



VICTORIAN NETBALL LEAGUE

OPERATIONS MANUAL

Season 2024

Updated September 2023

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VICTORIAN NETBALL LEAGUE CONTACTS

	POSITION	NAME	CONTACT
	General Manager – Netball Development	Angela Banbury	03 9321 2266 angela.banbury@netballvic.com.au
	Performance Competitions Manager	Stacey O'Neill	03 9321 2240 stacey.oneill@netballvic.com.au
	Competitions Coordinator	Rachael Blackshaw	03 9321 2253 rachael.blackshaw@netballvic.com.au
	Technical Officials Coordinator	Cathy Gallop	03 9321 2243 cathy.gallop@netballvic.com.au
	Workforce Manager	Meg Hopper	03 9312 2229 meg.hopper@netballvic.com.au
	VNL Court Supervisor (competition nights only)	Jenny Doll	
	SNHC Competition Office (Wednesday nights only)		03 9321 2226

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

	NAME & NV POSITION	AREA OF SUPPORT	CONTACT
	Janelle Jorgensen Partnership Manager	Sponsorship; contracts inc. assets & their value	03 9321 2262 janelle.jorgensen@netballvic.com.au
	Naomi Barter General Manager – Communications, Marketing & Partnerships	Marketing	03 9321 2230 naomi.barter@netballvic.com.au
	Joss Roche Media & Communications Manager	Social media & connecting with local media	03 9321 2241 joss.roche@netballvic.com.au
	Andrea Pearman Chief Executive Officer		03 9321 2205 andrea.pearman@netballvic.com.au

VNL CLUB PRIMARY CONTACTS

VNL CLUB	NAME	CONTACT
Bendigo Strikers	Teigan Redwood	bendigostrikersnetball@outlook.com
Boroondara Express	Sue Reddish	boroondaranetball@iprimus.com.au
Casey Demons	Rebekah Bogos	rebekah@caseynetball.com.au
City West Falcons	Jannelle Graham	jannellegraham@hotmail.com
Geelong Cougars	Lisa McFarlane	cougarscoordinator@geelongnetball.com.au
Gippsland Stars	Daniel Heathcote	gm@gippslandleague.com.au
Hawks Netball	Roz Montgomery	hawksnetballhnc@gmail.com
Melbourne University Lightning	John Tran	netball-administrator@unimelb.edu.au
North East Blaze	Neil Wallmeyer	nebnetball@gmail.com
Peninsula Waves	Gen Blaze	admin@peninsulawaves.com.au
Wilsons Storage Southern Saints	Ross Payne	rpayne9@outlook.com
Western Warriors	Gillian Powell	gillianp@foxemail.com.au



1. Background Information

Following a review of State League in 2023 and consideration of the recommendations of the Advisory Group, a two-tiered state-wide competition for the peak of elite netball in Victoria was instituted. The new iteration of the Victorian Netball League will include twelve Licensees competing in each of two divisions: Championship and 23&Under – Female.

The license application was open in 2023 for all existing and new license holders to apply with licences granted for up to five (5) years. Each licensee is responsible for developing netball players, coaches and officials.

The objectives of the competition are:

- Be the premier netball competition in Victoria that provides the best opportunities for talented netballers;
- Ensure that the VNL provides a pathway for developing players, coaches, technical officials and administrators throughout Victoria;
- Provide the daily training environment expected for players, coaches and umpires;
- Create strong links between VNL, National underpinning programs, Australian Netball Championships and National Netball Championships;
- Recognise relationships with community netball;
- Create a product, both as a club and as a competition to attract and provide successful sponsorship and media opportunities.

2. Affiliation

All VNL Licensees, not affiliated with a Netball Association, are required to pay an annual affiliation fee to Netball Victoria, separate to the court fees. Court fees assist in paying the weekly expenses associated with running the VNL. The affiliation fee affiliates the Licensee with Netball Victoria and recognises the Licensee as a member of Netball Victoria, providing benefits such as voting rights.

In 2024, this fee will be \$250.

3. Awards - VNL

The VNL awards are as follows:

- MVP – Awarded to the player who received the most votes (3, 2, 1 system) throughout the home and away season. Votes are awarded by the umpires of each match (one award per division).
- Hot Shot – Awarded to the player who scored the highest number of goals throughout the home and away season (one award per division).
- Joyce Brown Coaches Award – Awarded to the premiership winning coach of the Championship Division
- Team of the Year – Awarded to 12 players in each division (4 defenders, 4 mid-courtiers, 4 goalers) as selected by each Head Coach (cannot select from own team)
- Umpire of the Year – Awarded to one umpire selected by the VNL Umpire High Performance Coaching Panel

The awards will be presented at the conclusion of the VNL season.

4. Clearances

Clearances will be required for any VNL players wishing to change clubs from the previous competition year. Clubs must complete the clearance on Netball Connect.

Further information is available in the Competition Regulations.

5. Club Administrator/Primary Contact

Each License must designate one administrator who liaises with Netball Victoria. The Competitions Manager should be advised in writing of any changes to License Administrators during the season or between seasons. It is essential that contact details are accurate to ensure all communication is received.

6. Coach Requirements

Licensees accepted into the competition shall ensure that all coaching staff adhere to the following:

- They are current full members of Netball Victoria

HEAD COACHES

- Championship division coaches must hold a current National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS) Advanced netball accreditation or above.
- 23 & Under Coaches must hold a current NCAS Intermediate netball accreditation or above

ASSISTANT COACHES

- Assistant coaches in Championship Division must hold a current NCAS Intermediate netball accreditation or above
- 23 & Under Assistant Coaches must hold a current NCAS Development netball accreditation or above

SCHOLARSHIP COACHES

- Scholarship coaches in both divisions are recommended to hold a current NCAS Development netball accreditation or above

Appointments of all coaching positions or changes to coaching positions mid-season must be provided to Netball Victoria in writing.

7. Competition Regulations

Competition Regulations are available and outline all the rules relating to the competition.

8. Composition of Games

- 4 x 15 minute quarters
- 3 minutes $\frac{1}{4}$ time and $\frac{3}{4}$ time break
- 5 minutes $\frac{1}{2}$ time break (may be extended to 10 minutes for “home games”)
- Injury Time as per the “Official Rules of Netball” revised 2018

The VNL will be predominantly played on Wednesday evenings at the State Netball Hockey Centre (SNHC), Brens Drive, Parkville. Some Friday/Saturday/Sunday/Monday matches will be allocated to Licensees to host home games. For further information on home games refer to the Home Games Manual.

9. Correspondence & Queries

All VNL correspondence should be directed to Rachael Blackshaw, Competitions Coordinator VNL at Netball Victoria.

- Street Address: 10 BRENS DRIVE, PARKVILLE 3052
- Postal Address: PO Box 60 NORTH MELBOURNE 3051
- Phone: 03 9321 2253
- Email: rachael.blackshaw@netballvic.com
- Website: <https://vic.netball.com.au/victorian-netball-league>

10. Fees

COURT FEES

Court Fees have been set at \$2200 per team (Inc. GST).

Invoices will be forwarded to all Licenses. Cheques/Money Orders should be made payable to Netball Victoria.

Court Fees must be forwarded to: Netball Victoria, PO Box 60, North Melbourne, VIC, 3051

ENTRY FEES

All teams will be charged a \$150 (Inc. GST) entry fee per Championship and 23 & Under team.

Invoices will be forwarded to all Licensees.

11. First Aid

As part of its Risk Management Plan, Netball Victoria provides a Physiotherapist/Senior First Aider for all Victorian Netball League matches played at the State Netball Hockey Centre on Wednesday evenings where two or more courts are in use.

The Physiotherapist/Senior First Aider will be available for injury management.

Players will be required to supply their own tape for strapping. Any ice for recovery purposes will need to be supplied by the club. Ice in the first aid room is for new injuries only.

12. Fixture

The VNL Competition Manager will endeavour to cater to the fixture requests of Licensees but cannot guarantee that all requests will be met.

The fixture is available at vic.netball.com.au/victorian-netball-league.

13. Grand Finals

The Championship and 23 & Under VNL Grand Finals will be held at the State Netball Hockey Centre on Wednesday 7 August 2024. Match times will be 7:00pm and 8:45pm.

14. Home Games

Licensees are encouraged to list up to three (3) dates for home games; this does not entitle a Licensee to three (3) home games – rather an indication of dates that are available at your venue.

Some Licensees may be allocated two or more home games dependent on how many Licensees take up the initial offer of a Home Game, subsequent Home Games will be randomly allocated.

Please note both divisions will play a home game should you be successful in securing a home game. Special requests to have one division play at a home game may be considered.

The Home Game Manual should be read prior to requesting a Home Game.

15. Incident Report Form

Incident Report Forms will be made available to all people participating in the Victorian Netball League. This allows a coach, player, manager, umpire or supervisor who wishes to report an incident to put it in writing so that it can be read and acted upon by Netball Victoria. A copy of the Incident Report Form is available upon request from Netball Victoria or the Court Supervisor on VNL match nights.

16. Incorporation

All Licensees competing in the VNL must be incorporated. It is the responsibility of each Licensee to ensure their incorporation remains current.

17. Match Balls

Netball Victoria will supply the official match ball for all Victorian Netball League matches. Each Licensee will be provided with eight (8) training balls per team for training purposes.

18. Match Delay or Postponement

Netball Victoria has contingency plans in place for VNL matches in the event of match delay or postponement due to incidents such as weather conditions, poor field of play conditions, equipment failure and serious injury.

PROCEDURES FOR MATCH DELAY OR POSTPONEMENT

All matches must be completed up to the agreed full time. Only the officiating umpires may stop play during a match (temporarily or definitely) because of poor field of play conditions, equipment damage or failure, a seriously injured player or any other reason deemed necessary by the match umpires.

The Court Supervisor, in consultation with the NV Competitions Manager will determine if the match may proceed or if the match must be delayed or postponed.

In the event that a match is delayed, interrupted or postponed, the match must be resumed as soon as is conveniently possible under the following conditions;

- On resumption, the match shall be continued from the spot where the ball was when play was stopped as per IFN Rules of Netball (2018) rule 9.3.
- On resumption, Rule 9.1, relating to the substitution of players shall apply as though there had been no interruption to the match.

The score on resumption of the match being that at the time the interruption took place.

DEFINITION OF DELAY AND POSTPONEMENT

Delay: A match is considered delayed if it does not start at the scheduled start time or is interrupted after the scheduled start.

Postponement: A match is considered postponed when it cannot be completed within the scheduled session (or an extended session) and is rescheduled to another session on the same day or another day.

RESCHEDULING MANAGEMENT

The VNL Competitions Manager will determine when a delayed or postponed competition will resume based on recommendations from the Court Supervisor and Venue Operator. The appropriate contingency plan will be put into place. Please see the Competition Regulations for more details.

19. Netball Victoria Membership

All players, coaches, umpires and officials participating in the VNL must hold a full Netball Victoria Membership. 2021 Netball Victoria Membership costs are;

- Senior \$84
- Junior (17&Under) \$64

Queries relating to Netball Victoria Membership should be directed to the Netball Victoria Member Services Team, phone 03 9321 2260.

20. Player Re-signing and Recruitment

The primary role of each Licensee is to manage the two teams in the Victorian Netball League.

The purpose of the Player Recruitment Window is to regulate the movement of players between Licensees. It is a period of time in which Licensees are permitted to approach potential new recruits.

Licensees should have open and transparent policies and practices for the recruitment of players, coaches, team officials and administrators.

21. Primary Care Personnel

Names of the Primary Care personnel and their qualifications must be submitted to Netball Victoria on the Primary Care List. The Primary Care person will be required to report to the Court Supervisor's office prior to their team's matches starting and sign in to receive a medical band to be worn on their arm to identify their role in the team.

The Primary Care person must be qualified to diagnose and/or treat injury or illness (minimum Level 2 First Aid). The primary career must be listed on the team list of each match and they will make up one of the five (5) Team Officials on the team bench.

22. Scoring & Timing

Each licensee will be responsible for making available a minimum of three (3) bench officials for the season who have completed the minimum course requirements.

Netball Victoria will manage and appoint bench officials for all matches. Note: Clubs will still be required to provide bench officials each round.

All bench officials must be a current Netball Victoria member and have a valid Working with Children Check.

Bench Officials must wear the officials uniform provided by Netball Victoria to all games.

23. Season Dates

Rounds – Wednesday 6 March – Wednesday 17 July

Semi Finals – Wednesday 24 July

Preliminary Finals – Wednesday 31 July

Grand Finals – Wednesday 7 August

24. Sponsorship

Further information regarding sponsorship will be outlined in the VNL Commercial Guidelines.

Should you wish to service/entertain sponsors or club officials, the potential is there when your matches are allocated on Court 1 to utilise the facilities of the SNHC.

If you require any advice or assistance with sponsorship, please contact our Partnerships Manager – Jannelle Jorgensen on 03 9321 2262 or jannelle.jorgensen@netballvic.com.au.

25. Squad Lists & Eligible Player Lists

All players who will participate in the VNL will be required to complete a VNL Standard Player Agreement (VNL SPA) as provided by the licensee. Once signed, players should complete the Online Player Registration form.

A Licensee Squad List is formed when the VNL SPA is completed by players. All Licensees must submit a 23 & Under squad (up to 15 players) and Open squad (up to 15 players) by 26 January in the year of the competition. No additional players may be added after this date unless as a permanent or temporary replacement player.

The Eligible Player List for any given round will comprise of players on the Squad List plus any temporary replacement players for that particular round. An online form must be completed for temporary replacement players by 12 noon on the Wednesday of match day or 12 noon Friday prior to a Friday/Saturday/Sunday match.

26. Team Bench Allocation

When standing on the same side of the court as the team benches facing the court, the first named team shall be allocated the team bench on the right.

The bench will consist of 17 people; 12 players and 5 team officials as per team list, submitted to the Competition Manager/Supervisor.

A Scholarship coach, approved by NV, will be an allowed as an additional person to the bench in the regular season only.

27. Team Name

For the purpose of accurate records and fixtures, we require the correct name of your License/Club. If a name change has occurred since your Victorian Netball League application was submitted, please notify the VNL Competition Manager at Netball Victoria in writing as soon as possible.

28. Team Personnel

Each Licensee is permitted to have up to five (5) officials on their team bench, in addition to the 12 players. The team officials on the team bench (Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager and Primary Care personnel) must be current financial Netball Victoria members.

Of the five (5) officials – the following officials are mandatory – Coach, Manager and Primary Career, other positions may be filled by personnel such as (but not limited to) assistant coach/es, and/or statisticians.

All team officials on the team bench are required to be easily identifiable in team uniform.

Netball Victoria will be running a Scholarship Coach Program which will allow for a 6th team official to be on the bench. Further information in regard to this will be sent to clubs by Netball Victoria.

29. Uniform Registration

Licensees must submit preferred colours for team uniforms and once approved by Netball Victoria these will become the registered team colours for that License.

Netball Victoria reserves the right to reject or request changes to colours. If your Licensee is planning to change the design or colour of your uniform - do not place orders prior to gaining approval from the Competitions Manager. Register your uniform with Netball Victoria first.

A Club's VNL uniform may not be worn by any Development/Squad teams. This uniform is only for the two (2) VNL teams (23/U and Championship)

30. Umpire Feedback

High-Performance Umpire Coaches attend all VNL competition matches, both at the SNHC and the home games.

The High-Performance Umpire Coaches are available for VNL coaches to approach to discuss rules, issues with umpiring interpretations and relevant queries on the game being played.

Coaches who wish to discuss umpiring interpretations, rules or issues with the officiating umpire/umpires on their court should notify a High-Performance Umpire Coach of this request, no longer than 15 minutes post-match. Arrangements will be made for a meeting with the coach and the umpires in a designated room at the stadium after the umpires have fulfilled their official duties.

No discussions with the officiating umpire/umpires are to be undertaken courtside or in the walkways of the venue.

31. Website

Netball Victoria has developed a web page exclusively for the VNL. Log onto <https://vic.netball.com.au/vnl-info-hub> for the latest news and information on the VNL. Information is updated regularly during the season, so make sure you visit frequently.