matches follow Netball Australia rules. Download the Rules of Netball app for Apple and Android devices.
- **Match ball:** the first-named team on the fixture is responsible for supplying the match ball.
- All players must be marked as played in Team Attendance in Netball Connect before the game ends.
- A maximum of 12 players can take the court in one game.
- Please read the MENA By-Laws, Club Competition Rules & Policies.

Game Cancellations

- Games impacted by unsafe weather conditions will be managed in line with the Adverse Weather Policy.
- **All teams and players MUST report to the venue no matter what the weather conditions.** Rain, cold weather and heat do not necessarily stop play.
- Cancelled games with no result are declared a draw.
- Finals cancellations follow specific rules (e.g. the top team may be declared the winner).

- See the Adverse Weather Policy.

Age Guidelines

- Players must meet the age requirements for each section (based on age at 31 December of the playing year).
- Players can only play in one age group above their age.
- **11 & Under:** players must be 8 years of age before 31 December of the year they are playing.
- **Open:** players must be 15 years of age before 31 December of the year they are playing. If a player turning 14 before 31 December is temporarily required to fill in for an Open team, an exception may be requested from the Game Day Competition Coordinator.
- Permanent exceptions must be requested in writing to admin@menanetball.com.au and will be determined by the MENA Board.
- In special circumstances, players may be allowed to play in age sections below their age. These exceptions must be emailed to admin@menanetball.com.au with relevant supporting medical documentation and will be assessed by the MENA Board.

Playing for more than one team

> **Players may only play for one (1) club during a season in the Club Competition**, unless granted clearance by the Association. Players may participate in multiple divisions in **15 & Under Mixed only**, under the rules below.

Female players

A female player aged 15 & Under may be registered and participate in 15 & Under Mixed and one other division within the Club Competition, provided that:

- the player meets the age eligibility for both divisions;
- the player meets the finals qualification criteria – a minimum of 4 games played in each team during the season to be eligible for finals; and
- the player meets the gender restrictions outlined for the division.

Male players

- A male player under 13 years of age as at the first day of competition may be registered and participate in both the 15 & Under Female and 15 & Under Mixed divisions.
- A male player aged 13 years or older at the first day of competition is eligible to play in the 15 & Under Mixed division only.

Clearances

- A clearance is required for players moving to another team in the same competition during the season.
- Players not listed on the original team entry form who wish to move to a lower grade/division must apply in writing **before playing** with that team.
- All clearance and transfer requests must be emailed to admin@menanetball.com.au for approval by the MENA Executive Board.

Grading

There are several sections for each age group, with Section 1 being the highest. Clubs enter teams into a section based on their knowledge of the players' abilities and standard of play. MENA may regrade teams during grading games, depending on their performance, to ensure a more even standard of competition. See the Grading Policy.

Finals

Finals are based on ladder points, then percentage.

Finals eligibility

- Players must hold a Netball Victoria membership. Players cannot play with a Single Game Voucher in finals.
- Players must be a financial club member.
- Players must be registered in the team in Netball Connect to be eligible to participate in finals for that team.
- Players can play in only one team for finals.
- **11 & Under, 13 & Under and 15 & Under:** players must have played at least four (4) games for the team to qualify for finals.
- **17 & Under and Open:** players must have played at least four (4) games with the team to qualify for finals. Club-borrowed players must have played at least five (5) games with the team.
- New player registrations are open until the completion of the last round. After the last round, registrations close and a roster freeze comes into effect from midnight **Sunday 30 May 2027**.
- Players cannot be borrowed during finals.
- Ineligible players will appear in red with a strike-through in Netball Connect during finals.

Draws in finals

Competition Staff will monitor all finals and attend the court if the match is drawn at full time.

Scoring for extra time

- **11 & Under:** switch to paper scoresheets.
- **13 & Under and above:** live scoring is used. The app will automatically move to extra time if a match is drawn, and MENA staff will select the **Start** button to start the time.
- The same process applies for double extra time.
- Scores will be verified by a MENA Competition Staff member.

Extra time

- **Coin toss for centre pass:** conducted by Staff and the Umpires with each team's captain. The first-named team calls the toss; the winner receives the first centre pass.
- **Teams change ends** before extra time begins.
- **Positional changes and substitutions** may occur during the break, in accordance with rolling substitution rules.
- **MENA Competition Staff will time extra time**, and this official time will be used. Staff will confirm start and end times with the umpires.
- Extra time is 2 × 5-minute halves, with a straight swap of ends and no break between halves.

Double extra time (if still drawn)

If scores remain tied at the end of extra time:

- **11 & Under:** the first team to score **two (2) goals** wins.
- **All other sections:** the first team to lead by **two (2) clear goals** wins.

New for Autumn 2027

1. Spirit of the Game Policy

A trial of the Spirit of the Game Policy will run during the Autumn and Spring 2027 Club Competition in the lowest sections of the 11 & Under, 13 & Under and 15 & Under divisions, excluding grading and finals matches. The policy aims to promote fair play, inclusion, player development and enjoyment by reducing the impact of one-sided matches.

If a team leads by 20 goals or more at any stage of a match, every centre pass following a goal will be awarded to the trailing team until the margin falls below 20 goals, when normal centre pass rotation will resume.

Coaches are also encouraged to rotate players through different positions, provide more opportunities for developing players, and prioritise confidence, participation and sportsmanship.

The trial will be reviewed in October 2027, with a view to potential adoption in Autumn 2028. More information: Spirit of the Game Draft – 13 Oct 2026

2. By-Law updates for Autumn 2027

The By-Laws will be updated for the Autumn 2027 season to ensure alignment with Netball Victoria's rules and regulations.

8.7 (b) Mixed competition for the 15 & Under and above age groups will observe the following rules:

(i) The minimum number of males in a team is ZERO, and

(ii) A mixed team must only have a maximum of 3 males on court at any one time, and

(iii) A mixed team must only have up to one male in each third on court. For the avoidance of doubt, this means:

A. One male is permitted in the defence third, occupying the position of Goal Defence or Goalkeeper, and

B. One male is permitted in the mid third, occupying the position of Centre, Wing Attack or Wing Defence, and

C. One male is permitted in the goal third, occupying the position of Goal Attack or Goal Shooter.

3. Rolling Substitution Line Trial

Replace the box with a designated rolling sub line.

4. Netball Vic & Netball Connect Integration.

An automatic integration in Netball Connect between Services Victoria and other state government departments to instantly verify the WWCC status of participants. The integration automates monthly re-checks and will identify negative/barred, suspended, or expiring credentials throughout the year which streamlines the checking and management of Working with Children Checks. For More information visit the Netball VIC web site

Quick Links

- **Scoring, borrowing players, rolling subs:** menanetball.com.au/clubcompetitionscoring
- **Forfeits:** menanetball.com.au/clubcompetitionforfeit
- **Uniform & on-court safety:** menanetball.com.au/clubcompuniform
- **Umpire requirements, conduct, safety, fees, support:** menanetball.com.au/clubcompetitionumpire
- **Photography & filming at MENA:** menanetball.com.au/photofilming
- **First aid:** menanetball.com.au/injuryreport
- **Café:** operated by Melb East; proceeds support the Association.

Rules & Regulations

For the Competition By-Laws, Constitution and Competition Rules, see menanetball.com.au/rules-regulations.

Child Safety

Melbourne East Netball Association is a Child Safe Organisation. We commit to providing a safe environment for children in netball and we follow the principles and benchmarks Netball Victoria has in place. For more information visit menanetball.com.au/child-safety.

Each club must appoint a person as the Child Safety Officer (CSO).

MENA Child Safety Officer: cso@menanetball.com.au

Working with Children Check

Umpires, coaches, team managers and other volunteers/officials must hold a Working with Children Check before carrying out their role in the Association's competitions and teams, and must register in Netball Connect and complete their Working with Children details.

Please keep your Working with Children Check organisation details up to date at wwcc.vic.gov.au. Umpires, please add: **Melbourne East Netball Association, PO Box 613, Heathmont VIC 3135**. Coaches and team managers, please add your club details.

Code of Conduct

Ensure that all teams, spectators and coaches are aware of, and adhere to, the Code of Conduct.

> **All club coaches must be registered in Netball Connect and registered to the team they coach. Where there is no coach, a manager must be registered in Netball Connect.**

Positive Vibes – Bringing the Vibe. Let Them Enjoy the Game.

The Positive Vibes initiative aims to create a positive, respectful and supportive environment for everyone involved in netball. Each team will nominate a weekly volunteer to wear a green vest and encourage positive sideline behaviour, good sportsmanship and respect for players, coaches, umpires and volunteers.

The role is to lead by example and help ensure children enjoy their game in a safe and encouraging environment. Volunteers are not responsible for policing spectators or managing incidents; any concerns should be referred to a MENA Competition Coordinator.

For more information, resources and guidance, please refer to:

- Positive Vibes Information
- Positive Vibes Volunteer Guide
- Common Questions and Answers Guide

Behaviour & Misconduct

- Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials and spectators.
- Bad behaviour may result in the game being paused or abandoned.
- Netball Australia's Codes of Behaviour must be followed.

Raising concerns respectfully

If you have concerns during a match:

- **Who to approach:** speak with the MENA Competition Coordinator or Umpire Supervisor for clarification.
- **How to identify them:** they wear blue/yellow MENA polos and blue vests.
- **Where to find them:** near the courts or in the Competition Office.

Let's keep our netball environment safe, fair and respectful for everyone.

Formal complaints

If you wish to lodge a formal complaint, the Netball Victoria Competition Complaints Handling Regulation applies to any behaviour that breaches expected standards.

- Complaints must go through official forms and channels.
- Details for submitting a complaint are available at menanetball.com.au/fairplay.

Rule Interpretation & Breaches

- The MENA Committee and Game Day Supervisors may interpret rules when needed.
- Breaches of these rules may result in:
  - loss of points
  - score adjustment
  - other penalties (refer to the full By-Laws).

Questions or special requests

- Special circumstances or rule exceptions must be requested in writing to admin@menanetball.com.au.
- All decisions made by the MENA Board Executive are final.

Club Competition Standing Committee

Members list: menanetball.com.au/mena-board

The Club Competition Standing Committee (CCSC) is responsible for the following areas:

- Approving changes to club uniforms.
- Determining the eligibility of players to play in finals.
- Making recommendations to the MENA Board on changes to the competition rules, By-Laws, etc.
- Supporting Grand Final day operations.
- Providing input into relevant policies.
- Supporting and assisting with fundraising days.
- Grading sub-committee appointments.
- Discussion on umpiring.

Any decisions outside of these areas are beyond the authority of the CCSC and must be referred to the MENA Board; however, the CCSC can make a recommendation for the MENA Board to consider.

Location

Maroondah Nets, HE Parker, 154 Heathmont Rd, Heathmont

Venue rules: no smoking or vaping at the venue. No alcohol during competitions/events, except in the designated multipurpose room during sanctioned functions.

Contact

All correspondence should be in writing from the Club President or Secretary to admin@menanetball.com.au.