



Senior Competition Manual

2024 VERSION – TCNAI Competitions.

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this manual is to provide information regarding the Senior 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 Senior competition is conducted separately to 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 Officer.
- 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 and 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 clearly 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 own uniform policy and how it may differ for each Team.
 - Wearing of any jewellery is not permitted as per 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 competitions 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.
- Mixed teams are expected to wear the same coloured shirts for 2024 (club shirts/singlets are preferred but allowances will be made for 2024).

3. Fines and Penalties

ACTION	PENALTY
Player eligibility breaches	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) Penalty: 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

- The Women's Seniors competition will be in divisions.
 - There will be four (4) divisions only in the Women's Seniors Competition.
- The structure of the Mixed Seniors competition will be determined by the number of nominations received.

4.1 Season Dates for 2024:

Team Nominations Due	2 April
Player Names Added to Teams in Netball Connect	5 April
Season Commences	16 April
No Fixture Dates	All teams will not play 25 June, 2 July
Final Round (16)	13 August
Semi Final	20 August
Preliminary Final	27 August
Grand Final	31 August

4.2 Grading

- There will be no grading games in the Senior Competition for 2024.
- All Clubs will nominate their teams in Netball Connect.
 - Clubs will also nominate the divisions they believe their teams is suitable to play.
- Clubs with a Premier League team **MUST** nominate their highest team in the Division 1 competition.
- Teams must have a minimum of nine (9) players. Teams with less than nine (9) players will not be put into the draw. Closing date for this is **2 April 2024**.

4.3 Timing Rules

- The duration of the games is modified to run to the following times.
- 15-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 Senior Womens and Mixed fixtures.

4.6 Competition Points

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

4.7 Fixture Cancellation/ rescheduled games/wash-out round

- In accordance with any TCNAI's wet weather and heat stress policies, 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 rounds in 2024.
- A *wash-out round* is an incomplete round; no competition points will be awarded to any team.

4.8 Forfeits

- The club **must** advise the following people if they are forfeiting a game:
 - the opposition team, the Competitions Officer, TCNAI Umpire Coordinator and TCNAI Information.
- All forfeits must be communicated by 12pm at the latest on the day of the fixture.
- If a team forfeits after 12pm, they are required to pay their game fee and will be penalised a further three (3) points.
- 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.

Teams receiving a **forfeit win**:

- shall be awarded the three points for the win
- 20 goals towards the goal average total

Teams receiving a **forfeit loss**:

- shall receive zero points.
- zero goals towards the goal average total.

4.9 Abandoned Games

If a team abandons a game:

Teams receiving an **abandoned win**:

- shall be awarded the three 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 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 Senior competition.
- Umpire allocations will be set by TCNAI.
- *Club Umpiring Coordinator (CUC)*
 - Each club must nominate the name and contact details of a person(s) responsible for organising the fulfilling of the CUC duties.
 - The CUC must provide the names of umpires who will be undertaking the club's umpiring duties.
- 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.
- Junior players can fill in (play up) for up to three (3) regular season games for free. Once they play a fourth regular season game, they must pay the full Senior fee. Junior Players from Junior League or Division 1 teams can only fill in for Senior Division 1 and Division 2 teams. All other rules and regulations around playing up, age, and finals are as stated in the manual.

6.4 Senior eligibility

- Players turning 15 or older are eligible to play in TCNAI Senior competition.

6.5 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 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 if the above criteria are met.
 - (e) if the player filling in is registered in a Junior League or Division 1 team, they can only fill in for a Senior Division 1 or Division 2 team.
- A player who plays in the Junior Competition for that club and is turning 15 or older is also eligible to play up as long as they meet all other criteria and deemed suitable to play Seniors. Junior players can fill in for up to three (3) regular season games for free. Once they play a fourth regular season game, they must pay the full Senior fee
- 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 Competition 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 (see fines and penalties).

6.6 Premier League, equivalent or higher competition Players

- There is no maximum number of Premier League Players allowed in a Senior team, however, all Premier League, equivalent, or higher competition players are expected to be placed in a Division 1 team.
- Requests for Premier League players to be placed in teams outside of Division 1 (or the club's highest team) need to be made in writing via email to the Competition Officer for approval.
- Please see Section 7 for further information on Premier League players.

6.7 New Player

- A new player entering the Senior competition, after grading, can in good faith be placed in the team deemed most appropriate by their club, with the exception of those players covered by Section 6.3.
- A new player is still required to meet the player eligibility requirements to play finals. (Refer to section 7.2).

6.8 Players taking the court

The 'Official Rules of Netball' mandate a team must take the court with a minimum of five players.

This clause varies this rule.

- Teams must have five registered players on the court to start the game; otherwise, the game is considered forfeited by the team who has breached this rule.

6.9 Restricted Players

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

6.10 Injuries

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

7. Finals

7.4 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 AANA rule book
 - Grand finals are the only final games that may be individually timed in all competitions.

7.5 Eligible Players for Finals

- 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 do not carry debt with TCNAI.
- Be registered in the Senior competition on Netball Connect

7.6 Grand Final

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

8. Awards and Recognition

- There will be a Most Valued Player (MVP) award given for each division within the Senior 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's 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 who 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 responsibility for all actions taken.

Person in Position of Authority (PPA):

PPA includes 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