COMPETITION RULES

Netball

Revised | April 2026

1. TEAM ENTRY

1.1 Grades are:

Core Grades:
Premier League and **Premier League Reserves**
Senior teams – **Senior A** and **Senior B**
Year 10 teams – **10A** and **10B**
Year 9 teams – **9A** and **9B**
Year 8 teams - **8A** and **8B**
Year 7 teams -**7A** and **7B**

Other Grades:
Senior C
Senior D
10C
9C
8C
7C

The Shield grades are **Premier League** and **Premier League Reserves**.
The Pennant grades are **10A**, **9A**, **8A**, **7A**.

7, 8, 9 and 10 A/B/C teams are to contain players only up to that specified year level (eg a Year 9 team may contain players up to Year 9).

Senior teams, and Premier League/PLR teams are open and can contain players from any year level.

1.2 It is expected that each IGSSA school enters one team in as many of the core netball teams as possible

All other teams (C grade and below) will be entered in a separate competition at Anzac Highway Uniting Church Courts.

1.3 Premier League and Premier League Reserves may have up to 12 players in each team. It is recommended that other grades have no more than 10 players. Teams must have a minimum of 5 players for a match to commence, otherwise a forfeit will be recorded.

In Shield grades, a team may request that their opposition lend them a player,,or match their numbers if they do not have enough. If this happens, this is considered a forfeit by the team making the request, and a 'scratch match' may proceed.

1.4 Schools are expected to provide 1 court for every Premier League/Premier League Reserves team entered in the competition, and 1 court for every A/B team entered in the competition. It is the home school's responsibility to ensure a safe playing arena.

1.5 Schools who do not enter a team in an A-grade (or equivalent) competition are not eligible for finals in the corresponding B-grade (or equivalent) competition.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1 **Premier League and Premier League Reserves:**

Any player who plays a cumulative total of 30 minutes or less in Premier League may play in Premier League Reserves. Intention to play a player who took the court in Premier League in the Premier League Reserves match should be communicated with the opposition coach of the Premier League Reserves before the commencement of the Premier League Reserves match.

If a school's Premier League Reserves team is scheduled to play in a round where the Premier League team has a Bye, player eligibility for Premier League Reserves will be determined by minutes played in the most recent Premier League match. Specifically, any player who played more than 30 minutes in that match is not eligible to play in Premier League Reserves for that round.

For example, if a player played more than 30 minutes in the Round 2 Premier League match, and the Premier League team has a Bye in Round 3, then that player is not eligible to play in Premier League Reserves in Round 3.

Any reasonable request for a variation to this must be discussed between the two schools' Heads of Sport in the week leading into the game.

2.2 **Core Grades:**

Every effort should be made to bring players up from a lower grade before playing a higher-grade player down. After this has been exhausted:

2.2.1 A player who has played a half (or less) in the higher grade may play down, but only if required to bring team numbers up to 7, or to cover a situation involving injury.

2.2.2 A player required to play down must play out of position – in a different third of the court to where they played the majority of time in the higher grade. Example: An A Grade GS cannot play GS or GA in B Grade.

2.2.3 The team who intends to play a player down must discuss/negotiate this with opposing school prior to match day or it must be negotiated between coaches before the game. Part of this discussion MUST be what the result will be (i.e., a forfeit if a higher year level girl plays in a lower-level team).

Clarification on "higher" vs "lower" grades, or playing "up" or "down" – a player will be considered to be playing "down" if they play in **any** grade lower than their nominated grade, regardless of age. For instance, a player from 8A could not play for a 9B team. 8A is considered the higher grade. This applies across all age groups.

2.3 **All Grades:**

Eligibility for a finals match: If half or more of the player(s) matches (including any semi-finals) have been played in any given grade, they can play in a final in that grade (as confirmation, if a player plays 50% of their matches in Senior A grade and 50% in Senior B grade, they would be eligible for finals in either grade).

For avoidance of doubt – players **can** play in a higher grade than where they have played 50% of their matches. For example, if a player had played solely in the Senior Bs, and the Senior As are short a player for a Final, the Senior B player may play.

A player may only play in **one** IGSSA Grand Final in each sport.

Schools are expected to keep player attendance records at games so that this information can be provided upon request (for example, student roll in Clipboard).

If a school has two teams entered in a single Shield grade (eg an 8A Gold and an 8A Blue), and one team makes the finals, they **cannot** draw from their other team for finals matches – they must draw from a lower grade.

3. UMPIRING AND OFFICIALS

3.1 Double umpiring is to be used for all grades, with each school providing 1 umpire per team per match.

3.2 Aside from Premier League and Premier League Reserves grades, the coach may double umpire if this is necessary to fulfill these requirements. If this is necessary, then coaches may still coach during breaks only.

3.3 Premier League and Reserves umpires are to dress in predominantly white clothing.

3.4 Umpires should note that there should be no reduction in the time of the quarters of matches except for inclement weather in line with IGSSA's Extreme Weather Policy.

3.5 Scoring and timing

3.5.1 Each team must supply a scorer with scorecard, and they must sit alongside each other and check scores continuously.
3.5.2 First named teams to provide official timekeepers for each game. The visiting teams are to time breaks.
3.5.3 Scorers will share scores with umpires at the end of each quarter to check consistency and address any discrepancies.
3.5.4 In the event of different scores at the end of the match, the first named team's score will stand.

4 MATCH RULES (INC IGSSA-SPECIFIC RULES)

4.1 The competition is to be played according to the current INF Netball Association rules unless stipulated below.

4.2 Players may not wear anything that could endanger themselves or other players, specifically:

4.2.1 No adornment or jewellery may be worn other than a medic alert bracelet that must be covered with tape

4.2.2 Fingernails must be short and smooth

4.2.3 Hair must be suitably tied back

4.3 There is an expectation that Premier League and Premier League Reserves grades are played indoors. If a venue issue or potential venue issue arises leading up to the match, then the opposition school must be alerted as soon as possible. An alternate indoor venue (away school or neutral) should be the first consideration.

4.4 All Senior, Year 10 and Year 9 games will play 15-minute quarters, with 3-minute break at quarter time and three-quarter time. At half time teams will break for between 5 minutes.

4.5 Year 7 and 8 teams play 12-minute quarters, with 3-minute break at quarter time and three-quarter time. At half time teams will break for between 5 minutes.

4.6 Play can be halted if there is an injury, but the clock does not stop. The player who is injured will immediately come off court if safe to do so. A replacement player can come on, but only has 30 seconds to do so.

4.7 In the last 2 minutes of a match, if an injury is called, the time WILL stop.

4.8 There will be no reduction in time of the quarters of matches, except for inclement weather. This decision is to be made by the home school, or the first named team at Anzac Highway.

4.9 To ensure later games are able to proceed on time, a team will be considered to have forfeited if they are not available to start the game by 15 minutes after the scheduled start time (eg if scheduled at 8am, and not ready to play at 8.15am)

4.10 Rolling Substitutions are permitted for the following grades only:

Premier League
Premier League Reserves
Senior A/B
10 A/B

4.10.1 Teams can make substitutions anytime during play, this includes during stoppages and intervals. There is no limit to the number of substitutions that can be made, and more than one substitution may be made at any time. Play will not be held up for substitutions (but will still be held for injury – the Injury/Illness/Blood rule does not change).

4.10.2 Each team should supply a second set of same colour bibs to ensure quick and smooth substitutions. The incoming player can then be ready to enter the court without the need to wait for the bibs from the outgoing player.

4.10.3 Substitutions must occur off court in front of your team bench, however there is **no** expectation for an official 'Substitution Zone' to be marked out on the side of the court in IGSSA netball.

4.10.4 The incoming player must wait until the outgoing player exits the court before entering the field of play. The players involved in the substitution will tag hands **OFF** court prior to the entry of the incoming player.

4.10.5 Players must observe the offside rules as they enter/exit the court and make sure they do not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution.

4.10.6 If there is an infringement during a substitution, a free pass will be awarded to the non-offending team where the ball is when the interference or illegal entry/exit occurs.

The 1-min video at the link below demonstrates the Rolling Substitutions rule.
2020 New Rules: Rolling Substitutions - Suncorp Super Netball

9A/B, 8A/B, 7A/B, and all C-grade competitions do **not** use rolling substitutions.

5 RESULTS

5.1 A drawn match is allowed (unless a finals match).

5.2 If a Shield/Pennant match is unable to commence for reasons beyond the control of either team, then every reasonable effort should be made to reschedule. Shield and Pennant grades should be prioritised where practical when venues are affected. If a mutually agreeable reschedule date between the participating schools cannot be reached, then the match result will be a draw, with 0-goal differential.

5.3 All results from the preceding week's matches must be submitted to Clipboard by 48 hours post-fixture in order for accurate Premiership Tables to be published in a timely manner.

5.4 For IGSSA Premiership tables, three points will be awarded for a win, one for a draw and zero for a loss. The maximum win tally that will be registered is 30 goals. If teams win (or lose by more than 30 goals, it will be just the 30-goal margin registered). In the event of a bye, the team drawn to have a bye will be awarded zero points. In the event of a forfeit, the non-offending team will be awarded three points and the maximum winning margin. The offending team will be awarded zero points and the maximum losing margin.

5.5 If **half or more** games from an IGSSA Division are unable to be completed in a single Shield/Pennant round, then **all games** from that round in that Division will be considered a draw, with a 0-point differential. For the avoidance of doubt, for example, if there are six scheduled Shield/Pennant games in a round, and three are unable to be completed, then all games in that round are considered a draw.

6 FINALS

6.1 Shield grades – single pool - two semi-finals, 1 v 4 and 2 v 3, will be scheduled, with the winners of the two semi-finals (finalists) playing for the Shield in the Grand Final. The winner of the Grand Final will be awarded the Shield. If season length/number of nominations does not allow for semi-finals, then a 1 v 2 Grand Final will be scheduled, and the winner of the Grand Final will be awarded the Shield.

Shield grades – two pools - two semi-finals, 1 (Pool A) v 2 (Pool B), and 2 (Pool A) v 1 (Pool B), will be scheduled, with the winners of the two semi-finals (finalists) playing for the Shield in the Grand Final. The winner of the Grand Final will be awarded the Shield. If season length/number of nominations does not allow for

semi-finals, then a 1 (Pool A) v 1 (Pool B) Grand Final will be scheduled, and the winner of the Grand Final will be awarded the Shield.

Pennant grades – one Grand Final, 1 v 2, will be scheduled, and the winner of the Grand Final will be awarded the Pennant.

6.2 **Finals hosting**

Premier League and Premier League Reserves semi-finals may be negotiated to play as standalone fixtures at a central venue on the Thursday night prior to the scheduled semi-final round, if participating teams agree (for the purposes of not having a school's Premier League team and PLR team at different semi-final venues on the Saturday). IGSSA will attempt to secure a neutral venue for this. In the event that this option cannot be delivered, the semi-finals standalone fixture will be played at the home venue of the team who (a) has a two-court venue, and (b) who finished highest on the Premier League ladder. If this cannot be delivered, then teams must play as scheduled on the Saturday of the semi-final round at the venue of the team who finished highest on their respective ladder.

The Grand Finals for all netball fixtures will be played at the home venue of the team who (a) won a Premier League semi-final, and (b) finished highest on the Premier League ladder of the remaining finalists.

6.3 Finalists will be determined by total points initially (i.e., win/loss tally) and then SD (Score differential) for all games played during the season, if points are equal but a split needs to be made.

If the Score Differential is also equal, then the team who has won in Head-to-Head games in any Shield matches from the regular season will advance. Where more than one H2H Shield game has been played, total score from the two games shall be combined to determine a winner. For example, if Team Blue and Team Red played two Shield games in the regular season, with Blue winning the first 3-0, and Red winning the second 2-0, Team Blue would advance.

6.3.1 If a finals match is tied:

i. There will be a 4 min break after the fourth quarter, teams will change ends, and 2 x 5 min extra time periods will be played, with a 1-minute break between periods. Teams will change ends in between these periods.
ii. Should scores still be tied after 2 x 5 min extra time periods, there will no change of ends, and play will continue with no break until one team gains a 2-goal advantage.

6.3.2 If either or both semi-final matches cannot be played, the higher-ranked team will advance to the Grand Final.

6.3.3 If no Grand Final match can be played and team(s) are on tied points in Shield/Pennant grades at the end of the season, the Shield/Pennant winner will be identified using the following criteria:

i. Head-to-Head – Calculate the premiership points for games played between *each team involved in the tie* only. The school with the most Head-to-Head premiership points wins the Shield/Pennant (providing equal number of Head-to-Head games between tied teams exist). If there is still no clear winner from Head-to-Head calculation, then:

ii. Score Differential – Calculate the score differential for all games played. The team with the greatest score differential will be awarded the Shield/Pennant. If there is still no clear winner from the score differential, then:

iii. The Shield/Pennant will be shared between all teams on tied points at the top of the table.

7 EQUIPMENT

7.1 All schools to provide a match ball for each game.

7.2 An accurate timing mechanism must be used and supplied by the first named team.

7.3 All goal posts are to be fitted with nets.

7.4 All goal posts are to be suitably padded.

7.5 All team members on court must wear appropriate positional letters (bibs).

If teams' uniforms are similar in colour, it is the responsibility of the away/second-listed team to provide clash bibs or a clash uniform to wear.

SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES

Sport plays an essential role in the personal and social development of students, fostering teamwork, discipline, and resilience. To ensure that every student has a positive and enriching experience on the field or court, it is important that we prioritise sportsmanship, respect, and enjoyment in every competition.

IGSSA's Sportsmanship Guidelines are designed to maintain a healthy balance in competition, ensuring that students from all skill levels and backgrounds have the opportunity to feel engaged and

supported. In this spirit, collegiality and open communication between schools and coaches are vital. By working together, we can create an environment where the well-being of our athletes comes first, where every match is competitive yet compassionate, and where the values of respect, fairness, and encouragement shine through.

These guidelines are a reminder that while winning is part of sport, the ultimate goal is to nurture a love for the game and foster strong character in all our students.

RULES

At the below point margin for 7-10 A-C, and Senior A-C grades:

- 30 goals

The following rule shall apply:

- All centre passes are to go to the non-scoring team. EG – after a Red team goal, it is a Blue centre pass.

The maximum score difference is awarded in the recording of results once the margin is reached and the Sportsmanship Guidelines are activated.

CONSIDERATIONS

The following are not implemented rules, however, suggestions for coaches to help ensure sportsmanship is present for all teams.

- Teams could consider playing their dominant players in different positions
- Teams could consider sharing dominant players with their opposition