



Gender Regulation

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Last Reviewed: May 2022

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Responsibility: GM – Affiliate Services

Netball Victoria Gender Regulation

This Regulation has been made by the NV board of directors (Board) under Rule 35 of the Netball Victoria Constitution on 30 August 2018. NV may amend or update this regulation from time to time and such amendments will be effective from the time from which they are communicated.

“Netball Victoria is committed to being an inclusive organisation, where every individual has the opportunity to participate at a level and in a manner appropriate to their ability, comfort level and/or personal preference. A strong foundation has been laid in years prior and now a more focused and refined approach is needed to ensure sustainable participation and involvement in our sport continues in years to come across Victoria.”
(*Netball Victoria’s Inclusion Strategy*).

When conducting competitions, tournaments or similar activities, Affiliates (and other bodies which organise netball competitions) must comply with this Regulation.

Introduction

Netball Victoria and its Affiliates welcome the opportunity for females and males to participate in netball. Opportunities should be available for mixed-gender competitions as well as single-gender female and male competitions.

The Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic) permits the exclusion of boys from participating in female competitions where:

- (a) the strength, stamina and physique of competitors is relevant; or
- (b) the exclusion is intended to facilitate participation by girls and is reasonable.

Transgender & Gender Diversity

NV is committed to promote principles of equality and ensure respect and diversity is intrinsic to the netball culture. All individuals will be treated with dignity and respect to ensure that all people experience a safe and inclusive netball environment.

Netball Victoria’s Policy for the Inclusion of Transgender and Gender Diverse People in Netball, provides details of player eligibility and should be referred to in conjunction with this regulation for guidance.

NV recognises there is debate over whether a male to female transgender person obtains any physical advantage over other female participants. This debate is reflected in the divergent discrimination laws across the country. NV will not tolerate the promotion of transphobia, and these debates cannot seek to alienate and exclude trans and gender diverse athletes from the sport of netball. If issues of performance advantage arise NV and its affiliates will seek advice on the application of those applicable Victorian discrimination laws for that circumstance.

Regulation

1. Males who are 13 years of age (and older) are not permitted to participate in a female competition. To avoid any doubt:

- (a) males must be less than 13 years of age (actual age) as at the first day of the competition or season; and
- (b) males that turn 13 during that competition or season will be permitted to participate for the duration of that competition or season.

2. For all competitions, the gender permitted to play must be clear and transparent. Clarity and transparency will be reflected in the labelling or title of competitions as well as in bylaws, promotions, advertising and general communications including fixturing and ladders of all competitions.

3. Where mixed competitions are offered up to and including the 13&U age group:

(a) there can be no restrictions applied on the basis of gender.

4. For all other mixed competitions above the 13&U age group:

(a) the competition administrator can determine if the minimum number of males in a team is zero, one or two; and

(b) a mixed team must only have a maximum of 3 males on court at any one time; and

(c) a mixed team must only have up to one male in each third on court at any one time.

For the avoidance of doubt this means:

i. one male is permitted in the defence third occupying the position of Goal Defence or Goal Keeper, and

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

iii. one male is permitted in the goal third occupying the position of Goal Attack or Goal Shooter.

NV acknowledges the gender regulation in relation to Mixed Competition will create challenges but is committed to work through those challenges. There is a need for education and guidance about the practical steps NV can take to ensure transgender and gender diverse people feel safe, and their welfare is at the forefront when navigating each scenario on an individual basis.

5. NV and its affiliates are committed to increasing the number of opportunities for mixed and 'boys only' netball competitions to ensure fairness to all people regardless of sex or gender identity. NV will continue to work with our netball Associations, Leagues and Clubs to increase opportunities for everyone to participate in community netball.