

**SOUTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE
INCORPORATED**



**NETBALL BY-LAWS
UPDATED 1st FEBRUARY 2023**

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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.
- 1.3 Netball By-Laws shall be read in conjunction with SFNL By-Laws and the SFNL Rules.

2. AFFILIATION

- 2.1 The SFNL requires all Netball teams that participate in competition are from Member Clubs of the SFNL or have been accepted into the competition at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

3. PERSONNEL

- 3.1 Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is a staff member of the SFNL who is appointed to manage the SFNL in accordance with the Rules.
- 3.2 General Manager – Operations (GMO) is a staff member of the SFNL who is appointed to manage competition.
- 3.3 Netball Operations Coordinator (NOC) is a staff member of the SFNL who is appointed to manage the competition in collaboration with the GMO.
- 3.4 Senior Netball Umpire Supervisor (Umpire Supervisor) is a staff member of the SFNL who is appointed to manage the Umpiring component of the SFNL.
- 3.5 Senior Netball Court Supervisor (Court Supervisor) is a staff member of the SFNL who is appointed to manage the competition on match day.
- 3.6 Senior Netball Umpire Administrator (Umpire Administrator) is a staff member of the SFNL who is appointed to assist the Umpire Supervisor.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.1 All correspondence from the Club must be from the Club President, Secretary or Authorised Netball Contact to the SFNL's NOC.
- 4.2 All correspondence from the SFNL shall be directed to the Club President, Secretary and the Authorised Netball Contact, as listed on the annual Club Information 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 CEO and NOC 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 Behaviour.

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 CEO.

6.2.5.4 The CEO 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 All Clubs shall advise the League of their preference for grade allocation by the due date set by the League.

7.2 Initial team lists are to be input to Netball Connect each season as communicated by the League. A maximum of 15 players may be listed per team.

7.3 Should a team wish to play a new player who is not listed on the original team setup list then that player may be handwritten on the scoresheet. Name must be written in full the same as her Netball Victoria registration along with her phone number. **PENALTY:** Refer By-Law 19.2

8. MEMBERSHIP / REGISTRATIONS

- 8.1 All Players, coaches and umpires shall be registered with the SFNL. All players are to have a current Netball Victoria membership before taking the court or prior to commencing participation.
- 8.2 Single game registration/fee (SGF) will be available in the SFNL but will only constitute a Netball Victoria membership for the game granted. The SGF shall be purchased by the player online at least one hour prior to taking the court to play. A maximum of three (3) SGFs can be purchased per person per season.
- 8.3 The penalty for playing a player who is not registered with the SFNL and Netball Victoria is the loss of match, if applicable, and a fine of \$100.

9. CLEARANCES WITHIN THE SFNL

- 9.1 Any player who has played in the SFNL, in the last 24 months, that wishes to play with a different SFNL Club, shall arrange for their new Club to submit a clearance request through Netball Connect.
- 9.2 Notification of clearances will be advised to the League and both Clubs, automatically generated by Netball Connect. Clubs shall ensure that their contact details are up to date on Netball Connect. A player cannot commence playing for the new Club until the clearance has been granted by the exiting Club and approved by the League. **PENALTY:** \$100 fine and loss of match points, if applicable.
- 9.3 If a response has not been received from the exiting Club after seven (7) days, the player will automatically clear to the new Club.
- 9.4 No player will be granted more than one (1) clearance per season. No clearance shall be submitted after the seventh (7th) round of matches.
- 9.5 If the clearance is refused by the exiting Club then it is the responsibility of the player to ensure that the issue is resolved. Refusals can only occur where a Club can substantiate that the player:
- (a) is a Declared Player whose current playing arrangement requires the player to continue to play for the Club
 - (b) is indebted to the Club; or
 - (c) is in possession of Club property (e.g. uniform) that needs to be returned
- 9.6 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.
- 9.7 Best and Fairest votes will transfer with the player if they subsequently play in the same grade.
- 9.8 No more than 25% of a Club's list, to a maximum of 10 players, may be cleared from one Club to one other Club, between one netball season and the closing of clearances in the following season.

10. PLAYERS

- 10.1.1 All Players participating in the SFNL shall hold a current player registration with Netball Victoria and be registered to the SFNL and their Club. Players must register, through their Club's registration form, to the current SFNL competition in Netball Connect, before taking the court.
- 10.1.2 SFNL supports the participation in netball on the basis of the gender with which the person identifies. Players identifying as female can play in the SFNL netball competition.
- 10.1.3 Victorian Netball League (VNL) players in the current year are only permitted to play in the following divisions, unless an exemption has been approved by the League:
 - a) VNL Open Players – division A1 and A2
 - b) VNL 19 & Under Players – divisions A1, A2 and A3
- 10.2 Players may only play with one (1) Club during the season unless a clearance has been requested as per By-Law 9.1. A player cannot be listed on more than one Club's playing list within the SFNL.
- 10.3 Players may play in more than one match in each home and away round across different grades subject to SFNL By-laws 10.5 and 10.6.
- 10.4 In the event that there is more than one team from the same Club in separate grades, players may transfer between teams until the player takes the court for their fifth 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 fifth game for a particular team. Once this occurs the player shall remain with the team they played their fifth 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 five (5) 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 who is eligible to play in finals across multiple grades may only play one (1) match per finals.
- 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 NOC who will have the power to suspend a team or player from competing further in the SFNL.
- 10.10 Clubs are expected to obtain and provide correct dates of birth. The minimum age requirement for the SFNL is 15 years. The player cannot take the court until she has reached this age. Proof of age may be requested by the League.
- 10.11 **PENALTY:** \$100 and loss of match points, if applicable.

11. COACHES/ TEAM OFFICIALS

- 11.1 All coaches shall obtain or hold a current minimum of the “Foundation” Accreditation.
- 11.2 Accreditations shall be obtained prior to coaching in the current competition year and be updated according to National Coach Accreditation requirements.
- 11.3 All coaches shall have a current Netball Victoria Membership and be registered to the SFNL and their Club.
- 11.4 In the event of the appointed Coach being absent, any other nominated person in charge of that team shall be accredited.
- 11.5 Coaching is permitted by the appointed Coach during any stoppage. The Coach may not enter the court unless permitted by the officiating Umpires.
- 11.6 During a stoppage any Team Official may approach the players at the sideline for the purpose of providing rehydration.
- 11.7 At no time during a match (including intervals) are Coaches or Team Officials permitted to approach Umpires. Any discussion made with the Umpires must be made by the Team Captain and only during intervals. Coaches can speak with the SFNL Umpire Supervisor or NOC only.
- 11.8 Any breach of these rules may incur a fine of \$100 or suspension of the Coach or Team Official.

12. UMPIRES

- 12.1 The NOC will appoint an SFNL Umpire Supervisor to oversee the recruitment, appointment, development and badging of all umpires throughout the season.
- 12.2 All umpires shall have a current Netball Victoria membership and be registered to the SFNL. Umpires officiating shall have a current A, B or C Grade accreditation 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 Supervisor.
- 12.5 Umpires must supply their own whistle.
- 12.6 A current Rules of Netball book and the SFNL By Laws shall be available from the competition desk on gamedays.
- 12.7 SFNL Umpires are to be dressed appropriately in umpire’s attire: correct sport shoes, white or solid colour outfit and must be able to be distinguished from player uniforms.
- 12.8 Finals Umpires shall be appointed by the SFNL Umpire Supervisor in conjunction with the NOC.

- 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 NOC by 10am of the following business day after the match has been played.
- 12.10 Reported teams/players may receive any, or all, of these penalties as deemed suitable by the NOC. Loss of premiership points, suspension for the player or team from the SFNL home and away games/finals and/or Interleague.
- 12.11 Reported players/teams may appeal the report or the set penalty as per SFNL By-Law 13 APPEALS.

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 (3) 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 shall register its uniform prior to the commencement of the season with all combinations of playing uniforms included.
- 14.2 The NOC shall approve all uniform colours and designs.
- 14.3 Clubs shall notify the NOC of any changes to uniform.
- 14.4 All Uniforms shall have the SFNL Logo on the right-hand breast and official League Sponsor Logo as determined by the Board. Positional bibs are considered part of the uniform.
- 14.5 All uniforms are purchased through the SFNL approved supplier exclusively.
- 14.6 All players are to be in correct uniform for matches unless prior approval has been given by the NOC on an agreed interim uniform.
- 14.7 No bikini pants or see-through pants are permitted.
- 14.8 Sports briefs shall be black or Club colours. Skins/bike pants may be worn under dress, skirt or shorts if registered as part of the team uniform. Long pants, tee shirts (long or short sleeved) are permitted if part of registered uniform and shall be the same colour and shall be approved by the League.
- 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 NOC in writing prior to participating in an SFNL match. The notification shall state the reason for the non-standard uniform. Providing the NOC is satisfied with respect to the request, the NOC shall issue a notification in writing approving the request. The NOC shall take into account the particular religious customs and player safety when making such a

decision. This includes any rigid knee or wrist braces that contain hard metal or plastic which may injure any other player on the court.

- 14.10 Nails shall be short and smooth OR taped using approved material tape or approved sporting gloves.
- 14.11 Long nails shall be taped even if player chooses to wear gloves. Padding to be used as well for longer nails.
- 14.12 Fingernail - 1 piece of tape over the top, knuckle to knuckle, 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 All Clubs shall have the opportunity to submit requests to the NOC to change divisions prior to the completion of the grading process. The NOC shall consider each request and make a decision. The NOC's decision shall be final.
- 15.3 Grading allocations are subject to the final ladder positions in the previous season. Premiers from each division (where applicable) may be promoted with the bottom team to be possibly relegated (where applicable).
- 15.4 New teams will be allocated a division in consultation with the NOC.

16. TEAM OBLIGATIONS

- 16.1 A representative from the team named first on the official SFNL Fixture is to collect the scoresheet from the office.
- 16.2 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, as advised. The League will provide Clubs with the correct netballs annually.

17. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

- 17.1 All divisions shall play on a Saturday at a venue(s) designated by the NOC, which are displayed on the Fixture. Any request to change the day, time or venue shall be in writing to the NOC at least one week

(7-days) before fixture timetable. Rescheduling of matches shall be within two (2) weeks of the original fixtured match date and confirmed by the NOC.

- 17.2 All Divisions 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 No team is permitted to take the court unless five (5) players are present.
- 17.4 All players shall be listed on the team sheet prior to start of the game. Players named on the team sheet shall 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.
- 17.5 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 or at the discretion of the NOC.
- 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 Captains shall toss a coin and advise the umpires and scorers of the result in order to determine starting ends prior to the start of each game.
- 17.8 All games are to be timed on one (1) 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 within 30 seconds; substitution rule applies with no time allowance.
 - 18.1.3 Play is resumed.

19. SCORING

- 19.1 Each team shall provide a non-participating scorer for all matches. Scorers shall stay together on the sideline, separate from team benches. Scorers must be 14 years or over. **Penalty** \$50 per team.
- 19.2 Complete given and surname of each player intending to take the court shall be recorded on the score sheet. The score sheet shall also indicate the players' positions played **each quarter**, the goals they score and the match score. **Penalty** \$20 per team.
- 19.3 First named team is to collect the score sheet from the office and is responsible for the recording of the match.

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

19.4.4 A team wishing to protest a scoring issue must not sign the Official scoresheet and immediately notify the Court or Umpire Supervisor on the intention to protest.

19.5 Results are to be entered to Netball Connect at the conclusion of days' play by the NOC.

20. LADDERS

20.1 Four (4) Premiership points will be awarded for a win in the Home and Away matches excluding grading games.

20.2 Two (2) Premiership points will be awarded to each side in the event of a drawn home and away match excluding 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 NOC shall also prepare a points ratio ladder 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 NOC to be appropriate.

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

21. FORFEITS

21.1 Penalty for forfeits:

21.1.1 A 20-nil score line and 4 points shall be awarded to the non-offending team. A fine of \$100 will be charged to the offending team.

21.1.2 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.

21.1.3 In the event that a team is forfeiting due to the direct impact of COVID, and the League and opposition Club is notified with sufficient notice prior to the match, a 20-0 score and four competition points shall be awarded to the non-offending team. No fine will be incurred by the forfeiting team.

21.1.4 Repeated forfeits may result in that Club/Team being excluded from further competitions.

22. MATCH NOT ABLE TO PROCEED

22.1 Where a match is not able to commence or proceed for any reason other than already provided for in these By Laws, the League will have regard to the health and safety of the Players and any other relevant matters in order to determine whether a match is unable to commence or proceed.

22.2 If a match is unable to commence or proceed, the League will have sole discretion to decide the result of the match or whether the game will be rescheduled or not based on the following principles:

22.2.1 The appropriateness and practicality of rescheduling a match during the Home and Away Season or Finals Series.

22.2.2 If any one match is cancelled or abandoned in a particular Grade, and cannot be rescheduled, the match will be declared a draw and two (2) premiership points will be awarded to both teams. During the finals series, if the match cannot be rescheduled the highest qualified team for that final will progress to the next round of finals.

22.2.3 If two (2) or more matches are cancelled or abandoned in the same Grade or Division for the same reason, the round will be declared void and no premiership points, percentages of best and fairest votes will be awarded or applied for that round.

22.3 If a team is directed to play by the League and the team fails, refuses or neglects to play, the team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match. In that case SFNL By Law 21 will apply.

23. FINALS

23.1 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.

23.2 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 NOC should it be determined the number of teams in that section warrants an increase in the number of finalists.

23.3 Teams found playing an ineligible player during the finals will be considered to have lost the match and be charged with conduct unbecoming.

23.4 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.

23.5 If a game in the finals series is cancelled due to adverse weather, the teams that finish highest on the ladder at the end of the Home and Away rounds will be deemed the winner. Refer Adverse Weather By-Law 29.4.

24. DRAWN GAMES IN FINALS

- 24.1 There is to be a one-minute time allowance to enable teams to change ends and scores to be verified on score sheet.
- 24.2 Positional changes and/or substitutions may only be made prior to any additional time commencing.
- 24.3 Divisions will have 2 x 5 minutes halves to be played. Straight changeover of ends after the first five (5) minutes finish. Positional changes may be made.
- 24.4 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.

25. APPEALS / PROTESTS / DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS

Refer to SFNL By-Laws - 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

26. SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

- 26.1 All players registered with SFNL are eligible for selection in the Representative teams as detailed in the Interleague Policy for Southern Football Netball League.
 - 26.1.1 The NOC shall notify each Player that has been selected for League Representative team training.
 - 26.1.2 The NOC shall notify all Member Clubs in writing of the list of Players selected to train for the League Representative team/s and advise where and when those Players are to report for the first training. Each Member Club is to ensure that their Players attend training as requested.
 - 26.1.3 Each Player on the list shall report for the first training session and all subsequent training sessions as directed by coaching staff.
 - 26.1.4 Should a player be unable to attend a League Representative training session she shall notify both the NOC and the League Representative team coach prior to the training session.
 - 26.1.5 Failure by a Player to attend a League Representative team training session or advise both the NOC and League Representative team coach of nonattendance prior to the training session will render the Player liable to suspension from playing for her Member Club.

27. REPRESENTATIVE TEAM SELECTION PANELS

- 27.1 A minimum of three (3) selectors shall be appointed by the NOC for each team and shall include the Team Coach and two other selectors.
- 27.2 Selectors may be appointed to more than one selection panel.
- 27.3 The Selectors' decision shall be final.

28. AWARDS

28.1 The following player awards will be presented for each season at minimum, in each Division:

28.1.1 1st Best and Fairest

28.1.2 1st Leading Goal Shooter

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

29. RISK MANAGEMENT

29.1 Child Safety in Netball

- (a) The League and all Teams and Clubs are responsible for the observance, promotion, enforcement and monitoring of the Netball Victoria Child Safety in Netball Policy.
- (b) Teams and Clubs are to comply with the Working with Children Check (WWCC) Regulation as per Netball Victoria guidelines.

29.2 First Aid

- (a) First Aid will be provided and a qualified First Aid Officer will be present at each central gameday venue.
- (b) Clubs hosting games at their home courts are to provide suitable first aid supplies, including ice.
- (c) Any injuries must be reported to the First Aid Officer before calling for an ambulance.

29.3 Emergency Procedures

Emergency phone numbers – i.e. Ambulance, Doctor, Health Clinic and Police and an Emergency Procedure will be available at the central venue.

29.4 Adverse Weather

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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 29.4(a). 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.
- (c) Where play is unable to proceed in a home and away game for a period of time equal to one quarter (15 minutes), for the reasons set out in 29.4(a), the game shall be cancelled.
- (d) Match points to be awarded in line with Section 20 of these By-Laws.

29.5 Pregnancy

The SFNL adopts the Netball Victoria Pregnancy in Netball Policy.

29.6 Infectious Diseases Policy

The SFNL adopts the Sports Medicine Australia Infectious Diseases policy.

29.7 Smoke Free Policy

The SFNL adopts the AFL Victoria Smoke Free policy.

29.8 Alcohol Policy

The SFNL adopts the AFL Victoria Alcohol Management Policy.

29.9 Sun Protection

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

29.10 Covid Pandemic

29.10.1 Vaccination requirements to be determined by the direction of the Victorian Government Directions and advised by Netball Victoria's Return to Community Netball guidelines.

29.10.2 All Clubs are responsible for notifying the League if a club member tests positive to COVID.

29.10.3 Refer to By-Law 22 for abandoned matches due to Victorian Government Direction.

30. CODES OF CONDUCT

The SFNL adopts all the Codes of Behaviour as prescribed in the Netball Victoria Member Protection Regulations.

31. DRUG POLICY

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.

32. RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE POLICY

The SFNL adopts the AFL Vilification Policy.

33. MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Refer to the SFNL Media and Cyber Safety Policies, Schedules 6 and 7 SFNL Rules.

34. INDEMNITY CLAUSES

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.

35. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES CLAUSE

- (a) Where this By-Law is silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the SFNL is maintained at all times.
- (b) The NOC 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.

36. FIXTURE CHANGES

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

37. GRADING POLICY

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

APPENDIX 1 - Netball Grading Policy

Grading (including re-grading) 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 Netball Operations Coordinator, 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. An individual Club may have no more than two (2) teams graded into any one division.
2. Match results of previous season (possible promotion of premiers and relegation of bottom team from each division)
3. Match results of current season (re-grading)
4. History of team's performance across previous season(s)
5. Club's grading requests
6. Club's history of grading requests across previous season(s)
7. The disruption that may be caused to current and/or proposed competition
8. 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 may be graded into a higher division
 - Teams that finish on the bottom of the ladder in each division may be graded into a lower division
- New teams will be allocated a division in consultation with the Netball Operations Coordinator.
- Clubs shall enter players to teams in Netball Connect 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

- Before the conclusion of the three (3) grading rounds, Clubs may submit a request for any team to be moved into another division.
- All re-grading requests shall be in writing to the NOC.
- In addition, the Netball Operations Coordinator, 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

- Points shall be determined and advised to Clubs prior to commencement of grading rounds depending on structure used for the grading process.

In Season

- The League shall immediately re-fixture the divisions affected by the grading adjustments.
- Re-grading will take place after the grading rounds and will take affect from the next round and beyond.

Appeals Process

- Clubs have three (3) days from the date of League notification of final grading to lodge an appeal with the League in relation to a grading decision.
- A non-refundable administration fee of One Hundred and Fifty dollars (\$150.00) must be lodged with the NOC at the same time as lodging the appeal.

The decision made by the League will be final.