



Juniors Competition Manual

2024 VERSION – TCNAI Competitions.

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this manual is to provide information regarding the Junior Competition run for clubs and players associated with Townsville City Netball Association Incorporated (TCNAI).

TCNAI is an affiliated member with Netball Queensland. All TCNAI run competitions abide by the rules regulating the conduct of the game of netball, as determined by Netball Australia. There are a few exceptions to this, and they are noted where relevant.

This Junior competition is conducted separately from other competitions conducted by TCNAI.

2. Conduct of Games

- The 'Official Rules of Netball' will apply to all games, unless otherwise stated in this document. <https://netball.com.au/sites/default/files/2020-02/INF-RulesofNetball2020.pdf>

2.1 TCNAI responsibilities:

- TCNAI vests responsibility for the day-to-day operation and management of the competition to the TCNAI Competitions Officers.
- The official competition draw will be made available before the commencement of the competition.
- Competitions will, whenever possible, not be scheduled on Public Holidays or during school holidays.
- TCNAI will update the competition results and ladders after each round.

2.2 Club responsibilities:

- Clubs will complete all team details in Netball Connect by the due date/s.
- Clubs will ensure all members are registered and financial.
- Clubs will pay all required fees /payments, Affiliation, and team fees by the due date/s.
- Clubs must provide a list of coaches with their team names and coaches contact details to the Competitions Officer before the season commences.
- Clubs are to submit team uniform requirements to TCNAI. (This is done when applying for club affiliation each year).
 - The uniform will identify the Club and may be comprised of but not restricted to: Skirt or shorts or leggings and shirt; OR Bodysuit; OR Full Dress with briefs, shorts, or leggings.
 - Playing Attire will include briefs, socks, and sports shoes.
 - Components of uniform style and colour to be consistent. All items of clothing (tops, dresses, etc.) are to be identical.
 - Clubs are to determine their uniform policy and how it may differ for each Team.
 - Wearing any jewellery is not permitted as per the INF rule book.
 - An exception is made for a wedding ring, medical alarm bracelet, or medical piercing.
 - They MUST be taped.
 - A medical certificate must accompany a medical piercing.
 - A copy of the medical certificate must be provided to the Competition Officer before the player takes the court.
 - Where a club is aware of a delay in playing uniforms being available by the start of the season (which includes grading games) that club is to give written notice to TCNAI prior to the first grading game and stipulate an approximate time when the club may be able to comply with the designated club uniform rules.

3. Fines and Penalties

ACTION	PENALTY
Player eligibility breaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) If a breach is made by the winning team, a loss will be recorded against that team and the opposing team will be deemed the winner and receive three (3) competition points. No match score will be recorded for this game. b) If a breach is made by the losing team, points will be recorded as per standard competition rules and the final match score will be recorded. c) If the match is drawn, the offending team will be deemed to have lost the match and the opposing team will be awarded a win and receive three (3) competition points. No match score will be recorded for this game. d) <i>Penalty:</i> TCNAI may also, at their discretion, impose an additional three (3) competition point deduction from the offending team. e) Matches that have been won / drawn by a team in breach of the rules will not be included in the Goal Percentage equation when determining final placings.
Accumulative Loss of Points	A team loses three (3) points for each unregistered player/s in any given fixture.

Definition: *Breach (plural noun: breaches):* An act of breaking or failing to observe a law, agreement, or code of conduct.

The term, in this manual, refers to the act of breaking or failing to observe items within this competition manual.

3.1 Loss of points and appeals

- The Competitions Officer is to issue the breach notice (and penalty, if applicable) to the offending club within seven days of being informed of the breach.
- Changes to the ladder (due to breaches) are to occur within seven days.
- Appeals are to be lodged with the Competitions Officer within seven days of receiving the breach notice.
- Note: these timeframes may shorten if the breach/s occur within the last three qualifying rounds. This ensures that any required change/s to the ladder are finalised before finals.
- The Competitions Officer has delegated authority from TCNAI to decide the outcome of the appeal. Nonetheless, further, and final review maybe considered and determined by resolution of the TCNAI Board upon written request from the appealing team.
- All appeal decisions are to be noted and ratified by the TCNAI Board at their next meeting.

4. Competition

- This competition has three Tiers / Age groupings as set by the players age as of 31 December 2024.
 - 18 & Under
 - 18 League (club nominated team)
 - Divisions (teams are graded)
 - 16 / 17 / 18 years
 - Any players turning 13, 14 or 15 in 2024 are permitted to play in the U18 tier if they are deemed suitable.

- It is the club’s responsibility to ensure that any underage players (13, 14 or 15 years) have the capability (socially, physically, skill set) to play in the U18 age group.
 - Games are played Wednesday nights.
 - 15 & Under
 - 15 League (club nominated team)
 - Divisions (teams are graded)
 - 13 / 14 / 15 years
 - Any players turning 12 in 2024 are permitted to play in the U15 tier if they are deemed suitable.
 - It is the club’s responsibility to ensure that any underage players (12 Years) have the capability (socially, physically, skill set) to play in the U15 age group.
 - Games are played Wednesday nights.
 - 12 & Under
 - 12 League (club nominated team)
 - Divisions (teams are graded)
 - Boys are permitted to play in the 12 & Under competition
 - 11 / 12 years
 - Any players turning 10 in 2024 are permitted to play in the U12 tier if they are deemed suitable.
 - It is the club’s responsibility to ensure that any underage players (10 Years) have the capability (socially, physically, skill set) to play in the U12 age group.
 - Games are played on Wednesday nights.

4.1 Season Dates for 2024:

Sign On/s	31 January & 15 February
Team Names & Division Nominations Due	28 February
Player Names Added to Teams in Netball Connect	6 March
Grading Rounds	13, 20, 27 March (round robin)
Season Commences	17 April (after Easter)
Holiday Break	All teams will not play 26 June, 3 July, 24 July
Final Round (15)	14 August
Semi Final	21 August
Preliminary Final	28 August
Grand Final	31 August

4.2 Grading

- Clubs will nominate their teams in Netball Connect.
 - Clubs will also nominate the divisions they believe their teams should be graded into.
- Team nominations MUST be completed and RECEIVED before teams will be placed in the draw.
- Teams must have a minimum of nine (9) players. Closing date for this is 3 March 2024.
- Grading will be held over three weeks in Term 1, 2024
- Teams will play two half games (six games in total).
- Players MUST play in the team they are registered to on Netball Connect.
- Players CANNOT fill in for another team during grading.
- Clubs will be responsible for supplying an umpire for grading.
- TCNAI will take sole responsibility for grading teams in 2024.
 - Clubs will be advised and receive a copy of each grade’s composition.
- All grading games will be conducted via a paper draw. The draw will be sent to all clubs at the start of each grading week.

4.3 Timing Rules

- The duration of the games is modified to run to the following times.

- 10-minute quarters.
- with two-minute first and third quarter breaks; and
- a three-minute half time break.

4.3.1 Injury Time Rules

The following injury protocols are followed:

- No additional time is played when an injury, illness or blood occurs.

4.4 Scoring

- All matches will be Live Scored.
- One (1) scorer must be supplied by each team for each match.
- The two (2) scorers are responsible for recording the score and MUST sit together.

4.5 Rolling Subs

- As per guidelines set out by Netball Queensland for use in Sapphire Series, Ruby Series and Northern Netball League competitions. Rolling subs will be used in all League and Division 1 fixtures only.

4.6 Competition Points

- 3 points for each win.
- 2 points for a draw.
- 1 point for a loss.
- 3 points for a bye.
- 0 points for a forfeit.

4.7 Fixture Cancellation/ rescheduled games/wash-out round

- In the case of cancellations, the Competition Officer will contact the Club contacts and post the cancellation on social media.
- Fixtures will be played in wet weather if the courts are deemed safe for play, however if lightning is present matches will cease immediately, and be cancelled if necessary.
- There will be no rescheduled games permitted at any time and the draw is final.
- A *wash-out round* is an incomplete round; no competition points will be awarded to any team. Games will not be rescheduled.

4.8 Forfeits

- The club advise the following people if they are forfeiting a game:
 - the opposition team (team contacts will be provided to all teams at the start of the season), the Competitions Officer, TCNAI Umpire Supervisor and TCNAI Information.
- Show Cause - in the event of a team forfeiting two consecutive matches, they may have to show cause to the Competitions Officer for such forfeiture.
- Umpiring duties – Both Clubs are required to fulfil their umpiring duties.
- All forfeits must be communicated by 12pm on the day of the game at the absolute latest.
- Team that forfeits but do not communicate this prior to 12pm on the day of the game, in addition to the zero (0) points for forfeiting, will also be deducted three (3) points as a penalty for the lack of, or late communication.

Teams receiving a *forfeit win*:

- shall be awarded three (3) points for the win.
- 20 goals towards the goal average total (20 for and 0 against)

Teams receiving a *forfeit loss*:

- shall receive zero points.
- zero goals towards the goal average total (0 for and 20 against)

Teams/clubs that forfeit will also lose points when determining the Club of the Year.

4.9 Abandoned Games

If a team abandons a game:

Teams receiving an *abandoned win*:

- shall be awarded the three (3) points for the win.
- If the game is abandoned before half time, 20 goals towards the goal average total.
- If the game is abandoned after half time, the game score will stand.

Teams receiving an *abandoned loss*:

- shall receive one (1) point.
- If the game is abandoned before half time, zero goals awarded towards the goal average total.
- If the game is abandoned after half time, the game score will stand.

5. Umpires

- Each club must provide an umpire for a duty for every team they have competing in the Junior competition.
- *Club Umpiring Coordinator (CUC)*
 - Each club must nominate a person who is responsible for organising and fulfilling their CUC duties. The name and contact details of that person(s) must be provided to the TCNAI Junior Umpire Supervisor.
- Home and away umpire allocations will occur for the 2023 season.
 - CUCs will provide these allocations to the TCNAI Junior Umpire Supervisor.
 - CUCs can work with the TCNAI Junior Umpire Supervisor to allocate their umpire to other games if sufficient clubs are doing so. It must be noted that if an allocated umpire does not turn up for their duty, then the team assigned to that duty must supply an umpire. This may be a player from the court, a coach, a manager, or a spectator from that court.
- Umpires must wear clothing that is distinct from the teams' playing uniform and suitable sports footwear. This will generally involve a white shirt.

5.1 Umpire Vests

- Those wearing a pink/orange vest are a Umpire Coach.
- Those wearing a yellow vest are umpires working towards their umpiring competency.

6. Players

A player must be a registered financial member of a TCNAI registered club to take the court in a sanctioned TCNAI fixture.

- paid all relevant fees & registration owed to TCNAI in full, including representative payments and fines; and
- been entered into a Team on Netball Connect.

6.1 Playing Tiers

- A player cannot play in a lower division than the one in which they were originally registered for.
- For clubs with more than one team in the same division
 - Players cannot interchange between the two teams or play for one of the teams and then play for the other.
- Players are to play in their registered tiers/age grouping / team unless they are playing up.

6.2 Playing Up/Borrowing of Players

- A player may play in a team/s other than the team in which that player is registered (the second team/s) providing all the following criteria are met:
 - (a) the second (2nd) team/s is in the same Club as the team in which the player is registered.
 - (b) the second (2nd) team/s is in a higher grade of the same age division or an older age division than the team in which the player is registered.
 - (c) the second (2nd) team/s is not in the same division (for clubs with more than one team in

- the same division, players cannot interchange between the two teams or play for one of the teams and then play for the other).
 - (d) a player can be borrowed by more than one team throughout the regular season as long as the above criteria are met.
- When filling in for another team, players must sign in at the competitions desk PRIOR to taking the court. If a fill in player takes the court without signing in, and the Competitions Officer confirms their participation in the game, the team will be in breach and will receive zero (0) competition points from the fixture. If this was to occur in a final, the game would be automatically awarded to the opposing team.
- Any breach of the above regulation will result in a team being penalised (please see fines and penalties).

6.3 New Player

- A new player entering the Junior competition, after grading, can in good faith be placed in the team deemed most appropriate by their club, except for those players covered by Section 6.4.
- A new player is still required to meet the player eligibility requirements to play finals. (Refer to section 7.2).

6.4 Premier League, equivalent or higher competition Players

- There is no maximum number of Premier League Players allowed in a junior team, however, all Premier League, equivalent or higher competition players are expected to be placed in the club's U18 League team (or if the club has no U18 League team the club's highest U18 team), including any 16-Year-Old Premier League players.
- If any Junior player is a member of their club, or another club's Premier League squad and is deemed more suitable for a team other than the highest U18 team, a written request via email to the Competitions Officer is required for approval.

6.5 Players taking the court

- The 'Official Rules of Netball' mandate a team must take the court with five players; otherwise, the game is considered forfeited by the team that has breached this rule.

6.6 Restricted Players

TCNAI will seek to provide netball opportunities to all players regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

6.7 Exemptions

- If Clubs and families feel that there is a need for a player to play in a different classification / age grouping they can apply to the TCNAI Competitions Officer for an exemption.
- Exemptions will only be considered for the following:
 - Social, developmental disability, and/or intellectual disability.

6.8 Senior/ Premier League Competition Eligibility

- Only players turning 16 or older are eligible to play in the TCNAI Premier League competition, and 15 or older in the Senior competition.

6.9 Injuries

All registered participants are covered for sports injury/personal accident through the Netball Australia National Insurance Program. Details on the Insurance Program, including what is covered, how to make a claim, and how to increase coverage can be found at <https://www.howdengroup.com/au-en/netball-australia>

7. Finals

7.1 Finals Structure

- Regardless of the number of teams in a division, the final series will be structured in accordance with this provision.
- Teams shall be placed in order of merit based on number of points scored in the qualifying rounds.
 - In the event of teams tying on points at the end of the qualifying rounds, the respective placing shall be determined by ranking the teams according to the goal percentages achieved by each team during all the qualifying rounds.
 - When goal percentages are used for determining placings of teams under the above clauses, these shall be calculated in accordance with the following formula:
 - 'Goals For' divided by 'Goals Against', multiplied by 100, divided by the number of games played.
 - If after ranking teams according to goal percentages to two decimal points, teams remain tied, the results of the matches between the two teams concerned during the qualifying rounds will decide the winner.
 - If the two teams drew their matches or won one match each, or if more than two teams have the same number of points and percentage at the end of the qualifying rounds, then goal difference will be applied (i.e., the difference between goals for and goals against).
 - In the event of a further tie, the team scoring the most goals during the qualifying rounds will be declared the winner.
- At the conclusion of the qualifying rounds, finals shall be played as follows:
 - *Semi Final* - the top four teams on for/ against points shall play off as follows:
 - Game A - No. 1 team vs No. 2 team.
 - Game B - No. 3 team vs No. 4 team.
 - *Preliminary Final* (Game C) - The loser of game A plays the winner of game B.
 - *Grand Final* - the winner of game C plays the winner of game A; and
 - A drawn game – As per the INR rule book
 - Grand finals are the only final games that may be individually timed in all competitions.

7.2 Eligible Players for Final

- Players need to have played a minimum of three (3) games in a team to qualify for that team in finals.
- Players can only play for one (1) team that they qualify for each final's week.
- Be a current financial member of TCNAI and is not carrying debt with TCNAI.

7.3 Notification of Eligible Players

- The Competitions Officer will advise Clubs of all eligible players for each team of that club:
 - a minimum of seven days prior to the semi-finals.

7.4 Grand Final

- TCNAI will host a grand final day for Juniors and Seniors on Saturday 31 August 2024.

8. Awards and Recognition

- There will be a Most Valued Player (MVP) award given for each division within the Junior Competition, at the end of the season.
 - One player from each team is to be chosen as the MVP, by the opposing team/officials, after each game.
 - MVPs are not chosen during finals games.
 - Teams that do not select an MVP of the opposing team each week will not have their MVP recipient for the game receive their points.

9. Complaints

- In the first instance, the complainant is to talk with the person/ people first. (If it is safe, reasonable, and appropriate to do so).
- If the above is not an option, raise the matter with your club. They will liaise with the other club to resolve the complaint/issue.
 - The clubs should keep a record of all complaints and associated conversations, correspondence, decisions, and outcomes.
 - TCNAI requests that a summary of complaints (and injuries) that Clubs have dealt with be forwarded to them. Either via the Operations Manager attending Club Committee meetings or via report after each Club Committee meeting.
- If it cannot be resolved, then a formal complaint needs to be lodged with the TCNAI Operations Manager to be reviewed by the TCNAI board.
 - The Operational Manager will guide you through the formal complaint process.

10. Code of conduct

Members and all people involved in any way with TCNAI will:

- Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of others—treat others as you would like to be treated yourself.
- Be ethical, considerate, fair, courteous, and honest in all dealings with other people and organisations.
- Be professional and accept responsibility for your actions.
- Be aware of and always follow —TCNAI & Netball Queensland’ standards, rules, policies, and procedures and promote those standards, rules, policies, and procedures to others.
- Operate within the rules and spirit of the sport, including the state and national guidelines that govern the sport of Netball.
- Understand the possible consequences of breaching the codes and/or this policy.
- Report any breaches of the codes or this policy to the appropriate PPA.
- Refrain from any form of abuse, harassment, discrimination, and victimisation towards others.
- Raise concerns regarding decisions of PPA through the appropriate channels and in a timely manner.
- Provide a safe environment for the conduct of activities in accordance with any relevant TCNAI and/or NQ/NA policy.
- Show concern, empathy and caution towards others that may be sick or injured.
- Be a positive role model to all.
- Respect and protect confidential information obtained through TCNAI & NQ activities; whether individuals and/or organisational information.
- Maintain the required standard of accreditation and/or licensing of professional competencies, as applicable to the role(s).
- Ensure that any physical contact with others is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the person’s skill development.
- Refrain from intimate relations with persons over whom you have a position of authority.
- Agree to abide by the codes.
- Maintain a duty of care towards others.
- Be impartial and accept the responsibility for all actions taken.

Person in Position of Authority (PPA): PPA include everyone who holds a position of authority in TCNAI/NQ/NA, whether paid or unpaid, and includes, but is not limited to, all NQ/NA Entity Individual Members. For the avoidance of doubt, PPA also includes a Child or Young Person (CYP) who may hold a position of authority in TCNAI/NQ/NA over other CYP.

NA: Netball Australia

NQ: Netball Queensland

TCNAI: Townsville City Netball Association INC