

**SOUTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE
INCORPORATED**



**NETBALL BY-LAWS
UPDATED 21 MARCH 2017**

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1. BY LAWS

- 1.1 By Laws are additional rules which apply to members which generally deal with the internal and administrative matters. The By Laws are made under the Association Rules.
- 1.2 The Southern Football Netball League Inc (SFNL) is the governing body of the Southern Football Netball League competition.

2. AFFILIATION

- 2.1 The SFNL requires all Netball teams that participate in competition are from Member Clubs of the SFNL.

3. PERSONNEL

- 3.1 General Manager – Operations (GMO) is a staff member of the SFNL who is appointed to manage competition.
- 3.2 Netball Officer is a staff member of the SFNL who is appointed to manage the competition in collaboration with the GMO.
- 3.3 Senior Netball Umpire Director (Umpire Director) is a staff member of the SFNL who is appointed to manage the Umpiring component of the SFNL.
- 3.4 Senior Netball Court Supervisor (Court Supervisor) is a staff member of the SFNL who is appointed to manage the competition on match day.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.1 All correspondence from the club must be from the Club Secretary or Authorised Netball Contact to the SFNL's GMO.
- 4.2 All correspondence from the SFNL shall be directed to the Club Secretary and the Authorised Netball Contact, as listed on the Club registration form.

5. INFORMATION FROM THE SFNL

- 5.1 The SFNL shall provide the following information to clubs via email prior to the start of the season:
 - 5.1.1 SFNL contact details
 - 5.1.2 SFNL venue address
 - 5.1.3 SFNL By Laws
 - 5.1.4 SFNL Fixtures
 - 5.1.5 SFNL Calendar of events
 - 5.1.6 SFNL details of coaching courses and seminars etc.

6. CLUB CONDITIONS

- 6.1 It is the responsibility of each SFNL club to submit the number of teams they are wishing to enter the competition by the communicated deadline.
- 6.2 A Club applying for entry into the competition shall;

- 6.2.1 Satisfy the GMO that they are able to field a team for all fixtured matches and are in a position to meet the financial requirements of the SFNL
- 6.2.2 Agree to abide by the policy and rules of the SFNL as indicated throughout these By-Laws.
- 6.2.3 Agree to adhere to the requirements of the sponsor(s) of the SFNL.
- 6.2.4 Agree to abide by Netball Victoria Codes of Conduct
- 6.2.5 In the event of a Club withdrawing a team from the competition:
 - 6.2.5.1 After the confirmation of acceptances – there will be no reimbursement of the Entry Fee;
 - 6.2.5.2 Once competition matches have commenced – there will be no reimbursement of fees received, and any outstanding court fees must be paid;
 - 6.2.5.3 Subsequent participation in the competition will be re-assessed by the GMO.
 - 6.2.5.4 The GMO reserves the right to refuse an entry from any SFNL Club for any reason
- 6.3 Club Fees shall be set by the SFNL each year and circulated to all clubs by December in each year prior to the coming season.

7. TEAM REGISTRATIONS

- 7.1 After initial gradings have been released to clubs, each team must submit a team registration form. The team registration form needs to be submitted for every team within the competition with a maximum of 12 players. Final team registration form submissions will be required each season as communicated by the league. Players can be listed on multiple team registration forms subject to player movement By-Law 10.6.
- 7.2 The players listed on the team registration form are the registered members of that team. A minimum of five (5) registered players must be on each match day team sheet, actively participating in that match.
- 7.3 Should a team wish to play a brand-new player who is not listed on any of the club's original team registration forms, a new player form, which includes, name, address, email, date of birth, state registration number and team and division last played, must be lodged with SFNL Court Supervisor. This can be hand written on the back of the score sheet.
- 7.4 In the event of a club having two (2) or more teams in one (1) division, the teams are considered as separate teams and players must play for one team only. Subject to SFNL By-Law 10.6.

8. MEMBERSHIP / REGISTRATIONS

- 8.1 The Netball Victoria membership fee is set annually by Netball Victoria and a pre-requisite to competing in the SFNL is that each player pays that fee prior to competing in the SFNL.
- 8.2 All Players, coaches and umpires must be registered with the SFNL. All players are to be financial with Netball Victoria before taking the court or prior to commencing participation.
- 8.3 Clubs must take payment or record the player's current VNA number and forward all registration forms to the GMO before the close of registration.
- 8.4 The penalty for playing a player who is not registered with Netball Victoria is the loss of four (4) Premiership Points.

9. TRANSFERS/CLEARANCES

- 9.1 Any player wishing to obtain a transfer permit to another Club during the season must complete a Clearance and forward to the GMO for processing and decision.
- 9.2 No player will be granted more than one (1) transfer permit per season. No transfer permit shall be granted after the seventh (7th) round of matches.
- 9.3 A player must have received notification in writing from the GMO before playing for the new Club.
- 9.4 A transfer permit may be refused if there are any outstanding fees or equipment relating to the player.
- 9.5 The exiting club has six (6) days to complete the transfer or the player will automatically transfer to the new club.
- 9.6 The six (6) days COMMENCES from the time the transfer is lodged with the GMO.
- 9.7 The GMO will send an email to the new club detailing whether the transfer has been accepted or rejected.
- 9.8 If the transfer is refused by the exiting club then it is the responsibility of the player to ensure that the issue is resolved before another transfer application is submitted.
- 9.9 Best and Fairest votes will transfer with the player should they remain in the SFNL.
- 9.10 The number of games played in the current season will NOT transfer with the player to the new club, i.e. the player will need to qualify for finals with the new club.

10. PLAYERS

- 10.1 All Players participating in the SFNL must hold current VNA registrations with Netball Victoria.
- 10.2 A player is eligible to play in the SFNL if they are listed on the team registration form.
- 10.3 Players may play more than one match in each home and away round across different grades (including Under 19s) subject to SFNL By-law section 10.5 and 10.6.
- 10.4 In the event that there is more than one team from the same club in separate grades (excluding Under 19s), players may transfer between teams until the player takes the court for their fourth game

for a particular team. Once this occurs the player is only able to play up in the higher grade but is not able to play down in any lower grade.

- 10.5 In the event that there is more than one team from the same club in the same grade, players may transfer between teams until the player takes the court for their fourth game for a particular team. Once this occurs the player must remain with the team they played their fourth game with for the remainder of the season. At this point the player is only able to play up in a higher grade but is not able to play down in any lower grade.
- 10.6 Once a player has played four games of the season for their club in one particular team they are eligible for finals in that particular team and any higher graded team that the Club has participating in finals.
- 10.7 A player (excluding a player listed on an Under 19 team registration form) who is eligible to play in finals across multiple grades may only play one match per finals weekend including Friday nights.
- 10.8 Finals matches do not count towards games played when determining finals eligibility.
- 10.9 Teams found playing an ineligible player during the home and away season and/or finals series will be considered to have lost that match. In addition, the matter will be investigated by the GMO who will have the power to suspend a team or player from competing further in the SFNL.
- 10.10 Participant age is determined as at 31st December of the year of competition. Clubs are expected to obtain and provide correct dates of birth. The minimum age requirement for SFNL is 14 years and 9 months of age as at 31st December of the year of competition.

11. COACHES

- 11.1 All coaches must hold or obtain a minimum of the "Foundation" Accreditation for the first season in which they coach.
- 11.2 Accreditations must be obtained prior to 30th June of current competition year.
- 11.3 All coaches must have a current Netball Victoria Membership.
- 11.4 In the event of the appointed Coach being absent, any other nominated person in charge of that team must be accredited.
- 11.5 Coaching is permitted by the appointed coach that is listed on the team sheet during any stoppage. This person shall be the only person that may approach the players at the side line. Bench players may also approach the side line if coaching occurs.
- 11.6 During a stoppage any Team Official may approach the players at the side line for the purpose of providing rehydration. At no time during a match (including intervals) are coaches permitted to approach umpires. Any discussion made with the umpires MUST be made by the team captain and only during intervals.
- 11.7 Coaches can speak with the SFNL Umpire Director only.

12. UMPIRES

- 12.1 The GMO will appoint an SFNL Umpire Director to oversee the recruitment, appointment, development and badging of all umpires throughout the season.

- 12.2 All umpires must have a current VNA membership. Umpires officiating must be A, B or C Grade accredited or approved trainees as part of the development team.
- 12.3 SFNL clubs are required to provide one umpire per participating team or at least one umpire that can cover the same number of games for the number of teams fielded by the club.
- 12.4 Umpires shall not be changed during a game, except with the permission of the Umpire Director.
- 12.5 Umpires must supply their own whistle.
- 12.6 A current VNA rulebook and the SFNL By Laws shall be available from the competition desk.
- 12.7 SFNL Umpires are to be dressed appropriately in umpire's attire: white t-shirt to be purchased from League; white shorts or skirt; correct sport shoes.
- 12.8 Finals Umpires shall be appointed by the SFNL Umpire Director.
- 12.9 Any conduct of a player or team deemed to be unbecoming or bringing the game into disrepute will be reportable by one or both officiating umpires. Any report is to be recorded and submitted to the GMO by 10am of the Monday after the match has been played. The GMO will consider any report and convene an Independent Tribunal, if necessary.
- 12.10 Reported teams/players will appear before the SFNL Independent Tribunal who will have jurisdiction to impose penalties on players in the SFNL.
- 12.11 Players may receive any or all of the following penalties as deemed suitable by SFNL Independent Tribunal:
 - 12.11.1 Loss of Premiership points for the team; Suspension for the player or team from the SFNL home and away games/finals and/or Interleague.

13. BEST AND FAIREST VOTING

- 13.1 Voting for Best and Fairest shall be as follows:
 - 13.1.1 The match umpires shall award votes for the best and fairest three players in each game. Voting shall be three (3) votes for the best and fairest player, two (2) votes for the second best and fairest player and one (1) vote for the third best and fairest player.
 - 13.1.2 Votes are to be recorded on the score sheet after the Team Captains have signed and then handed to the Court Supervisor.

14. DRESS CODE

- 14.1 Each Club must register its uniform prior to the commencement of the season.
- 14.2 The GMO must approve all uniform colours and designs.
- 14.3 Clubs must notify the GMO of any changes to uniform.
- 14.4 All Uniforms must have the SFNL Logo on the right hand breast.

- 14.5 All uniforms are purchased through the SFNL approved supplier.
- 14.6 All players are to be in correct uniform for matches unless prior approval has been given by the GMO on an agreed interim uniform.
- 14.7 No bikini pants/see-through pants, slacks, or track suit pants are permitted.
- 14.8 Skins/bike pants may be worn under dress, but must be flesh colored or club colours and must not extend below the dress.
- 14.9 If there are religious or medical reasons why a player should wear particular head coverings or other items of clothing, the club must notify the GMO in writing prior to participating in an SFNL match. The notification must state the reason for the non-standard uniform. Providing the GMO is satisfied with respect to the request, the GMO shall issue a notification in writing approving the request. The GMO shall take into account the particular religious customs and player safety when making such a decision.
- 14.10 Nails must be short and smooth OR taped using approved material tape or approved sporting gloves.
- 14.11 Long nails must be taped even if player chooses to wear gloves.
- 14.12 Fingernail - 1 piece of tape over the top and one 1 piece of tape around the nail
- 14.13 No item of jewellery except a wedding ring and/or a medical alert bracelet may be worn and shall be taped.
- 14.14 Body piercing (ears, nose and eyebrow) which cannot be removed should be taped.
- 14.15 Body Piercing – Tape to fully cover ear, nose, eyebrow or any other pierced site.
- 14.16 Nails and piercings not taped in accordance with this By Law shall be deemed to be 'out of uniform'.
- 14.17 **Penalty:** The Umpire shall have the right to prevent a player who is 'out of uniform' from playing in a game until the issue is rectified by the player.

15. TEAMS AND GRADING

- 15.1 Clubs may enter as many teams as they wish. All teams are to be graded at the start of the season.
- 15.2 There will be three (3) grading games at the beginning of the season. Scores shall be entered with the winning team receiving 4 points for a win, 0 points for a loss and 2 point for a draw. Percentage is to be given.
- 15.3 All Clubs shall have the opportunity to submit requests to the GMO to change grades on the completion of Round 3. The GMO shall consider each request and make a decision. The GMO's decision shall be final.
- 15.4 Grading allocations are subject to the final ladder positions in the previous season. Premiers from each division (where applicable) will be promoted with the bottom team to be relegated (where applicable).
- 15.5 New teams will be allocated a grade in consultation with the GMO.

16. HOME TEAM OBLIGATIONS

- 16.1 For all matches, one new or one match condition netball must be supplied and approved by the Umpires prior to play. The netballs must be a League approved brand, embossed with the League logo and embossed with the logo of the League approved netball sponsor.
- 16.2 The Umpires must be provided with a satisfactory replacement for any match netball that in his or her opinion is unfit for play.

17. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

- 17.1 All divisions shall play on a Saturday at a venue(s) designated by the GMO, which are displayed on the Fixture.
- 17.2 All Divisions (excluding Under 19) are to be 4 x 15 minute quarters with an interval of 2 minutes between the first and second quarters; an interval of 3 minutes at half time; and another 2 minutes between third and fourth quarter.
- 17.3 The Under 19 division is to be 4 x 10 minute quarters with an interval of 2 minutes between the first and second quarters; an interval of 3 minutes at half time; and another 2 minutes between the third and fourth quarter.
- 17.4 No team is permitted to take the court unless five (5) players are present.
- 17.5 All players must be listed on the team sheet prior to start of the game. Players named on the team sheet must have had court time during a game to have the match registered as a game played. Players who remain on the interchange bench for the entire match shall not have that game recorded as a game played.
- 17.6 Any team failing to start on time shall forfeit a goal per minute to the non-offending team, and a further goal per minute until ten (10) minutes has lapsed. A forfeit shall then be declared, providing the non-offending team has at least five (5) or more players present.
- 17.7 The Umpire shall toss a coin with the presence of captains in order to determine starting ends prior to the start of each game.
- 17.8 All games are to be timed on one central clock/bell.
- 17.9 No Injury time – A match may be stopped by the Umpires in extenuating circumstances to ensure a safe playing area is maintained.

18. BLOOD POLICY

- 18.1 Blood Policy shall apply as follows.
- 18.1.1 The game is stopped; the clock is NOT stopped.
- 18.1.2 The bleeding player shall leave the court; substitution rule applies with no time allowance.
- 18.1.3 Play is resumed.

19. SCORING

- 19.1 Each team must provide a non-participating scorer for all matches. Scorers must sit together at the scorer's bench. Scorers must be 14 years or over.
- 19.2 All players must be listed on the team sheet prior to start of the game. Players named on the team sheet must have had court time during a game to have such a match registered as a game played. Players who remain on the interchange bench for the entire match shall not have that game recorded as a game played.
- 19.3 Complete given and surname of each player intending to take the court in alphabetical order must be entered on the score sheet. Any player who takes the court without having been named on the score sheet must be removed immediately and cannot participate in the remainder of the match. The score sheet must also indicate the players' positions played each quarter, the goals they score and the match score. A new player taking the court, must provide on the back of the score sheet, their full name, date of birth, address and Netball Victoria registration number which must be valid.
- 19.4 At the conclusion of the match, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the official score sheet is correct, it is to be signed by:
- 19.4.1 The captains of both competing teams
 - 19.4.2 The officiating umpires
 - 19.4.3 The scorers.
- 19.5 The GMO shall be responsible for the entering of all results onto the league website, and is to include the following:
- 17.5.1 Team players
 - 17.5.2 $\frac{1}{4}$ by $\frac{1}{4}$ scores and full-time scores
 - 17.5.3 Best players that have been given by team coach for their team.
 - 17.5.4 Goal scorers.

20. LADDERS

- 20.1 Four (4) premiership points will be awarded for a win in the Home and Away matches and grading games.
- 20.2 Two (2) premiership points will be awarded to each side in the event of a drawn home and away match and grading games.
- 20.3 No Premiership points will be awarded for a bye.
- 20.4 In competitions involving an uneven number of byes for competing teams, the GMO shall also prepare a points ratio which reflects the number of wins by each team against the number of matches played by each team.
- 20.5 Two (2) premiership points will be awarded to each side in the event of the game being abandoned before half time due to equipment fault or any reason considered by the GMO to be appropriate.

- 20.6 If a game is abandoned after the third quarter has commenced due to equipment fault or any reason considered by the GMO to be appropriate, four (4) premiership points will be awarded to the team which is leading at the time the game is abandoned.

21. FINALS

- 21.1 The number of points gained during the season or points ratio for uneven bye competitions shall determine teams qualifying for finals. In the event of teams being on equal points or points ratio, positions shall be determined by percentage of goals scored for and against. In the event of teams being equal on percentage, positions shall be determined by the greater number of goals scored for. In the event teams are still equal, then positions shall be determined by the lower number of goals conceded.
- 21.2 All sections shall consist of a minimum of a top four (4) for finals purposes. However the number of teams eligible for finals in a particular section may increase at the discretion of the GMO should it be determined the number of teams in that section warrants an increase in the number of finalists.
- 21.3 Teams found playing an ineligible player during the finals will be considered to have lost the match and be charged with conduct unbecoming.
- 21.4 Matches shall be conducted for finals in the same manner that home and away matches are conducted under these By Laws. The start time may vary and clubs will be advised accordingly.

22. DRAWN GAMES IN FINALS

- 22.1 There is to be a one minute time allowance to enable teams to change ends and scores to be verified on score sheet.
- 22.2 Positional changes and/or substitutions may only be made prior to any additional time commencing.
- 22.3 Divisions will have 2 x 7 minutes halves to be played.
- 22.4 Should there still be a draw at the end of the second half of extra time, play continues until one team has a two (2) goal advantage.

23. FORFEITS

- 23.1 Penalty for forfeits:
- 23.1.1 A 10-nil score line to the non-offending team and points shall be awarded.
- 23.1.2 In the event that a team forfeits prior to the match clock starting, games shall only be awarded to nominated players of the non-offending team. No games shall be awarded to players of the offending team.
- 23.1.3 Repeated forfeits may result in that Club/Team being excluded from further competitions.

24. APPEALS / PROTESTS / DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS

- 24.1 A team wishing to protest a scoring issue must:

- 24.1.1 Not sign the Official score sheet and immediately notify the Court Supervisor and/or the Umpire Director of the intention to protest.
- 24.2 A protest in writing must be lodged by the Club concerned with the GMO within twenty-four (24) hours of the match being played. A club shall have the right to lodge a written appeal to the GMO within 24 hours of notification of a penalty.
- 24.3 A club lodging an appeal must lodge a cheque for \$250 made payable to the SFNL with the GMO at the time of lodging the written appeal.
 - 24.3.1 \$200 will be returned to the club if the appeal is upheld.
 - 24.3.2 The appeal notification will then be considered by the SFNL Independent Tribunal who will decide the outcome.
 - 24.3.3 The club will be permitted to appear before the SFNL Independent Tribunal to plead its case.
 - 24.3.4 The decision of the SFNL Independent Tribunal is final.

25. SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

- 25.1 The GMO shall notify all Member Clubs in writing of the list of Players selected to train for the League Representative team and advise where and when those Players are to report for the first training session.
 - 25.1.1 The GMO shall also notify each Player that has been selected for League Representative team training.
 - 25.1.2 Each Member Club must forthwith notify their Players on the list and direct them to report to the first training session.
 - 25.1.3 Each Player on the list must report for the first training session and all subsequent training sessions as directed by coaching staff.
 - 25.1.4 Should a player be unable to attend a League Representative training session she must notify both the GMO and the League Representative team coach prior to the training session.
 - 25.1.5 Failure by a Player to attend a League Representative team training session or advise both the GMO and League Representative team coach of nonattendance prior to the training session will render the Player liable to suspension from player for her Member Club.

26. TEAM SELECTION PANELS

- 26.1 A minimum of three (3) selectors must be appointed by the GMO for each team and shall be made up of the Team Coach and two other selectors.
- 26.2 Selectors may be appointed to more than one selection panel.
- 26.3 The selectors' decision shall be final.

27. AWARDS

27.1 The following player awards will be presented for each season at minimum, in each Section:

27.1.1 1st Best and Fairest

27.1.2 1st Leading Goal Shooter

27.2 Other forms of recognition will be awarded by the SFNL as deemed appropriate.

28. RISK MANAGEMENT

28.1 All Clubs are responsible for recording all injuries on the Injury Reporting Sheets provided.

28.2 All players in the SFNL competing in any representative team are responsible for recording all injuries on the Injury Reporting Sheets provided.

29. PREGNANCY

29.1 As per Netball Australia Member Protection Policy.

30. FIRST AID

30.1 The SFNL will provide a First Aid Kit at each venue.

30.2 The First Aid Kit will be stored at the competition table and all appropriate personnel (court supervisors, umpires and coaches) will have access to it.

30.3 The Court Supervisor will maintain the first aid kit supplies. An inventory is to be completed on a weekly basis.

30.4 The place at which the competition is held will have a designated room or area for the treatment of injuries. The room or area should be kept clean and accessible at all times.

30.5 The SFNL will ensure that a qualified first aider is present at all SFNL competition times.

31. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

31.1 Emergency phone numbers – ie. Ambulance, Doctor, Physiotherapist, Health Clinic and Police and an Emergency Procedure will be displayed next to the venue phone and in the First Aid Kit.

32. WEATHER

32.1 The SFNL personnel may cancel any SFNL match due to adverse weather conditions such as, but not limited to, excessive heat/humidity, lightning or rain/hail that may endanger participants' health or safety.

32.2 In the event there are no SFNL staff available to make a decision, a game may be cancelled on the agreement of both Teams, for the reasons set out in 30.1. However, if the SFNL, on review of the game, decides the game should not have been cancelled, it reserves the right to award points or hand down any penalty as it sees fit.

32.3 Where play is unable to proceed in a home and away game for a period of time equal to one quarter, for the reasons set out in 30.1, the game shall be cancelled.

32.4 Match points to be awarded in line with Section 18 of these By-Laws.

33. BLOOD POLICY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

33.1 The SFNL will adopt Netball Victoria Infonet rules - U4 and RM6 relating to blood policy and infectious diseases.

34. PRE-PARTICIPATION SCREENING / MEDICAL INDEMNITY

34.1 All personnel involved with the SFNL will be required to complete a medical indemnity form as provided in Netball Victoria Infonet rules - see RM7).

34.2 The GMO will hold all such forms and arrange for them to be at the venue where games are played.

34.3 All forms will be destroyed by the GMO at the conclusion of each season.

35. SMOKEFREE

35.1 The SFNL will adopt a SmokeFree policy. This will include indoor venues and outdoor court surroundings.

36. RESPONSIBLE SERVING OF ALCOHOL IN SPORTING CLUBS

36.1 The SFNL will adopt a Responsible Serving of Alcohol Policy as prescribed by the Australian Drug Foundation's Good Sports Accreditation Program.

37. SUN PROTECTION

37.1 The SFNL adopts the SunSmart policy as prescribed by the Cancer Council Victoria.

38. CODES OF CONDUCT

38.1 The SFNL adopts the Codes of Behaviour as prescribed in the Netball Victoria Member Protection Regulation.

39. DRUG POLICY

39.1 The SFNL does not support the use of performance enhancing substances and views any such use as detrimental to both the sport of netball and the spirit of the game.

40. RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE POLICY

40.1 The SFNL adopts the SFNL Vilification Policy.

41. PRIVACY POLICY

41.1 The SFNL adopts the SFNL Privacy Policy.

42. MEDIA POLICY

42.1 The SFNL adopts the SFNL Media Policy.

43. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

43.1 The SFNL adopts the SFNL Social Media Policy.

44. INDEMNITY CLAUSES

44.1 Except where required by law and such cannot be excluded, the SFNL and its respective directors, officers, members, servants or agents are absolved from all liability however arising from injury or damage, through whatever cause and however arising.

45. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES CLAUSE

45.1 Where this By Law is silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the SFNL is maintained at all times.

45.2 The GMO may, in using reasonable discretion and only in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in these By Laws relating to the SFNL.

46. FIXTURE CHANGES

46.1 The SFNL will communicate a procedure for fixture change requests prior to the commencement of the each season

47. GRADING POLICY

47.1 The SFNL adopts the SFNL Grading Policy which is an appendix to these By-Laws.

APPENDIX 1 - Netball Grading Policy

Grading (including re-grading after round three) of teams in the SFNL netball competition shall be aimed at building and establishing a level of competitiveness and predictability amongst all clubs.

Grading shall be at the absolute discretion of the General Manager - Operations, and so far, as is practical shall be in accordance with this policy.

Policy Review

This Policy shall be reviewed by the league annually after its introduction. The review should take into consideration the previous season grading results and feedback from clubs.

Objectives

1. Teams fielded in competitions are as equally matched as possible
2. Provide the best opportunities for players to develop and display their skills

Considerations

1. A minimum of eight (8) teams will be graded into the top division. For the remaining divisions, there is to be a minimum of eight (8) teams and a maximum of twelve (12) teams graded into each division having regard to provision of a balanced competition. Where it is not possible to grade a minimum of eight (8) teams in the lowest division those remaining teams unable to be graded will be moved into another division at the discretion of the league.
2. An individual club may have no more than two (2) teams graded into any one division.
3. Match results of previous season (promotion of premiers and relegation of bottom team from each division)
4. Match results of current season (re-grading)
5. History of team's performance across previous season(s)
6. Club's grading requests
7. Club's history of grading requests across previous season(s)
8. The disruption that may be caused to current and/or proposed competition
9. Any additional information requested by the SFNL, including but not limited to feedback from opposition clubs

Process

Pre-season

- Initial grading of all netball teams shall be based on the previous season's results. The following principles will apply:
 - Teams that won the premiership in each division shall automatically be graded into a higher division
 - Teams that finish on the bottom of the ladder in each division shall automatically be graded into a lower division
- Clubs will also have the opportunity to put forth grading requests to the league via the prescribed online form and also provide feedback on the initial gradings prior to them being finalised for the start of the season

- New teams will be allocated a division in consultation with the General Manager – Operations.
- Clubs shall register teams on the approved player registration form together with a maximum of twelve (12) players' names and other requirements as detailed in SFNL By-Law 7.1, by the closing date of entries for the competition as communicated by the league.

Please note the SFNL will commit to promoting premiers and relegating the bottom team as a starting point for grading each season. The SFNL will also maintain the discretion as per the by-laws where we may adjust any grading's based on club submissions and assessment of available facts.

Re-Grading

- Following the conclusion of round three (3), clubs may submit a request for any team to be moved into another division.
- All re-grading requests must be submitted via the prescribed online form. One form is required for each club submitting a request.
- In addition, the General Manager – Operations, may, at his or her absolute discretion, make the decision to re-grade any team regardless of whether a request for such has been received.

Ladders

- As per By-Law 15.2, there will be three (3) grading games at the beginning of the season. Scores shall be entered with the winning team receiving 4 points for a win, 0 points for a loss and 2 points for a draw. Percentage is to be given.

In Season

- The league shall immediately re-fixtured the divisions affected by the grading adjustments.
- Re-grading will take place after Round Three (3) and will take effect from Round Four (4) and beyond.

Appeals Process

- Clubs have three (3) days from the date of league notification of final grading to lodge an appeal with the Football / Netball Operations Portfolio in relation to a grading decision.
- A non-refundable administration fee of One Hundred and Fifty dollars (\$150.00) must be lodged with the GMO at the same time as lodging the appeal.
- The decision made by the Football / Netball Operations Portfolio will be final.