



NETBALL VICTORIA

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Netball Victoria's Information Sheets and Resources

PARTICIPATION INFONET: SAMPLE COVID-19 BYLAW AMENDMENTS

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This Info-net has been developed as a guide for Associations and Leagues to ensure all programs and competitions consider some of the Bylaw changes that may be required as a result of returning to play.

“Bylaws” are additional rules that apply to association and leagues that generally relate to 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. An Association or Club should have a clause in the Constitution that provides the power to the Board or Committee in extenuating circumstances) to make Bylaws or amendments.

Changes and flexibility to the way competitions have traditionally been run prior to COVID-19 will be essential to ensure Associations and Leagues can provide players and officials with the confidence to return and encourage participation.

The revised bylaws should be included as an addendum with the dates or season applicable specified.

Bylaws that may need consideration are:

Netball Victoria Membership

It is important for all associations and leagues to maintain that every player, coach and umpire and administrator is a Netball Victoria member. There are some bylaws or processes, which may need to be relaxed to support teams.

Single Game Vouchers - whilst some competitions do not permit single game vouchers, this is still deemed a valid form of membership for a single game as the name suggests, therefore should not be denied. Associations and Leagues are encouraged to allow the use of single game vouchers, especially if the season has been modified from the regular format.

Membership Cut Off Dates – competitions who have a cut off date or round where new members are not permitted to join are encouraged to remove this for the upcoming season. This bylaw can be prohibitive to clubs being able to field a team and may not be applicable to the competition start date. It is recommended that it should be stated “prior to taking the court”.

Grading

For competitions who provide grading rounds at the start of a season, there may need to be provisions to take the 2019 results into consideration. As time and the number of rounds may be limited, associations should consider what is the most practical solution for their competition.

Player Qualification

As the current competitions are outside of our traditional operations, competitions should look at flexible options in regard to player qualification. Areas that may need to be reconsidered include:

- Clearances
- How many games can be played
- Borrowing players
- Finals Qualification

Clearances - if your competition requires a clearance between seasons, common sense must be applied as to the reason this may not be granted. The two reasons are owing money or in possession of equipment. Clubs should not hold back any player who is looking to maximise their opportunity to participate.

How Many Games Can be Played – this is applicable to competitions where players are limited to one game per day/night. To support clubs in fielding a team during this time some greater flexibility may be required to avoid forfeits.

Borrowing Players – competitions who traditionally do not permit this, may need to add a relevant clause. Competitions where this is limited, may look to increase the number of matches permitted.

Finals Qualification – with a variation on the competition length, competitions are encouraged to adjust their finals qualification to a % of the season instead of the number of matches/quarters.

Conduct of Matches

Each association and league will implement the government guidelines in the most practical way for their competition. As outlined in the Netball Australia BounceBack guidelines, the timing of matches may be altered in order to provide adequate time to sanitise and clean surfaces, balls etc as well as provide a changeover time. Any changes to the timing of matches, including length of quarters and intervals should be outlined in the addendum to the bylaws.

Umpires & Coaches

Whilst Netball Victoria would like to maintain a high standard in coaching and umpiring, there may be the need to accommodate less qualified/accredited umpires and coaches for the upcoming season.

Umpire Qualifications/Accreditation – as there has been minimal competition in 2020 this has resulted in limited testing opportunities for umpires. Competitions should provide exemptions as appropriate to ensure their matches are able to go ahead.

Coach Qualifications/Accreditation – if there is a requirement for coaches to have the Development accreditation or above, due to COVID-19 these courses have been unable to go ahead. Competitions should provide exemptions as appropriate.

Number of Matches Permitted - if your competition limits the number of games or divisions an umpire is permitted to officiate in a day/night, this may need to be reviewed to assist teams having umpires available.

Uniform

If your competition enforces the uniform guidelines with penalties, it may be a time where some flexibility is required, and we need to review the importance of how precise each players uniform is.

To ensure teams have the full complement of players fill ins may be required. Competitions are encouraged to provide flexibility, which may include allowing players to wear shorts and a shirt in similar colours if required. If your competition lends skirts, we encourage them not to be lent out during this time.