

Competitions Policy

Hawkesbury City Netball Association

Adopted: 13 October 2026

All Affiliated Clubs and their Members have a responsibility to ensure they have read and understand the Hawkesbury City Netball Association's Constitution (the Constitution) and Policy Documents.

Table of Contents

1.	WINTER COMPETITION	3
2.	TWILIGHT COMPETITION	3
3.	PLAYING REGULATIONS - GENERAL	3
4.	POINT SCORE	4
5.	FORFEITS	5
6.	SCORING AND SCORESHEETS	5
7.	SUBSTITUTES	6
8.	PLAYERS FROM ANOTHER TEAM	7
9.	ELIGIBILITY	8
10.	INJURY	8
11.	FINAL SERIES	8
12.	WEATHER	10
13.	UMPIRING - GENERAL	10
14.	UMPIRING ELIGIBILITY	11
15.	ALTERATIONS TO POLICY	12

1. Winter Competition

1.1 The Winter Competition shall be conducted for all players in graded divisions.

1.2 A player's age shall be determined by clause 6.3 of the Hawkesbury City Netball Association Constitution.

2. Twilight Competition

2.1 A Twilight Competition may be conducted for all players.

3. Playing Regulations - General

3.1 The age of players for registration to play in a grade other than that in which they are registered shall be as follows:

3.1.1 Senior Grades – any player aged 15 years or over in the year of play. Exemption may be given to 14-year players on application. 14 years players should participate in a division that provides appropriate opportunities to further develop their skills, confidence, and game understanding before they progress to higher levels of competition

3.2 A player or official who has a pre-existing medical condition, is required to inform themselves of any exclusions that may apply under the Netball NSW insurance policy to that medical condition when making any decision to continue playing or officiating in the sport. In the case of a junior player or official, a Parent and/or Guardian must declare on their behalf.

3.3 In all other aspects the current Rules of Netball shall apply to all competition games, except where specific domestic ruling as detailed herein are applied.

3.4 Dual Registration

3.4.1 Clubs may Dual Register up to two players from a lower division to play in a higher division team.

3.4.2 Players intended to be dual registered into a team must be identified to the Competitions Convenor in the club's grading request to ensure that they are considered in the grading of the team.

3.4.3 Dual registration of players under 18yrs must have the written consent of the parent/guardian and the club will provide this to the Association on request.

3.4.4 All dual registrations during the season must be submitted and approved by the Competitions Convenor by 5pm each Thursday prior to the day of play.

3.4.5 Any request for a player to Dual Register in a team that is deemed not in the spirit of the game will be referred to the Executive Committee.

3.4.6 Cross-club dual registration is to be approved by the executive committee, and the request must come from both clubs involved.

3.4.7 Dual Registered players must play three (3) games in the higher division to be eligible for Final Series

3.4.8 Once approval is given, it is the responsibility of the club to allocate their dual registered player to the higher team in PlayHQ. Failure to do so correctly may result in the player being ineligible to play in the team as per clause 9.4 of this policy.

3.5 Timing of all games conducted by the Association shall be determined Annually.

4. Point Score

The following points shall be awarded for games:

Win	2 points to the winning team
Draw	1 point to each team
Loss	0 Points to the losing team
Bye	2 points awarded
Weather	1 point to each team
Forfeit	2 points to the team receiving the forfeit

5. Forfeits

5.1 A forfeit may be claimed by a team if the opposing team has less than five (5) registered players within thirty (30) seconds of the scheduled commencement of play.

5.2 If either team has a minimum of five (5) registered players, then play must commence on time. A forfeit may be claimed if either team refuses to play.

5.3 Teams claiming a forfeit must complete and sign the official scoresheet and return to the office. If the forfeit has been notified beforehand to the Association, a Club official can complete the scoresheet in the office on the day of scheduled play to claim the forfeit.

5.4 All players registered in the team receiving the forfeit will be recorded as having played the game on that day.

5.5 Where a game has commenced and is in progress and a team forfeits, the score at the time the forfeit is awarded will stand.

5.6 Where a club forfeits prior to the competition day they must contact and advise the opposing club Secretary and the HCNA Secretary.

6. Scoring and Scoresheets

6.1 Each team shall supply a scorer for their game, who records all goals scored on the official scoresheet.

6.2 Teams failing to supply a scorer must accept without challenge the scoresheet as submitted by the opposing team. Scorers should be together near the centre of the court and jointly carry out the responsibility of scoring.

6.3 Printed Scoresheet

6.3.1 Players are to sign the scoresheet if they take the court in that game. Players must complete the scoresheet as required prior to submission to the office.

6.3.2 When playing a player up from a lower division, their team's name and the division must be noted alongside their name as listed on the scoresheet, in the correct place.

6.3.3 The Scorers from each team are responsible for signing the scoresheet at the end of the game as correct. If a scorer considers

the scoresheet to be incorrect, the matter should be reported to the office so that it may be investigated by the Executive Committee.

6.3.4 Should a scorer omit to sign the scoresheet, they must accept, without challenge, the scoresheet as submitted.

6.3.5 The winning team is responsible for returning the scoresheet to the office at the conclusion of the game.

6.3.6 After a scoresheet has been handed into the office the original will not be returned to any Club for any purpose whatsoever.

6.3.7 The Competitions Convenor will only accept the score as kept on the official scoresheet as signed by the scorers. In circumstances where the scorers of both teams involved testify that the scoresheet as submitted is incorrect and they further agree on the correct score, then the Competitions Convenor has the discretion to vary the official scoresheet. The score will then become that which is recorded and agreed by the Competitions Convenor.

6.3.8 In the event of a game where no scores are recorded or the game is drawn, the team first named on the scoresheet is responsible for returning the scoresheet to the office.

6.4 Electronic Scoring

6.4.1 Players are to be entered on the scoresheet electronically by the scorers if they take the court in that game.

6.4.2 The Competitions Convenor will only accept the score as submitted on the electronic scoresheet by the scorers. In circumstances where the scorers of both teams involved testify that the scoresheet as submitted is incorrect and they further agree on the correct score, then the Competitions Convenor has the discretion to vary the official scoresheet. The score will then become that which is recorded and agreed by the Competitions Convenor

7. Substitutes

7.1 There is no limit to the number of substitutes that can be made by a team during a game provided that the number of players used does not exceed twelve (12) eligible players.

8. Players from another team

8.1 Eligibility criteria for playing players from another team within the same Club are as follows:

8.1.1 Seniors

8.1.1.1 A Senior player may take part in a maximum of two competition games in the one day provided that they play in the team in which they are registered and in a team in a higher division.

8.1.1.2 When playing a player up from a lower division, their team's name and division must be noted alongside their name as listed on the scoresheet in the correct place.

8.1.2 Juniors

8.1.2.1 A junior player may take part in a maximum of two competition games in the one day provided that they play in the team in which they are registered and in a team in a higher junior division, in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the Competition Convenor's Grading Report released before the commencement of each Winter Season.

8.1.2.2 When playing a player up from a lower division, their team's name and division must be noted alongside their name as listed on the scoresheet in the correct place.

8.2 No player shall play in a lower division than that in which they are registered.

8.3 A player from a lower division having played a total of three (3) games in the same higher division team, shall be considered a player of that team for the remainder of the competition.

8.4 A player may play up to five (5) games in various higher divisions. On the fifth (5^{th}) game they shall be considered a player of that team.

8.5 Players may not interchange between teams in the same division.

8.6 No more than three (3) players shall play up in the same game.

8.7 A borrowed player/s can only be used when the borrowing team has less than 7 registered players available to play.

9. Eligibility

9.1 Should a team official feel that an opposing team is fielding an ineligible player, the team official should contact an Association Executive member immediately.

9.2 All players registered in a team prior to season commencement are eligible to play in the Final Series.

9.3 Late registered players in a team must play in at least three (3) competition games with that team to be eligible to play in the Final Series.

9.4 Any team found to be playing an ineligible player will be considered to have lost that game in which that player participated. No points shall be awarded, and no goals recorded.

10. Injury

10.1 No injury time is added to any game during the season except for the Final Series where injury time will be added in accordance with the current Rules of Netball.

11. Final Series

11.1 Net Set Go Divisions.

11.1.1 All players competing in the Net Set Go division shall be awarded a HCNA participation acknowledgement after the final round of games.

11.1.2 Winners and runners up shall be awarded after the final round of games. There shall be no finals played in these age groups.

11.1.3 If two or more teams finish on equal points after the final round of games, the teams shall be awarded joint premiers. There shall be no runners up awarded in this instance.

11.2 Junior and Senior Divisions.

11.2.1 If two or more teams finish on equal points after the final round of games, positions for the semi-finals shall be decided on goal averages.

11.2.2 The goal average for each team shall be decided as follows:

Total number of goals scored by the team, divided by the total number of goals scored against the team, multiplied by 100 and divided by the actual number of games played by the team.

$$\frac{\text{Goals Scored}}{\text{Goals scored against}} \times \frac{100}{\text{Games played}}$$

The number of games actually played includes a game a team has forfeited but does not include a game where a team has received a forfeit.

11.3 For the Winter Competition, the finals shall be played as follows:

Semi Finals	1 plays 2 3 plays 4
Finals	Loser of 1 v 2 plays Winner of 3 v 4
Grand Final	Winner of 1 v 2 Semi Final plays Winner of Finals

11.4 All games of the Final Series must be played on the date set down in the calendar as published. The only exception shall be where finals games are rescheduled due to weather.

11.5 When a game is drawn in the Final Series, the following extra time shall be played until a result is known:

11.5.1 At the conclusion of the regular time, the teams shall have a two (2) minute interval and then change ends. During this interval substitutions may be made. Play shall continue for five (5) minutes, then after an interval of one (1) minute when substitutions may be made teams shall change ends and then play a further five (5) minutes. If the game is still a draw, play continues until one team has a two (2) goal advantage.

11.5.2 There shall be no joint winners in either Junior or Senior divisions.

11.6 Finals Series team benches shall only include the following persons:

11.6.1 Registered coaching team – coaches who are registered to the team in PlayHQ

11.6.2 Team manager – the appointed team manager (not the volunteer scorers who have a manager registration in PlayHQ)

11.6.3 Primary Carer – one designated primary carer

11.6.4 Registered substitutes – players listed in the team list for that game

11.6.5 No other players, parents/carers, club officials, spectators or other persons are permitted to sit on, or occupy, the team bench during a Finals Series match without the prior consent of Association Executive

12. Weather

12.1 The Executive Committee shall decide if the day's competition games are to be played. Such decision shall be posted by 7:30am on the day of play for all divisions.

12.2 One (1) point shall be awarded to each team in the event games are cancelled due to weather prior to the scheduled start of play

12.3 When games have commenced and are then cancelled due to weather, the following shall apply:

12.3.1 Prior to half time, teams will be awarded one (1) point each.

12.3.2 During or after half time, the score shall stand as at the time play was stopped and points awarded for a win, loss, or draw.

12.4 Final Series

12.4.1 Should any day be completely abandoned, the Final Series will be postponed for one week and all games will be rescheduled.

12.4.2 Should any timeslot be abandoned during the Final Series, the games for that time slot will be rescheduled.

13. Umpiring - General

13.1 Each Club must nominate an Umpires Convenor who shall be the Association's point of contact for all umpiring matters within their Club.

13.2 All umpires nominated by a Club to fulfil the Club's umpiring duties must be a registered member of the Association.

13.3 Umpires shall be attired in accordance with the Association's dress code.

13.4 Clubs must not change umpires during a game; the exception being injury or illness to the umpire or at the discretion of the Association's Umpires Convenor.

13.5 All umpires, including standby umpires, must check in at least 5 minutes prior to the commencement of the game to be umpired. Should an umpire fail to check in for the game, a replacement umpire will be directed to officiate at that game.

13.6 Any Club failing to provide an umpire as required, including a standby umpire will be fined.

13.7 Net Set Go games are to be umpired by either the Coach and/or approved umpires wearing the correct uniform as outlined above.

13.8 An umpire who sends a player from the court for disciplinary reasons, must report the incident to the Association's Umpires Convenor and complete an Incident Report form. The matter shall be dealt with as per the Code of Conduct for Community Netball as adopted by the Association.

14.Umpiring Eligibility

14.1 All active umpires must have a current Exam pass. A copy of the certificate should be submitted to the Associations Umpires Convenor.

14.2 Senior Games

14.2.1 To umpire senior games, a current national badge is preferred, however, an umpire participating in the Association's development program or as approved by the Association's Umpires Convenor is eligible to officiate games in the senior divisions.

14.3 Junior Games

14.3.1 On approval of the Associations Umpires Committee, a junior umpire may be given permission to umpire junior games.

14.3.2 A coach/mentor from the Umpire's Club, is to be provided for each new umpire until the umpire is approved by the Association's Umpires Committee.

14.4 The Associations Umpires Convenor has the discretion to substitute umpires for any game.

15. Alterations to Policy

This policy may only be altered by special resolution passed by at least half (1/2) of the members present and voting at a General Council Meeting of the Association which not less than seven (7) days written notice specifying the resolution(s) to be proposed has been given.