



TRI-SERIES COMPETITION POLICY

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1. PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Newcastle Netball Association Tri-Series Competition, which began in 2020, features 8 clubs that each field a team in the following three grades:

1. **Championship:** This is the premier division, where the strongest teams compete against each other.
2. **Opens:** A competitive level for players of various ages and skill levels, typically including senior players.
3. **23s:** A grade designed for players who are 23 years old or younger, focusing on developing younger talent in a competitive environment.

This competition runs alongside the regular **Newcastle Netball Association Winter Season**, which is governed by its own set of rules. However, there are **guidelines** that differentiate the Tri-Series competition from the standard competition. These include rule changes or adaptations specific to the Tri-Series, such as differences in player eligibility, adverse weather games and borrowed player regulations.

By offering a separate competition alongside the main winter season, the Tri-Series provides clubs with a pathway for athletes in their clubs with player development in a structured environment.

The club-based competition is designed to ensure that there is a culture of player retention with pathways built throughout the club to the pinnacle of the Championship division of this competition. The clubs are expected to invest in their junior base and strive to achieve success in higher divisions and engender growth in numbers especially for the smaller clubs. There is an expectation that those in this competition would show adherence to NNA Policies as role models to the Winter Competition and endeavour to put a team on the court each week using the generous borrowing rules to ensure team forfeits are eliminated at this level. Club attendance at all Newcastle Association meetings provides the feedback and support to the Association from the clubs involved in the competition. In return for a place in the Tri-Series competition, the clubs help with Association media calls and requests for assistance to allow publicity of the major events in the season such as season launches and grand finals.

As an elite competition in a regional area, the NNA Tri-Series seeks to provide a platform for local talent seeking to find success at further NSW competitions such as Metro League, Premier league and the Giants and Swifts Academies.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Defined Terms

- a) Bench Officials comprises two scorers, one from each team, who are to be present on the Score Bench for each match and who are members of the Association.
- b) Constitution means the constitution of Newcastle Netball Association Inc.
- c) Competition means the Newcastle Netball Association Tri-Series (herein mentioned as NNA Tri-Series). The competition may be sponsored and carry the sponsor's name.

- d) Competition Rules means the rules of the Competition as articulated and referenced within this document.
- e) NNA means Newcastle Netball Association Inc and is referred to in this document as NNA.
- f) NNA Tri-Series Committee means a committee formed consisting of:
 - Appointed NNA Tri-Series Co-ordinator
 - Appointed Tri Series High Performance Officer
 - One nominated representative from each of the eight clubs participating in the competition. This representative must be a registered member of Newcastle Netball Association.
- g) Netball NSW means the New South Wales Netball Association Inc. and is referred to in this document as NNSW.
- h) Player means any person who has a current financial registration with NNA and who is registered with a Tri-Series Club and is allocated to a Tri-Series team.
- i) Score Bench means the official bench for the scoring of matches.
- j) Team means each of the Club netball teams granted the right to compete in the Tri-Series by NNA.
- k) Team Officials mean officials involved with the management, preparation and participation of the team, including the coaches, manager and other support staff, all of whom are members of the Association.

3. ADMINISTRATION

- 3.1 Subject to these Competition Rules, the NNA Constitution and any other document, the NNA Tri-Series Co-ordinator shall have the authority to enquire and adjudicate all questions and disputes arising out of this Competition. The item is then to be ratified by NNA Management Team and that decision shall be final.
- 3.2 If a matter is not provided for in this Policy, the Competition Structure, the NNA Constitution or any other document, the NNA Tri-Series Co-ordinator may make any determination after consultation with NNA Tri-Series Committee and relevant parties. The item is then to be ratified by NNA Management Team and that decision shall be final.
- 3.3 Any participating Team refusing or neglecting to abide by a decision of the NNA Tri-Series Committee may be excluded from the Competition for such time as the NNA Tri-Series Committee, in consultation with the NNA Management Team, shall determine.
- 3.4 All relevant correspondence shall be addressed to the NNA Tri-Series Co-ordinator.
- 3.5 All outward correspondence shall be dispatched from the Secretary or NNA Tri-Series Co-

ordinator and directed to the Club Secretary by email unless the Club nominates another person to also receive the correspondence.

- 3.6 Competition Rules will be reviewed by NNA Tri-Series Committee at the conclusion of each season or as necessary during the season. All changes to be ratified by NNA Management Team.

4. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

- 4.1 An Expression of Interest (EOI) will be called by NNA every two years. Interested clubs (current participants or new clubs) will need to:
- a) submit an EOI by advertised due date and
 - b) accompanied by any supporting documentation and evidence of payment of set application fee.
- 4.2 New clubs wanting to enter the Tri Series competition for the first time must meet the following criteria in the prior period to the EOI:
- a) Achieved a top 4 placing at the end of the minor rounds in Division 1 grades in the NNA Winter Competition in Seniors, 21's, 17's and 15's.
 - b) Demonstrated Club junior base – e.g. higher divisions and/or growth in numbers.
 - c) Dedicated personnel to assist in abiding by the Tri Series rules.
- 4.3 Assessment of Current clubs over the previous Tri-Series period who apply to continue in the Tri Series will include, but is not limited to:
- a) Player retention.
 - b) Club junior base – e.g. higher divisions, growth in numbers.
 - c) Management and support of NNA Policies by the Club.
 - d) Number of Tri-Series team forfeits.
 - e) Club attendance at Association meetings.
 - f) Assistance with Association media calls and requests for assistance.
- 4.4 If more than eight clubs meet the criteria to join the competition, a paper grade will occur in December of the year of the EOI. The paper grade process is described in Appendix B.
- 4.5 The Clubs selected to be paper graded will be:
- a) New Club(s); and
 - b) The Clubs placed 7th and 8th on the ladder using the total Club Championship points

from each of the 2 years of the current Tri-Series period.

- 4.6 Information to support the paper grade will be collected from the clubs identified in Section 4.5 by November 30 of the year of the EOI.
- 4.7 The result of the paper grade will be communicated to all clubs involved by December 20 of the year of the EOI.
- 4.8 Should there be difficulty determining the outcome of the paper grade to decide on the 2 clubs to join the competition, a play-off will be called on a date to be set by NNA.
- 4.9 Upon acceptance of the EOI, entries for the Competition must be lodged in accordance with the procedures as determined by NNA and distributed with the offer letter.
- 4.10 All entries must be received by NNA by the published time and date for close of entries.

5. COMPETITION REVIEW

- 5.1 A review of the competition will be undertaken every two years. The next review will be at the end of the 2026 season.
- 5.2 Current participating clubs wishing to continue in competition will need to submit an expression of interest every two years. Continuing participation is not guaranteed as all Clubs must have demonstrated compliance with all Policies and rules of NNA and NSW and other criteria as set down by NNA.

6. STRUCTURE OF COMPETITION

- 6.1 The NNA Tri-Series is conducted as an outdoor competition at National Park Netball Court, Union Street, Cooks Hill.
- 6.2 The commencement dates are those as set out in the NNA Calendar of Events.
- 6.3 The NNA Competition Manager will make a final decision as to the draw for the scheduling of matches.
- 6.4 The Competition consists of a maximum of eight clubs competing in a three-tier competition with only one club team allowed in each competition level:
 - a) NNA Tri-Series Championship
 - b) NNA Tri-Series Open
 - c) NNA Tri-Series Under 23s
- 6.5 Each tier of the Competition will consist of fourteen minor round matches followed by a Finals Series for each tier and based on an eight team structure.
- 6.6 Competition points:

- a) Three points received for a win
- b) Three points received for receiving a forfeit
- c) Two points received for a draw
- d) One point received for a loss
- e) Zero points received for forfeiting a match
- f) Zero points received for breaching the borrowed player policy
- g) Zero points received for an incomplete scoresheet (Refer to Appendix A for an example of a complete scoresheet).

6.7 Forfeits:

- a) If a team does not have 5 players present and fails to take the court within one minute of the start of the match, the match will be declared a forfeit. The opposing team will be awarded the match.
- b) Outcome of a forfeit for non-forfeiting team
 - Recorded as a WIN and 3 points allocated
 - All players are recorded as having played
 - Game not included in goal percentage calculations
- c) Outcome of a forfeit for forfeiting team:
 - Recorded as a LOSS and 0 points allocated
 - No player is recorded as having played
 - Game included in goal percentage calculations
- d) Abandoned Game: If Team X does not have sufficient players listed on the scoresheet to continue in a match, the match is stopped by the umpires' whistle and is awarded to the other team – Team Y. If Team X is winning the game, team X's score will be recorded as one goal less than Team Y's score on the scoresheet at that time.
- e) If a team forfeits during the Final Series, they are excluded from any further participation in the competition.

6.8 Final Series:

- a) At the conclusion of Round 14, the teams in positions 1-4 on the ladder for each tier will progress to a final series as per the NNA Competition Structure.

6.9 Trophies and Medals:

- a) An overall Club Championship Trophy will be awarded based on the results at end of Round 14 as per the Competition Policy. The perpetual trophy is to be returned by Round 14 of the current season.
- b) Presentation of overall Club Championship Trophy will occur at the NNA Awards Dinner at end of season.
- c) A Most Valuable Player medal is to be awarded at the conclusion of the season at the NNA Awards Dinner for each of the competition tiers.
- d) Teams will nominate one player from the opposing team on the scoresheet at the conclusion of each game, to player whom they deem has played outstandingly in the game, highlighting excellence and exemplariness amongst their peers.
- e) Points are collated each round game by NNA Tri-Series Co-ordinator.
- f) If a team fails to nominate a player from the opposing team, the team will receive a follow up phone call. Failure to respond by 8pm the same evening will be deemed an incomplete scoresheet, and zero points will be allocated to that team.

6.10 Match Duration and Match Format:

- a) Matches will be played in accordance with NNA Competition Structure.
- b) Timeslots will be as follows:
 - NNA Tri-Series Under 23s will play at 11.55am each round
 - NNA Tri-Series Open will play at 1.15pm each round
 - NNA Tri-Series Championship will play at 2.30pm each round

6.11 Fines / Penalties:

- a) A team that is issued a fine will be recorded as unfinancial and will be unable to play any match until the fine is paid.
- b) Breach of the conditions of play for Registration under paragraph 7:
 - Monetary fine \$50.00/occasion
 - Applicable match will be awarded to the opposing team with the infringing team awarded 0 points and 0 goals recorded.
- c) Breach of the condition of play for Borrowed Players as detailed in paragraph 8:
 - Monetary fine \$50.00/occasion
 - Applicable match will be awarded to the opposing team with the infringing team awarded 0 points and 0 goals recorded.

- d) Breach of the eligibility requirements for players detailed in paragraph 9:
 - Monetary fine \$50.00/occasion
 - Applicable match will be awarded to the opposing team with the infringing team awarded 0 points and 0 goals recorded.
- e) Breach of failure to notify of Uniform changes:
 - Failure to advise NNA of changes to uniform \$1000.00
 - Monetary fine \$30.00/per player per occasion
- f) Provision of misleading information:
 - Monetary fine \$100.00/occasion
- g) All penalties and fines maintain a right to appeal. Appeals must be made in writing addressed to the Tri Series Coordinator and detail as to why the penalty/fine is either incorrect or should not be applied. This will be reviewed by NNA with an outcome provided in writing. NNA reserves the right to uphold any decision without the opportunity further to appeal.

7. PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 7.1 To be eligible to compete in the NNA Tri-Series Competition, a player must be turning 15 years in the year of play.
- 7.2 All players must be registered in PlayHQ with NNA.
- 7.3 Clubs shall enter three teams with a minimum of eight players and a maximum of twelve players into PlayHQ by advertised date set by NNA.
- 7.4 In addition to the NNA individual player registration fees, a Competition fee of \$1,800 is set for each Club. This fee contributes towards equipment, the development of umpires, coaches and bench officials and pathway opportunities for players.
- 7.5 A Club is not permitted to have more than twelve players registered at any time in a team within each competition tier.
- 7.6 Grading of Premier League players:
 - a) A player that is currently under contract with a Netball NSW Premier League Club Opens team in the year of play, is only permitted to be registered in a NNA Tri-Series Championship team.
 - b) A player that is currently under contract with a Netball NSW Premier League Club 23s team in the year of play, is only permitted to be registered in a NNA Tri-Series Championship or Opens team.

- 7.7 There will be no day registrations allowed.
- 7.8 Transfer of a player between Clubs conditions:
- a) Permission to transfer will only be granted under exceptional circumstances.
 - b) Transfer will be considered if fewer than three games have been played by the player prior to Round 11, and only once per season per player.
 - c) A player may only transfer in the same grade or higher.
 - d) An official of the registered club releasing the player must sign transfer form.
 - e) Notification of approval will be given within five days of receipt of Player Transfer Request Form and payment of said administrative fee.
- 7.9 Transfer of a player between Teams conditions:
- a) Adhering to Clause 7, permission for a player to transfer to a higher grade within Tri-Series can be requested.
 - b) Transfer will be considered prior to Round 11, and only once per season per player.
- 7.10 Deregistration of a player:
- a) On advice from the Club, a player will be detached from the team and will no longer appear on the scoresheet.

8. BORROWED PLAYERS

- 8.1 Borrowing of players will be allowed as followed:
- a) **Championship:** a Club's Championship team may borrow from the Club's Opens team and the Club's 23s & Under team.
 - b) **Opens:** a Club's Opens team may borrow from the Club's 23s & Under team.
 - c) **23s & Under:** a Club's 23s & Under team may borrow from any team within their Club or aligned Club/s in the Winter Competition, any player who is turning 15 to 23 years of age in the year of the competition.
- 8.2 A Team must only have 12 players on the scoresheet on any one game day.
- 8.3 A Team is limited to six borrowed players which can be made up of a combination of eligible options from 8.1 above.
- 8.4 Borrowed players from Winter Competition are not eligible to participate in NNA Tri-Series final series unless they have elected to forgo their Winter Competition team for the finals day.
- 8.5 Borrowed players from Winter Competition will have any Tri-Series games played excluded from their borrowed tally within Winter Competition.
- 8.6 The Winter Competition cannot borrow players from the Tri Series Competition.

9. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – NNA TRI-SERIES REGISTERED PLAYERS

- 9.1 Players may play up to two matches on any one game day; one of which must be in the grade registered. If a split or rescheduled round occurs a player can still only take the court for their registered team and/or one other match.
- a) A player can only play one match on any given Finals Day.
- 9.2 To be eligible to participate in the final series, a player:
- a) must be a registered member of a Tri-Series team.
 - b) must have been recorded as participating in three minor round matches by taking the court and having their name and position recorded on the scoresheet for a minimum of two quarters per match.
- 9.3 Players that qualify for more than one team, must be nominated for only one team for each week of the final series matches – such nominations must be made 48 hours prior to each week's match commencement. This also applies if a player qualifies for a Winter Competition division final and a Tri-Series grade. A player must nominate which final they will play in and play in only one final on each Finals Day.
- 9.4 Any team found playing an ineligible player in the finals series matches will be considered

to have lost the match in which the ineligible player has taken part, and the match will be awarded to the opposing team. Any player found to be ineligible to take part in the finals series matches will not be permitted to take any further part in the series.

- 9.5 It is the responsibility of the Club to manage team lists and be aware of players playing higher divisions which may result in finals eligibility.

10. MARKETING AND PROMOTION

10.1 Members:

- a) Grant NNA Administrators the non-exclusive right to use your name or image in any medium for netball marketing and promotional activities.
- b) Must respond to any request by the NNA to participate in a promotional or game development activity, including personal appearances for sponsors or coaching clinics (provided you are able to attend); and
- c) Must co-operate with NNA, the media (in particular the holders of any broadcast rights), sponsors or any other person reasonably required in relation to any promotional activity.

10.2 Members must not:

- a) Participate in any personal promotional activities in the products or business of that personal sponsor are in competition with the products or business of a NNA sponsor;
- b) Use any NNA intellectual property rights, in particular any names, logos or playing apparel (other than in accordance with this Policy); and
- c) Engage in any marketing or promotional activities that may bring an NNA Administrator or the game of netball into disrepute.

10.3 Members are not obliged to participate in promotional activities if you (acting reasonably and in a bona fide manner) have:

- a) A moral or religious objection to any use that may be made of your image and have declared that objection; or
- b) Work, education or personal commitments.

11. TEAM OFFICIALS

11.1 The Club must submit details of Team Officials at the time of team entry.

11.2 Each club must provide evidence of the Intermediate Coaching Accreditation, or be working towards, for at least one of the coaching staff for their Tri-Series teams.

11.3 All Team Officials must be financial members of NNA.

12. MATCH OPERATIONS

12.1 Equipment - Scoresheet and a Match Ball supplied by NNA.

12.2 Scoresheets

- a) The Scoresheet must include the seven players and their on-court positions, and up to five player reserves. Names of borrowed players to be written on scoresheet prior to game commencement.
- b) Player substitutions during a match are to be recorded on the Scoresheet and are to be provided to the Bench Officials as soon as possible after the substitution has occurred.

12.3 Uniform – Clubs, upon affiliation, shall register the uniform to be worn. All updates and changes are to be submitted to the NNA Registrar for approval prior to the uniform being worn in matches.

13. ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

13.1 Games affected due to adverse weather conditions – refer to Adverse Weather Conditions Policy.

- a) Additional Designated Adverse Weather Days for the Tri Series competition will be determined at the start of each season and in consultation with the Tri Series Committee.

14. ISSUES ON COURT

14.1 If there is an issue on any court before or during a match, please report it to the NNA office in person. If you are unable to leave the court, please send a representative in order that the matter can be dealt with in a timely manner.

15. COMPLAINT HANDLING

15.1 Clubs are to be familiar with current complaint and disciplinary procedures and advise their members accordingly.

15.2 Clubs, as affiliates are expected to manage all matters of complaint or incident in accordance with the relevant Netball NSW policies.

15.3 Clubs are encouraged to have their own Member Protection Officer (MPIO) or be able to provide their member with details of an MPIO before lodgement of a complaint on incident.

15.4 A 'complaint' in this context is considered to include grievances, disputes and member protection issues.

15.5 All complaints will be reviewed and managed in accordance with the relevant Netball NSW

policy and procedure.

- 15.6 All complaints are to be submitted to the NNA Secretary by the club using the designated form.
- 15.7 All complaints will be treated as confidential; this includes correspondence and the process in which the complaint is handled.
- 15.8 The NNA Secretary, or delegate will assess the complaint before determining appropriate action to be taken.
- 15.9 In instances where a complaint is lodged to register incident/s but no action requested or warranted, the club will be asked to take the appropriate steps toward resolution in accordance with Netball NSW policies. It will be the club's responsibility to follow up this type of complaint.
- 15.10 The club will provide a report to the NNA Secretary of the actions taken and outcome.
- 15.11 Non-members are not permitted to submit complaints for review by NNA using the Netball NSW policies and procedures.

16. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

- 16.1 Disciplinary procedures are considered those in context to on-court conduct and offences.
- 16.2 Incidents must be reported using the designated form and are to be submitted to the NNA Secretary.
- 16.3 Incidents will be reviewed and managed in accordance with the relevant Netball NSW Policy. This may include no action by NNA, a directive for the club to manage or progress to tribunal.
- 16.4 Clubs are to be familiar with the procedures and advise their members on appropriate actions and requests and possible outcomes.
- 16.5 The club will provide a report to the NNA Secretary of the actions taken and outcome.
- 16.6 Non-members are not permitted to submit incident reports for review by NNA using the Netball NSW policies and procedures. They may at times be requested to provide statements.

17. APPEALS

- 17.1 All appeals to complaints procedures will be managed in accordance with the Netball NSW policies and procedures.

APPENDIX B: PAPER GRADING PROCESS

Paper grading will be carried out should there be nominations for a Tri-Series period of more than 8 Clubs. The following steps will be required to achieve an outcome of the strongest two Clubs to enter the competition for the following period:

B.1 Clubs will supply the following details for all coaching staff for their teams:

- a) Name
- b) Role
- c) Team
- d) Accreditation
- e) Coaching History.

B.2 Clubs will supply the following details for all players for their teams:

- a) Name
- b) Team
- c) Date of birth
- d) Playing History.

B.3 Grading will be undertaken applying the following points based on the information above:

TBA