

**SOUTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE
INCORPORATED**



**NETBALL COMPETITION REGULATIONS
FEBRUARY 2026**

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1. PURPOSE OF COMPETITION REGULATIONS

1.1 The Competition Regulations explain how a match of Netball is played and seek to attain the following objectives:

1.1.1 to ensure that the game of Netball is played in a fair manner and a spirit of true sportsmanship;

1.1.2 to prevent injuries to Players participating in a match so far as this objective can be reasonably achieved.

2. AFFILIATION

2.1 The SFNL requires all Netball teams that participate in the 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. INFORMATION FROM THE SFNL

4.1 The SFNL shall provide the following information to Clubs via email prior to the start of the season:

4.1.1 SFNL contact details

4.1.2 SFNL venue address

4.1.3 SFNL By Laws

4.1.4 SFNL Fixtures

4.1.5 SFNL Calendar of events

4.1.6 SFNL details of coaching courses and seminars etc.

5. TEAM ENTRY CRITERIA

5.1 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.

5.2 Clubs may only submit netball sides into one Saturday competition/association.

5.2.1 All Clubs Saturday teams must be submitted into the same league/association. Clubs will not be permitted to submit sides across multiple leagues/associations.

5.2.2 For the avoidance of doubt, the above rule only applies to Saturday competitions. Where a club wishes to participate in a midweek competition with another association, they are able to do so upon application.

5.3 A Club applying for entry into the competition shall;

5.2.1 Satisfy the league 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.

5.2.2 Agree to abide by the policy and rules of the SFNL as indicated throughout these competition regulations and the SFNL League By-Laws.

5.2.3 Agree to adhere to the requirements of the sponsor(s) of the SFNL.

5.2.4 Agree to abide by Netball Victoria Codes of Behaviour.

5.4 In the event of a Club withdrawing a team from the competition:

5.3.1 Once competition matches have commenced – there will be no reimbursement of fees received, and any outstanding court fees must be paid;

5.3.2 For avoidance of doubt, the Club's lowest-graded team will be the team which is withdrawn from the competition.

5.3.3 Subsequent participation in the competition will be re-assessed by the CEO;

5.3.4 The CEO reserves the right to refuse an entry from any SFNL Club for any reason.

5.5 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.

6. PLAYER MEMBERSHIP/REGISTRATIONS

6.1 All Players participating in the SFNL shall hold a current player registration with Netball Victoria and be registered to the SFNL and their Club.

- 6.1.1 Players must register, through their Club's registration form, to the current SFNL competition management platform , before taking the court.
- 6.1.2 A player cannot be listed on more than one Club's playing list within the SFNL, unless a clearance has been lodged and approved by all parties.
- 6.2 Players are unable to take the court until they have reached 15 years of age in any SFNL competition. Clubs must provide proof of age for any player when requested by the League.
- 6.3 The SFNL netball competition is a female competition. The SFNL adopts the Netball Victoria Transgender and Gender Diverse Policy.
- 6.4 Single game registration vouchers (SGV) will be available in the SFNL but will only constitute a Netball Victoria membership for the game granted. The SGV shall be purchased by the player online at least one hour prior to taking the court to play.
 - 6.4.1 A maximum of four (4) SGV can be purchased per person per season.
 - 6.4.2 Please note that SGV's will only be valid for 1 SFNL club per season.
- 6.5 Single game vouchers are not valid for more than 1 game.
- 6.6 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. This includes incorrect usage of a single game voucher.

7. CLEARANCES/TRANSFERS

- 7.1 Notification of clearances are automatically generated by PlayHQ whereby a player registers with a new SFNL club to the previous season. A player cannot commence playing for the new Club until the clearance has been granted by the exiting Club. **PENALTY:** \$100 fine and loss of match points, if applicable.
 - 7.1.1 Where a Club has teams across multiple Leagues/Associations, a player is unable to take the court unless a clearance has been lodged and approved with the SFNL.
- 7.2 If a response has not been received from the exiting Club after seven (7) days, the player will automatically clear to the new Club.
- 7.3 No player will be granted more than one (1) clearance per season. No clearance shall be submitted after the seventh (7th) round of matches. Where extenuating circumstances apply, a Club may request exemption for a late clearance.
- 7.4 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:
 - 7.4.1 is a Declared Player whose current playing arrangement requires the player to continue to play for the Club
 - 7.4.2 is indebted to the Club; or
 - 7.4.3 is in possession of Club property (e.g. uniform) that needs to be returned

- 7.5 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.
- 7.6 Best and Fairest votes will not transfer with the player if they subsequently play in the same grade.
- 7.7 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.

8. COACHES / TEAM OFFICIALS

- 8.1 All coaches shall obtain or hold a current minimum Foundation Coaching Accreditation.
- 8.2 Accreditations shall be obtained prior to coaching in the current competition year and be updated according to National Coach Accreditation requirements.
- 8.3 Coach accreditations are eligible for reimbursement by the SFNL.
- 8.4 All coaches shall have a current Netball Victoria Membership and be registered to the SFNL and their Club.
- 8.5 In the event of the appointed Coach being absent, any other nominated person in charge of that team must be accredited.
- 8.6 Coaching is permitted by the appointed Coach during any stoppage. The Coach may not enter the court unless permitted by the officiating Umpires.
- 8.7 During a stoppage any Team Official may approach the players at the sideline for the purpose of providing rehydration.
- 8.8 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 NOC or any other League Official.
- 8.9 Any breach of these rules may result in a financial sanction and/or suspension of the Coach or Team Official.

9. UMPIRES

- 9.1 All umpires shall have a current Netball Victoria accreditation and be registered to the SFNL via umpire management platform .
- 9.2 SFNL Clubs are required to provide one umpire per team submitted prior to the commencement of the season.
 - 9.2.1 Clubs are able to submit less umpires providing they account for the required number of games e.g. where a club has 4 teams, 2 umpires can be submitted where they cover 2 games each week.
 - 9.2.2 Umpires will be monitored for the number of games they officiate each week. Clubs are responsible to ensure their nominated umpires are completing the required number of games.

- 9.2.3 Clubs are not permitted to submit an umpire who is already associated with another club.
- 9.3 Umpire allocation will be as follows:
- 9.3.1 The SFNL will allocate umpires to all A & B grade games using the pool of umpires provided by clubs.
- 9.3.2 Participating teams must provide 1 umpire to officiate their own C & D Grade games. Clubs must communicate their officiating umpires to the league no later than 4pm on the business day prior to the match.
- 9.3.3 Finals Umpires shall be appointed by the SFNL.
- 9.4 The SFNL will be responsible for processing all umpire payments throughout the season.
- 9.5 Umpires shall not be changed during a game, except with the permission of the League.
- 9.6 Umpires shall not be permitted to umpire more than 2 games consecutively unless given permission by the League.
- 9.7 Umpires must supply their own whistle.
- 9.8 SFNL Umpires are to be dressed appropriately in umpire's attire: correct sport shoes, SFNL umpire polo, white short/skirt and must be able to be distinguished from player uniforms. Sports briefs/bike shorts must be worn under shorts/skirt and must be white. Top and bottom compression wear must be approved by the League prior to wearing.

10. UNIFORM

- 10.1 Each Club must submit their uniform to the League for approval prior to the commencement of the season. Any changes to uniform during the season must be approved by the League in the first instance.
- 10.2 All uniforms (including positional bibs) are to be purchased through the SFNL approved supplier exclusively and be approved under the SFNL Style Guide
- 10.3 All players are to be in correct uniform for matches unless prior approval has been given by the league on an agreed interim uniform.
- 10.4 Sports briefs/bike shorts must be worn under dress or skirt and shall be black or Club colours. Long pants, t-shirts (long or short sleeved) are permitted if part of the registered uniform and shall be the same colour and approved by the League.
- 10.5 If there are religious reasons why a player should wear a non-standard item 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.
- 10.6 Any player wishing to wear a sport glove, brace or other medical device that must have approval from the League via Club request. A medical certificate must be provided to the League no later than 48

hours prior to the next fixtured match. The League reserves the right to refuse items that may be deemed dangerous to the player or other players.

- 10.7 Nails shall be short and smooth OR taped using approved material tape. Fingernails must be taped with 2 pieces of tape, 1 piece over the top of the finger, knuckle to knuckle and a second piece around the nail. Padding will be required underneath the nail if they extend 5mm or more past the player's finger.
- 10.8 No item of jewellery except a wedding ring and/or a medical alert bracelet may be worn and shall be taped.
- 10.9 All body piercings should be removed before taking the court. Any piercing that cannot be removed should be taped to fully cover the pierced site.
- 10.10 Nails and piercings not taped in accordance with this By-Law shall be deemed to be out of uniform. The officiating 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.

11. TEAMS AND GRADING

- 11.1 The League reserves the right to appoint a Grading Committee made up of club representatives. The Grading Committee will assist the League by providing advice to where teams should be graded or re-graded.
- 11.2 Clubs may enter as many teams as they wish. All B1 and below teams are to be graded at the start of the season.
- 11.3 All Clubs shall advise the League of their preference for grade allocation by the due date set by the League. The League may ask for a playing list upon team entry.
- 11.4 Clubs are able to submit requests to the League to change divisions as per the SFNL Grading Policy (Appendix 1).
- 11.5 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).
- 11.6 Divisions A1-A4 will be held to promotion/relegation protocols whereby the premiers of divisions A2-B1 will be promoted to the division above and the team finishing lowest on the ladder from divisions A1-A4 will be relegated to the division below. Additional team movements may be made via direct division swap upon the agreement of both Clubs.
- 11.7 Initial team lists are to be input to PlayHQ each season as communicated by the League. A maximum of 12 players may be listed per team for any match.
- 11.8 Clubs with multiple teams may have players move between teams until the player takes the court for their 5th game for a particular team.
 - 11.8.1 Where a Club has multiple teams in the same grade, players will be restricted to the team where they take the court for their 5th game for the season. Once this occurs the player shall

remain with the team they played their 5th game with for the remainder of the season.

11.8.2 Players are then able to play in any higher grade but are unable to play down in any lower grade.

11.9 Teams found playing an ineligible player will be considered to have lost that match. In addition, the matter will be investigated by the League and sanctioned accordingly.

12. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

12.1 SCHEDULE OF MATCHES

12.1.1 All divisions shall play on a Saturday at a venue(s) designated by the League, which are displayed in the fixture. Any request to change the day, time or venue must be received via email three (3) weeks prior to the scheduled game. No games will be re-fixtured based on player availability.

12.1.2 Whereby a Club has requested re-fixtured games to a Thursday night at Rowan Road Reserve, they must abide by the following:

a) The requested game must fall within the League nominated rounds. Any matches requested at Rowan Road Reserve outside of this period will not be approved unless extenuating circumstances can be shown to the League.

b) Matches can be requested at home venues on Thursday nights where agreed upon by competing clubs. This is providing all league requirements are met as outlined in competition regulation 12.5, and requested with 3 weeks' notice.

c) The Club must provide their own Court Supervisor. A League appointed Court Supervisor can be provided at the cost of \$50 per timeslot.

d) If matches are fixtured on a night where the netball facilities would not normally be open, an additional fee of \$100 per timeslot will apply.

e) Clubs must provide umpires for games played on Thursday night. For the avoidance of doubt, the requesting club is solely responsible.

f) Timeslots will be allocated by the League, taking into consideration travel times for teams and umpire availability. Times may be adjusted upon approval from both competing Clubs.

12.1.3 All Divisions are to be 4 x 15-minute quarters with an interval of 2 minutes at 1/3 quarter time and an interval of 3 minutes at half time.

12.1.4 No team is permitted to take the court unless five (5) players are present.

12.1.5 Any team failing to start on time will 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.

- 12.1.6 The Captains shall toss a coin to determine starting ends prior to the start of each game.
- 12.1.7 For all matches, one new or one match condition netball must be supplied by the first named (or home) team and approved by the Umpires prior to play. The netballs must be a League approved brand, embossed with the League logo and logo of the League netball sponsor, as advised. The League will provide Clubs with the correct netballs annually.
- 12.1.8 All games are to be timed on one (1) central clock/bell.
- 12.1.9 No time is to be held for injury on the central clock. A match may be stopped by the Umpires in extenuating circumstances to ensure a safe playing area is maintained. Where possible, a game may be relocated to another court if an injured player cannot be safely moved within 3 minutes.
- 12.1.10 The SFNL implements Rolling Substitutions across all competitions. All matches at centralised venues and Home Games shall abide by the rules of rolling substitution as defined by Netball Victoria (Appendix 4).
- 12.1.11 In conjunction with the International Netball Rules, whereby a player is found to be bleeding or have blood on themselves (clothing included), the umpire will stop the game immediately to allow the affected player to leave the court within 30 seconds. Substitution rules apply with no additional time allowance. The ball shall be checked for blood and then play resumed.
- 12.1.12 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:
- a. The appropriateness and practicality of rescheduling a match during the Home and Away Season or Finals Series.
 - b. 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. Finals matches (Regulation 13.1.5) will be determined at the discretion of the League.
 - c. 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.
- 12.1.13 If a team is directed to play by the League and then refuses, the team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match (Regulation 12.6).

12.2 SCORING

- 12.2.1 The Home/First-Named team is to collect the scoring device from the office and is responsible for entering the scores during the game.
- 12.2.2 Live scoring is mandatory for all SFNL competitions. Training will be provided by the League to Clubs with resources found on the SFNL website. Failure to complete live-scoring during the match will result in financial sanctions. **PENALTY:** \$100 per match.

- 12.2.3 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.
- 12.2.4 A team wishing to protest the final score must immediately notify the officiating umpires, Court/Umpire Supervisor, and NOC on the intention to protest. The disputing Club must provide details via email to the League by 10am on the next business day.

12.3 LADDERS

- 12.3.1 Four (4) Premiership points will be awarded for a win in the Home and Away matches excluding grading games.
- 12.3.2 Two (2) Premiership points will be awarded to each side in the event of a drawn home and away match excluding grading games.
- 12.3.3 No Premiership points will be awarded for a bye.
- 12.3.4 In competitions involving an uneven number of byes for competing teams, a points ratio ladder will appear which reflects the number of wins by each team against the number of matches played by each team.
- 12.3.5 Whereby a ladder is affected by By law 12.3.4 and a draw has been recorded throughout the season, the league will manually adjust the ladder following the final round of matches.
- 12.3.6 Two (2) premierships points will be awarded to each side in the event of the game being abandoned before half time due to weather, equipment fault or any reason considered by the NOC to be appropriate.
- 12.3.7 If a game is abandoned at or after half time due to weather, equipment fault or any reason considered by the NOC to be appropriate, four (4) premierships points will be awarded to the team which is leading at the time the game is abandoned.

12.4 TEAM-SHEETS

- 12.4.1 All players shall be listed on the team sheet prior to start of the game. Players must take the court 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.
- 12.4.2 No player is able to take the court unless listed on the official team sheet for that match. Umpires and League staff must be notified immediately where this has occurred.
- 12.4.3 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 Championship Players – division A1 and A2
 - b) VNL 23 & Under Players – divisions A1, A2 and A3
- 12.4.4 The SFNL adopts a Player Points Policy across the A-Grade competitions. For player restrictions and rulings please refer to Appendix 2 (Netball Player Points Policy).

12.5 HOME GAMES

- 12.5.1 The League will facilitate home game requests where possible which must be submitted in writing prior to the beginning of the season.
- a) Home games will be fixtured at the same time slots as Rowan Road Reserve. Clubs wishing to play outside of these timeslots, must first get permission from their opposing club/s in writing. E.g. where a club has 1 court at their facility, they would be restricted to 3 games unless agreed by opposition club.
- 12.5.2 Home Clubs are responsible for sourcing both umpires for each match that is scheduled at their home courts. Should the opposition Club request, they will have the opportunity to provide one umpire for each game they are playing in.
- 12.5.3 Umpires details must be forwarded to the League 48 hours prior to the fixtured match. Umpires must be of a suitable standard to the games they are allocated to. If it is deemed the umpires unsuitable, the providing Club will be responsible for sourcing a replacement.
- 12.5.4 The Home Club must appoint a Court Supervisor for each day they are scheduled to play netball matches at home, this may be a different person for each match. A summary of Court Supervisor responsibilities can be found in Appendix 3 – Court Supervisor Responsibilities.
- 12.5.5 The appointed Court Supervisor must complete the Match Day checklist prior to the beginning of the first match and note any changes to conditions throughout the day.
- 12.5.6 The Home Club will be responsible for entering match results into PlayHQ post-game.
- 12.5.7 Players and officials will not be charged entry at the gate. Visiting Clubs shall provide an accurate team list to the Home Club by 12pm on the day prior to a fixtured Home Game, if applicable.
- 12.5.8 Clubs hosting games at their home courts should have a First Aid Officer on site and are to provide suitable first aid supplies, including ice.
- 12.5.9 The Host Club is responsible for emailing any Umpire Reports and Best & Fairest votes to the NOC, by 10am the first business day after the scheduled match. **PENALTY:** \$100 per breach.

12.6 FORFEITS

- 12.6.1 Where a Club is unable to field a team for any fixtured match, the Club must notify the league by 10am on the day prior to the scheduled match. A \$100 fine will be applied to the offending team. Where the Club notifies the League after this time, a \$200 fine will be applied.
- 12.6.2 A 20-nil score line and 4 points shall be awarded to the non-offending team.
- 12.6.3 Non-offending teams shall be permitted to submit a team-sheet for the match, towards qualification of finals. These must be submitted prior to the time the match was scheduled to begin.
- 12.6.4 Repeated forfeits may result in that Club/Team being excluded from further competitions.

13. FINALS

13.1 FINALS MATCHES

- 13.1.1 All grades shall consist of a minimum of a top four (4) for finals purposes. However, the number of teams eligible for finals in a particular grade may increase at the discretion of the NOC should it be determined the number of teams in that grade warrants an increase in the number of finalists.
- 13.1.2 Where an uneven number of games/byes are played in a single grade, a Match Ratio ladder will be applied in lieu of points %. Match Ratio is calculated by the number of wins divided by number of games played.
- 13.1.3 In the event of teams being on equal points or points ratio, positions shall be determined by;
- (a) percentage of goals scored for and against. In the event teams are still equal;
 - (b) positions shall be determined by the greater number of goals scored for. In the event teams are still equal;
 - (c) positions shall be determined by the lower number of goals conceded.
- 13.1.4 Matches shall be conducted for finals in the same manner that home and away matches are conducted under these Competition Regulations.
- 13.1.5 If a game in the finals series is cancelled due to adverse weather, at the League's discretion, the teams that finish highest on the ladder at the end of the Home and Away rounds will be deemed the winner unless an alternate match-day can be organized prior to the next round of Finals. Refer Adverse Weather By-Law 14.3.
- 13.1.6 Whereby the scores between two (2) teams are equal at the conclusion of the match, extra time protocols will be activated. There is to be a one-minute time allowance to enable teams to change ends and scores to be verified on score sheet, followed by 2 x 5 minute halves to be played. There shall be a straight change over between half time periods. Changes and/or substitutions may only be made prior to extra time commencing.
- 13.1.7 Should scores still be level at the end of the second period of extra time, play continues until one team has a two (2) goal advantage.

13.2 FINALS QUALIFICATIONS

- 13.2.1 A player cannot play in a Finals match for their Club unless they have played five (5) games of the season 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.
- 13.2.2 A player who is eligible to play in finals across multiple grades may only play one (1) match per round of finals.
- 13.2.3 Finals matches do not count towards games played when determining finals eligibility.

13.2.4 Teams found playing an ineligible player during the finals series will be considered to have lost that match. In addition, the matter will be investigated by the League and sanctioned accordingly.

14. RISK MANAGEMENT

14.1 First Aid

14.1.1 First Aid will be provided and a qualified First Aid Officer will be present at each central gameday venue.

14.1.2 Any injuries must be reported to the First Aid Officer before calling for an ambulance.

14.2 Emergency Procedures

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

14.2 Adverse Weather

14.2.1 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.

14.2.2 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 14.3(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.

14.2.3 Where play is unable to proceed in a regular season match for a period of time equal to one quarter (15 minutes), for the reasons set out in 14.3(a), the game shall be cancelled.

14.2.4 Match points to be awarded in line with 12.3 of these Competition Regulations.

14.4. 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.

15. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES CLAUSE

15.1.1 Where this competition regulation is silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the SFNL is maintained at all times.

15.1.2 The League may, in using reasonable discretion and only in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in these Competition Regulations relating to the SFNL.

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 League, and 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 (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 PlayHQ 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.