

Ovens & Murray Football Netball League Netball By Laws



As amended by the OMFNL Netball Sub-Committee at the
Annual Meeting on 27th February 2017

OVENS & MURRAY FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE **("OMFNL") NETBALL BY LAWS**

Background

- 1.1 The OMFNL shall have control and management of all matches played by member clubs under the official rules of the Australian Netball Association and shall have the power to settle all disputes in connection with these matches.
- 1.2 The OMFNL shall encourage and promote the game of netball.
- 1.3 The OMFNL shall affiliate annually with the Netball Victoria .

Fees

- 2.1 Fees shall be determined annually at the Annual Meeting.
- 2.2 Club Affiliation shall be paid by the first round of the Home and Away matches

Admission of Clubs

- 3.1 All clubs shall nominate at the Annual Meeting teams in the following order : 1st - A Grade, 2nd - B Grade, 3rd - C Grade., 4th – 16 & Under.
- 3.2 Each club must field teams in the nominated order of grades for all home and away matches for the current season.
- 3.3 Each club must register its colour and uniform with the OMFNL. Only regulation netball uniform, black or matching pants and regulation footwear shall be acceptable.
- 3.4 Clubs shall not be permitted to change uniform without obtaining permission from the Executive Committee.

Player Registration and Clearances

- 4.1 The OMFNL Registrar shall keep record of all registered players.
- 4.2 Each club must submit player registration on the Official Registration Forms prior to the first round of matches. All players participating in OMFNL matches must be registered Netball Victoria and the OMFNL.
- 4.3 After the commencement of the season new players may be registered up until the 5.00 p.m. on the Friday before the commencement of the fourth last round of matches, by submitting a registration form.
- 4.4 If a player should wish to transfer to another club, that player shall submit to the Executive Committee:
 - 4.4.1 A written request for transfer to another club;
 - 4.4.2 A written request for the player from the gaining club;
 - 4.4.3 An 'Agreement of Release' from the previous club.
- 4.5 The Executive Committee shall have the power to grant or refuse clearances according to the best interests of the OMFNL. Other considerations will include outstanding fee, possession of uniform, equipment or club property.

- 4.6 A player will be granted no more than one clearance during a season. No clearances will be granted after the start of the second half of the season.
- 4.7 Should an unregistered player participate in any Home & Away matches, the team for which she played shall lose four (4) premiership points. All players will be credited with having played the game except the unregistered player.

Player Eligibility

- 5.1 A player must play at least three (3) **ROUNDS** with a club to be eligible to play with that club in a finals match.
- 5.2 A player who has played more than eight (8) Home & Away games in a higher grade shall not be permitted to play in a lower grade.
- 5.3 A player shall not play more than six (6) quarters in the Ovens & Murray Netball OMFNL competition in any one round. If a player is required to play more than four (4) quarters in one (1) round, that player must play at least three (3) quarters in a lower grade (in that round) before being eligible to play in a higher grade (in that round). A detected breach of this rule will incur a fine of \$200.00 and a loss of four (4) premiership points.
- 5.4 A player shall not be credited as having played a game unless they take the court.

Conduct of Matches

- 6.1 In each grade, complete rounds of matches shall be played in accordance with the Ovens & Murray Football fixture.
- 6.2 Four (4) points shall be allocated to a winning team. Four (4) points shall be allotted to a team receiving a forfeit plus a ten (10) to nil (0) percentage. Two (2) points shall be allotted for a draw. Two (2) points may be allocated for a match cancelled as a result of unusual or extreme circumstances. This decision shall be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- 6.3 The OMFNL Registrar shall keep a weekly tally of all results for all grades.
- 6.4 With the exception of the Grand Final, the starting times and duration of matches shall be:
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|-------|------------|---------|------------------|
| 6.4.1 | 16 & Under | 9:30am | (4x 15 minutes) |
| 6.4.2 | C Grade | 11:00am | (4 x 15 minutes) |
| 6.4.3 | B Grade | 12.30pm | (4 x 15 minutes) |
| 6.4.4 | A Grade | 2.00pm | (4 x 15 minutes) |
- The Grand Final starting times and duration shall be:
- 6.4.5 TBC
- The Executive may approve alternate times for matches on game days if both clubs are in agreement.
- Three (3) minute breaks shall be allowed at the first and third intervals and a five (5) minute break will be allowed at the second interval.
- 6.5 In the event of a team being more than 15 minutes late, the opposing captain with a full team may claim the match. A score sheet must be completed and forwarded to the OMFNL Registrar. ***No player from either team will be credited with having played the game.***

- 6.6 Any club being unable to field teams on any day shall notify the opposing club by 9.00am on the day of the match. The team receiving the forfeit must complete the score sheet and forward it to the OMFNL Registrar.
- 6.7 For each match both clubs must provide one (1) scorer. The home team shall provide a timekeeper with two (2) accurate time clocks, one (1) Injury Report Sheet and one (1) supplementary score sheet. During the match scorers shall sit together and cross check scores in order to avoid differing score sheets. If there are differences in the final scores the home score sheet shall be regarded as the official result.
- 6.8 The home club shall be the first named on the score sheet.
- 6.9 Umpires will be supplied by the OMFNL subject to availability. Clubs are required to supply an Umpire for 16 & Under matches unless notified by the Umpires Coordinator.
- 6.10 The score sheet shall:
- 6.10.1 Be signed by both captains;
 - 6.10.2 Be signed by both umpires;
 - 6.10.3 Be dated.
- 6.11 All score sheets must be mailed to reach the OMFNL Registrar by the Wednesday following the match.
- 6.12 The home team shall have the responsibility for lodging score sheets and vote cards by the correct time. Late lodgment of a score sheet shall incur the loss of two (2) premiership points from the team responsible. A lost score sheet shall cause the responsible team to lose four (4) premiership points. The OMFNL Registrar shall notify the pertinent club within one (1) week should an infringement relating to the lodgment of score sheets occur.
- 6.13 Players may only participate in matches if they are wearing the correct uniform.
- 6.14 In the event of two (2) or more forfeits in one grade, the Executive has the right to re-grade teams from within that club.
- 6.15 The playing rules shall be those of the All Australian Netball OMFNL unless otherwise stated in these By-Laws.

Umpires

- 7.1 Only registered umpires shall be allowed to umpire matches. New umpire registration is as for new players' registration. Umpires are required to be registered members of Netball Victoria.
- 7.2 Umpires registration fees shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting.
- 7.3 The Executive Committee may elect to form an Umpires' Panel if it deems it necessary to administer umpiring within the OMFNL.
- 7.4 The Executive Committee may allocate independent umpires to any match it deems necessary. If the Executive Committee appoints only one umpire, the home team shall supply the second umpire. The respective clubs shall share the cost of the combined umpire/s equally.
- 7.5 No umpire shall umpire more than two (2) games on any given day.

Umpires and Disciplinary Action

- 8.1 There shall be two (2) umpires who shall have control of the game and give decisions. They shall umpire according to the rules and decide on any matter not covered by the rules. The decisions of the umpire shall be final and shall be given without appeal – Rule 3.1.1.
- 8.2 Any member reported to the Netball Sub-Committee for:
- 8.3.1 Disputing an umpire's decision on the court;
 - 8.3.2 Refusing or neglecting to abide by the OMFNL Rules and By Laws;
 - 8.3.3 Conduct unbecoming, which is prejudicial to the interests of the OMFNL's netball competition.
- Shall be liable to be suspended from membership or disqualified from taking part in any matches under the OMFNL's control for such time as may be decided by the OMFNL's Netball Sub-Committee.
- 8.3 Offending members shall:
- 8.3.1 Be notified in writing that they have been reported for alleged misconduct on or off the netball court;
 - 8.3.2 Be notified of the time and date of the Netball Sub-Committee Meeting at which the report will be considered and any subsequent disciplinary action that may result;
 - 8.3.3 Be directed to attend the meeting and speak in answer to the report or, if the Netball Sub-Committee should, clarify any points.
- 8.4 The reporting umpire/s shall:
- 8.4.1 Be notified in writing of the time and date of the Netball Sub-Committee Meeting;
 - 8.4.2 Be directed to attend that meeting to speak of the report, or should the Netball Sub-Committee require, clarify any points.
- Any reports and / or protests must be in writing and given to the OMFNL Secretary within 48 hours of the game. The right to appeal to Netball Victoria against any decision is provided.

Disputes

- 9.1 Administrative disputes shall be lodged in writing in the first instance to the Netball Sub-Committee within 48 hours of the matter arising.
- 9.2 If the Netball Sub-Committee is unable to resolve the matter it may elect to appoint a tribunal of three (3) independent persons for the purpose of resolution.
- 9.2.1 Tribunal members shall be notified within 24 hours of the OMFNL General Manager receiving the dispute notice;
 - 9.2.2 The tribunal meeting shall be held no later than four (4) days after the dispute notice;
 - 9.2.3 Witnesses may be called to give supporting evidence;

- 9.2.4 All parties involved in the dispute shall be notified by the OMFNL General Manager;
- 9.2.5 Disputing parties shall be heard separately;
- 9.2.6 Minutes of the tribunal meeting shall be kept by the OMFNL General Manager;
- 9.2.7 Disputing parties shall be notified of the tribunal decision as soon as possible verbally and in writing.
- 9.3 The Committee will impose the prescribed penalty or any other penalty to any member that fail to adhere to this By Law.
- 9.4 Any member of a team or club who does not agree with a penalty or action of the Committee made under this By Law, may advise the Committee within 48 hours of the penalty or decision being made.
- 9.5 The Committee may then;
 - 9.5.1 Discuss the issue with the relevant team or Club and make a decision regarding the matter. The Committee shall inform the party/ies involved of their decision either verbally or in writing ; or
 - 9.5.2 Have an informal meeting with the relevant party/ies in order to discuss and resolve the dispute.

The Committee's decision is Final.

Finals

- 10.1 At the conclusion of the home and away matches the top five (5) teams in each grade shall participate in their respective grade finals. In the event of teams being level on points their position shall be determined by percentage.
- 10.2 Final matches will be played at the same venue as the Ovens and Murray Football finals as approved by Netball Victoria.
- 10.3 The Netball Sub-Committee shall appoint Badged Umpires for all finals. The Netball Sub-Committee shall nominate / roster official scorers, timekeepers and duty teams for the finals.
- 10.4 In the event of a draw, the rules of Netball Victoria will apply.
- 10.5 Player Eligibility:
 - 10.5.1 For a player to be eligible to play in an A Grade Final, that player must be registered and have played at least six (6) rounds with that club;
 - 10.5.2 For a player to be eligible to play in B Grade Final, that player must be registered and have played at least six (6) rounds with that club and not more than eight (8) games in A Grade.
 - 10.5.3 For a player to be eligible to play in C Grade Final, that player must be registered and have played at least six (6) rounds with that club and not more than eight (8) games in a higher grade.
 - 10.5.4 For a player to be eligible to play in 16 & Under Final, that player must be registered and have played at least six (6) rounds with that club and not more than eight (8) games in a higher grade.

Best and Fairest

11.1 The Ovens and Murray Netball OMFNL shall conduct a Best and Fairest competition in all grades. The winner shall be a player who receives the most umpires' votes during the home and away matches. There will not be a countback.

11.2 For each match the umpires shall confer and complete a vote card. Three (3) votes shall be awarded to the best player on the court, two (2) votes shall be awarded to the 2nd best player and one (1) vote shall be awarded to the 3rd best player on the court. The home team will issue the umpires with a vote card for each match. The umpires shall seal it in the envelope provided. The card color-coded for each grade. There shall be provisions on each card for full player name and club.

The home team shall have responsibility of forwarding the vote cards to the OMFNL Registrar. Counting of votes shall take place after the last home and away game.

Representative Sides

12.1 The Netball Sub-Committee shall decide each year whether or not to select a representative side/s to play in any other pertinent matches.

12.2 The Netball Sub-Committee shall contact or appoint a Sub Committee to control:

12.2.1 Squad Selection

12.2.2 Player Selection

12.2.3 Coaching Appointments

12.2.4 Management Appointments

12.2.5 Representative team finances

12.2.6 Representative team uniforms

12.2.7 Representative team training

12.2.8 Representative team discipline

12.2.9 Any other officials as required

12.3 Where a team or team's selection for a home and away competition match is affected by a player or players of official's requirement for Ovens & Murray Representative duty, the Netball Sub-Committee shall have the powers to redirect the date of play of the Ovens & Murray match. The Executive will negotiate with the clubs involved to reach an agreement.

12.4 Team Selection Panels:

12.4.1 A minimum of three (3) Selectors must be appointed for each team and shall be made up of the Team Coach and two (2) other selectors;

12.4.2 Selectors may be appointed to more than one panel

The Selectors decision shall be final.

If in any year a representative side is not selected any member club of the OMFNL may apply to the Executive to represent the OMFNL. If the Netball Sub-Committee deems that this club does not meet a required standard then permission shall not be granted.

General Rule

In the event of any club or registered player violating any of the rules of the OMFNL or neglecting to comply with the directions of the OMFNL or the Netball Sub-Committee that club or player shall be liable to a fine, suspension or expulsion as determined by the OMFNL.

Any club or player under suspension shall forfeit all rights and privileges held under the OMFNL.

Annual Meeting

- a. The Annual Meeting is to be held not later than the end of February each year. Notice in writing of the Annual General Meeting is to be given to the clubs not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. Two (2) delegates from each club must attend and shall have voting rights at the Annual Meeting. Clubs not represented by two (2) delegates at the Annual Meeting shall incur a monetary fine of \$500.
- b. The ordinary business of the Annual Meeting shall be:
 - i. To confirm the minutes of the preceding Annual Meeting.
 - ii. To receive Executive Committee reports upon transaction of the Association during the preceding year.
 - iii. To elect Executive Committee for the following twelve (12) months.
 - iv. Election of new office bearers by the Sub-Committee and positions shall include Chairperson, Registrar and other designated portfolios.
- c. The Annual Meeting may transact special business of which notice is given to the Association Secretary fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.
- d. The Annual Meeting shall be in addition to any other General Meetings that may be held during the year.
- e. The Chairperson shall occupy the chair. In the Chairperson's absence the meeting will be chaired by any other nominated member of the Sub-Committee.
- f. A matter arising shall be determined on a show of hands, unless a ballot is required. A resolution shall be declared by the Chairperson and subsequently recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- g. The minutes of the Annual Meeting shall be recorded by the Sub-Committee Secretary and reported to the next Annual Meeting for verification.
- h. In the case of a tied vote the Sub-Committee can make a recommendation to the Board.

Club Delegates Meetings

- a. At least three (3) Delegates Meetings shall be held during each season. The quorum for all Delegates Meetings shall be representing not less than 60% of all member clubs.
- b. Clubs not represented by two (2) delegates at the Delegates Meetings shall incur a monetary fine of \$500.
- c. All clubs shall be notified in writing not less than fourteen (14) days prior to each Delegates Meeting.
- d. The conduct of the Delegates Meetings shall be in accordance with **Annual Meetings** e, f, g, & h.

Special Circumstances Clause:

Where this By Law is silent a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the OMFNL is maintained at all times.

The committee may in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in this By Law relating to the OMFNL..

Changing a By Law

New By Laws may be added, or existing By Laws be changed at the Annual Meeting or any Delegates Meeting.

Notices of motions pertaining to the addition of new By Laws or the changing of existing By Laws shall be lodged in writing with the OMFNL General Manager three (3) weeks prior to the meeting at which the motion is to be put.

Such notices of motions shall be distributed to all club secretaries with the 'Notice' of meeting and the Agenda for that meeting.

Risk Management

13.1 Injury Reporting

13.1.1 All clubs are responsible for recording all injuries on the Injury Reporting Sheet provided.

13.1.2 The team manager of OMFNL representative teams are responsible for recording all injuries on the Injury Reporting Sheet provided.

13.2 Pre Match Checklist

13.2.1 A pre match checklist will be completed prior to all OMFNL matches, programs and training.

13.2.2 Any hazards identified will be:

13.2.2.1 Documented;

13.2.2.2 Rectified if possible;

13.2.2.3 Reported to the appropriate agency (Local Council, Reserve Committee) if major repair is required.

13.3 Pregnancy

As per Netball Victoria Infonet RM1 – Pregnancy & Netball.

13.4 First Aid

13.8.1 All clubs will provide a First Aid Kit complying with Netball Victoria Infonet RM2 – First Aid for Netball.

13.8.2 A volunteer at each club will maintain the First Aid Kit and supplies. An inventory is to be completed on a weekly basis.

13.8.3 The Home Club will have a designated room or area for the treatment of injuries. The room or area should be kept clean and accessible at all times.

13.8.4 The competing clubs will ensure that a qualified First Aider is present at all competition / training.

13.5 Emergency Procedures

Emergency phone numbers – Ambulance, Doctor, Physiotherapist, Health Clinic and Police and Emergency Procedure Plan is to be displayed in the First Aid Kit.

13.6 **Weather**

In case of extreme weather conditions the OMFNL will follow Netball Victoria Infonets RM3 and RM5.

13.7 **Blood Policy and Infectious Diseases**

The OMFNL will adopt Netball Victoria Infonet U4 and RM6 relating to Blood Policy and Infectious Diseases.

13.8 **Pre Participation Screening / Medical Indemnity**

13.8.1 All personnel involved with the OMFNL will be required to complete a medical indemnity for (Netball Victoria Infonet RM7).

13.8.2 A designated official will store all forms and bring them to all events.

13.8.3 All forms will be destroyed at the conclusion of the season.

13.9 **Smoke Free**

The OMFNL will adopt a SmokeFree policy as prescribed by Quit Victoria. This will include indoor venues and outdoor court surroundings.

13.10 **Responsible Serving of Alcohol in Sporting Clubs**

The OMFNL will adopt a Responsible Serving of Alcohol Policy as prescribed in the Netball Victoria Member Protection Regulations.

13.11 **Drug Policy**

The OMFNL does not support the use of performance enhancing substances and views any such use as detrimental to both the sport of netball and the spirit of the game.

The Netball Victoria Drug Policy, August 1993 as amended from time to time, is implemented and will apply for all OMFNL competitions.

Dress Code

14.1 **Competition**

14.1.1 Refer to By-Laws 3.3 and 3.4;

14.1.2 The OMFNL must approve all uniform colors and designs;

14.1.3 Clubs must notify the OMFNL in writing of any proposed changes to their uniform. The Ovens & Murray OMFNL must approve all changes;

14.1.4 Uniform requirements as per Netball Victoria Infonet A7;

14.1.5 The OMFNL representative colours are black and gold;

14.1.6 Players will not be permitted to take to the court unless they are in full uniform.

Correspondence

15.1 All correspondence must be in writing from the Club Secretary or authorized person to the OMFNL Secretary.

15.2 All correspondence from the OMFNL will be addressed to the Club Secretary or authorized person.

Protests

- 16.1 A team wishing to protest must:
 - 16.1.1 Not sign the Official Scoresheet and notify the Committee of the intention to protest;
 - 16.1.2 Lodge the protest in writing with the OMFNL Secretary within 48 hours of the match being played.
- 16.2 A club shall have a right of appeal to the Committee within 48 hours of notification of the penalty.
- 16.3 The Committee will advise the result of the appeal and this decision shall be final.

Dispute Resolution

- 17.1 The Committee will impose the prescribed penalty or any other penalty to any member that fail to adhere to this By Law.
- 17.2 Any member of a team or club who does not agree with a penalty or action of the Committee made under this By Law, may advise the Committee within 48 hours of the penalty or decision being made.
- 17.3 The Committee may then:
 - 17.3.1 Discuss the issue with the relevant team or club and make a decision regarding the matter. The Committee shall inform the party/ies involved of their decision either verbally or in writing; or
 - 17.3.2 Have an informal meeting with the relevant party/ies in order to discuss and resolve the dispute.

The Committee's decision is final.

Netball Sub-Committee

- 18.1 The Sub-Committee will consist of not more than seven (7) members, who will be elected by the member clubs delegates at the Annual Meeting.
- 18.2 The elected Sub-Committee will hold office for one (1) year. If a casual vacancy arises the Sub-Committee may appoint a replacement to serve out the remainder of the term.
- 18.3 Each Club is entitled to nominate one person for election to the Sub-Committee.