



Premier League Pre-Season Competition Manual

2024 VERSION – TCNAI Competitions.

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1. Purpose

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

TCNAI is an affiliated member of Netball Queensland. All TCNAI run competitions abide by the rules regulating the conduct of the game of netball, as determined by Netball Australia.

The Premier League Pre-Season competition is conducted as a separate competition from any Junior or Senior competitions and is designed to prepare Premier League teams for the new season. As the Pre-Season competition is an official TCNAI competition for Premier League teams, it is an expectation that teams registered for the Premier League participate.

Unless stated in this document, all guidelines and regulations outlined in the Premier League manual also apply to this competition.

2. Conduct of Games

- The 'Official Rules of Netball' (please see <https://netball.com.au/sites/default/files/2020-02/INF-RulesofNetball2020.pdf>) will apply to all matches governed by the Policy unless otherwise stated in this document.
- For the final three (3) minutes of each quarter all goals will be worth double.

2.1 Club responsibilities:

- Clubs will submit their team list on the manual scoresheet provided by the bench officials before each game.
- Players cannot take the court without their name on the scoresheet.

3. Fines and Penalties

ACTION	PENALTY
Forfeiting a Pre-Season Fixture	A team will lose one (1) competition point in the regular Premier League season for each Pre-Season Premier League fixture that they forfeit.

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.

4. Competition Structure

- The Pre-Season Premier League competition is an official TCNAI Premier League competition and therefore it is an expectation that all 2024 Premier League clubs participate.
- With the exception of any penalties that apply as a result of forfeits, no points accrued from the Pre-Season Premier League competition will carry through to the regular Premier League season.
- Matches played during the Pre-Season Premier League competition will not count as part of any games played requirements for Premier League finals.
- The eight (8) Premier League clubs will be divided evenly into two (2) pools (Pool A & Pool B) based on finishing positions from the 2023 Premier League season.
- In the first three (3) weeks of the Pre-Season competition (18 March, 25 March, 15 April), teams will play the other teams in their Pool once each (one per week).
- On Grand Finals night (22 April) teams will play crossover matches with teams from the other Pool to determine finishing positions (4th Pool A v 4th Pool B, 3rd Pool A v 3rd Pool B, 2nd Pool A v 2nd Pool B).

- The Grand Final will be played between first in Pool A and first in Pool B.

4.1 Season Dates for 2024:

Pre-Season Competition	18 March, 25 March, 15 April, 22 April (Grand Finals)
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- A player must be added to their team on the manual scoresheet to be eligible to take the court.

4.2 Timing Rules

- The duration of games is as per the INF rule book, with the exception of extra time if required on the Grand Finals night (please see the Finals section of this manual).

4.3 Forfeits

- Due to the shortness of the competition and its format, it is an expectation that no forfeits should take place.
- If a team forfeit, they will be penalised in both the Pre-Season and regular Premier League season (please see Sections 3).

4.4 Game Day Roster

- Players must be written on the manual scoresheet before the commencement of each fixture.

5. Manager Responsibilities

- Complete Team Sheets for the Bench BEFORE the game
- Any Goal Shooter or Goal Attack changes must be given to the bench officials before changes take place.

6. Scorers and Timekeepers

- The scoring and timing will operate in accordance with the Netball Australia Bench Officials Manual.
- Scoresheets, substitution cards, and team lists for use during the competition will be supplied by TCNAI if required.

7. Players and Composition of Teams

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

8. Finals

8.1 Composition

- After the qualifying rounds, all finals (22 April) shall be played as follows:
 - **Finals Ranking Games**
 - 7th/8th (4th Pool A v 4th Pool B)
 - 5th/6th (3rd Pool A v 3rd Pool B)
 - 3rd/4th (2nd Pool A v 2nd Pool B)
 - **Grand Final**
 - 1st/2nd (1st Pool A v 1st Pool B)
- On Finals night (22 April) if any match is drawn at the end of full time, the following extra time procedure will occur:
 - At full time play stops and captains immediately toss for the centre pass to restart the game (no change of ends).

- Substitutions can take place while the toss of is occurring.
- Play immediately recommences for a period of one (1) minute.
- If a team is leading at the end of this period, they are declared the winner.
- If the scores are still tied, play continues until a team is leading by a two (2) goal margin.
- No double goals apply in extra time.

