



HUNTER SUMMER SERIES – COMPETITION RULES

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1. EVENT INFORMATION

1.1 General Information

- 1.1.1 The Hunter Summer Series is conducted under the authority of Hunter Netball.
- 1.1.2 The Hunter Netball appointed Competitions Manager/s have the overall responsibility for the operation and management of the Competition.
- 1.1.3 Hunter Netball has the power to waive compliance with the Summer Series Competition Rules when satisfied that extenuating circumstances exist.
- 1.1.4 Any request to waive compliance with the Summer Series Competition rules must be submitted in writing, addressed to the Hunter Summer Series Competitions Manager or their appointed delegate.
- 1.1.5 Hunter Netball Competitions Manager may deduct points from any team if they are found to have contravened or disregarded any rules of the Summer Series Competition Rules.

1.2 Venue

The Summer Series will take place at rotating venues across the Hunter Region, where venues have the court requirements of:

- 1.2.1 Minimum courts required for all competition games to be played.
- 1.2.2 Lights for all competition courts.
- 1.2.3 Canteen opened during all game times.

1.3 Uniforms and Equipment

- 1.3.1 All teams must play in matching playing uniform unless extenuating circumstances exist. Please refer to [Netball NSW Inclusive Uniform Guideline](#).
- 1.3.2 Each team is to have available two sets of position patches, of different colours.
- 1.3.3 Associations may identify a sponsor's logo on the playing uniform up to a maximum length of 16cm and maximum height 16cm. Sponsor logos may only appear once on any one (1) garment. It is not permitted to display a sponsor's or other name on positional patches.

1.4 Appeal on Grading Decision

- 1.4.1 An Association may request a review of their provisional grading that has been actioned as per clause 2.3 of this policy, by submitting a request for an appeal including the grounds for a review to the Hunter Summer Series Competition

Manager within five (5) working days of the announcement of the relevant grading decision.

- 1.4.2 The request for the appeal must state the grounds for review, or why the grading decision should be changed. It must specifically address issues regarding how the team was evaluated under situations that put them at a distinct disadvantage to other teams being evaluated.
- 1.4.3 The Hunter Summer Series Competition Manager shall appoint an Appeals Panel to determine the appeal.
- 1.4.4 All requests for appeals must be submitted in writing by email to the Competitions Manager at hunternetball@gmail.com
- 1.4.5 It should be remembered that in general an appeal will only be considered if clause 2.3 of the Summer Series Competition Rules were not adhered to.
- 1.4.6 An Association/Club/Grouping of Association can only lodge an appeal regarding a decision made which directly affects their team. An appeal cannot be lodged for or on behalf of another team.

1.5 Complaint Handling

- 1.5.1 All complaints lodged with Hunter Netball in relation to the Competition will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures of the Netball NSW Member Protection Policy.
- 1.5.2 All registered Players, Umpires, and Team Officials are required to abide by the Code of Behaviour, as published from time to time within the Netball NSW Member Protection Policy.
- 1.5.3 All participants of the Competition including but not limited to Players, Umpires, and Team Officials, who have breached the Code of Behaviour or Netball NSW Member Protection Policy may be subject to disciplinary action as listed within the Member Protection Policy.

2. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

2.1 Eligibility

- 2.1.1 Except for clause 2.1.2 only Netball NSW affiliated Associations are eligible to enter the Summer Series Competition conducted by Hunter Netball.
- 2.1.2 Any grouping of Netball NSW affiliated Associations can be admitted to enter the Summer Series Competition subject to approval of Hunter Netball Competitions Manager. For the purpose of these Rules, Association means Netball NSW affiliated Associations and any other teams admitted to the various competitions in accordance with clause 2.1.1.

- 2.1.3 Hunter Netball may admit teams to various competitions on an invitation basis as required. Invitational teams will be charged the Competition entry fee to enter the Competition.
- 2.1.4 All players and team officials entered into the Hunter Summer Series competition must show as a financial registered member of Netball NSW or relevant State or Territory in the PlayHQ database prior to the commencement of that competition, or their participation in that competition.
- 2.1.5 The minimum age for any player to play in the Summer Series Competition is turning **15 in the year of play**
- 2.1.6 The age of the players shall be determined by their ages as of December 31 in the year of play
- 2.1.7 A player can only participate in the Summer Series Competition where they meet the respective age requirement as above.
- 2.1.8 The Hunter Summer Series is a sporting activity for female players; and female and male players in M-League Divisions.

2.2 Team nomination and entry

- 2.2.1 The closing date for the Summer Series Competition will be notified, on the relevant entry form and on the Hunter Netball website.
- 2.2.2 The entry fee for the Summer Series Competition will be notified on the Hunter Netball website. All entry fees are non-refundable.
- 2.2.3 All entries for competitions must be lodged as directed by Hunter Netball and must be received by Hunter Netball by the published time and date for close of entries. Late entries will only be accepted as detailed in clause 2.2.4 below
- 2.2.4 Where an entry is not received by Hunter Netball by the published closing time for entries, upon the payment of the prescribed fee, a late entry will be accepted provided that the late entry is received by Hunter Netball by 5.00pm on the next Tuesday after the close of entries for the relevant competition.
- 2.2.5 The late entry fee for the Summer Series Competition shall be \$50 for all Associations.
- 2.2.6 If an Association Team withdraws from the Competition prior to the draw being finalised at the commencement of the Minor Round Matches, the draw will be reconstructed. This may provide an opportunity for an Association to be invited to submit a team to replace the withdrawing team.
- 2.2.7 If an Association Team withdraws from the Competition after the draw has been finalised and released to all participating Associations, the withdrawing Association Team will be replaced with a bye in the draw.

- 2.2.8 Associations are to register teams as directed by Hunter Netball, the entry will include details of a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of twelve (12) players' names and must include their relevant experience by the closing date for the Summer Series Competition.
- 2.2.9 Where a player's name appears on more than one team entry form, the player will be contacted by Hunter Netball personnel prior to grading and the player must then immediately nominate the team that they will be playing with. The Associations concerned will be advised accordingly.
- 2.2.10 Where a player's name is removed from a team entry form by Hunter Netball personnel prior to grading the Associations concerned will be advised accordingly. The Association will be given 48 hours from the time of advice to replace the player without penalty.

2.3 Competition Grading

- 2.3.1 A maximum eight (8) teams will be graded in each division of the Summer Series. Teams who are unable to be graded into a division will be balloted out.
- 2.3.2 Where there are less than eight (8) nominations for entry to a Division, an Expression of Interest (EOI) period may be called to canvass the interest of additional Teams to enter into the Competition.
- 2.3.3 All grading will be based on names submitted on the official entry and considering a player's highest level played in the competitions as below.
- Premier League
 - Metro League
 - Regional League
 - Senior State Titles
 - Summer Series.
- 2.3.4 All decisions relating to grading will be made at the discretion of Hunter Netball.
- 2.3.5 Hunter Netball will, based on the number of entries received be responsible for determining the format of the competition.

2.4 Late Registrations

- 2.4.1 At no time is a team permitted to have more than twelve (12) players registered.
- 2.4.2 There shall be no registration of Players accepted between the close of entries and one (1) week before the commencement of the Competition.
- 2.4.3 Unlimited late registrations will be allowed in the Summer Series. A late registration is defined as follows:
- a) Where a Player has not been registered in the current competition or has been deregistered and is to be re-registered in the same team in the same grade. The full player entry fee is applied.

- b) Where a Player transfers from one Division to a higher Division by virtue of playing two (2) Matches in the same higher graded team that Player is counted as a “late registration” in that higher graded team.
 - c) It is the responsibility of the Association to manage team lists and advise Hunter Netball when a player is transferring to a higher division by virtue of playing two (2) matches. Should the team the player is transferring to already have twelve (12) players registered in this team, a player will need to be de-registered to allow for the transfer.
- 2.4.4 Late registrations are to be submitted to Hunter Netball prior to the commencement of the Match in which they are to play, and:
- a) The Player must be a registered member of Netball NSW or relevant State or Territory.
 - b) A re-registered Player is counted as a late registration.
- 2.4.5 Where Hunter Netball rejects an application to late register a Player, the Association or Player concerned has the right of appeal to Hunter Netball.
- 2.4.6 Players may not play in a division lower than the division in which they were originally graded.
- 2.4.7 After a team has been graded, any late registration should be of an equal playing standard. Hunter Netball may reject a late registration where it considers the inclusion of the player would affect the grade of the team.
- 2.4.8 Late registration requests are to be completed on the designated form as published on the Hunter Netball website and signed by an Association official and submitted to Hunter Netball.

3 COMPETITION RULES

3.1 General Rules

- 3.1.1 The Summer Series Competition shall be conducted under the International Netball Federation Rules of Netball and International Netball Federation Regulations (INF Rules) as published by the INF from time to time, unless where modified in these Competition Rules.
- 3.1.2 The Summer Series Competition shall be conducted on a point score basis and Finals Series as advised by Hunter Netball after all team entries are received.
- 3.1.3 To determine the final individual placing point scores will be used and then if required to separate one or more teams on the same points score goal averages will be used.
- 3.1.4 All teams will play each team in their division once in the Summer Series Competition unless there are only four (4) teams in a division, who will play each other twice.

- 3.1.5 The fixture for all divisions of the Summer Series Competition will be posted on the Hunter Netball website at least one (1) week prior to the commencement of the Competition where possible.
- 3.1.6 Playing time of matches will be as follows:
- a) A match shall be played for a period of sixty (60) minutes divided into four (4) quarters, each of fifteen (15) minutes duration.
 - b) Three (3) minute interval at quarter and three-quarter time.
 - c) Five (5) minute interval at half time.
- 3.1.7 All matches will be centrally timed from Event Control.
- 3.1.8 Hunter Netball may at any time change any competition match procedure or format, where it is deemed necessary to comply with any legislation, government regulation or order, including but not limited to those related to COVID-19
- 3.1.9 Players may play in two (2) matches in any given week subject to the following conditions:
- a) Games must be in alternate time slots if played on the same night.
 - b) One game must be in the team in which the player is registered.
 - c) Female registered players may register in both a female team and an M-League team.
 - d) Additional game must be in a higher graded team from the same association as the player is currently registered in the Competition.
- 3.1.10 A player may only be a member of a team in a maximum of two (2) divisions in one season. Where a player plays two (2) matches in a division higher than that originally graded, on playing the second game in the same higher graded team the player will transfer to that higher graded team for the remainder of the competition and cannot participate in any other game in any higher graded division for the remainder of the competition OR where the player is playing in an all-female team and then a M-League team.
- 3.1.11 If an Association records the name of an unregistered or ineligible player on the score sheet, the Association will be required to prove within seven (7) days that the person who played under that name is registered with that team.
- 3.1.12 This proof shall be in the form of a Statutory Declaration to Hunter Netball. Failure to submit such proof within seven (7) days of notification shall result in the following penalty:
- a) The team playing the ineligible player will be considered to have lost the Competition match in which the ineligible player has taken part in.
 - b) The points for winning the Competition match will be awarded to the opposing team (provided the opposing team itself has not played an ineligible player).
 - c) The Team playing the ineligible player will lose two (2) competition points.

- 3.1.13 A team may claim a forfeit five (5) minute after the time set down for the commencement of the match, if the opposing team does not have five (5) players on court and ready to play.
- 3.1.14 Where a team abandons a match after the commencement of the scheduled match, the team will have deemed to have forfeited the match. Any score recorded at the point that the match was abandoned will be void.
- 3.1.15 The Competitions Manager will not impose a forfeit fine under clause 3.1.11 where satisfied, in their absolute discretion, that the forfeit was related to the COVID-19 pandemic (for example, where team member/s tested positive for COVID-19 resulting in the team having an insufficient number of players to take the court).
- 3.1.16 Injury time will be applied in accordance with INF rules.
- 3.1.17 At no time is a team permitted to have more than twelve (12) players registered.

3.2 Match Points

3.2.1 The official score sheet is the only true record of the match.

3.2.2 Points Table
Summer Series Competition Points Table

Win	Loss	Draw	Forfeit	Bye	Abandoned
2	0	1	2	0	1*

* If game abandoned prior to half time - 1 point each team

* If game abandoned at or after half time - result as per score sheet

- 3.2.3 Goal Average
- If two or more teams finish on equal points after the final round of matches, positions shall be decided on goal averages.
 - The goal average for each team shall be decided as follows:

Total number of goals scored by the team, divided by the total number of goals scored against the team, multiplied by 100 and divided by the actual number of matches played by the team.

$$\text{i.e. } \frac{\text{goals scored}}{\text{goals scored against}} \times \frac{100}{\text{matches played}}$$

The number of matches actually played includes a match a team has forfeited but does not include a match where the team has received a forfeit.

3.3 Cancellation

3.3.1 When matches are cancelled due to an event which Hunter Netball determines was beyond its control or beyond the control of either Team (including, but not limited to, a strike, power loss, wet weather or extreme weather conditions), the following will occur:

- 7 or 8 Teams in a Division (7 Rounds + 1 week Finals Series)
Cancellation in Rds 1-6: split round the following week (2 x half games at next venue);
Cancellation in Rd 7: round played in week 8; no Finals, winner is 1st on ladder;
Cancellation in Finals Series: 1st on ladder.
- 5 or 6 teams in a Division (5 Rounds + 3 week Finals Series)
Cancellation in Rds 1-4: split round the following week (2 x half games at next venue);
Cancellation in Rd 5: round played in week 6; Finals Series reduced to 2 weeks;
Cancellation in Finals Series: reduced Finals Series to 2 weeks, 1 week or 1st on ladder (as necessary).
- 4 Teams in a Division (6 Rounds + 2 week Finals Series)
Cancellation in Rds 1-5: split round the following week (2 x half games at next venue);
Cancellation in Rd 6: round played in week 7; reduced Finals Series to 1 week;
Cancellation in Finals Series: reduced Finals Series to 1 week or 1st on ladder (as necessary).

No points will be awarded for teams having a scheduled Bye.

3.3.2 Where a team has already submitted a forfeit prior to the cancellation of matches, the forfeit will remain.

3.3.3 Games abandoned (not cancelled) by Hunter Netball are considered as games played by all players registered prior to that date.

3.4 Scoresheets

3.4.1 Score sheet will be supplied by Hunter Netball.

3.4.2 Score sheets will be returned the Competitions Supervisor at Event Control at the end of the match.

3.4.3 No disputes will be entered into regarding score sheets.
In circumstances where team officials of both teams involved testify that the score sheet submitted to Hunter Netball is incorrect and further, they agree on the correct score Hunter Netball has the discretion to vary the official scores.

3.5 Awards

Awards will be presented to the Winner of each Division.

4 OFFICIALS

4.1 Team Officials

4.1.1 Coaches Must:

- a) Head Coaches must hold (or be working towards) a 'Development' Coaching Accreditation.
- b) Assistant Coaches must hold a current 'Foundation' Coaching Accreditation by way of completion of the on-line module.
- c) Hold a current Working with Children Check which Associations are responsible for verifying.
- d) Be a current registered financial member of Netball NSW prior to the competition.

4.1.2 Managers and Primary Carers must:

- a) Hold a current Working with Children Check, which Associations are responsible for verifying
- b) Be a current registered financial member of Netball NSW prior to the competition commencing.

4.1.3 A maximum of five (5) Team Officials may sit on the Team bench for any Competition Match and those so entitled in priority to any other Team Official are the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager and Primary Carer.

Hunter Netball may appoint an observer or assessor who is assessing or observing a coach for training or selection purposes, and they may sit on the bench in addition to the five (5) Team Officials.

4.2 Scorer

4.2.1 Each Team is to provide one (1) scorer for each match. Scorers will sit/stand together. The home team scorer should mark the score sheet.

4.3 Umpires

4.3.1 Each association must provide one (1) umpire per team.

4.3.2 The minimum qualification to umpire in the Summer Series Competition is a current National 'C' badge.

4.3.3 Nominated umpires must be a current registered financial member of Netball NSW prior to the event.

4.3.4 All umpires must be dressed in a white shirt.