



# **Senior Netball By-laws**

**March 2017**

## **1. DEFINITIONS**

“Constitution” means the constitution of the AFL Riverina Inc.

“By-laws” are additional rules which apply to members which generally deal with internal and administrative matters. These By-laws are made under the Constitution. Accordingly, the By-laws are subordinate to the Constitution.

“Home and Away Season” means the round robin of matches involving all clubs, which are played prior to finals.

“Finals” means the series of matches involving the 5 teams at the end of the Home and Away Season, culminating in the winner of the Grand Final match.

“Junior” means a player 15 years or under as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December of the current playing year.

“Game” A player is considered to have played a game if the score sheet shows that they have taken the court at any time during the game. The term “Game” and “Match” may be used interchangeably.

## **2. GENERAL**

- a. The name of the competitions shall be the;
  - i. Riverina Football Netball League (RFNL)
  - ii. Farrer Football Netball League (FFNL)
- b. Life membership may be awarded as per criteria set down in the relevant AFL Riverina policy.
- c. The Competition Management Committees for their respective Football Netball leagues shall, via delegation from AFL Riverina Inc, have control and management of matches played by the clubs affiliated under AFL Riverina and shall have the power to settle all disputes in connection with these matches.
- d. The Competition Management Committees will supply all relevant score books, voting cards etc to Clubs prior to the commencement of each season.
- e. Operation of the Competition Management Committees shall be as per the AFL Riverina Constitution and Charter of Operations.
- f. All By-laws are subject to the Constitution of the AFL Riverina Inc and all applicable policies of Netball NSW
- g. Where these By-laws are silent the board of AFL Riverina Inc., shall have full authority including altering, varying or waiving sections of these By-laws.
- h. Meetings shall be held as per current delegates meetings as directed by AFL Riverina Inc. Sanctions/fines for non attendance shall be as directed by AFL Riverina Inc.
- i. Courts shall be of regulation size. New courts shall also include a 3.05m run-off area as per court specifications from Netball Australia (referencing the International Federation of Netball Associations). The distance between courts shall be 3.65m (as suggested by Netball Victoria and Queensland), unless Netball NSW issues an alternative guideline.

### **3. INDEMNITY**

Except where provided or required by law and such can't be excluded, the AFL Riverina Incorporated and its respective directors, officers, members, servants or agents are absolved from all liability however arising from and injury or damage, however caused, arising whilst participating as a member.

### **4. OBJECTIVES OF AFL RIVERINA NETBALL**

- a. The AFL Riverina Inc shall affiliate with Netball NSW annually as required under the Netball NSW Constitution.
- b. The AFL Riverina Inc shall encourage, promote, control and manage the game of netball, played under its control.
- c. All matches shall be played under the current revision of the All Australian Netball Association Ltd "Official Rules of Netball", unless stated in these By-laws. Breaking the Rules and/or employment of any action not covered by the wording of the Rules in a manner contrary to the spirit of the game is not permitted. (Behaviours contrary to the Official Rules should be referred to the Football Operations Manager for action).
- d. The Association colours will be;
  - i. Riverina Football Netball League - Navy Blue, Red and White
  - ii. Farrer Football Netball League - Royal Blue and White

### **5. REGISTRATION AND AFFILIATION**

- a. Affiliation Fees and Registration shall be determined by AFL Riverina Inc. Clubs will be invoiced by AFL Riverina.
- b. All affiliated clubs must enter an A Grade team first, then an A-Reserve Grade, then B Grade, then C Grade.
- c. All players must be registered by Friday 5pm prior to game day. Players are not to take the court if they are not registered, in the event of a team fielding an unregistered or ineligible player or players, they shall forfeit the game and lose their goal score. The non-offending team shall receive four (4) points and retain its goal score or a minimum of 20 goals.
- d. A player is deemed registered when they are registered online through My Netball with Netball NSW and their AFL Riverina club.
- e. A player can only be registered and play for 1 club within the same league.
- f. Once a player is registered with a Junior club affiliated with AFL Riverina (a club within SWJFNL or WDJFNL) and paid their Netball NSW Registration and AFL Riverina membership fees through the Junior club, they will not have to pay any additional league fees to play in the FFNL or RFNL with their sister club. If the player plays with a senior club that is not their sister club, the AFL Riverina registration fee will apply (does not apply if the Junior club does not have a sister club in AFL Riverina). The player must also be registered in the senior competition before taking the court.
- g. Once a player has signed a registration form with a club, they are bound to that club for the remainder of the current RFNL/FFNL season (inclusive of finals). If a player should require to be released from that club at any stage of the season to another RFNL/FFNL club this can only be done up until the 30<sup>th</sup> June by an application in writing to the Competition Management

Committee, whom shall approve/reject the application at their absolute discretion. The decision shall be final and binding upon the parties.

- i. Players who owe outstanding playing fees or are in possession of club property will not be granted a clearance.
  - ii. If a player, having not received a clearance, plays for another club they will be deemed to be an unregistered player and by-law 5(d) will apply
- h. A player may not apply for more than one (1) clearance in any given season.

## **6. UNIFORMS**

- a. No club shall make any change in its uniform without approval from the AFL Riverina Board (As per AFL Riverina Inc. Constitution).
- b. All clubs must be in full club uniform by Round 5 of their respective Leagues, this includes numbers. Any player not in full uniform will not be permitted to take the court. This may result in the forfeiture of the match in the case where less than five (5) players are not suitably attired.
- c. Bike pants may be worn but they must be black or of the same colour as the skirt/dress. Netball socks only (no football socks).

## **7. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR REGULAR SEASON AND FINALS**

### **a. FARRER FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE**

- i. To be eligible to play A Grade finals a player must play a minimum of four (4) games in this grade. The player concerned does not continue to qualify in finals.
- ii. After playing seven (7) A Grade games a player may not play for A Reserve, B or C grade.
- iii. To be eligible to play A Reserve Grade finals a player must play a minimum of four (4) games in this grade. The player concerned does not continue to qualify in finals.
- iv. After playing seven (7) combined games in A & A Reserve Grade, a player may not play B or C grade. They can be elevated to play no more than six (6) A Grade games.
- v. To be eligible to play B Grade finals a player must play a minimum of four (4) games in this grade. The player concerned does not continue to qualify in finals.
- vi. After playing seven (7) combined games in A, A Reserve and B Grade a player may not play C grade. They can be elevated to play no more than six (6) combined A & A Reserve Grade games.
- vii. To be eligible to play C Grade finals a player must play a minimum of four (4) games in this grade. The player concerned does not continue to qualify in finals.
- viii. A C Grade player may be elevated to play in A, A Reserve or B Grade, provided that they do no play more than 6 combined games in total in any higher grade
- ix. To be eligible for finals a player must play a minimum of four (4) games in this grade, forfeited games are excluded.
- x. No player shall play more than one (1) game in any weekend of the

finals.

- xi. A registered player from the South West Junior Football Netball League or the Wagga District Junior Football Netball League may play in the FFNL during the home and away season and in finals.
- xii. Players referred to in bylaw 7 (a) (xi) are bound by all qualification and playing requirements under by-law 7a.
- xiii. Males are eligible to play until they turn 12 years of age
- xiv. All coaches must be accredited through a Netball NSW approved accreditation coaching course before the start of the season.

**b. RIVERINA FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE**

- i. To be eligible to play A Grade finals a player must play a minimum of six (6) games in this grade. The player concerned does not continue to qualify in finals.
- ii. After playing seven (7) A Grade games a player may not play for A Reserve, B or C grade.
- iii. To be eligible to play A Reserve Grade finals a player must play a minimum of six (6) games in this grade. The player concerned does not continue to qualify in finals.
- iv. After playing seven (7) combined games in A & A Reserve Grade, a player may not play B or C grade. They can be elevated to play no more than six (6) A Grade games.
- v. To be eligible to play B Grade finals a player must play a minimum of six (6) games in this grade. The player concerned does not continue to qualify in finals.
- vi. After playing seven (7) combined games in A, A Reserve and B Grade a player may not play C Grade. They can be elevated to play no more than six (6) combined A & A Reserve Grade games.
- vii. To be eligible to play C Grade finals a player must play a minimum of six (6) games in this grade. The player concerned does not continue to qualify in finals.
- viii. A C Grade player may be elevated to play in A, A Reserve or B Grade, provided that they do not play more than 6 combined games in total in any higher grades.
- ix. Age of Under 17s shall be 17 and under as at the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the current playing year.
- x. Any registered Under 17's player is allowed unlimited games in C Grade and B Grade and will still remain eligible for the Under 17's competition. However, bylaw 7bii, 7biv & 7bvi still applies. After playing seven (7) games in A Reserve and A Grade, an Under 17's player may not play in Under 17's.
- xi. To be eligible for finals a player must play a minimum of six (6) games in that particular grade, forfeited games are excluded.
- xii. To qualify for finals in a higher grade only, the player must first play the six (6) games in one grade and then play a minimum of two (2) games in the higher grade to qualify for finals in that grade.
- xiii. No player shall play more than one (1) game in any weekend of the

finals.

- xiv. A registered player from the South West Junior Football Netball League or the Wagga District Junior Football Netball League may play in the RFNL during the home and away season and in finals.
- xv. Players referred to in bylaw 7 (b) (xiv) are bound by all qualification and playing requirements under by-law 7b.
- xvi. Males are eligible to play until they turn 12 years of age
- xvii. All coaches must be accredited through a Netball NSW approved accreditation coaching course before the start of the season.

## **8. UMPIRES**

- a. During the home and away season umpires are to wear a white t-shirt/jacket with black/navy pants/shorts. Playing dresses or any team colours are not to be worn underneath the white t-shirt/jacket. During the home and away season B badged umpires are to wear a white t-shirt/jacket and white skirt. During the finals all umpires are to wear a white t-shirt, to be supplied by the league, and a white skirt.
- b. Umpires shall award Best and Fairest Votes at the completion of each game in the Home and Away season. Votes shall be recorded on the official cards provided and signed by both umpires. Cards shall then placed in an envelope, sealed and the envelope signed by both umpires.
- c. Each team must provide an Umpire for each game. Should a club or team be unable to provide an umpire, they must notify the opposing Club as early as possible and make alternative arrangements. For example if the solution is that one club provides both umpires then the team unable to provide an umpire shall pay the match fee for that umpire as determined by the club supplying the extra umpire up to a maximum value of \$50 per match.
- d. If a Club is unable to supply an umpire for all grades, that Club may be asked by AFL Riverina Inc to show due course why further action should not be taken, which may include, but not limited to, loss of competition points, forfeiture of matches etc. Such decisions will be at the express discretion of AFL Riverina Inc.
- e. An umpire shall not umpire in anymore than 2 games in a day. A player shall not umpire in anymore than 1 game in a day.
- f. Umpires for A and A Reserve must be badged or in the process of becoming badged, with a minimum requirement of having successfully completed their online theory exam.
- g. Umpires for finals must be of National C level or above and shall be appointed by the AFL Riverina Umpire Coordinator.
- h. Umpires for finals shall be paid an amount per match as determined at a meeting prior to finals.
- i. An umpire shall have power to veto any article of attire he/she may consider dangerous.

## **9. SCORERS AND TIMEKEEPERS**

- a. The official AFL Riverina Netball score sheet is to be used for all grades of netball.

- b. Timekeepers shall stand with thirty (30) seconds to go in each quarter. With 10 seconds to go they shall follow the nearest umpire and notify him/her when time is up.
- c. One score sheet per game is required. Both clubs shall supply a scorer each who must sit together in the designated score bench area. The scorer cannot be part of the game (i.e. cannot be on the team sheet).
- d. The score sheet is to be filled in before the game begins, including the names of all players taking part in the match, up to a maximum of 12. A player may not be added to the scoring sheet once the game has commenced.
- e. All playing positions for players must be completed each quarter. If a player has no playing position next to their name, they will be deemed as not taking the court.
- f. If a player leaves the game due to injury this must be noted on the bottom of the score sheet and the details of the injury incurred.
- g. If a player is asked to leave the court by an umpire for any period of time, this must be noted on the bottom of the score sheet with details of the send off.
- h. Scorers who start scoring the game must complete scoring the whole game.
- i. Score sheets shall be signed by the two umpires and the scorers (Scorers shall also print their name clearly next to their signature).
- j. In the case where the result in the "Results" section of the score sheet does not match the running tally of goals the umpires and scorers will confer and reach a final decision by taking the running tally as final.
  - i. If the discrepancy is noted after the match the Competition Management Committee shall be contacted in writing, within 48 hours of the game finishing, and shall decide the result of the match as per the running tally. Their decision shall be final and binding.

## **10. GAME PROTOCOLS**

- a. Each Home club must;
  - i. Supply two (2) time clocks in working order
  - ii. Supply league Best and Fairest vote cards
  - iii. Supply score sheets for all matches
  - iv. Ensure playing surface is sealed and surrounds are safe for netball
  - v. That padding is secured around goal posts and extends the full length of the post
  - vi. Ensure the Willis Netball Australia "Match Day Checklist and Guidelines" form is completed and sent to AFL House along with score sheets and umpire vote cards.
  - vii. A Club must field an 'A' Grade team each week and forfeit the lower grades if necessary. (An application to AFL Riverina Inc to waiver qualifying games played for lower graded players can be made, so as not to disadvantage lower grades by remaining in 'A' Grade. This is provided that no more than five (5) registered 'A' Grade players are present for that game.)
  - viii. A, A-Reserve and B Grade shall play 4 x 15 minute quarters. 3 minutes between each quarter and 5 minutes for halftime.
  - ix. C Grade and Under 17's shall play 4 x 12 minute quarters. 2 minutes

between each quarter and 5 minutes for halftime.

- b. The scorer/timekeepers should be of mature enough age to ensure competency in scoring and timekeeping. Only officials shall be permitted in the official scoring area. Other persons may be asked to leave.
- c. Home and Away games shall be played as per draw. However, clubs are at liberty to arrange alternative dates/times. Both clubs must agree, and the game must be played within two (2) weeks of the scheduled date (i.e. either two weeks prior, or after, the scheduled date). The visiting club will still be required to pay the gate entry fee.
- d. All matches shall commence at the times below, however these may be varied by competing teams by mutual agreement.

| Grade      | FFNL    | RFNL – 5 games | RFNL – 4 games |
|------------|---------|----------------|----------------|
| Under 17's | N/A     | 9.00am         | 10.00am        |
| C Grade    | 10.00am | 10.00am        |                |
| B Grade    | 11.00am | 11.00am        | 11.00am        |
| A-Reserve  | 12.15pm | 12.15am        | 12.15am        |
| A Grade    | 1.30 pm | 1.30pm         | 1.30pm         |

- e. Play must commence on time set down in 10.d above. If either team does not have five (5) players present, an umpire may allow a stay of five (5) minutes. If after that time one team still does not have five (5) players on court, that team shall forfeit the match. If after five (5) minutes neither team has five (5) players on court, the game shall be abandoned and no votes or points shall be awarded to either team.
- f. Only three (3) forfeits per grade per club will be allowed. After three (3) forfeits have occurred then that team will be disqualified from the competition for the remainder of the season and fined \$100.
- g. A score sheet must still be submitted notifying which team forfeited.

### 11. POINTS SYSTEM

- a. Points will be allocated as follows:
  - i. Win = Four (4) points
  - ii. Draw = Two (2) points
  - iii. Loss/Forfeit against = Nil (0) points
  - iv. Forfeit for = Four (4) points. Score will be awarded 20-0
  - v. Bye = Nil (0) points
- b. Points will be awarded for the Club Championship as below. The club with the highest points tally at the end of the home and away season shall be declared the winner of the Club Championship.

| Grade/Result  | FFNL      | RFNL      |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| A Grade Win   | 10 points | 10 points |
| A-Reserve Win | 6 points  | 5 points  |
| B Grade Win   | 3 points  | 3 points  |



|                  |                |                |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| C Grade Win      | 1 points       | 1 point        |
| Under 17s        | N/A            | 1 point        |
| Loss (any grade) | Nil (0) Points | Nil (0) Points |

## 12. WEATHER AND COURT CONDITION

- a. It shall be the umpires' decision to stop or abandon play due to unsafe court or inclement weather conditions (which may include, but is not limited to very heavy rain, hail, lightening, snow, sleet or conditions of extreme heat). The umpires shall consider if the conditions are unsafe and a risk to the player and/or umpire safety. The umpires shall make the final decision.
- b. In a case where umpires are forced to call a game off due to unsafe court or inclement weather conditions the following shall result:
  - i. If the match is called off before half-time then no scores shall be recorded and two points awarded to each team as per a Drawn match
  - ii. If the match is called off during half-time or later the score at such time will be deemed to be the final score for the match.
  - iii. The time at which the game was called off shall be recorded on the score sheet.

## 13. FINALS

- a. Each League will play finals as per their respective Football League.
- b. Games shall be played at the same ground as the football.
- c. Netball finals structure shall follow that of football (i.e. Final Five) in all grades.
- d. Final Five - Teams finishing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> on the ladder at the completion of the Home and Away games shall play in the following:
  - i. Elimination Final: 4<sup>th</sup> vs. 5<sup>th</sup>
  - ii. Qualifying final: 3<sup>rd</sup> vs. 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - iii. First Semi-Final: Winner of Elimination final vs. Loser of Qualifying Final
  - iv. Second Semi-final: 1<sup>st</sup> vs. Winner of Qualifying final
  - v. Preliminary final: Loser of Second Semi-final vs. Winner of First Semi-final
  - vi. Grand-final: Winner of Second Semi-final vs. Winner of Preliminary final.
- e. Clubs will be rostered on for finals and they must supply two (2) timekeepers, one (1) scorer and a scoreboard attendant for each grade. Failure to fulfil this roster will incur a fine of \$250.
- f. When the above finals roster is issued clubs must notify AFL Riverina by 5pm on the Wednesday before the match with any objections or changes.
- g. If the roster results in a conflict (i.e. a club scoring their own side) then the opposing team may assist with scoring.
- h. During finals only officials shall be permitted in the official scoring area. Other persons may be asked to leave. Failure to leave when requested may result in action under 15(d) of these By-laws.
- i. If scores are tied at full time in finals the procedure will be as follows:
  - i. There shall be a two (2) minute interval at the end of full time.

- Substitutions and/or team changes are permitted;
- ii. RFNL A Grade, A Reserve & B Grade shall play extra time of two halves of seven (7) minutes each.. Teams change ends at half time without an interval. No substitutions and/or team changes are permitted. The Centre Pass is taken by the team entitled to the next Centre Pass;
- iii. RFNL C Grade, Under 17s and all FFNL Grades will play extra time of two halves of five (5) minutes each. Teams change ends at half time without an interval. No substitutions and/or team changes are permitted. The Centre Pass is taken by the team entitled to the next Centre Pass;
- iv. Applicable to all grades, in the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time a visual signal shall be used to indicate that play shall continue until one team has a two (2) goal advantage
- j. Grand Final Only – umpires shall award votes to the player(s) deemed Best On Court. Votes shall be counted by a person(s) appointed by AFL Riverina Inc., and the winner awarded the Best On Court medal.
- k. Premiers shall be awarded the Perpetual Trophy, Premiership Cup, individual medals (10 for each grade) and prize money as listed below.

| Grade      | FFNL  | RFNL  |
|------------|-------|-------|
| A Grade    | \$750 | \$750 |
| A-Reserve  | \$0   | \$0   |
| B Grade    | \$0   | \$0   |
| C Grade    | \$0   | \$0   |
| Under 17's | N/A   | \$0   |

- l. Runners Up shall be presented with individual medals (10 for each grade).
- m. Premiers of A Grade are also required to compete in the Charity Shield Match to be played in March. Failure to do so will result in a \$150 fine which will be donated to nominated charity of the day.

#### **14. PRESENTATION NIGHT**

- a. The netball league Presentation Night is to be held in conjunction with their respective Football League.
- b. Trophies shall be awarded to the Best & Fairest in each grade. AFL Riverina will decide on trophies.
- c. The A Grade Best & Fairest Medals for Farrer League will be named the Marilyn Brooks Medal and the RFNL will be named the Lawrence & Hansen Medal.

#### **15. CODE OF CONDUCT**

- a. When registering with Netball NSW as a player or non player you are agreeing to adhere with the Code of Conduct. Clubs shall also make spectators aware that there is a code of conduct to follow, this can be found on the AFL Riverina website. These should be displayed in dressing sheds or courtside for everyone to view.
- b. All members of AFL Riverina Inc and spectators attending games and/or

events controlled by the AFL Riverina Inc are required to adhere to the appropriate Codes of Conduct.

- c. Clubs are responsible for the control and conduct of their spectators, players and Club officials, which includes coaches, managers and umpires.
- d. Where a spectator or spectators engage in misconduct, the umpire may, at his/her discretion, regard said spectators as officials and therefore utilise powers granted under 20(iv) of the AANA Official Rules of Netball.
- e. Further action may be taken by the Competition Management Committee and/or AFL Riverina Board in accordance with the Netball NSW Member Protection Policy and the AFL Riverina Inc. Constitution.

## **16. DISCIPLINE/REPORTS**

- a. The Incident Referral Form shall be used for such reports and must be lodged by email or in writing to the Football Operations Manager within 48 Hours of the end of the match, or the incident (if the incident did not happen during a match). The AFL Riverina Board will decide on the course of action to be taken. If a tribunal is required then the AFL Riverina Board will convene a tribunal.
- b. Umpires should note any indiscretions on the score sheet.
- c. Where a player refuses to leave the court as directed by the umpire, the umpire will issue the player with a warning and 30 seconds to leave the court. Where a period of 30 seconds has elapsed since the warning and the player continues to refuse to leave the court, a forfeit will be awarded in favour of the opposing team, whereupon By-law 11(a) will apply.
- d. Any player who is suspended for at least one match by the tribunal during the home and away season shall not be eligible to win a League Best and Fairest award, during that season.

## **17. PROTESTS/DISPUTES**

- a. Any considerations for the Competition Management Committee in regards to the control and management of matches played must be submitted in writing to AFL Riverina.
- b. Clubs or persons involved in a protest shall be entitled to represent themselves at a hearing with the Competition Management Committee.
- c. Any club lodging a protest must do so in writing to the Competition Management Committee within 48 hours of the completion of the match concerned. Fax or emails are acceptable. A payment of \$300 (\$150 of which is refundable) must accompany the notification of Protest/Dispute as per AFL NSW/ACT By-law 10.2.
- d. A meeting to deal with any protest/dispute shall be convened at the earliest possible convenience. If the issue is between two teams then both teams shall be represented at the meeting.
- e. There shall be no right of appeal against the decision of any protest/dispute.

## **18. CHILD PROTECTION**

- a. It is up to each club to ensure the required people within their club get a Working with Children Check. Please refer to the AFL Riverina website for

further information on who must apply and the process.

#### **19. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- a. Any club member, player or official found to have made inappropriate comments in the media (e.g. Radio, newspaper, television and social media such as Twitter and Facebook) in relation to any AFL Riverina Inc match, event, umpire etc shall come under the AFL Riverina Social Media Policy.

#### **20. REPRESENTATIVE NETBALL – FFNL ONLY**

- a. Competition representative teams shall participate in inter-league matches as directed by the League from time to time.
- b. Any player who does not make themselves available or declines selection for such training sessions and matches, without the consent of the Administration Committee, may automatically be suspended for two (2) club competition matches subsequent to the representative match concerned.
- c. Any player who declares herself unavailable because of injury or illness must be prepared to undergo a medical examination by a medical practitioner and supply sufficient evidence.