



VICTORIAN NETBALL LEAGUE

COMPETITION REGULATIONS

Season 2025

Updated August 2024

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INTRODUCTION

The Victorian Netball League Competition Regulations exists to ensure that the strategic objectives of Netball Victoria are achieved. These objectives include:

- 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, SN Reserves and National Netball League;
- 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.

STATUS OF REGULATION

The VNL Competition Regulation is issued by the Board of Netball Victoria under Rule 36 of the Constitution and forms part of the Participation Agreement between Netball Victoria and the Licensees.

This Regulation may be changed from time to time by resolution of the Board.

Netball Victoria reserves the right to vary, waive or supplement the requirements of this Regulation if it deems necessary.

DEFINITIONS

Throughout this Regulation the following definitions apply:

Affiliated Associations – A not for profit incorporated association or company limited by guarantee, which has an interest in netball. Affiliated Associations must conduct competitions which should consist of four (4) or more teams.

Alternate Venue – a venue other than SNC used for Wednesday night games. These games are run by Netball Victoria, not the home Licensee.

ANC – Australian Netball Championships

Athlete Eligibility Assessment Committee (AEAC) – The AEAC will be formed by the Competition Manager on an as needed basis and will be endorsed by the General Manager VPP. It will comprise such members as Netball Victoria may nominate to assess requests for exemptions to the player eligibility rules.

Calendar Year – The period commencing 1st January and ending 31st December inclusive.

Clearance - Partially Completed a clearance request submitted by the player's new club.

Clearance - Fully Completed a clearance approved by the player's previous club.

Competition – The Victorian Netball League Pre-Season Competition and the Victorian Netball League Premiership Season Competition.

Competition Manager – The person appointed by Netball Victoria to manage the Victorian Netball League or their delegate.

Competition Matches - All fixtured matches of the Competition.

Competition Supervisor – The person appointed to supervise the venue where a Competition game is played.

Eligible Athlete List – The list of all eligible athletes to play with a Licensee in the Competition. Athletes may be added to a Licensee's list up to and including round 18 of the Competition. This includes permanent squad members and temporary/permanent replacement athletes.

Field of Play (FOP) - The designated area that includes the defined court area, team benches and score bench.

Home Games – Matches hosted by the Home Licensee (may be at any approved venue).

Home Game Operations Manual – The document detailing the requirements of hosting a Home Game.

Licensee – Any entity granted the right by Netball Victoria to participate in the VNL.

NCAS – National Coaching Accreditation Scheme.

NNL – National Netball League (Suncorp Super Netball or ANZ Premiership).

NV – The Victorian Netball Association Incorporated (ABN 83 704 752 745) trading as Netball Victoria.

Official Scoresheet – The official scoresheet may be paper based or via an electronic scoring (e-scoring) platform.

Online Player Registration Form – The online form players are required to complete prior to playing in the Victorian Netball League.

Participation Agreement – The signed agreement between Netball Victoria and a Licensee for inclusion into the VNL.

Play – The player takes to the court during a match.

Quarter – A quarter of a netball game (or part thereof). For an athlete to be recorded as playing a “quarter”, they do not have to play the full fifteen minutes of the quarter (see Section 2.3 for more details).

Regulation – This 2025 Victorian Netball League Competition Regulation, or any other Netball Victoria Regulation as the context requires.

Rules of Netball – The official Rule Book – “Official Rules of Netball”, revised 2024, subject to any variations approved by NV from time to time.

Score Bench – The designated area in the Field of Play (FOP) where the bench officials (Scorers and Timekeepers) are located at each game.

SNC – State Netball Centre.

SSN – Suncorp Super Netball League.

Squad List – The list of all permanent athletes for each Licensee; one for 23&Under Female and one for Championship. Athletes who have signed a SPA.

Team Bench – The designated area within the FOP where all team players and team officials must be located during a game.

Team Officials – The Coach, Manager and up to three (3) other personnel. At least one (1) of whom must be the Primary Carer who has a current qualification in First Aid (HLTFA311A) or equivalent.

VNL – Victorian Netball League conducted by Netball Victoria.

VNL Reference Group – The VNL Reference Group is an operational group designed to provide support and advice to staff in matters of strategic development and operation of the VNL competition.

VNL SPA – Victorian Netball League Standard Player Agreement that players are required to prior to playing in the Victorian Netball League.

VIS – Victorian Institute of Sport.

1. ENTRY INTO THE COMPETITION

1.1 LICENSEE CONDITIONS

- 1.1.1 Licensees accepted into the VNL will have:
- (a) Completed the application process including:
 - i) Submission of the Expression of Interest (EOI) Form;
 - ii) Meeting the requirements of the VNL;
 - iii) Paying the Application Fee;
 - iv) Signed the Participation Agreement in which they agree to abide by the VNL regulations, rules and procedures governing participation in the VNL and cover the responsibilities in relation to, but not limited to athletes/coach/umpire movement, development, welfare, education, communication, marketing and penalties; and
 - v) Agree to travel intrastate and play matches as required by the VNL fixture.
 - (b) Licensees must be affiliated with Netball Victoria by paying the required annual affiliation fee by the due date.
 - (c) Agree to abide by the policy and rules of Netball Victoria as notified from time to time.
 - (d) Agree to adhere to the requirements of the sponsor/s of Victorian Netball League.
- 1.1.2 In the event of a Licensee withdrawing from the VNL;
- (a) There will be no reimbursement of fees paid and any outstanding fees must be paid.
 - (b) Subsequent entry into the future VNL may be jeopardised.
 - (c) All teams will be immediately withdrawn from the VNL and the Licensee will not be permitted to apply for another License for a minimum of 2 years.
- 1.1.3 Each Licensee must field a team in the 23&Under division of the Victorian Netball League (2024-2026) and both divisions from 2027. Only one team per License shall be permitted in a division of the Victorian Netball League.
- 1.1.4 Netball Victoria reserves the right to refuse entry to any Licensee into the Competition in its absolute discretion without reason.
- 1.1.5 For the avoidance of doubt, this Regulation is intended to supplement the Participation Agreement and all other rules and regulations of NV that are relevant to the Competition. If there is any inconsistency between this Regulation and the Participation Agreement, the Participation Agreement will take precedence.

2. PERSONNEL

2.1 VNL COMPETITION MANAGER

- 2.1.1 The scheduling and rescheduling of all matches is the responsibility of the VNL Competition Manager.
- 2.1.2 The VNL Competition Manager will assist the Licensee to understand their obligations of the VNL Competition Regulations, so they are able to follow the correct administrative procedures and adhere to these Regulations.
- 2.1.3 The VNL Competition Manager shall be responsible to the General Manager – High Performance & Pathways, Chief Executive and Board of Netball Victoria for the management of

the Competition and for this purpose is responsible for upholding all rules and regulations of the Competition. The VNL Competition Manager (in consultation with the General Manager – High Performance & Pathways, Chief Executive and Board of Netball Victoria where required) is authorised, if deemed necessary, to make decisions to ensure that:

- (a) All outcomes identified in the VNL strategic plan are achieved; and
- (b) Where the rules or regulations are silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the Competition is maintained at all times.

- 2.1.4 Further to clause 2.1.3 above, the VNL Competition Manager, may in their absolute discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive any of the requirements set out in the rules and regulations relating to the Competition, including this Regulation. The primary, but not exclusive, purpose of the exercise of such discretion is to ensure that the integrity of the Competition is maintained at all times.
- 2.1.5 Netball Victoria has the right to appoint other officials and volunteers to enable the competition to run according to standards.

2.2 COURT SUPERVISOR

- 2.2.1 The court supervisor shall be responsible for the functioning of all Competition matches.
- 2.2.2 The court supervisor shall be empowered to cancel any matches deemed unsafe in consultation with the VNL Competition Manager, as per section 3.6 Cancellations.

2.3 ATHLETES AND SQUADS

- 2.3.1 Athletes must be at least 16 years of age as of 31st December of the Competition year to participate in the VNL.
- 2.3.2 Athletes must be 23 years or under as of 31st December in the competition year to compete in the 23 & Under Female division.
- 2.3.3 The VNL Competition is female athletes only.
- 2.3.4 All athletes participating in the VNL must be current financial members of Netball Victoria.
- 2.3.5 Athletes may be added to an Eligible Athlete List at any time during the Competition up to 12 noon Wednesday prior to Round 18 (to be eligible to play for their nominated Licensee).
- 2.3.6 All Licensees must submit their final 23 & Under Female squad (up to 15 players) and Open squad (up to 15 players) by 24 January 2025. After this date, additional players may be added as permanent replacement players only.
- 2.3.7 VNL clubs permitted up to two (2) development teams, that meet the VNL age criteria (minimum 16 years) with at least one team competing in a 4 x 15 minute quarter match.
- 2.3.8 All Athletes may play up to four (4) quarters per round in a maximum of two (2) matches.

Note: athletes are only permitted to play a maximum of two (2) quarters in the Championship division per round if they are to play in both Championship and 23 & Under that round. In both divisions, a quarter is deemed as a player taking the court at any point, and for any length of time in a given quarter.

- 2.3.9 Athletes listed in the Championship squad may play in the 23 & Under Female division if they meet age eligibility.
- 2.3.10 Once an athlete has played 24 quarters or more in a higher division, they will not be permitted to play in a lower division.

Note: In all divisions, a quarter is deemed as an athlete taking the court at any point, and for any length of time in a given quarter.
- 2.3.11 Any new athlete wishing to play in the VNL will be subject to the approval of NV, in addition to any requirements of NV membership.

2.4 STANDARD PLAYER AGREEMENT

- 2.4.1 A permanent squad member must complete the Standard Player Agreement (VNL SPA) prior to the Squad List due date.
- 2.4.2 All Licensees must educate their development squad members on what it means to sign a VNL SPA. Development squad members of a Licensee are not required to sign a VNL SPA unless they are given a position in a VNL division. Once a VNL SPA is signed by a development squad member they are bound to that Licensee for the period of the VNL season.
- 2.4.3 Completed VNL SPA's will make up a Licensee Squad List.
- 2.4.4 Athletes must complete a new VNL SPA each Competition year unless a multi-year SPA was signed the previous year.
- 2.4.5 An athlete's signature on the VNL SPA shall confirm that the athlete:
 - (a) Agrees to be registered for the competition year with the nominated Licensee;
 - (b) Understands they can only register with one VNL Licensee per competition year;
 - (c) Understands that they are registered with the named Licensee from the time they sign and date the VNL SPA; and
 - (d) Agrees to comply with any other requirements set out in the online VNL SPA.

2.5 CLEARANCES

- 2.5.1 Athletes are permitted to seek a clearance if they played for one club in the VNL (as either a permanent or temporary athlete) in the previous year and are looking to change clubs for the upcoming season. Clearance requests must be submitted no later than 10 days prior to the final squad list due date (to allow sufficient time to be approved/declined).
- 2.5.2 Athletes can complete the VNL SPA for their new club. Clearances will be managed via Netball Connect. The club from the previous year has 7 days to either grant or refuse a clearance by accepting it in Netball Connect. In circumstances of refusal, the club needs to notify the VNL Competition Manager of their decision and reasons for denying the request.
- 2.5.3 Athletes who are not on a Licensee's 2025 Squad List by the due date (24 January 2025) become free agents and do not require a clearance should they play in 2025.
- 2.5.4 Athletes who owe outstanding playing fees to the club or are in possession of a club property (uniform, equipment) are not eligible to be granted a clearance.

- 2.5.5 Once an athlete has signed a VNL SPA they are only permitted to change clubs at the discretion of Netball Victoria. Permission may be given providing that:
- (a) Both clubs agree to the release of the athlete in writing; and
 - (b) A detailed letter of explanation from the club accompanies the VNL SPA and clearance form, which must be received by the VNL Competition Manager no less than seven days prior to the player wishing to take the court.
- 2.5.6 Athletes requesting a clearance when a VNL SPA has already been signed for the current competition year should note:
- (a) If the athlete's original club declares that the athlete is required, the clearance may not be granted; and
 - (b) The VNL Competition Manager will investigate to determine that clearances are granted within the spirit/integrity of the competition.
- 2.5.7 The VNL Competition Manager will liaise with the athlete and the club to determine if the clearance will be granted. The athlete and the club may be asked to provide additional supporting evidence.
- 2.5.8 Any athlete movement will be subject to the approval of Netball Victoria, which it may withhold in its solute discretion.

2.6 TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT ATHLETES

- 2.6.1 Clubs must notify Netball Victoria when a temporary athlete replaces a player listed in the squad.
- 2.6.2 Advanced notice of a temporary replacement athlete must be submitted to Netball Victoria by no later than 4:00pm on the Wednesday (or Friday for weekend games) of the Round using the online Temporary Replacement Athlete Notification form.
- 2.6.3 In extenuating circumstances (i.e. injury or bereavement) a temporary replacement athlete change will be accepted after 4:00pm and up to 30 minutes before the commencement of a match. The Temporary Replacement Athlete Notification form must be completed online no later than 30mins prior to the match. Supporting evidence must be submitted retrospectively by no later than 5:00pm on the Monday following the Round in order to be considered eligible.
- 2.6.4 Temporary replacement athletes must nominate which division they are replacing someone for / playing in for that particular round.
- 2.6.5 An athlete is ineligible to be a temporary replacement athlete if they are or have taken the court for another VNL club in the current season.
- 2.6.6 Once a temporary replacement athlete has been approved, the replaced athlete may not be listed on any team list as a player that round.
- 2.6.7 Temporary Replacement Athletes must meet any Integrity Framework obligations (see 2.8.3).

2.7 PERMANENT REPLACEMENT ATHLETES

- 2.7.1 Clubs looking to make a permanent replacement for the remainder of the VNL season, must seek approval from NV in accordance with clause 2.3 Players.

- 2.7.2 A team may apply for a permanent replacement of an athlete in its listed squad of 15 (Championship) or 15 (23&Under Female) athletes in exceptional circumstance. Application must be made to VNL Competition Manager via the Permanent Replacement Athlete Form for consideration to permanently replace an athlete for the duration of the VNL season.
- 2.7.3 An athlete is ineligible for permanent replacement for a VNL club if they are or have taken the court for another VNL club in the same year. The replacement athlete will be subject to all other athlete eligibility rules.
- 2.7.4 Any permanent replacement athletes must have signed the Standard Player Agreement prior to participating and meet the Integrity Framework requirements.
- 2.7.5 Once a permanent replacement athlete has been approved, the replaced athlete may not be listed on any team list as a player for the remainder of the season.

2.8 INTEGRITY FRAMEWORK

- 2.8.1 All athletes (listed on a squad list), coaches and technical officials are required to complete elements of the Netball Australia Integrity Framework as follows:
 - (a) All players, coaches and match day officials are required to complete all elements of the Netball Australia Integrity Framework two weeks prior to Round 1.
 - (b) Temporary officials must complete the Integrity requirements as outlined by Netball Victoria (see appendix) within 72 hours of a game.
 - (c) Umpires and Bench Officials are required to complete the elements of the Netball Australia Integrity Framework as outlined by the Competition Manager prior to Round 1.
- 2.8.2 All certificates or proof of completion must be supplied as requested.
- 2.8.3 Temporary Replacement Athletes must have completed the Integrity Framework obligations prior to appearing on a team list for the fourth (4th) time in a season.

2.9 COACHING STAFF

- 2.9.1 Licensees accepted into the Competition shall ensure that all coaching staff:
 - a) Are current financial members of Netball Victoria
 - b) Hold a current minimum NCAS netball accreditation as indicated below:
 - i. Championship Coach – Advanced
 - ii. Championship Assistant – Intermediate
 - iii. 23/U Female – Intermediate
 - iv. 23/U Female Assistant – Development
 - v. Specialist – whilst there is no minimum accreditation, it is recommended that they hold at least a Development accreditation

2.10 BENCH OFFICIALS (SCORERS & TIMERS)

- 2.10.1 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.
- 2.10.2 Licences are required to send through Bench Official availability no more than four (4) weeks prior to a match. Netball Victoria will determine the final allocation of Bench Officials to matches.

- 2.10.3 All bench officials must be a current Netball Victoria member (registered to the VNL Competition). They must have completed the Foundation Bench Official Course on Netball Learning and completed the Rules of Netball Theory Exam. All Bench Officials need to have completed the relevant integrity framework prior to Round 1.
- 2.10.4 Names, contact details and Working with Children Check of bench officials must be provided to the VNL Competition Manager two weeks prior to the start of the competition.
- 2.10.5 Bench officials must wear the officials uniform provided by Netball Victoria to all games.
- 2.10.6 Failure to supply bench officials on repeated occasions may result in a penalty as determined by the VNL Competition Manager.

2.11 UMPIRES

- 2.11.1 All High-Performance Allocations Panel members, High Performance Umpire Coaches and High-Performance umpires must be current Netball Victoria members.
- 2.11.2 A High-Performance Allocations Panel and High-Performance Umpire Coaching Panel will be appointed by the Netball Victoria.
- 2.11.3 High-Performance Allocations Panel and High-Performance Umpire Coaching Panel members must be independent of Licensee affiliation.
- 2.11.4 AA badge and A badge currently endorsed or working towards endorsement and B badge umpires identified by Netball Victoria appointed Selectors will be allocated to Competition matches by Netball Victoria.
- 2.11.5 All umpires and umpire coaches must register any conflict of interest with the Senior Technical Officials Coordinator as soon as they identify the possible conflict of interest.
- 2.11.6 All umpires must comply with Netball Victoria Competitions Umpire Uniform Code.

Note: Please refer to the VNL Operations Manual for information regarding seeking feedback from umpires during or after matches.

3. VNL ORGANISATION

3.1 GAME ORGANISATION

- 3.1.1 Competition matches shall be as per the “Official Rules of Netball” revised 2024.
- 3.1.2 Teams are required to complete a team list of up to twelve (12) athletes and five (5) team officials and submit to the Court Supervisor 30 minutes prior to the scheduled playing time.
- 3.1.3 The VNL Rolling Substitution Form and Netball Connect Attendance and Positions are then completed by the official scorer and no athletes can be added to the list 10 minutes before the commencement of the game.
- 3.1.4 The official paperwork and Netball Connect output are the only true record of a match.
- 3.1.5 In the preliminary rounds, points will be awarded as follows:
 - Four (4) points for a win
 - Two (2) points for a draw
 - Zero (0) points for a loss

Zero (0) points for a bye

3.1.6 At the conclusion of the regular rounds teams will be ranked by:

- (a) Points awarded for a win, loss, or draw and percentage (goals for / against x 100)

3.1.7 Games shall be played at venues as directed by Netball Victoria:

- (a) Netball Victoria must approve all venues, according to the stadium criteria proforma as determined by NV.

3.1.8 Timing of games is as follows:

- (a) 4 x 15 minute quarters, 3 minutes ($\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ time), 5 minutes ($\frac{1}{2}$ time);
- (b) Injury time as per the “Official Rules of Netball” revised 2024;

Home Games - Clubs may choose to extend the half time break in Championship division only to a maximum of 10 minutes*. Both participating clubs need to agree to this and the VNL Competition Manager must be informed. Any changes to times must be communicated a minimum of two weeks prior to the scheduled match. *weekend matches only

3.1.9 Failure to take the court:

- (a) All Competition games will commence at the time as listed in the fixture.
- (b) The clock shall start when play commences indicated by the umpire.
- (c) A team shall be required to take the court when requested to do so by the umpires at the start of the game and at intervals. Failure to do so will be considered;
 - i) Deliberately delaying play. Refer to Rule 8.1.1 “Official Rules of Netball” revised 2024;
 - ii) In extreme circumstances a forfeit – refer to Regulation 3.5.

3.1.10 Rolling Substitutions (all divisions)

- (a) Substitutions may be made during play. There is no limit to the number that can be made, and only one substitution can occur at any given time.. Play will not be held for a substitution to be made.
- (b) For a substitution during play:
 - i) The substitute(s) stands immediately behind the substitution zone on the relevant team bench side.
 - ii) Before making the substitution, the player must show their number to the score-bench and verbalise which position they will be taking the court in.
 - iii) The substitute then tags hands with the player leaving the court.
 - iv) Players must observe the offside rule as they enter/leave the court and must not interfere with the umpire’s movement during the substitution.
- v) Sanction: Free pass where the ball was when the interference or offside entry/exit occurred.
- vi) A player leaving the court returns to the team bench.
- vii) Teams are required to submit a substitution tracking form to the Score Bench at the conclusion of the game. This must include all rolling substitutes that have been made throughout the match.

3.1.11 Notification of substitution changes (all divisions)

- (a) Teams are required to complete a substitution form at any break during the match (i.e. between quarters, injury time) where players change position.
- 3.1.12 VNL blood policy is as outlined in Rule 9.3.1 in the "Official Rules of Netball" revised 2024.
- 3.1.13 A team that elects to play an athlete that is not listed on the team list, therefore deemed ineligible, will forfeit the match and the results and statistics will be 10 – nil in favour of the team not in breach.

3.2 FINALS

- 3.2.1 Finals will be played at the conclusion of the Round 18 in each division.
- 3.2.2 Teams qualifying for finals shall be determined by the number of points gained during the season:
 - (a) In the event of teams being equal on points, positions shall be determined by the percentage of goals scored for and against.
 - (b) In the event of teams being equal on percentage, positions shall be determined by the greater number of goals scored for.
- 3.2.3 Each division of the VNL shall play a six (6) team finals series.
- 3.2.4 Athletes must play a minimum of 24 quarters to compete in a finals series, this can be as follows:
 - (a) In one division to be eligible for that division or any higher division;
 - (b) A combination of quarters across divisions with the player eligible for the division they have played the most quarters in, or the division higher;
 - (c) In the event the quarters are the same, the athlete/club must select the division they play in for the finals series. If the lower division is selected, the athlete can move up. If the higher division is selected, the athletes cannot come down.
- 3.2.5 Athletes may only play in one (1) division for the finals series.
- 3.2.6 Teams found playing an ineligible athlete during finals will be deemed to have lost that match.
- 3.2.7 Matches shall be conducted for finals as for rounds, with the exception of starting time and drawn matches.
 - (a) Netball Victoria will determine the starting time and dates of finals matches.
 - (b) Drawn matches in finals:
 - i) There shall be a two (2) minute interval at the end of full time;
 - ii) Extra time shall consist of two (2) halves of seven (7) minutes each with an interval of one (1) minute at half time. Teams shall change ends at half time. The centre pass is taken by the Team entitled to the next Centre Pass;
 - iii) During both of these intervals, substitutions and/or team changes may be made;
 - iv) During extra time, normal injury or illness procedures shall apply;
 - v) In the event of a draw remaining at the end of extra time, a visual signal shall be used to indicate that play shall continue until one team has a two (2) goal advantage.
- 3.2.8 Athletes who have not played the required quarters to qualify are not permitted to sit on the bench as a player during the finals series.

3.3 SCORING

- 3.3.1 Scoring will be completed using 2 tablets on the Netball Connect App.
- (a) The app will record goals scored, goals missed and positions played each quarter.
 - (b) Paper scoresheets shall include a VNL Rolling Substitution Form, International Netball Running Score Sheet and International Netball Stoppage Form.
 - (c) The final match score is calculated by the addition of the goals scored for the total match.
- 3.3.2 The official paperwork and subsequent Netball Connect output at the conclusion of the game is deemed to be conclusive evidence for further purpose of regulation of these competition rules.
- 3.3.3 The official paperwork and all supplementary documentation must be returned:
- (a) By the officiating umpires to the Competition Office after the game;
 - (b) By the Court Supervisor to the VNL Competition Manager at other venues as outlined in the home games operations manual.

3.4 HOME GAMES

- 3.4.1 All clubs nominating to host "home games" must abide by the rules as set out in the Home Game Manual.

3.5 FORFEITS

- 3.5.1 In the event that a team forfeits prior to the match clock starting, 28 quarters will be awarded to a maximum of twelve athletes to the non-offending team.
- (a) Four (4) points awarded to the non-offending team;
 - (b) 10 goals awarded to the non-offending team;
 - (c) No quarters or games shall be awarded to players of the offending team.
- 3.5.2 A forfeit fine will be imposed, which must be paid before the next match of the offending team.
- 3.5.3 A forfeit in any division may result in the Licensee being refused entry into future VNL Competitions.

3.6 CANCELLATIONS

- 3.6.1 When matches are cancelled or stopped due to an event which NV determines was beyond its control or beyond the control of either team prior to the start of the game (including, but not limited to, power loss, severe weather, major injury or late arrival), the appropriate Contingency Plan will be consulted by the Competition Manager (see Appendix).
- 3.6.2 If a match is to be abandoned, the outcome will be as follows:
- (a) Prior to the completion of the first half teams will be awarded two (2) points and five (5) goals;
 - (b) After the commencement of the second half the score stands as at the time of the stoppage;
 - (c) Quarters will be awarded to a maximum of twelve players totalling 28 quarters, for each team.
- 3.6.3 The outcome if the match is postponed:
- (a) Netball Victoria will confirm the details of the rescheduled game/s.

- 3.6.4 Should circumstances occur in which successive rounds need to be cancelled, the VNL Competition Manager will consider the position and determine a suitable course of action which may include but is not limited to; rescheduling all or some of the matches or changing the day on, or order in, which matches are played.

3.7 COMPETITION INTERRUPTION

- 3.7.1 If the Competition is disrupted due to a government issued order or other extenuating circumstances, Netball Victoria may, in its absolute discretion, make variations to the format of the Competition to allow for a finish to a Season. Variations may include, but are not limited to:
- (a) A reduction in the number of Minor Rounds to be played;
 - (b) A revision of the fixtures for the balance of the Competition;
 - (c) A revised Finals Series; and/or
 - (d) Not awarding a Premiership.

3.8 PROTESTS AND APPEALS

- 3.8.1 A Licensee wishing to protest against a match result must:
- (a) Notify the Court Supervisor of the intention to protest on the day/night of the match;
 - (b) Lodge the protest in writing with the VNL Competition Manager c/- Netball Victoria within 48 hours of the match being played.
- 3.8.2 A Licensee wishing to appeal a decision of Netball Victoria regarding a protest:
- (a) Must lodge the appeal using the official Netball Victoria Appeal Form (on request) with the VNL Competition Manager c/- Netball Victoria within 48 hours of notification of the decision;
 - (b) Submit a cheque made out to Netball Victoria for \$200. This money will be refunded if the appeal is successful;
 - (c) Supporting evidence may be considered by NV. This could include video evidence (at the discretion of NV) if available; and
 - (d) Appeal will be heard in accordance with the NV's Competition Regulations available on the VNL website (as varied from time to time) Appeals process.

3.9 DISCIPLINARY & GRIEVANCE DISPUTES

- 3.9.1 Where a matter is not dealt with in accordance with the "Official Rules of Netball" revised 2024, it may be dealt with as a disciplinary matter in accordance with the Netball Victoria Participation Agreement and subject to the Netball Victoria Competition Regulations and/or the National Member Protection Policy. Links can be found at the end of this document.

3.10 ANTI-DOPING POLICY

- 3.10.1 Licensees and players must comply with the Netball Australia Anti-Doping Policy, revised August 2020 as amended from time to time which is available from Netball Victoria upon request.

3.11 UNIFORM/EQUIPMENT

- 3.11.1 All athletes must wear their Licensee's registered playing uniform.

- (a) Regulation playing initials are reserved for the Competition sponsor;
- (b) All Licensees will be required to have clash bibs in predetermined matches by the VNL Competition Manager when the uniform is of similar colour. The away team will be required to wear the clash bibs.

- 3.11.2 Licensees must apply to Netball Victoria for ratification of any changes to uniform prior to ordering the uniform.
- 3.11.3 New Licensees entering the Competition must apply to Netball Victoria for ratification of design and colours prior to ordering new uniforms.
- 3.11.4 All uniforms must have player numbers no less than 7cm in height and appear on both sides of the dress.

Note: teams must comply with the Commercial Guidelines in regards to the placement of any sponsor logos.

3.12 AWARDS

- 3.12.1 The umpires will award “Most Valuable Player” votes as 3, 2 and 1 for every match in the VNL.
- 3.12.2 “Hot Shot Awards” will be presented to the goaler who has scored the highest number of goals in each division at the completion of the home and away season.
- 3.12.3 The votes and awards will be tallied at the end of the home and away season and will not include finals matches.
- 3.12.4 Team of the Year for each division will be decided by Head Coaches selecting 4 defenders, 4 midcourt and 4 goalers. Coaches may not select players from own team/club.
- 3.12.5 The VNL Umpire High Performance Coaching Panel will award the “Umpire of the Year” award at the end of the home and away season.
- 3.12.6 Other awards may be implemented as determined by Netball Victoria or the VNL Competition Manager.

3.13 ATHLETE RE-SIGNING & RECRUITMENT

- 3.13.1 The re-signing period for 2025 VNL athletes (23&U and Championship) will be determined by the VNL Competition Manager and communicated prior to the VNL Grand Final.
- 3.13.2 Licensees have the exclusive right to re-sign any of their existing athletes (including Permanent Athletes) for a maximum two year agreement for the 2025 and 2026 seasons.
- 3.13.3 The purpose of the Athlete Recruitment Window is to regulate the movement of athletes between Licensees.
- 3.13.4 The Player Recruitment Window is a period of time in which Licensees are permitted to approach potential new recruits. It opens after the re-signing period, with specific dates provided to Licensees by the VNL Competition Manager.
- 3.13.5 All Licensees must comply with the Athlete Recruitment Window.
- 3.13.6 Licensees are not permitted to approach, directly or via proxy, athletes from another Licensee until the Athlete Recruitment Window is open specified in clause 3.1.5.
- 3.13.7 Clubs must finalise their 23 & Under and Championship squads by 24 January 2025.

4. NATIONAL NETBALL LEAGUE (NNL)

- 4.1 A NNL athlete is any athlete who has signed a Standard, Permanent/Temporary Replacement Player or Training Partner NNL Player contract.
- 4.2 The VNL Competition Manager will be responsible for notifying VNL Licensees which athletes are NNL players (See attachment 1 for NNL & VNL Player Policy).
- 4.3 VNL Licensees may have an unlimited number of Suncorp Super Netball athletes assigned to their club as per the NNL & VNL Alignment Guidelines.
- 4.4 The NNL athletes are categorised as follows:
 - (a) A Contracted Player or Permanent Replacement Player:
 - i. Is considered a NNL Category 1 player when they have played 16 quarters or more in the current NNL Competition or the NNL competition in the previous year.
Note: a quarter is defined as having played five (5) or more minutes in that quarter.
 - ii. Is considered a NNL Category 2 player when they have played less than 16 quarters in the current NNL Competition or the NNL competition in the previous year.
Note: a quarter is defined as having played five (5) or more minutes in that quarter.
 - iii. Is only categorised once they play five (5) or more minutes of a quarter in the NNL.
 - (b) A Training Partner or Temporary Replacement Player:
 - i. Is considered a NNL Category 1 player when they have played 200 minutes or more in the current NNL Competition or the NNL competition in the previous year.
 - ii. Is considered a NNL Category 2 player when they have played less than 200 minutes but 60 or more minutes in the current NNL Competition or the NNL competition in the previous year.
 - iii. Is only categorised once they reach a total of 60 minutes in the NNL.
 - (c) A Non-Contracted Athlete (Contracted in 2024):
 - i. Is considered an NNL Category 2 player in the current VNL season if they were an NNL Category 1 player in the previous season (2024).
 - i. Is not categorised in the current VNL season if they were an NNL Category 2 player in the previous season (2024).
- 4.5 Championship Division Licensees will be permitted to play the following combinations of NNL athletes in any one game (on the court at the same time):
 - (a) One (1) NNL Category 1 athlete; or
 - (b) A maximum of two (2) NNL Category 2 athletes; or
 - (c) One (1) NNL Category 1 athlete and one (1) NNL Category 2 athlete.
- 4.6 NNL athletes are eligible to play in Championship Division only.
- 4.7 NNL athletes who have played 36 quarters or more (quarter defined by the categorisation type in 4.4) in the current NNL season are not permitted to play VNL in the current year.
- 4.8 NNL athletes must play at least 24 quarters in VNL to qualify for finals. Clubs may only qualify a maximum of two (2) NNL athletes.

5. PENALTIES

- 5.1 Any breach of these Competition Regulations may result in any one or more of the following penalties being imposed on a License by NV in its absolute discretion:
 - (a) A fine;
 - (b) Loss of premiership points;
 - (c) Player quarters not counted towards finals qualification;
 - (d) Exclusion from the current Competition and future Competitions;
 - (e) Any other penalty considered appropriate by Netball Victoria.
- 5.2 Repeat instances shall be considered by Netball Victoria in its absolute discretion and may result in immediate exclusion from the current Competition and future Competitions.
- 5.3 Penalties will be determined and reviewed by Netball Victoria.

6. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES/PROVISIONS

- 6.1 Where these Regulations are silent on a particular matter, a decision can be made by the Competition Management.
- 6.2 In exceptional or extenuating circumstances, the Competition Management may, acting reasonably, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in these Regulations relating to the Victorian Netball League.
- 6.3 Any athlete seeking an exemption of the athlete eligibility regulations is required to submit a written exemption application to NV, which will be reviewed by the Athlete Eligibility Assessment Committee (AEAC).
 - 6.3.1 The AEAC will be formed by the Competition Manager on an as needed basis and will be endorsed by the General Manager High Performance & Pathways and will consist of:
 - a) Experienced (5+ years) Head Coach that is HP accredited
 - b) Experienced (5+ years) High Performance/Event Manager (depending on eligibility request)
 - c) A current member of the VNL Reference group
 - d) If required, a 4th independent person with no performance/event knowledge
 - 6.3.2 The Athlete Eligibility Assessment Committee shall be responsible for the review of:
 - a) Team eligibility
 - b) Athlete and Team Official eligibility
 - 6.3.3 If the AEAC is of the reasonable opinion that either a team or an athlete is not eligible in accordance with the provisions of these rules and eligibility definitions, then that team or athlete will be deemed ineligible.
 - 6.3.4 Clubs may apply for an exemption to the Player Eligibility Rules.
 - 6.3.5 Provided the AEAC in its sole opinion considers the application to involve special circumstances they may, on application of an athlete or a VNL Club, waive the eligibility requirements of these Rules and Eligibility Definitions.
 - 6.3.6 There will be no right of appeal on a decision of the AEAC. The decision of the AEAC is final.

7. APPENDICIES

Appendix 1 - Netball Victoria Competition Regulations

<https://vic.netball.com.au/competition-regulations>

Appendix 2 - Member Protection Policy

<https://vic.netball.com.au/member-protection-policy/>

Appendix 3 – Contingency Plan: Severe Weather Delay

Appendix 4 – Contingency Plan: Late Arrival of Teams or Match Officials

Appendix 5 – Contingency Plan: Serious Player Injury During Competition

Appendix 6 – Contingency Plan: Venue Relocation

Suncorp Super Netball Players & Victorian Netball League Clubs

Alignment Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to outline the procedure in place for Suncorp Super Netball players to be selected into a Victorian Netball League (VNL) club.

Scope

This policy applies to all athletes that have signed a standard playing Suncorp Super Netball player contract for the current year and all clubs contracted to the VNL.

The Policy will be guided by the following principles:

- a) To promote and alignment between the VNL, ANL and SSN Competitions.
- b) Ensure athlete wellbeing and performance is considered at all times.
- c) Provide an opportunity for all clubs to have alignment to SSN athletes, with an even distribution when and where possible in the best interests of the competitions objectives.
- d) Ensure that within clause 5 of the Competition Regulations that court time can logically be facilitated if and when required by the SSN team.

VNL Competition Regulations

5.4 The NNL players are categorised as follows;

- (d) NNL Category 1 is an NNL player who has played 16 quarters or more in the current NNL Competition or the NNL competition in the previous year;
- (e) NNL Category 2 is an NNL player who has played less than 16 quarters in the current NNL Competition or the NNL competition in the previous year;
- (f) Players are only categorised if they take the court in the NNL.

5.5 Championship Division Licensees will be permitted to play the following combinations of NNL players in any one game (on the court at the same time);

- (a) One (1) NNL Category 1 player; or
- (b) A maximum of Two (2) NNL Category 2 players; or
- (c) One (1) NNL Category 1 player and one (1) NNL Category 2 player.

Overview

The focus of VNL Clubs is to produce athletes to a standard where they are selected in the Australian Netball League (ANL) competition and the SSN.

Athletes who have been with their current (2024) VNL club for three (3) or more years have the ability to nominate to stay with that VNL club for the upcoming season (2025).

If the athlete opts not to stay with that club they will then be added to the 'athlete pool'.

VNL clubs may fill out an Athlete Request Form and provide information as to how that athlete listed in the 'athlete pool' would benefit their club or the club can provide benefit to that athlete.

Athletes in the "athlete pool" will have an opportunity to nominate a VNL club if they so desire. The athlete's request will be considered in consultation with both clubs High Performance Manager (or equivalent position). The Competitions Managers decision will be final.

Please note, that all clubs may not be allocated an SSN player for the season. Those clubs that are not allocated an athlete will still be given the opportunity to have a one (1) hour appearance from a Melbourne Vixens athlete.

Process

Step 1.	SSN Athletes notified of the policy & time spent at VNL clubs.
Step 2.	VNL clubs notified of which athletes have spent 3 or more years at their club.
Step 3.	VNL clubs given the opportunity to fill out request forms.
Step 4.	Each SSN club to liaise with athletes with each clubs High Performance Manager (or equivalent) to provide athlete VNL Club Request to the VNL Competitions Manager. Competitions Manager to review, liaise and allocate athletes.
Step 5.	Competitions Manager to provide allocations to each club for final review and discuss as required.
Step 6.	VNL Clubs and athletes notified of final alignments.

Integrity in Netball Framework

Netball Victoria is committed to working with Netball Australia to implement the Integrity in Netball Framework and associated Rules that include Illicit Drugs; Supplements and Other Substances; Medications; No Self Injection; Anti-Doping Declaration; and Reporting Conduct that may bring Netball into Disrepute.

As per VNL Competition Regulation 2.8 (Integrity Framework) and, in compliance with the Netball Australia Integrity Framework, all athletes and officials **must complete these requirements by two weeks prior Round 1 of the 2025 season.** You are only required to complete these modules once, unless there is an update which will be communicated. The **Sport Integrity Australia Annual Update** (formerly ASADA Level 2) **needs to be completed each year.**

All Certificates or proof of completion must be submitted by athletes to their club. Clubs will provide Netball Victoria with a statutory declaration confirming all athletes and officials have completed all requirements.

Athletes and officials who have completed the requirements in 2024 (or recent years will not need to do them again, however, will need to complete the Sport Integrity Australia Annual update.

Failure to complete all Integrity Framework Requirements will result in player quarters not counting towards finals qualifications.

Officials who have not completed the requirements will not be permitted to sit on the bench.

Second-time offences will result in a fine.

If you have any questions, please contact the Competitions Coordinator on 9321 2253 or at rachael.blackshaw@netballvic.com.au

<u>REQUIREMENT / LEARNING</u>	<u>WHAT TO DO AND WHERE TO FIND IT</u>	<u>WHO NEEDS TO COMPLETE</u>
Anti-Doping Fundamental (formerly Level 1)	https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/ You will need to create your own login & password. Certificate issued upon completion, please submit to your club.	New VNL players and officials Temporary Officials required within 72 hours
Sport Integrity Australia Annual Update (formerly ASADA Anti-Doping Level 2)	https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/ You will need to create your own login & password. Certificate issued upon completion, please submit to your club.	Everyone (update required every year) Temporary Officials required within 72 hours
Decision Making in Sport (formerly Ethical Decision-Making Suite)	https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/ You will need to create your own login & password. Please note this is different to the Play by the Rules Course. (You will receive one yellow badge on completion)	New VNL players and officials

	Certificate issued upon completion, please submit to your club.	Temporary Officials required within 72 hours
Competition Manipulation and Sports Betting	https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/ You will need to create your own login & password. Certificate issued upon completion, please submit to your club.	New VNL players and officials
PBTR: Child Protection & Safeguarding	https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/ You will need to create your own login & password. Certificate issued upon completion, please submit to your club.	Coaches and Team Managers Recommended for athletes involved in clinic delivery
Harassment & Discrimination	https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/ You will need to create your own login & password. Certificate issued upon completion, please submit to your club.	New VNL players and officials
Illicit Drugs in Sport	https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/ You will need to create your own login & password. Certificate issued upon completion, please submit to your club.	New VNL players and officials
Read Netball Australia policies and rules regarding Integrity in Netball	Available on the Netball Australia website: https://netball.com.au/integrity-framework-policies/ Policies (pdf); Integrity in Netball Framework – Effective 17 Feb 2017 National Policy on Match Fixing – Effect February 2017 Rule A – Anti-Illicit Drugs in Netball Rule – Effective February 2017 Rule B – Supplements and Other Substances in Netball Rule – Effective February 2017 Rule C – Medications in Netball Rule – Effective February 2017 Rule D – No Self-Injection in Netball Rule – Effective February 2017 Rule E – Anti-Doping Declaration Rule – Effective February 2017 Rule F – Reporting Conduct that May Bring Netball into Disrepute Rule – Effective February 2017 Please read all pdfs and sign Declaration of Completion form and submit to your club.	New VNL players and officials
Netball Australia Anti – Doping Declaration-	Form at the end of Rule E pdf Anti-Doping Rule Declaration Please sign the declaration at the end of the Rule E pdf and submit to club.	New VNL players and officials

Victorian Netball League

Contingency Plan: Severe Weather Delay

Description of Incident	Interruption or delay to competition as a result of severe weather conditions, for example water leaking through the roof.
Preventative Actions	Conduct regular weather report checks to determine extent of storm warnings and potential bad weather.
Command Lead	1. Competition Manager 2. Competition Supervisor
Chain of Command	1. Competition Supervisor 2. Venue Operations 3. Umpire Supervisor
Resources Required	1. Absorbent mops, towels and buckets. 2. Staff positioned adjacent to the pooling of water on court with absorbent mops/towels.
Expected impact on stakeholders	Match may be delayed or postponed. 1. Lengthy delays may cause athlete injury or reduced performance due to lack of preparation or altered mindset. 2. Postponement may add to athlete load resulting in an inequitable draw. 3. Athletes may not be available for alternative match time/day. 4. Lack of venue availability for rescheduled match.

Step	Action	Responsibility
1	Competitions Manager and Competition Supervisor inspect the water on the court to determine action to be taken.	Competition Manager Competition Supervisor
2	Agree to implement Contingency Plan. Competitions Manager and Competition Supervisor determine feasibility of relocating the match to an alternative competition court for completion of the match if available.	Competition Manager Competition Supervisor
3	Delay the game start time until the weather has subsided, resulting in no leaks, or another court becomes available.	Competition Manager Competition Supervisor

If the delay to the match is anticipated to be greater than 30 minutes, inclusive of the 5-minute warm up period, the match may be postponed and may be rescheduled to be played another time.

Action Required: Match Delay Contingency

Step	Action	Responsibility
1	Instruct umpires, through communication with reserve umpire, to stop the match.	Competition Supervisor
2	- Timers 1 & 2 (as applicable) stop clocks on call of umpires. - Timers to note remaining time left in the quarter.	Bench Manager (if applicable) Timer
3	- Advise Team Managers, match umpires and bench officials of the anticipated delay and course of action to be taken. - Teams and umpires to return to changerooms if available. - Continued communication with teams and umpires re: course of action. - If match delay is greater than 10 minutes, teams will be permitted a 5-minute warm up on the match court. - Warm up period will be timed by Timer 1.	Competition Supervisor
4	- If applicable, advise Sports Presentation / MC of the decision to delay / relocate the match and the anticipated match recommencement time. - MC to advise spectators of the course of action to be taken.	Competition Manager
5	On match resumption: - Timer 1 & 2 (if applicable) reactivate clocks and scoreboard time. - Play to recommence from the exact position in which it was stopped.	Bench Manager (if applicable) Timer Umpires

Action Required: Match Postponement Contingency

Step	Action	Responsibility
1	Advise VNL Competitions Manager of stoppage and that delays to the match cannot be recovered on the night/day and that the match was postponed.	Competition Supervisor
2	Advise Team Managers, umpires and bench officials of the match postponement and course of action to be taken.	Competition Manager Competition Supervisor
3	- If applicable, advise Sports Presentation / MC of the decision to postpone match. - MC to advise spectators of the course of action to be taken.	Competition Supervisor
4	Liaise with the venue and teams to reschedule match at a suitable time (as applicable to Rule 3.6 Cancellations). *In addition to clause 3.6 all finals matches be required to be played in entirety.	Competitions Manager

Victorian Netball League

Contingency Plan: Late Arrival of Teams or Match Officials

Description of Incident	Late arrival of a Team, Umpires or Score Bench Officials due to traffic delays.
Preventative Actions	1. Early communication of anticipated delay by Teams, Umpires & Score Bench Officials to Competition Manager. 2. In the case of an Officials late arrival, the Competition Manager will communicate the situation to Technical Officials Coordinator to ensure that appropriately accredited officials may be appointed to the match.
Command Lead	1. Competition Manager 2. Technical Officials Coordinator 3. Competition Supervisor
Chain of Command	1. Competition Supervisor 2. Technical Officials Coordinator 3. Bench Manager
Resources Required	3. Additional Courts 4. VicRoads 5. Contact details for: • Competition Manager • Technical Officials Coordinator • Team Manager
Expected impact on stakeholders	Match may be delayed or postponed. 1. Lengthy delays may cause player injury or reduced performance due to lack of preparation or altered mindset. 2. Postponement may add to player load resulting in an inequitable draw. 3. Players may not be available for alternative match time/day. 4. Lack of venue availability for rescheduled match.

Step	Action	Responsibility
1	Competitions Manager, Competition Supervisor and Technical Officials Coordinator notified of situation and agree to implement Contingency Plan if needed	Competition Manager Competition Supervisor Technical Officials Coordinator
2	Competitions Manager, Competition Supervisor and Technical Officials Coordinator delay the game start time until the team arrives, or alternative officials can be found.	Competition Manager Competition Supervisor Technical Officials Coordinator

If the delay to the match is anticipated to be greater than 30 minutes, inclusive of the 5-minute warm up period, the match may be postponed and may be rescheduled to be played another time.

Action Required: Match Delay Contingency

Step	Action	Responsibility
1	- Advise Team Managers, match umpires and score bench officials of the anticipated time delay and course of action to be taken. - Teams will remain warm up area and be updated regularly regarding the anticipated match commencement time. - Umpires will remain in change rooms and updated regularly regarding the anticipated match commencement time.	Competition Manager
2	- If applicable, advise Sports Presentation / MC of the decision to postpone match. - MC to advise spectators of the course of action to be taken.	Competition Supervisor
3	If the delay to match start time is anticipated to be less than 30 minutes, inclusive of team warm up, the match will commence, provided there is venue availability.	Competition Manager Competition Supervisor

Action Required: Match Postponement Contingency

Step	Action	Responsibility
1	Advise Competition Manager that delays to the match cannot be recovered on the night/day and that the match was postponed.	Competition Supervisor
2	Advise Team Managers, umpires and bench officials of the match postponement and course of action to be taken.	Competition Manager Competition Supervisor
3	- If applicable, advise Sports Presentation / MC of the decision to postpone match. - MC to advise spectators of the course of action to be taken.	Competition Supervisor
4	Liaise with venue and teams to reschedule match at a suitable time (as applicable to Rule 3.6 Cancellations).	Competition Manager

Victorian Netball League

Contingency Plan: Serious Player Injury During Competition

Description of Incident	Serious injury to a player during the course of match play
Preventative Actions	1. Safe playing environment 2. Playing enclosure meets all INF & VNL regulations and specifications 3. Playing enclosure & sport equipment check will be conducted prior to match commencement by the Competition Manager and appointed match umpires
Command Lead	1. Competition Manager 2. Competition Supervisor 3. Competition Medical Staff 4. Primary Carer
Chain of Command	1. Primary Carer 2. Team Coach 3. Competition Supervisor 4. Competition Medical Staff 5. Venue Operations 6. Competition Manager
Resources Required	1. Qualified Medical Personnel 2. Player treatment tables, stretcher, wheelchair, spinal board & collar 3. Ambulance (to be determined by Competition Medical Staff/Venue Operations) 4. Emergency playing enclosure access 5. Dedicated off site medical facilities
Expected impact on stakeholders	1. Match will be stopped and delayed 2. Spectator dissatisfaction 3. Lengthy delays will cause player anxiety 4. Postponement and possible rescheduling of matches may reduce player performance 5. Alterations to the competition scheduled may result in an inequitable draw

Step	Action	Responsibility
1	Competitions Manager and Competition Supervisor notified of situation and agree to implement Contingency Plan if needed.	Competition Manager Competition Supervisor
2	Competition Manager and Competition Supervisor delay the game recommencement of play until the injured player has been removed, or another competition court becomes available.	Competition Manager Competition Supervisor
3	If the delay to the match cannot be recovered on the night/day and it therefore needs to be rescheduled, the Competition Manager will notify clubs/teams of details if a postponement is possible.	Competition Manager

If the delay to the match is anticipated to be greater than 30 minutes, inclusive of the 5-minute warm up period, the match may be postponed and may be rescheduled to be played another time.

Action Required: Match Delay Contingency

Step	Action	Responsibility
1	Player signals to umpire to call injury time.	Injured player or on court player
2	- Umpire holds time for a period of up to thirty (30) seconds. Injured player is removed from the playing area by the team medical staff - If the injured player cannot be safely removed from the playing enclosure, steps 3-5 will be disregarded.	Umpire Timer 1 Primary Carer
3	A team substitute player will replace the injured player and additional team positional changes may be made.	Team Coach
4	Medical staff will continue to treat the injured player courtside as deemed necessary. Primary Carer may decide to relocate the player to the player change rooms for further treatment.	Primary Carer
5	Player may return to the game once the injury has been treated and there is no risk of further injury.	Primary Carer Team Coach
6	In the event that the injured player cannot be removed from the playing enclosure due to the seriousness of the injury the Competition Manager and Competition Supervisor will agree to implement match delay contingency plan.	Competition Manager Competition Supervisor
7	- Instruct umpires, through communication with the Reserve Umpire to stop the match. - Umpires to note position of ball and state of play.	Competition Manager Umpires
8	- Timers to stop clocks on call of umpires. - Timers note remaining time left in the quarter. - Timers to time the duration of the incident to accurately determine the length of the delay which if in excess of 30 minutes will necessitate the implementation of the match postponement policy.	Score Bench Manager Timers
9	- Advise Team Managers, match umpires and score bench officials of the anticipated time delay and course of action to be taken. - Teams will be offered the option of returning to the change rooms (if available) until the match resumes or relocating to additional courts (if available). - Umpires will be escorted to the umpire change rooms & updated regularly re the anticipated match re commencement time.	Competition Manager
10	- If applicable, advise Sports Presentation / MC of the decision to postpone match. - MC to advise spectators of the course of action to be taken.	Competition Supervisor MC
11	- If the player requires hospitalisation, the player will be transferred by ambulance. - Competition Supervisor will advise Venue Operator that an ambulance is required. - Venue Operator will contact the emergency services and request an ambulance.	Medical Staff Venue Operations Competition Supervisor
12	- If match delay is greater than 10 minutes, teams will be permitted a 5-minute warm up on the playing court before the match is resumed. - Warm up period will be timed by Timer 1.	Score Bench Manager Timer 1
13	- On match resumption. - Timers to reactivate clocks & score board time. - Play to recommence from the exact position in which it was stopped.	Score Bench Manager Umpires

Action Required: Match Postponement Contingency

Step	Action	Responsibility
1	Advise VNL Competitions Manager of stoppage and that delays to the match cannot be recovered on the night/day and that the match was postponed.	Competition Supervisor
2	Advise Team Managers, umpires and bench officials of the match postponement and course of action to be taken.	Competition Manager Competition Supervisor
3	- If applicable, advise Sports Presentation / MC of the decision to postpone match. - MC to advise spectators of the course of action to be taken.	Competition Supervisor
4	Liaise with venue and teams to reschedule match at a suitable time (as applicable to Rule 3.6 Cancellations).	Competition Manager

Victorian Netball League

Contingency Plan: Venue Relocation

Description of Incident	The fixtured venue becomes unsuitable or unavailable.
Preventative Actions	1. Confirming venue bookings 2. Confirming playing enclosure meets all INF & VNL regulations and specifications 3. Completing pre-match day checklists
Command Lead	4. Competition Manager 5. Competition Supervisor
Chain of Command	3. Competition Supervisor 4. Venue Operations 6. Umpire Coach
Resources Required	6. Alternative venue which meets all INF & VNL regulations and specifications 7. VNL Staffing, including Technical Officials 8. VNL Equipment
Expected impact on stakeholders	Match may be relocated or postponed. 5. Travel distance/time may be impacted. 6. Financial impact to clubs. 7. Postponement may add to athlete load resulting in an inequitable draw. 8. Athletes may not be available for alternative match time/day. 9. Lack of venue availability for rescheduled match.

Step	Action	Responsibility
1	Competitions Manager and Competition Supervisor understand the reason to relocate the match/es.	Competition Manager Competition Supervisor
2	Agree to implement Contingency Plan. Competitions Manager and Competition Supervisor determine feasibility of relocating the match to an alternative venue and the suitability of the alternative venue.	Competition Manager Competition Supervisor
3	Competitions Manager and Competition Supervisor advise all stakeholders of the alternative venue relocation.	Competition Manager Competition Supervisor

If notification of the relocation of the match/es is made with less than 24 hours to the fixtured match, the new venue must not impact the team/s or officials by more than 30 minutes travel time, or the match may be rescheduled to be played at another time.

If notification of the relocation of the match/es is made with more than 24 hours to the fixtured match, the new venue must not impact the team/s or officials by more than 60 minutes travel time, or the match/es may be rescheduled to be played at another time.

Note: the travel time is calculated from the club's main training facility or the State Netball Centre, pending where the match is fixtured.

Action Required: Match Postponement Contingency

Step	Action	Responsibility
1	Competition Manager confirms that the fixtured matches were unable to be relocated and that the match/es are postponed.	Competition Supervisor
2	Advise Clubs, umpires, bench officials and live stream of the match postponement and course of action to be taken.	Competition Manager Competition Supervisor
3	Media Team to advise via social media the postponement of the match/es.	Competition Manager Media Manager
4	Liaise with venue and teams to reschedule match at a suitable time (as applicable to Rule 3.6 Cancellations).	Competitions Manager