



Gooden Reserve Netball Association (GRNA)

Disciplinary Action Policy

Developed in accordance with the Gooden Reserve Netball Association
Code of Conduct and the World Netball Rules of Netball 2024 edition

Gooden Reserve Netball Association

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1. Introduction and Purpose

Gooden Reserve Netball Association (GRNA) provides a netball competition in Baulkham Hills, NSW.

There are currently two local clubs operating under the association, being St Matthews Uniting Netball Club and Northmead Uniting Netball Club.

GRNA conducts matches in a social context, where players and teams are not graded. The intention of the GRNA competition is fitness and fun in a safe and friendly environment. GRNA strives to be inclusive of all people and abilities.

It is also important to note that both St Matthews Uniting Netball Club and Northmead Uniting Netball Club are representing the Uniting Church of Australia and have a responsibility to uphold their values of inclusion, kindness, respect and the like.

All players, officials, volunteers and spectators must abide by the GRNA Code of Conduct, which is designed to keep all players, officials, volunteers, and spectators accountable for their behaviour. It clearly discourages a competitive environment and encourages good sporting behaviour.

The purpose of this document is to communicate the disciplinary action policy that applies to breaches of the GRNA Code of Conduct, and also, to reinforce the rules of the game as outlined in the World Netball Rules of Netball 2024 edition.



2. Gooden Reserve Netball Association Code of Conduct

PURPOSE

To ensure that all players, members, spectators, officials and volunteers have a very clear understanding of the behaviour that is expected from everyone and to make it clearly understood that breaches of these codes will result in disciplinary action.

COACHES are required to:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- Support, encourage and involve all players regardless of their talent level
- Never ridicule or yell at players for errors or poor performance
- Always consider the wellbeing and safety of participants before performance and results
- Encourage participants to value their performances and not just results
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour both on and off the field
- Maintain respectful and appropriate relationships with all participants
- Ensure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of participants
- Promote the positive aspects of the sport (eg fair play)
- Always respect the official's decision and support them to carry out their role
- Display consistently high standards of good sporting behaviour and appearance
- Follow all guidelines laid down by the national governing body and the Association
- Never condone rule violations, unfair or unduly rough play or the use of prohibited substances
- Never use offensive language or behaviour
- To always act as a role model.



PLAYERS are required to:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- Play by the rules and respect the umpire's decisions
- Display good sporting behaviour at all times
- Never use offensive language or behaviour towards anyone or engage in sledging or bullying of any person
- Co-operate with your coach and work together with your team
- Never behave in a manner that would damage the reputation of the Association either on or off the field

VOLUNTEERS and SPECTATORS are required to:

- Act as good role models and ambassadors for the Association at all times
- Never use offensive language or behaviour
- Treat everyone with respect regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- Display consistently high standards of good sporting behaviour including respecting the official's decisions
- Adhere to and support the Association policies
- Be trustworthy

**The GRNA Code of Conduct form is signed by both players and their parent/guardian for people under 18 years of age. This document is kept on record with the individual clubs.*



3. Disciplinary Action Policy

Player Misconduct: Foul Play, Unfair Play, Dangerous Play and Unsporting Behaviour

3.1. Player Misconduct

3.1.1. Player misconduct is defined as any act that goes against the items outlined in the

“Players” section of the GRNA Code of Conduct . Such behaviours can include “trash talk”, deliberate rough play, deliberate rule violations, arguing or commenting on the Umpire (s) judgements or abilities, offensive language, disrespect toward players, officials, and spectators.

3.1.2. Breaches are defined as any act that goes against section **Rule 19 Foul Play** of the World Netball Rules of Netball (2024). See below:

Foul Play is anything a player does within the field of play that is contrary to the letter and spirit of the Rules of the Game or does not meet accepted standards of good sportsmanship. It includes unfair play, dangerous play, and misconduct.

Rule 19 : Unfair Play

1. A player must not play unfairly even if player safety is not endangered. This includes any instance of delaying play, intentional infringing, repeated infringing, disputed ruling or intimidation. Game management action: Penalty pass which is advanced. *Terminology: Specific description of unfair play (delaying play, intentional infringing, repeated infringing, disputed ruling or intimidation)*
2. Delaying play: A player or team must not intentionally waste time or delay play.
3. Intentional infringing: A player must not intentionally infringe any rule
4. Repeated infringing: A player must not persist in repeatedly infringing a rule or a combination of rules. A team must not repeatedly infringe the same rule or a combination of rules.



5. Disputed ruling: A player must not dispute a ruling given by an umpire. If an umpire's call is not clearly heard a player may ask the umpire to repeat the infringement penalised or seek clarification of where a sanction or action is to be taken
6. Intimidation: A player, either with or without the ball, must not intimidate an opponent by using behaviour designed to distract (including verbal comments) to obtain an unfair advantage. Examples of intimidation include (but are not limited to):
 - a. Covering an opponent's eyes.
 - b. Swiping the ball directly at an opponent's face.
 - c. Making unnecessary loud or sudden noises.
 - d. Stomping the ground.
 - e. A player waving their arms erratically.
 - f. Sledging an opponent.

Rule 19: Unsporting Behaviour

7. A player must not act in any way that may add hostility to a match or is contrary to accepted standards of good sporting conduct and to the integrity or image of the game.

Game management action: Penalty pass where the infringement occurred and the player is either given a warning or suspended. In a serious case the umpire will order the player off. Terminology: Specific description of unsporting behaviour (retaliation, abusive behaviour, actions contrary to good sporting behaviour).
8. Retaliation: A player must not retaliate even if an opponent infringes the Rules of the Game.
9. Abusive behaviour: A player must not use any offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures towards anyone in the playing enclosure.
10. Actions contrary to good sporting behaviour: A player must not act in a manner contrary to accepted standards of good sporting behaviour or to the integrity and image of the game.



11. GRNA maintains the following Misconduct rule from the International Netball

Federation Rules of Netball 2020 edition:

- a. Dissent with an umpire – A player may not dispute ruling given by an umpire or direct any offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures at an umpire. If an umpire's call is not clearly heard, a player may ask the umpire to repeat the infringement penalized or seek clarification of where a sanction is to be taken.

Rule 19: Dangerous Play

12. A player must not take any action, either unnecessarily forceful, careless, reckless, or dangerous that could affect the safety of another player. This specifically includes (but is not limited to) any action that results in either head and/or neck contact or contact of the head and/or neck with any part of the playing enclosure including the goalpost.

Game management action: Penalty pass where the infringement occurred and the player is either suspended or in a serious case ordered off. A player must always be ordered off for intentional or highly reckless acts of dangerous play. Terminology: Dangerous play

13. When umpires are considering whether a suspension or ordering off is more appropriate, they should consider the following factors (which are not exhaustive):

- a. Was the action intentional, reckless or avoidable?
- b. Did the action have a low or high impact on player safety?
- c. Was the action at low or high speed, on the ground or in the air?
- d. Was the action low or high force? e. Did the action occur while stationary or moving?

3.2. GRNA Umpire Process

- 3.2.1. The Umpire (s) will first address the issue with the player on court, requesting improvement to the action or behaviour. Following this, the umpires will discuss the players' behaviour with the team officials during the quarter or half time breaks.



3.2.2. If the behaviour continues, Umpires may evoke any of the following sanctions:

- 3.2.2.1. *Advanced penalty pass to the non-infringing team – up to half a third. The infringer stands out of play. The umpire/s may provide “Proactive Advice” to players on court. (e.g., WD, please adjust your distance.)*
- 3.2.2.2. *The player in breach will be issued a warning (as per World Netball Rules of Netball 2024 edition Rule 18.21)*
- 3.2.2.3. *Suspension (2 minutes) - The player in breach will be removed from the game and not return. No substitute will be permitted (as per World Netball Rules of Netball 2024 Rule 18.27 to 35)*
- 3.2.2.4. *Ordering Off: The umpire will order a player off the court following a suspension if the player continues to infringe any of the foul play rules. Where appropriate the umpire may order a player off the court even if no suspension has been given. This must be the case for intentional or highly reckless acts of dangerous play that endangers player safety.*

4. Team, Team Officials Volunteer and Spectators Misconduct

- 4.1. Breaches are defined as any act that goes against the items outlined in the Coaches, Players, Volunteers and Spectators section of the GRNA Code of Conduct (See Appendix A). Such behaviours can include overly competitive behaviour, condoning or encouraging rule violations, arguing, or commenting on Umpire (s) judgements or abilities, offensive language, disrespect toward any player, official or spectator, among others.
- 4.2. During a match, team officials and bench players must remain behind the court sideline, at a minimum distance of 1.5 meters to allow safe thoroughfare for umpires. The team coach is the only official permitted to be within the 1.5 meters, however, they cannot walk up and down the sideline. Each quarter they must choose a designated spot when not sitting on the bench. There is no restriction to which part of the court the Coach can position



themselves (i.e., behind the post, at Centre third, in the goal third etc.). *Note: this rule does not apply to courts 1 and 3 where there is no safe standing area for spectators*

4.2.1. During a match, team officials and bench players may not (World Netball Rules of Netball 2024 edition):

- (a) Criticise the umpires or their decisions.
- (b) Use offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.
- (c) Use excessive noise or interruption.
- (d) Encourage foul play by on court players.

4.3. GRNA Umpire Process

Umpire Process as per **World Netball Rules of Netball Rule 18.43 to 47) Discipline of Team Officials and Bench**

4.3.1. Either umpire may hold time and notify the person/s concerned regarding such behaviour. The following progression of actions will normally be used:

- a) The umpire may issue a free pass to the non-infringing team, taken where the ball was when play was stopped. If the ball was out of court, the free pass is taken on court in line with where the ball was out of court. .*
- b) Warning.*

4.3.2. In the event team officials or bench players do not respond to the umpire's actions, the umpire requests the event organizer (GRNA or a Club Committee representative) to remove them from the game/grounds for the remainder of the match.

4.4. Where the breach involves psychological or physical harm to any player, official, umpire or spectator, the game will be suspended, and the following will apply:

4.4.1. The person/s concerned will be removed from the grounds by a GRNA or Club Committee representative. If the person refuses, the Police will be contacted.

4.4.2. The non-offending team will be awarded the win (2 points)



4.4.3. The person/s concerned will be counselled by GRNA on appropriate behaviours going forward. Further incidents will result in the person/s being refused attendance at all future games and training sessions.

5. Persistent Breaches of the GRNA Code of Conduct

5.1. Persistent breaches are defined as no more than two (2) incidents previously addressed by either GRNA or Club Committee representatives.

5.2. The incident/players/team officials/club or association officials or spectators will undergo appropriate investigation (including written statements from the party concerned, witnesses, court officials etc)

5.3. Where teams are proven to have breached the Code of Conduct, after due process and review of the matter, the following may apply:

5.3.1. Table points will be deducted from that team. It is at the discretion of GRNA how many points are to be deducted depending on the severity of the breach. The minimum penalty is 2 points, maximum penalty 4 points.

6. Appeals

Teams or persons have the right to appeal GRNA Disciplinary decisions. Appeals must be in writing and be supported by appropriate evidence.

Acceptable methods of communication include:

Email: grnetball@gmail.com or, to your respective Club.

TeamApp: via the Chat function with GRNA Committee (YYYY) as the recipient.

Mail: you can give any GRNA or Club Committee representative a handwritten letter.