



ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS



netball
VICTORIA

2026 COMPETITION HANDBOOK

Updated March 2026

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2026 Important Dates

Date	Action
November 2025	Meeting with Netball Victoria to discuss 2026 Association Championships Opportunity for questions from competing associations/leagues
Monday 16 March	Association Championships Qualifying Days Team Entries Open Team entry is \$100, invoiced by Netball Victoria
Sunday 19 April	Association Championships Qualifying Days Team Entries Close (all zones)
Thursday 23 April	Team Lists, Umpire and Coach registrations due to Netball Victoria for 17 May Qualifying Days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central East – 13&Under • Central West – 15&Under and 17&Under
Thursday 30 April	Team Lists, Umpire and Coach registrations due to Netball Victoria for 24 May Qualifying Days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North-East • Central West 13&Under
Thursday 7 May	Team Lists, Umpire and Coach registrations due to Netball Victoria for 31 May Qualifying Days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central East – 15&Under and 17&Under • Western
Thursday 21 May	Team Lists, Umpire and Coach registrations due to Netball Victoria for 14 June Qualifying Days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern • Eastern • Males/Open
Thursday 28 May	Team Lists, Umpire and Coach registrations due to Netball Victoria for 14 June Qualifying Days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Abilities
Thursday 4 June	Finals Day entries due for all prior held Qualifying Days (all besides Northern and Eastern)
Tuesday 16 June	Northern and Eastern Finals entries due

^ Penalties will apply for any late submissions.

^^ Coach and Umpire Accreditation requirements must be adhered to for all teams.

2026 Tournament Dates

Date	Tournament	Host Association
Sunday 17 May	Central West – 15&Under & 17&Under Qualifying Day	Essendon District NA
	Central East – 13&Under Qualifying Day	Bayside & District NA
Sunday 24 May	Central West – 13&Under Qualifying Day	Nillumbik Force NA
	North East – Qualifying Day	Albury NA
Sunday 31 May	Western – Qualifying Day	Warrnambool City NA
	Central East – 15&Under & 17&Under Qualifying Day	Waverley Night NA
Sunday 14 June	Northern – Qualifying Day	Echuca & District NA
	Eastern – Qualifying Day	Moe & District NA
	Male & Open – Association Championships	Netball Victoria - SNC
Sunday 21 June	Association Championships Finals Day & All Abilities	Netball Victoria - SNC

Overview and History

The first Association Championships event was conducted in 2000 and since then the event has gained popularity. Approximately 350 teams regularly compete in the event, involving more than 3600 players.

Association Championships is an integral part of the Netball Victoria pathway for players, coaches and officials. The competition provides important talent identification opportunities for athletes as they continue to develop their skills and play to a high standard.

Association Championships also gives our developing umpires the support and opportunity to learn from our umpire coaches and, in turn, enhance the standard of umpiring across Victoria.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this document, please contact the NV Competitions Team via competitions@netballvic.com.au.

Objectives

- Provide a competition for representative teams as part of the Netball Victoria pathway
- Provide opportunity for player and umpire talent identification
- Deliver umpire and coach development
- Provide participation opportunities for greater athlete and coach development

TID Opportunity

Players – Female

Each year Netball Victoria appoints Talent Scouts to identify talented athletes at Association Championships. Talent Scouts view all athletes in the 15&U and 17&U female age groups in both the Championship and Reserves divisions.

Athletes are identified with the potential to participate in Netball Victoria's High-Performance Pathway Programs, including Talent Academy, State 17&U and 19&U programs.

Netball Victoria Talent Scouts view all athletes in the 15&U and 17&U age groups, and eligible 19&U athletes in the Open division. Following Association Championships, Talent Scouts provide the names of identified athletes for invitation to Talent Academy and State Team screening days

Victorian Regional Academy of Sport (VRAS)

The Victorian Regional Academy of Sport, in partnership with Netball Victoria, conduct Talent Identification in the 13&U division of the Association Championships held in regional Victoria. There are seven regions throughout Victoria who take part in a program that provides development for potential Talent Academy athletes transitioning into the 15&U age group.

The aim of this agreement is to both assist Netball Victoria to reach and service regional areas and to support aspiring Netball athletes in the regional centres of Victoria.

The program links Netball Victoria's High Performance Pathway Programs, in particular the Talent Academy Program with the Regional Academies of sport on a larger scale.

Barwon Sports Academy (Geelong), West Vic Academy of Sport (Ballarat), Gippsland Sports Academy (Newborough), Bendigo Academy of Sport (Bendigo), North East Academy (Shepparton), the South West Academy of Sport (Warrnambool) and Sunraysia Academy of Sport (Sunraysia) are the seven regional academies that participate in the program and are responsible for their own talent scouts.

The program provides development for potential Talent Academy athletes transitioning into the 15&U age group.

Players – Male

Talent identification for male athletes will occur at Association Championships. The Victorian Men's and Mixed Netball Association will be offering TID opportunities for all programs including state teams and academies.

Umpires

Umpires will be selected at each qualifying day to officiate at Finals Day.

Netball Victoria has appointed Umpire Coaches to provide feedback to all umpires at the Association Championships and identify talented umpires who will then be invited to be part of the 2026 Talent Academy Umpire Program.

Marie Little OAM Shield

The Marie Little OAM Shield is an annual tournament that provides women with an intellectual disability the chance to compete at a national level. Named after disability netball pioneer, Marie Little OAM, the competition sees teams from each state compete.

Talent Identification for the Marie Little OAM Shield will occur throughout the All Abilities competition.

Past Winners and Results

13&Under	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
2000	Echuca & Dist NA (22)	Kardinia NA (20)
2001	Waverley City NA (20)	Wonthaggi & Dist NA (7)
2002	Cobram NA	Frankston & Dist NA
2003	Caulfield & Dist NA (14)	Benalla NA (10)
2004	Waverley Night NA (12)	Central Murray NL (10)
2005	GFL Netball (25)	Echuca & Dist NA (8)
2006	Western Border NA (15)	Benalla NA (13)
2007	Altona NA (15)	Waverley Night NA (7)
2008	Hampden FNL (11)	Albury NA (8)
2009	Hampden FNL (19)	Shepparton NA (4)
2010	GFL Netball (16)	Shepparton NA (15)
2011	Cranbourne South West NA (15)	Waverley City NA (10)
2012	Cranbourne South West NA (13)	Bendigo Strathdale (8)
2013	Banyule & District NA (15)	Gippsland League Netball (10)
2014	Banyule & District NA (13)	Hampden FNL (11)
2015	Western Border NA (11)	Mornington Peninsula NA (9)
2016	Altona NA (16)	Doncaster & Districts NA (14)
2017	Banyule & Districts NA (12)	Albury NA (10)
2018	Casey NA (11)	Parkville Netball (7)
2019	Lilydale Yarra Valley NA (20)	Casey NA (11)
2022	Hampden FNL (15)	St Albans/Caroline Springs (6)
2023	St Albans/Caroline Springs (17)	Netball Wodonga (8)
2024	Central Vic NA (17)	St Albans/Caroline Springs (15)
2025	St Albans/Caroline Springs NA (14)	Casey NA (8)

15&Under	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
2000	Kingston & Dist NA (13)	Strathdale NA (9)
2001	Echuca & Dist NA (19)	Mountain District NA (9)
2002	Diamond Creek FORCE NA	Hampden FNL
2003	Waverley City NA (13)	Hampden FNL (11)
2004	Frankston & Dist NA (14)	Colac Night NA (13)
2005	Frankston & Dist NA (18)	Waverley District NA (11)
2006	Central Murray NL (16)	Geelong FNL (13)
2007	Hampden FNL (19)	Ballarat NA (15)
2008	Frankston & Dist NA (17)	GFL Netball (8)
2009	Bendigo FNL (16)	Waverley City NA (12)
2010	Shepparton NA (14)	Waverley City NA (9)
2011	Frankston NA (20)	Albury NA (7)
2012	Hampden FNL (15)	Waverley City NA (11)
2013	Geelong FNL (14)	Ballarat NA (8)
2014	Altona NA (16)	Gippsland League (6)
2015	Banyule & District NA (22)	Hampden FNL (11)
2016	St Albans/Caroline Springs NA (12)	Hampden FNL (10)
2017	Frankston & District NA (12)	Banyule & Districts (8)
2018	Altona NA (16)	Frankston & District NA (8)
2019	AFL Outer East (17)	Parkville Netball (12)
2022	Banyule & Districts NA (16)	St Albans/Caroline Springs (11)
2023	St Albans/Caroline Springs (14)	Parkville Netball (9)
2024	Altona NA (14)	Parkville Netball (11)
2025	Goulburn Valley League (11)	St Albans/Caroline Springs NA (8)

17&Under	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
2000	Hampden FNL (12)	Shepparton NA (11)
2001	Ovens & Murray FNL (21)	Shepparton NA (17)
2002	Lilydale Yarra Valley NA	Golden City NA
2003	Diamond Creek FORCE NA (15)	Lilydale Yarra Valley NA (12)
2004	Hampden FNL (19)	Goulburn Valley FNL (15)
2005	GFL Netball (15)	Hampden FNL (11)
2006	Ovens & Murray FNL (17)	Goulburn Valley FNL (11)
2007	Ovens & Murray FNL (18)	Doncaster & Dist NA (12)
2008	GFL Netball (22)	Bendigo FNL (7)
2009	Ariels Vic Churches NA (15)	Ovens & Murray FNL (13)
2010	Bendigo FNL (15)	GFL Netball (9)
2011	Netball Geelong (12)	Hampden FNL (8)
2012	Geelong FNL (23)	Goulburn Valley NL (20)
2013	Geelong FNL (8)	Waverley District NA (8)
2014	SS&A Ovens & Murray FNL (16)	Geelong FNL (11)
2015	Bendigo FNL (16)	St Albans/ Caroline Springs NA (12)
2016	Albury NA (14)	Banyule & Districts NA (13)
2017	Banyule & Districts NA (14)	St Albans/Caroline Springs NA (13)
2018	Goulburn Valley NL (15)	St Albans/Caroline Springs NA (14)
2019	St Albans Caroline Springs NA (19)	SS&A Ovens & Murray FNL (14)
2022	Hampden FNL (14)	Banyule & Districts NA (11)
2023	Banyule & Districts NA (15)	Hampden FNL (9)
2024	Ballarat FNL (18)	Banyule & Districts NA (13)
2025	Ovens & Murray FNL (20)	Altona NA (12)

Open	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
2000	Ballarat NA (24)	Western Border NA (21)
2001	Western Border NA (20)	Goulburn Valley FNL (10)
2002	Hampden FNL	Wimmera NA
2003	Hampden FNL (23)	Western Border NA (13)
2004	Waverley Night NA (16)	Hampden FNL (11)
2005	Western Border NA (11)	Hampden FNL (10)
2006	Goulburn Valley NA (15)	Hampden FNL (14)
2007	Goulburn Valley NA (16)	Hampden FNL (10)
2008	Ovens & Murray FNL (12)	Hampden FNL (11)
2009	Diamond Creek FORCE NA (18)	Ovens & Murray FNL (17)
2010	Yarra Valley FNL (18)	Ovens & Murray FNL (17)
2011	Netball Geelong (17)	Ovens & Murray FNL (9)
2012	Goulburn Valley NL (12)	Hampden (8)
2013	Goulburn Valley NL (20)	Mornington Peninsula Nepean FL (7)
2014	Alberton (12)	Ellinbank & District NA (6)
2015	Geelong FNL (19)	Ovens & Murray FNL (12)
2016	Geelong FNL (19)	Bendigo FNL (9)
2017	Bendigo FNL (18)	Bellarine FNL (14)
2018	Geelong FNL (21)	Bendigo FNL (9)
2019	Goulburn Valley League (16)	SS&A Ovens & Murray FNL (11)
2022	Goulburn Valley League (18)	Bendigo FNL (14)
2023	Banyule & Districts NA (13)	SS&A Ovens & Murray FNL (12)
2024	Hampden FNL (17)	Goulburn Valley NL (10)
2025	Goulburn Valley League (15)	Murray NL (14)

17&Under Male	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
2022	Waverley District NA Red (10)	Wyndham NA (6)
2023	Waverley District NA Red (26)	Castlemaine District NA (0)
2024	Waverley District NA (23)	Darebin NA (6)
2025	Hoppers Crossing NA (11)	Waverley District NA (10)

15&Under Male	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
2024	Casey NA (9)	Hoppers Crossing NA (7)
2025	Hoppers Crossing NA (21)	Melbourne East NA (4)

13&Under Male	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
2024	Hoppers Crossing NA (12)	Sunbury NA (5)
2025	Hoppers Crossing NA (7)	Melbourne East NA (3)

All Abilities	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
2022	Melbourne East NA (6)	Sandringham & District NA Yellow (3)
2023	Drouin & District NA (8)	Sandringham & District NA Blue (5)
2024	Sandringham & District NA Yellow & Sandringham & District NA Blue (joint winners)	
2025	Bayside NA (10)	Warrnambool City NA (5)

Host Associations

	Central East	Central West	Eastern
2000	*Frankston/MENA/WDNA/LYV/City of Berwick	Barwon Netball Region	Sale NA
2001	Mountain Districts NA	Corio NA	Morwell NA
2002	Dandenong & Dist NA	Netball Geelong	Traralgon NA
2003	Frankston & Dist NA	Corio NA	Moe NA
2004	Dandenong & Dist NA	Diamond Creek FORCE NA	Bairnsdale NA
2005	Mountain Districts NA	Colac & Dist NA	Bairnsdale NA
2006	Waverley Night NA	Diamond Creek FORCE NA	Traralgon NA
2007	Frankston & Dist NA	Netball Geelong & Geelong Unity NA	Sale NA
2008	Dandenong & Dist NA	Diamond Creek FORCE NA	Bairnsdale NA
2009	Waverley Night NA	Diamond Creek FORCE NA	Traralgon NA
2010	Mountain District NA	Netball Victoria	Bairnsdale NA
2011	Knox City Council NA	Netball Geelong	Sale NA
2012	Waverley Night NA	Diamond Creek FORCE NA	Traralgon NA
2013	Knox City Council NA	Geelong Central NA	Traralgon NA
2014	Mountain Districts NA	AFL Barwon (Geelong)	Sale NA
2015	Knox City Council NA	Vic Baptist NA	Leongatha NA
2016	Mountain District NA	Geelong Central NA	Sale NA
2017	Knox City Council NA (15&U & 17&U) Frankston DNA (13&U)	Wyndham NA	Traralgon NA
2018	Casey NA (13&U) Mountain District NA (15&U & 17&U)	DCFNA (13&U), Geelong Central (15&U & 17&U)	Sale NA
2019	Caulfield & Dist NA (13&U) Springvale & Dist NA (15&U & 17&U)	Wyndham NA	Traralgon NA
2020	No Competition due to COVID-19		
2021	Springvale & District NA, Kingston NA, Doncaster & District NA & Mornington Peninsula NA	Colac & District NA & Parkville Netball	Moe & District NA
2022	Springvale & Dist NA (15&U & 17&U) Caulfield & Districts NA (13&U)	Wyndham NA	Traralgon NA
2023	Frankston & District NA (15/17U) Lilydale & Yarra Valley NA (13U)	Altona NA	Moe & District NA
2024	Frankston & District NA	Wyndham NA	Sale NA

2025	Mountain District NA (15/17&U + Males) State Netball Centre (13&U)	Darebin NA (15/17&U) State Netball Centre (13&U)	Bairnsdale NA
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	Northern	North East	Western
2000	Golden City NA	Shepparton NA	Ballarat NA
2001	Echuca & Dist NA	Wangaratta NA	Warrnambool City NA
2002	Strathdale NA	Netball Wodonga	Hamilton NA
2003	Horsham City NA	Shepparton NA	Warrnambool City NA
2004	Central Murray NL	Netball Wodonga	Ballarat NA
2005	Horsham City NA	Shepparton NA	Terang NA
2006	Mildura NA	Albury NA	Ballarat NA
2007	Central Murray NL	Shepparton NA	Warrnambool City NA
2008	Echuca & Dist NA	Albury NA	Warrnambool City NA
2009	Bendigo FNL	Shepparton NA	Ballarat NA
2010	Golden City NA	Albury NA	Warrnambool City NA
2011	Mildura NA	Yarrawonga & Dist. NA	Ballarat NA
2012	Bendigo FNL	Albury NA	Ballarat NA
2013	Golden City NA	Shepparton NA	Warrnambool City NA
2014	Mildura NA	Shepparton NA	Ballarat NA
2015	Echuca & Dist NA	Albury NA	Warrnambool City NA
2016	Central Murray FNL	Shepparton NA	Ballarat NA
2017	Echuca District NA	Albury NA	Warrnambool City NA
2018	AFL Central Vic	Wangaratta NA	Ballarat NA
2019	Echuca NA	Wodonga Netball	Warrnambool City NA
2020	No Competition due to COVID-19		
2021	Golden City NA	Albury NA	Wendouree NA
2022	Golden City NA	Albury NA	Warrnambool City NA
2023	Golden City NA	Shepparton NA	Warrnambool City NA
2024	Mildura NA	Wodonga NA	Wendouree NA
2025	Central Victorian NA	Shepparton NA	Warrnambool City NA

Competition Regulations

Definitions

In these Rules & Regulation, except where stated the following definitions apply:

Affiliated League or Association – a not for profit incorporated association or company limited by guarantee, which is a member of Netball Victoria and has an interest in netball. Affiliated Associations must conduct competitions, which should consist of not less than four (4) teams.

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

Competition Matches – all fixtured matches of the Competition.

Court Supervisor – the person appointed by Netball Victoria to assist the Competition Manager.

Competition Manager – the person appointed by Netball Victoria to manage the Competition.

Division - the category of competition offered. Identified by gender, age group and/or Championship/Reserve.

Finals Day - day of competition for the top two association/league teams qualifying from each zone in the 13&U, 15&U Female and 17&U female Championship divisions.

NCAS – the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme.

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

Regulation – this particular Competition Regulation or any other Netball Victoria Regulation as the context requires.

Replacement Player Form - a form owned by Netball Victoria used to capture information on players being removed and added from Team Lists.

Rules of Netball – the official rule book – “Official Rules of Netball” revised 2024, subject to any variations approved by NV from time to time.

Single Stage Competition - Open, Male and All Abilities Association Championships which are considered to be Qualifying and Finals Days in one day of competition. See Competition Format.

TID – Talent Identification

Team – any team which is representing an Affiliated Association or League in the Competition.

Team List - the registered players of each team as per Netball Connect registrations and any approved replacement players.

Team Bench – the designated area where the players (up to 5 substitutes), coach, manager, and up to (3) other personnel, remain throughout the game.

VNL Standard Player Agreement – official Netball Victoria contract between a player and club that outlines eligibility, commitments, conduct, and compliance with league rules.

Zone Qualifying Day - day of competition for each zone in the 13&U, 15&U Female and 17&U Female divisions. See Stages below for further information.

1. Competition Format

1.1 Multi Stage Divisions

The 13&U Female, 15&U Female and 17&U Female Championship competition is conducted in two stages.

1.1.1 Qualifying Stage

- a) An association/league within each Zone will host this tournament at a designated venue
- b) Associations/Leagues enter teams into their respective zone's qualifying stage
- c) An entry fee of \$100 inc. GST per team will be charged for the qualifying stage
- d) The top two association/league teams in the 13&U Female, 15&U Female and 17&U Female Championship division of each zone qualifying day will progress to the Association Championship Finals Day
- e) Umpire and player development programs are coordinated by Netball Victoria
- f) TID occurs for players and umpires (conducted by Netball Victoria and the various Victorian Regional Academies of Sport)

1.1.2 Finals Day

- a) The Grand Finalists of the 13&U Female, 15&U Female and 17&U Female Championship division in each zone's qualifying events are invited to finals.
- b) The Entry fee for qualifying teams is set at \$250 inc. GST per team qualified for finals day, which will also cover the cost of the umpire supplied by Netball Victoria.
- c) The winning association/league in each age group is crowned the Netball Victoria Association Champions.

1.2 Single Stage Divisions

- a) The Open, Males, All Abilities and 13&U Female, 15&U Female and 17&U Female Reserve divisions will all compete in a Single Stage competition.
- b) These divisions may be played as a stand alone day or on the same day as a Zone Qualifying Day or Finals Day however, their format and regulations will remain classified as a Single Stage format.
- a) The Open, Males and All Abilities winning association/league in each division is crowned the Netball Victoria Association Champions.

1.2 Age Groups/Divisions

1.2.1 Entry to competition can be in the following age groups;

- a) Open Female
- b) 17&Under Female
- c) 17&Under Male
- d) 15&Under Female (males <13 years of age as at the first day of competition may participate)
- e) 15&Under Male
- f) 13&Under female (males <13 years of age as at the first day of competition may participate)
- g) 13&Under Male

1.2.2 Divisions may be created to cater for the number of entries into one age group. Divisions will be:

- a) Championship
- b) Reserve

1.2.3 Pending team numbers, pools will be created within divisions that consist of 12 or more teams.

1.2.4 Associations/Leagues may enter a maximum of one team in the Championship division and a maximum of two teams in reserve division at the discretion of Netball Victoria. Associations/Leagues must contact Netball Victoria prior to entering multiple teams in the

reserve division. Approval will be based on total team entries in that division and the capacity of the venue.

- 1.2.5 Associations/Leagues are expected to enter the Championship division if only entering one team, where the divisions exist. Associations/Leagues must apply in writing to Netball Victoria should they wish to enter only in Reserves. This will be granted at the discretion of the Competition Manager and may be based on previous entries, previous win/loss ratio, results or any other factors considered to be relevant by Netball Victoria.
- 1.2.6 Netball Victoria reserves the right to add teams to Finals Day.

1.3 Entry Process

- 1.3.1 Teams are required to enter all teams via Netball Connect.
- 1.3.2 Association/leagues will be invoiced for their team entry and must have paid prior to the qualifying day.
- 1.3.3 Teams will be required to submit a team list via Netball Connect as per the date listed on page 5 or will be deemed ineligible to play.
 - a) Teams must list a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of twelve (12) players
 - b) Teams must register a coach and umpire per team
- 1.3.4 Changes to team lists due to illness or injury after the due date will require a Player Replacement form to be submitted to Netball Victoria.

1.4 Uniforms & Equipment

- 1.4.1 All players within the team must wear association/league playing uniform.
- 1.4.2 Associations/leagues must submit to Netball Victoria designs/photos of their uniform prior to the competition for approval.
- 1.4.3 Taping of jewellery and/or nails is not permitted. All jewellery must be removed, and nails short and smooth. Medical bracelets are exempt.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Team Eligibility

- 2.1.1 Only affiliated Netball Victoria association/league representative teams are eligible to participate.
- 2.1.2 Only association/league representative teams approved by their association/league committee and Netball Victoria are permitted to enter the competition.
- 2.1.3 Associations/Leagues may only enter teams in divisions in which their competition delivers or caters for.
 - 2.1.3.1 Any association/league who only delivers an Open competition is not permitted to enter junior divisions.
 - 2.1.3.2 Any association/league who delivers a competition that caters for a specified junior range that captures the Association Championship division will be considered to deliver a competition of that division. E.g if an affiliate delivers a 15 – 17&Under division, they would be considered eligible to enter 15&Under and 17&Under.

2.2 Player Eligibility

- 2.2.1 To be eligible to represent an association/league:
- a) 13&Under and 15&Under players must be registered to, and have played a minimum of four (4) games in that association/league's own competition in the 12 months prior to team list submission due date.
 - b) 17&Under - Female and Open players must be a registered player to an association/league and have played a minimum of four (4) games either in their association/league's own competition, or for their association/league representative team in another competition in the 12 months prior to team list submission due date.
 - c) 13&Under Male, 15&Under Male and 17&Under Male players must be a registered player to an association/league and have played a minimum of four (4) games either in their association/league's own competition, or for their association/league representative team in another competition in the 12 months prior to team list submission due date.
- 2.2.2 Association/league representative players (or teams) who compete at a competition run by another association may only represent the association for which they play for, and not where they play.
- 2.2.3 Any athlete that has signed for a Victorian Netball League (VNL) team in the Competition Year in either the 23&Under or Championship division is not eligible to play in Association Championships. Development Team, VNL Reserves or training partner athletes are permitted to play providing they have not signed a Standard Player Agreement for that Competition Year.
- 2.2.4 Players must meet association/league eligibility criteria for representative teams. Netball Victoria reserves the right to request this information prior to competition.
- 2.2.5 Where a player is eligible to represent multiple associations/leagues (including in different zones), the player may choose to represent only one (1) association/league during the Association Championships in any given year.
- 2.2.6 Players cannot play in more than one age group or division during the Association Championships in any given Calendar Year, with the exception of 2.2.7.
- 2.2.7 To enable a team to list a maximum of 12 players, players who played at a zone qualifying day, will be permitted to represent a higher age group or division at the Association Championships Finals Day whilst still complying with the minimum age requirements stated in Rule 2.2.9, provided they are not already playing in a team on Finals Day.
- 2.2.8 Players must participate in preliminary rounds to be eligible to play finals on Zone Qualifying Days. Teams found to be playing ineligible players will be disqualified and may incur a fine.
- 2.2.9 To be eligible to play Finals Day, players must have participated in their respective Zone Qualifying Day. Exemptions may be sought in the instances of player replacement for medical purposes (medical certificate required). Players must play in the preliminary rounds on Finals Day to participate in finals.
- 2.2.9.1 Note: Replacement players for Finals Day should only be made for a player who is medically or by extenuating circumstances unable to play. The replacement should be a player who has played in the Zone Qualifying Day, either from the Reserves of the same age group or a player from a lower age group, in line with 2.2.7. In the case that there are no viable other teams to draw qualified players from, an exemption for a replacement player can be made via email to Netball Victoria and will be granted at their discretion.

- 2.2.9.2 Note 2: Where a player was unable to participate in Zone Qualifying Day due to medical or extenuating circumstances however is to play on Finals Day and not replace a player, the association/league must apply to Netball Victoria in writing requesting an exemption. Exemption will be considered and may be approved provided the team list does not exceed 12 players and evidence of the medical condition is provided.
- 2.2.10 Participant age is determined as at 31 December of the competition year except for males as prescribed in 2.2.11.
- 2.2.11 Minimum age requirements are:
- a) Open Female: 15 years
 - b) 17&Under Female & Male: 14 years
 - c) 15&Under Female: 12 years (males <13 years of age as at the first day of competition may participate)
 - d) 15&Under Male: 12 years
 - e) 13&Under Female: 11 years (males <13 years of age as at the first day of competition may participate)
 - f) 13&Under Male: 11 years
- 2.2.12 The Netball Victoria Gender Regulation will apply in regard to male competition. Males who are less than 13 years of age (actual age) on the first day of the competition may participate in the 13&Under - Female and 15&Under - Female competitions. There is no restriction on the number of males on court or positions they may play for the 13&Under and 15&Under Female competitions.
- 2.2.13 Associations/Leagues may apply in writing to Netball Victoria on behalf of a player for special consideration to represent an association/league if they have not reached the stated eligibility criteria above.
- 2.2.14 All players must register themselves to the team via Netball Connect via the relevant due date as set out in this handbook. Team Lists will be confirmed with the association/league via email and any replacement players once the due date is past must be made using the Replacement Player Form.
- 2.2.15 Injured or ill players from a finalised Team List (once the due date as set out in this handbook has passed) can be replaced with another player who meets all eligibility requirements. All replacement players must be submitted via the Replacement Player Form and will be approved at the discretion of Netball Victoria. Replacement Players can be made up until the first match of the day in which the team is playing.
- 2.2.16 Players who have missed the registration deadline who meet all eligibility requirements may be added to the Team List at request of the association/league. All late player registrations will incur a \$100 fine to the association.

2.3 Netball Victoria Membership

- 2.3.1 All players, coaches and umpires must be full (junior or senior) current financial members of Netball Victoria.

3. Officials and Personnel

3.1 Netball Victoria Competition Officials

- 3.1.1 A Competition Manager from Netball Victoria will be responsible for the management of all competition matches.
 - a) They will be authorised to suspend or cancel any matches deemed unsafe.
 - b) They may at their discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in the competition rules and regulations of the competition. The exercising of such discretion will have regard for the integrity of the competition.
- 3.1.2 A Court Supervisor will assist the Competition Manager in the management of the competition and be responsible for the recording of all scores into the online competition management program.
- 3.1.3 An Umpire Supervisor/Coordinator will be appointed by Netball Victoria to manage umpires on the day and prior to competition.
- 3.1.4 Netball Victoria has the right to appoint other officials and volunteers to enable the competition to run according to standards.

3.2 Umpires

- 3.2.1 Each team must supply a non-playing, non-coaching current badged umpire.
- 3.2.2 Umpires are required to hold the following accreditation levels at a minimum:
 - a) Open Female: A Badge or NV approved B Badge
 - b) 17&Under Female & Male: B Badge or NV approved C Badge
 - c) 15&Under Female & Male: B Badge or NV approved C Badge
 - d) 13&Under Female & Male: C Badge
 - e) All Abilities: C Badge
- 1.1.e.1 To support the development of emerging umpires, teams are encouraged to nominate an umpire who is not currently involved in the Talent Academy Program.
- 3.2.3 All umpires must be current full (junior or senior) financial Netball Victoria members.
- 3.2.4 All umpires must be approved by Netball Victoria, by the due date for umpire nominations.
- 3.2.5 All umpires must comply with the Netball Victoria Competitions Umpire Uniform guidelines.
- 3.2.6 Netball Victoria shall allocate umpires for all matches.
- 3.2.7 Umpires must be available if allocated to umpire finals during the Qualifying Days and must check allocation with the umpire coordinator prior to leaving the event.
- 3.2.8 Failure to supply umpire nomination details per team by the required dates will result in the following fines:
 - a) \$100 fine for each umpire not registered by due date
 - b) \$150 fine for each umpire not registered 14 days prior to relevant Qualifying Day
 - c) \$250 fine for each umpire not registered by 7 days priorNote: Associations/League may be subject to the removal of teams if umpires are not provided within the required timelines.
- 3.2.9 Associations and leagues must make all reasonable attempts to provide their own umpires. In exceptional circumstances, if Netball Victoria is required to source an umpire, a fee of

\$250 will be invoiced to the association/league. This must be requested prior to the umpire nominations being due.

- 3.2.10 It is a requirement that all umpires 18 years and older hold a current Working with Children Check (WWCC) and ensure these details are accurately recorded on their Netball Connect profile.

3.3 Coaches

- 3.3.1 A non-playing coach must be listed on the team registration portal. Open division coaches are not required to be a non-playing coach.

Failure to supply coach details per team by the required dates will result in the following fines:

- a) \$100 fine for not registered by due date
- b) \$150 fine for not registered 14 days prior to relevant Qualifying Day
- c) \$250 fine for not registered by 7 days prior

Note: Associations/League may be subject to a 2 point penalty for their allocated team if coaches are not nominated within the required timelines.

- 3.3.2 All coaches must be current full (junior or senior) financial Netball Victoria members and have a current minimum NCAS Development Netball Accreditation.
- 3.3.3 All coaches 18 years and older must hold a current Working with Children Check (WWCC), and ensure these details are accurately recorded on their Netball Connect profile.

4. Competition Organisation

4.1 Competition Requirements

- 4.1.1 Competition matches shall be as per the “Official Rules of Netball” revised 2024, unless otherwise stated.
- 4.1.2 If an umpire observes a player bleeding or there is blood on the court, ball or any other player, they are required to call time, if no “on court” player has called time. The player/s with blood must leave the court immediately and may be substituted as per the standard injury/blood rule. The time will not stop for any injury or blood rule.

4.2 Conduct of Matches

- 4.2.1 Matches will consist of two (2) x equal halves with 1 min break at half time.
- 4.2.2 In the event of a drawn match in finals there will be a one (1) minute break before two (2) equal halves with a one (1) minute break at the interval when teams change ends.
- 4.2.3 If at the end of the second half the scores are still level, then play continues until one team leads by two goals.
- 4.2.4 All finals that go into extra time will be timed courtside by a Netball Victoria official.
- 4.2.5 Substitutions can be made during all breaks in extra time.

4.3 Rolling Substitutions

- a) The rolling substitution stands at the designated area immediately next to the scorebench.
- b) Before leaving the designated area, the substitute tags hands with the player leaving the court.
- c) Only one (1) rolling substitute per team can be made at a time.

- d) Play is not to be held up for rolling substitutions. If play is delayed, the player will be penalised under Rule 19.2. Delaying play.
- e) Players must observe the offside rules as they enter/leave the court.
- f) Players must not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution. If a player leaves the court as a rolling substitution, and there is no player in the designated area, the replacement player is treated as a late player (as per Rule 3.8) and must wait until a break in play to enter the court.

4.4 Balls

- 4.4.1 All game netballs will be supplied by Netball Victoria.

4.5 Centre Pass

- 4.5.1 In Preliminary/pool matches, the first named team will take the centre pass; the other team may choose the goal end.
- 4.5.2 The centre pass in the finals will be determined by the toss of a coin.

4.6 Fixtures & Ladders

- 4.6.1 Netball Victoria will determine the pools and fixtures after all teams are entered and the final number known.
- 4.6.2 Fixtures will be released prior to the competition day and are subject to change. Any changes will be notified accordingly.
- 4.6.3 In preliminary/pool rounds, points will be awarded as follows:
 - a) Four (4) points for a win
 - b) Two (2) points for a draw
 - c) Zero (0) points for a loss
 - d) Four (4) points for a bye
- 4.6.4 Progressive ladders will be available for each division and will be updated after each round of matches.
 - a) Teams will be ranked by points awarded for win/loss.
 - b) In the event of multiple teams on equal points, the highest goal percentage (based on goals for and against) will determine ladder placing.
 - c) In the event of multiple teams on equal percentage, the ladder placing shall be determined by which team scored the greater total number of goals during the rounds.

4.7 Finals

- 4.7.1 At the conclusion of the preliminary/pool rounds, the top placing teams (as per the ladder) of each pool/division will play off in a finals series.
- 4.7.2 The finals structure will be determined by Netball Victoria based on the number of pools/teams competing and will be communicated before the competition commences.

4.8 Scoring

- 4.8.1 Each team must provide a non-participating scorer for all matches who must sit/stand together for the entire duration of the match.

- 4.8.2 The scoresheet or tablet provided by Netball Victoria will be considered the official score and only information recorded on the official scoresheet/tablet will be accepted.
- 4.8.3 The winning team must return the scoresheet (where applicable) to the Event Office immediately after the game.
- 4.8.4 Association Championships Finals Day will be live scored through Netball Connect on supplied tablets.

4.9 Late Arrivals & Forfeits

- 4.9.1 All competition games will commence at the time listed in the fixture.
- 4.9.2 If a team is not present at the time of the starting siren, a representative from the team present must notify the Competition Officials immediately.
- 4.9.3 A Competition Official may award the present team one (1) goal for each full minute the game is delayed.
- 4.9.4 A maximum of five (5) goals will be awarded, after which the match will be declared a forfeit by the Competition Official.
- 4.9.5 Once declared a forfeit by the Competition Official, the team present will be awarded the four points and a winning margin of 10-0.

4.10 Cancellations

- 4.10.1 When matches are cancelled due to weather or some other cause prior to the start of the game, both teams will be credited with two (2) points and five (5) goals each and the competition will continue as per fixture, unless alternate arrangements can be made to reschedule the match.
- 4.10.2 When matches are cancelled due to weather or some other cause after the start of the game:
 - 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.

5. Competition Specific

5.1 Team Registration (day of competition)

- 5.1.1 Teams are required to register at the Competition Desk no later than 30 minutes before the first match of the day to check in their team.

5.2 Talent Identification and Mentoring

- 5.2.1 Talent identification for athletes and umpires will occur at Association Championships. Where TID will be occurring the selection process and TID opportunities will be communicated to relevant participants and personnel.
- 5.2.2 Eligible athletes may be Talent Identified for:
 - a) Victorian Regional Academy of Sports (13&U - regional zones only);
 - b) Talent Academy Screening (15&U); and/or
 - c) State Team Screening (15&U, 17&U & Open)
 - d) Talent Academy Umpire Program (Umpires)

Note: the age group specified will be screened for the TID program listed.

5.2.3 Identified players will be notified via e-mail by August.

5.3 Awards

5.3.1 Grand Final teams will receive awards supplied by Netball Victoria.

5.4 Risk Analysis

5.4.1 A risk analysis process by Netball Victoria (in conjunction with Associations if necessary) will be completed to mitigate any potential risks to the competition.

5.5 First Aid

5.5.1 A First Aid officer will be located on site.

5.6 Policies

5.6.1 Association Championships will comply with Netball Victoria and Netball Australia Policies and adhere to the Code of Conduct on the Netball Victoria Website.

6. All Abilities

Unless detailed differently in this section, all Association Championships competition rules and regulations apply to All Abilities teams.

6.1 All Abilities Player Classification and Eligibility

6.1.1 For the purpose of this competition, All Abilities players are considered players with a physical or mental condition that limits their movements, senses or activities. All Abilities players must hold a Netball Victoria All Abilities membership.

6.1.2 To be eligible to represent an association/league, a player must be registered and involved at that association/league within the 12 months prior to team list submission date.

6.1.3 Participants' age is determined as at 31 December in the competition year. Minimum age requirements is 13 years.

6.1.4 Where an association/league fields more than one (1) team in the All Abilities Association Championships, players must be assigned to one (1) team only and only play for that team during the day of competition.

6.2 Entry to Competition

6.2.1 All Abilities teams must be association/league representative teams. Only affiliated Netball Victoria association/league representative All Abilities teams are eligible to participate.

6.2.2 Each association/league may enter a maximum of two (2) All Abilities teams.

6.3 Umpires

6.3.1 Each team must supply a non-playing, non-coaching current badged umpire. Refer to section 3.2 for full regulations.

6.4 Uniform & Equipment

6.4.1 All players within the All Abilities team must wear a uniform approved by the association/league.

6.4.2 Uniforms must show the association/league name and no other name (e.g. club)

6.5 Competition Specific

- 6.5.1 A team can have a minimum of zero (0) males on the team.
- 6.5.2 There is no minimum number of males required to be on court at any given time.
- 6.5.3 A team can have a maximum of three (3) males on the court at any time. It is not necessary for a male player to oppose a male player.
- 6.5.4 Teams can only have one male player in each third; for example, GS or GA, WA or C or WD, GD or GK

7. Offences, Complaints Procedure & Penalties

Association Championships will follow the guidelines of Netball Australia's Member Protection Policy and Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, Netball Victoria's Competition Rules and Regulations and Competition Complaints Handling Regulation. Protests and appeals should be lodged by the team coordinator to the Competitions Manager before the next round of competition. These forms are available from the Competitions Office.

In the event of a protest or an appeal, the Competitions Manager will convene with other Netball Victoria staff members deemed qualified to hear the protest/appeal. Possible penalties at the discretion of Netball Victoria include: Points loss, forfeit of the affected match, disqualification, fines and/or any other penalty deemed appropriate by the Competition Manager.

The Competitions Manager's decision will be final.

Appendix 1 - Association Championships Male Eligibility

Purpose

The purpose of the Association Championships Male Eligibility is to support the increase of male participation at this level.

8.1 Team Eligibility

- 8.1.1 Only affiliated Netball Victoria association/league representative teams are eligible to participate.
- 8.1.2 Association/leagues may amalgamate with one other association/league within their zone to form a representative team on the following conditions:
 - a. Both association/leagues have less than 25 male members aged 17&U as at the date of team entries being opened.
 - b. Approval from Netball Victoria to enter the competition as an amalgamated entity.
 - c. All players within the team must be wearing the agreed playing uniform. Amalgamated teams must advise Netball Victoria of their chosen uniform prior to the competition for approval.
- 8.1.3 The amalgamation and approval will be reviewed annually.

8.2 Player Eligibility

- 8.2.1 To be eligible to represent an association/league:
 - a) Players in the 13 &Under and 15&Under female division must be registered to and have played a minimum of four (4) games in that association/league's own competition in the 12 months prior to team list submission date.
 - b) 13&Under Male, 15&Under Male and 17&Under Male players must be a registered player to an association/league and have played a minimum of four (4) games either in their association/league's own competition, or for their association/league representative team in another competition in the 12 months prior to team list submission due date.
- 8.2.2 As per regulation 2.2.6, Players cannot play in more than one age group or division during the Association Championships in any given Calendar Year, with the exception of 2.2.7.