



# 2025 Primary Schools Gala Manual

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## 1. ELIGIBILITY OF TEAMS

- 1.1** This is a school-based Netball competition for students in years 4 - 6. All competitors must be an enrolled student in the school they are representing.
- 1.2** Schools can register for any round. No limitations will be placed on schools to play within their school sporting region.
- 1.3** A school may enter any number of teams per division in Primary Schools Gala. However, a player may only be registered and compete for ONE team at any time during competition.
- 1.4** In order for a school's team to be eligible, they must supply ONE UMPIRE PER TEAM. The umpire cannot be a student playing in a team.
- 1.5** In circumstances where schools cannot provide a team of their own, two (2) or more schools may combine to form a 'Composite Team' if their combined enrolments do not exceed 500 students. If nominating a composite team, please email Netball Queensland the school names. All players must be in the same uniform and be nominated under only one school name.
- 1.6** Primary Schools Gala will consist of three (3) divisions; Championship (Division 1), Challenge (Division 2) and Development (Division 3), which schools can nominate into when registering.
- 1.7** Players may only play in one (1) team. The Championship division is suggested for students in years 5 - 6, and the Challenge and Development division is suggested for students in years 4 - 5.
- 1.8** Team Managers are to ensure that their team lists are provided to Netball Queensland either on the day of competition prior to the commencement of their first match or via email with a spreadsheet that Netball Queensland will provide.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 2.1** Teams of up to 15 players only will be permitted.
- 2.2** Players need to be enrolled and financial with the school they are representing.
- 2.3** All participants must abide by the Netball Queensland *Code of Conduct & Integrity*.
- 2.4** Teams can comprise of all boys, girls, or mixed teams as per Netball Queensland's policy advice on under-12 competitions in line with the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)*. The full policy can be found on this webpage - <https://qld.netball.com.au/sites/qld/files/2022-12/2022%20Policy%20advice%20for%20under-12%20competitions.pdf>  
No restriction will be placed on the number of boys on court or the position that they play.
- 2.5** Female players must be 13 years and under as of 31 December 2025.
- 2.6** Male players must be 12 years and under as of 31 December 2025.

## 3. COMPETITION FORMAT

### 3.1 GALA DAYS

**3.1.1** The competition will be played in line with *World Netball - Rules of Netball (2024 Edition)*, with the exception of the following rules:

- Rule 1.1 - Court and Related Areas (variations to the court surface and field of play will be approved by Netball Queensland prior to the event)
- Rule 2.1 - Match Length (match length and intervals are listed in this manual)
- Rule 3.13(f) - Role of captain (captains are not required to wear identification)
- Rule 4.13 - Reserve Umpire (reserve umpires responsibilities are listed in this manual)
- Rule 10.2 - Substitutions and Team Changes (this rule is replaced by the *Rolling Substitutions* rule)

**3.1.2** The structure and format of these rounds are determined by Netball Queensland and the Host Association. Rules for each specific gala day will be sent out prior to the competition.

**3.1.3** The competition is divided into three divisions; Championship, Challenge, and Development division. When nominating, you will be required to select the division you wish to enter.

**3.1.4** Guidelines for each division:

#### **Championship Division**

- Division 1 - aimed for years 5 - 6
- This division is for players who have experience with netball outside of school.

#### **Challenge Division**

- Division 2 - aimed for years 4 - 5
- This division is for players who have limited experience with netball.

#### **Development Division**

- Division 3 - aimed for years 4 - 5
- This division is for players who have little to no experience with netball.

### **3.2 ROLLING SUBSTITUTIONS**

**3.2.1** Primary Schools Gala will utilise rolling substitutions in all divisions.

**3.2.2** Teams will be allowed to make substitutions during play, including 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 for substitutions.

**3.2.3** The substitutions zone may or may not be marked out on the court. Substitutions must occur in from of the team bench on the sideline.

**3.2.4** The incoming player must wait until the player being replaced exits the court before entering the field of play.

**3.2.5** Players must observe the offside rules when entering the court. Failure to do so will result in a sanction, in line with *World Netball - Rules of Netball (2024 Edition)*, offside with the free pass awarded where the ball was at the time of the infringement or at the point of the infringement, whichever favours the non-infringing team.

### **4. NOMINATIONS**

**4.1** Primary Schools Gala nominations will close at varying dates based on the schedule of the gala rounds. All nominations will be online via NetballConnect.

**4.2** Schools will only have one option for payment: Full competition - upfront: online payment at the time of nomination or direct transfer.

**4.3** The nomination cost per team is \$200 (incl. GST).

**4.4** It is at the discretion of Netball Queensland to accept late nominations.

**4.5** The nomination fee is non-refundable.

### **5. PLAYER AND OFFICIAL REGISTRATION**

**5.1** If the person registering the team is not the Team Manager, they must ensure that all correspondence is passed on to the relevant person.

**5.2** Netball Queensland and the Host Associations ONLY have access to team lists to strictly use for competition purposes and to ensure that all players are covered under insurance.

### **6. WITHDRAWALS**

**6.1** If a team chooses to withdraw from the Primary Schools Gala, they must notify Netball Queensland.

**6.2** The nomination fee is non-refundable.

## 7. SCORING

**7.1** In all rounds, NetballConnect LiveScoring will be used. The team who is listed as *Home* will be responsible for allocating a scorer and scoring on the NetballConnect app.

**7.2** The opposing Team Manager/Scorer must stand with the Home team scorer to alleviate any disputes around the final score.

**7.3** Points:

WIN	LOSS	DRAW	FORFEIT
2	0	1	2 (non-forfeit team)

**7.4** If teams are on equal points at the end of rounds, then goal average will determine teams for playoffs. Number of goals scored/number of goals against x 100 = % (to two decimal places).

**7.5** If after ranking teams according to goal average to two (2) decimal places, teams remained tied, the results of the match between the two (2) teams concerned during the gala round will decide the winner.

**7.6** If the two (2) teams drew their match or on (1) match each, or if more than two (2) teams have the same number of points and percentages at the end of the preliminary rounds, then goal difference will be applied (the difference between goals for and goals against).

**7.7** In the event of a further tie, the team scoring the most goals during the gala round will secure the higher-ranking position.

**7.8** If the teams are still at a further tie, the team with the biggest margin of victory in a single match throughout the gala round against any of their opponents will decide the winner.

**7.9** In the event of a further tie, a coin toss will decide the winner.

**7.10** If scores are level at the end of a match, no extra time will be played.

## 8. COMPETITION DRAW & GAME LENGTH

(Managed by Netball Queensland and the Regional Coordinators)

**8.1** The duration of the matches is at the discretion of Netball Queensland based on the number of team nominations in the region and court availability.

**8.2** Netball Queensland will make the draw available to competing teams at least one (1) week prior to competition start date.

**8.3** The details regarding the rounds in each region; venue, dates, time and format, will be updated on Netball Queensland's website and communicated via email.

## 9. FORFEITS

**9.1** Forfeits at any stage of the competition are strongly discouraged. If a team must forfeit, they must notify Netball Queensland. The forfeiting team will receive zero (0) competition points for the game, and the opposing team will receive two (2) competition points. The score will be recorded as '10-0' in favour of the non-infringing team.

## 10. TEAM UNIFORMS

**10.1** All players from one team must wear the same netball uniform.

**10.2** Schools should ensure that they have two sets of different coloured bibs at all matches to overcome the problem of schools having uniforms that too closely resemble each other.

## 11. UMPIRES

**11.1** All umpires must officiate matches as per the *World Netball - Rules of Netball (2024 Edition)*. Netball Queensland recommends all matches are controlled by nationally badged umpires where possible. All umpires must have some experience.

**11.2** Each school is responsible for the appointment of one experienced umpire per team who is not nominated as a player in that school team squad list.

**11.3** If a school fails to supply an umpire, Netball Queensland may penalise the school in a manner they deem appropriate.

**11.4** Umpires will be required for the pool and final games.

**11.5** Schools are responsible for umpire payments direct to umpire. Please have this arranged before the competition.

**11.6** The team nomination fee does **not** cover the cost of umpires.

## 12. FIRST AID OFFICIALS

**13.1** Netball Queensland is responsible for providing a qualified First Aid Officer for the gala rounds.

## 13. INSURANCE

### Personal Accident Insurance Claims (Netball Australia Insurance Program)

- Only Netball Queensland playing members and non-playing members, who are registered as a member of their Association in NetballConnect or whose teams are registered in NetballConnect (the platform used by Netball Queensland and offered by Netball Queensland to organisations in its Community to assist with the administration of Netball) are eligible to claim against Netball Australia's Personal Accident Insurance Policy. Parents/Legal Guardians of individuals under the age of eighteen should satisfy themselves that their child/ren is/are appropriately registered as a playing (or non-playing, if appropriate) member of Netball Queensland, prior to them participating in any Netball Activities.
- A Personal Accident Insurance Claim Form (claim form) is to be completed, and submitted, by registered playing members (and registered non-playing members) who incur an injury that leads to a claim, while participating in Netball Activities, sanctioned by Netball Queensland.  
If the individual involved in a potential claim is under the age of eighteen, a claim can be initiated by their Parent/Legal Guardian, on their behalf.
- Exclusions, restrictions, limitations, prohibited activities and scope applies to Netball Australia's Personal Accident Insurance Coverage. For more information regarding these aspects of the Personal Accident Insurance Coverage within the Netball Australia Insurance Program, please contact Howden (contact details at the bottom of this section).

#### How to lodge a personal accident insurance claim:

- Please visit <https://www.howdengroup.com/au-en/netball-australia/playing-members>
- Select the following claim form to complete, as there is more than one (1) claim form on the above webpage (they differ depending on when the injury is stated to have occurred):

<https://www.howdengroup.com/sites/g/files/mwfley836/files/2024-04/BHSI%20Netball%20Australia%20Personal%20Injury%20and%20Sickness%20claim%20form%2004-2024.pdf>

- Complete each section of the claim form as completely, and honestly, as possible. The declaration by your Association/Club must be completed by an authorised representative of the Association/Club. Incomplete sections within a submitted claim form (including, but not limited to, the Association/Club section) will likely cause a delay in assessment, and processing, of the claim.
- Please submit the claim form (as well as any supporting documentation) to the entity stated within the claim form. This entity will also double as the same entity who can provide you with updates concerning the claim, not Netball Queensland or Howden.

If you require any assistance with completing a claim form, prior to submitting it to the appropriate entity, please contact Howden:-

T: 1300 420 370

E: [netball.aus@howdengroup.com](mailto:netball.aus@howdengroup.com)

## 14. APPEALS - PROTESTS, DISPUTES & COMPLAINTS

**14.1** All matters pertaining to an umpires' ruling are not subject to appeal. As per *World Netball - Rules of Netball*, 'the umpires control a match according to the Rules and decide any matter not covered by them. Their decisions are final and are given without appeal'.

**14.2** For matters pertaining to the gala rounds, all protests and complaints are to be forwarded to Netball Queensland within 24 hours. Any submissions after this may not be heard.

**14.3** If the protest and/or complaint pertains to a single match, it must be raised within 30 minutes of the completion of the match. If possible, the matter should be raised as soon as possible.

## 15. INTEGRITY

**15.1** As the state governing body, Netball Queensland bears the responsibility of uniting the community to safeguard the integrity and reputation of netball and its participants and stakeholders.

**15.2** Netball Australia and Netball Queensland provide a range of policies and codes of conduct to protect the integrity of the game, which can be found in this webpage - <https://qld.netball.com.au/policies>

**15.3** All participants, coaches, officials and administrators involved in Primary Schools Gala **must at all times comply with and abide** by these policies as a Netball Queensland-run competition, especially:

- Netball Queensland's Code of Conduct and Integrity
- Netball Queensland's Disciplinary Procedures Regulations
- Netball Australia's Member Protection Policy

All participants, coaches, officials and administrators should be **well aware** of the NQ policies **prior to** the start of the Primary Schools Gala.

## 16. CONTACTS

**16.1** For additional information about the Primary Schools Gala, please contact Netball Queensland on [competitions@netballq.org.au](mailto:competitions@netballq.org.au)