



Gooden Reserve Netball Association (GRNA)

Match Policies & Processes

Developed in accordance with the World Netball Rules of Netball 2024 edition.

Gooden Reserve Netball Association

March 3, 2024



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Technical Specifications

Court & Related Areas

In line with the World Netball Rules of Netball (2024), matches held at Gooden Reserve Netball Courts are held on regulation courts, 30.5 m x 15.25m.

For the divisions Rookies, Juniors, Intermediates (Inters), Cadets, Youth League and Opens, the Goal post/hoop height is regulation 3.05m.

For the divisions Fun Net and Sub-Juniors (Subbies), the goal post/hoop height is 2.4m, with matches held on courts 1, 2 and 3.

Ball

For the divisions Rookies, Juniors, Intermediates (Inters), Cadets, Youth League and Opens – Size 5 match quality ball

For the divisions Fun Net and Sub-Juniors (Subbies) – Size 4 match quality ball

Officials' (Coach and Manager) and Spectator Zones

Given the lack of space at Gooden Reserve Netball Courts, GRNA imposes strict rules concerning the placement of Coaches, Managers, and spectators.

The team Coach must choose one (1) location to stand each quarter, where their presence does not impede the umpires access and movement along the court sidelines. Coaches are not permitted to walk up and down the courts.

On Courts 1 & 3, where there is limited space on the outside edge of the court, team officials and spectators are required to stand behind the asphalt surface. This is a safety requirement for umpires, ensuring safe passage the full length of the court. GRNA requests the Coach to stand on the opposite side, preferably at either goal end.

All bags, drink bottles and other personal belongings must not be placed on the outside edge of courts 1 and 3.

For all other courts, team players, officials and spectators must remain a minimum of 1.5m from the edge of the court.

Match Duration

GRNA matches consist of four (4) quarters of twelve (12) minutes, with two quarter time breaks of two (2) minutes and a half time break of four (4) minutes.



Matches are played at 12:20pm, 1:40pm and 3:00pm.

GRNA matches do not include extra time or injury time. This also applies to Grand Final matches.

Time Keeping

Time Keeping is managed by the GRNA or club committee representatives OR will be included in Parent Helper Duties.

Scorers

A scorer from each team is to be appointed prior to match commencing. The two scorers must sit together for the entirety of the match.

Discrepancy in the scores must be discussed with the umpires and each team's coach.

Player Sign On

For insurance purposes, all players must sign on (on the score sheet) prior to the match commencing. All players must be registered with their club and GRNA, with full payment complete before taking the court.

Substitution Policy

GRNA enforces the below policy concerning Substitution:

- (i) Teams cannot take the court unless they have at least five (5) of their registered players available on the match day.
- (ii) A player can only substitute twice in a season for the same team but, can substitute for a range of teams notwithstanding.
- (iii) Substitute players cannot be used if there are fit and able team players on the bench.
- (iv) Substitute players can be acquired from the division the team is in or the division below only.

As per World Netball Rules of Netball (2024) Rule 3.8:

- (i) Late players who arrive after the start of the match must sign on and must be checked by an umpire before taking the court.
- (ii) If a position on the court has been left vacant by the late player, he/she she may take the court immediately after a goal has been scored or during an interval such as a stoppage for injury/illness/blood.
- (iii) If the late player is replacing a substitute, they cannot take the court until the next quarter time or half time interval.



Grand Final Matches Substitution Policy

From 2024 onwards, no substitution will be permitted in Grand Final matches, unless:

- (i) The substitution is due to a serious injury that occurred during the season and has resulted in the team having less than the required seven (7) players.
- (ii) If the team has seven (7) to eight (8) registered players only (for the season), they may be granted permission to have a reserve player registered for the match, in case of injury. This needs to be discussed with and approved by the GRNA committee the week before the grand final match.

Penalty for breaching substitution policy

Should a team be found to be in breach of the substitution policy, after appropriate investigation as per the GRNA Disciplinary Action v0.2 Policy, a loss of match points may result.

Modified Substitution Policy

Background Information

In 2023, player registration numbers in some divisions were 25% lower compared with previous seasons. The result of this was that some teams had only seven (7) registered players for the season. As the nature of the GRNA competition is social and technically non-competitive, it is not within the ethos of the association to penalise teams in this position. Therefore, a modified substitution policy was developed and implemented to affected teams.

Upon discussion with the teams Club Committee and GRNA committee, the following modified policy can be applied:

- i. The two match per player for the same team substitution rule is suspended for specific understrength teams and players to permit under strength sides to take the court. Requests for exemptions need to be made by teams by 12pm on a match day.
 - a. Borrowing specific players regularly cannot be done where it compromises umpiring allocation duties and,
 - b. Does not interfere with a borrowed player, playing for their own team, unless they are released for that match by their coach or manager because their team exceeds eight (8).
- ii. Where a specific team is going to be under the five (5) minimum player rule, then they be permitted to borrow from other teams to reach seven (7) players. They cannot exceed seven (7) by this mechanism. Requests for exemptions need to be made by teams by 12pm on a match day.



- a. Where players are borrowed from stronger teams that are higher on the rankings, then with agreement of both teams the result will be declared a draw or,
 - b. Where borrowed players come from weaker and lower ranked teams, with the agreement of both teams, the result can be declared on its merits as a win / loss match and points so awarded.
- iii. Since teams would be permitted to borrow players to make up seven (7), the rule banning substitute players being on the court while a normal player is benched, is suspended. The rationale being that the team would then be playing with six (6) for that period of time and then be at a number disadvantage against a full-strength opponent. This shall be monitored by the umpire(s).

It is expected that these changes are taken and played in the spirit of the competition which is social and technically non-competitive. Teams seeking unfair advantage by using this exemption will be heavily penalised for each transgression.

Opens Umpiring Policy

GRNA frequently faces umpire shortages for the Opens Division. This is due to a lack of suitably qualified umpires and increased competition with the local Netball NSW Association for qualified umpires. Having fewer senior umpires' available means that sometimes, there are not enough umpires to cover Opens matches or, umpires are unwell or unavailable to umpire.

Due to the nature of Opens matches, it is not possible to assign young umpires to these matches. Priority allocation of umpires is given to the Divisions that require the most support and instruction including, Rookies, Juniors, Inters and Cadets.

GRNA is a social competition and needs to be played in that context. Players in the Opens division (18 years and above) must set an example of fair play and co-operation to the minor age division players within the competition. Considering this, the following policy applies to Opens matches from 2023 onwards:

- (i) There will always be one (1) qualified senior umpire assigned to the Opens matches.
- (ii) If there is no second umpire for a match or last minute "NO SHOW" of rostered umpire(s), teams will be notified by GRNA at the start of the match. Teams need to be prepared to provide an umpire.
- (iii) Opens teams often have players who are qualified umpires. Teams may need to have a player who is a qualified umpire, step off the court and be the umpire for the match. Where opposing teams BOTH have qualified umpires as players, BOTH teams will be



asked to have one player each to step off the court to be the umpire for the match to provide neutral umpiring.

- (iv) It could be that several players in a team decide to share the umpiring by umpiring a quarter or two each during the match. Before the match starts it needs to be decided on and communicated to both teams, who will be umpiring which quarter, preferably with equal allocations where this is feasible.
- (v) Teams should carry a hand whistle in their kit bag for use by the player who will umpire OR GRNA can supply each team with a hand whistle.
- (vi) If one team has only the minimum 7 players (no subs), and needs to allocate a team member to umpire, then one player from BOTH teams will umpire the match with BOTH teams to then play with only six players each i.e., a 6 a-side match.
- (vii) If teams cannot agree to these provisos, then the match may need to be declared a FORFEIT by both teams and no points will be allocated OR a “Friendly” match played, and it will be treated as a draw and 1 point allocated to each team.

Gala Day

Gala Day is a fun and relaxed netball carnival held on the final weekend of the Winter netball season.

On Gala Day, GRNA Uniform Policy does not apply. See below, taken from GRNA General Policies & Processes.

Given the nature of annual Gala Day celebrations, GRNA allows some changes to the uniform policy.

- (i) *Some headwear is allowed.*
- (ii) *Some costume accessories or fancy dress is allowed.*

Approved changes will be communicated in preparation for the Gala Day Round Robins each year.

Depending on the number of teams registered to participate in Gala Day, matches are 8-to-10-minute round robin games, with each division playing in the one time slot. It is likely that some divisions will play at the same time.

The GRNA Draw Convener will issue a draft draw to all Coaches and Managers at least one month before Gala Day to obtain feedback and make any changes necessary. The aim of this is to ensure that Coaches who are players or Umpires have the opportunity to play, umpire and coach over the course of the day.

Teams in First, Second and Third place on Gala Day, will receive a ribbon.

End of Season Division Finals

From 2024 onwards, Division finals will be held on the weekend prior to Gala Day. This decision was made to allow all teams appropriate rest and to reduce the business of Gala Day.



Division finalists will be confirmed and communicated via Stack Team App on the final weekend of competition, however, the times and court location of the finals will be communicated two weeks prior, to ensure teams can organise themselves.