



2026 Country Carnival Competition Manual

Brought to you by



CONTENTS

NETBALL QUEENSLAND CONTACTS

1. EVENT INFORMATION

1.1 General Information	3
1.2 Definitions	4
1.3 Uniforms	4
1.4 Venue	6
1.5 Sports Medicine Personnel	6
1.6 Protests & Complaints	7
1.7 Event Timeline	7
1.8 Site & Tents	7

2. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

2.1 Competition Format	7
2.2 Daily Game Scheduling	8
2.3 Player Minimum Halves Requirements	8
2.4 Final Placings	9
2.5 Team Nominations & Eligibility	9
2.6 Grading & Appeals	11
2.7 Team Composition	11
2.8 Composite Representative Teams	12
2.9 Import Players	12
2.10 Dual Membership	12
2.11 Awards	13
2.12 Rolling Subs (Substitutions)	13

3. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Associations	13
3.2 Non-Associations	14

4. OFFICIALS

4.1 Team Officials	14
4.2 Match Officials	14
4.3 Scorers	15

5. CONDUCT OF EVENTS

5.1 General	15
5.2 Player Movement	15

6. MATCH RULES

6.1 General Rules	16
6.2 Match Points	16
6.3 Stoppages	16

7. CODES & POLICIES

8. ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY	17
---------------------------	----

9. APPENDICIES

Appendix 1 - Event Timeline	19
Appendix 2 - Country Carnival Associations	20

NETBALL QUEENSLAND CONTACTS

ROLE	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Competitions Coordinator	Tahu Whaanga	competitions@netballq.org.au
Head of Competitions	Luke Asi	competitions@netballq.org.au
Workforce Development Lead	Natalie Parsloe	coachandofficials@netballq.org.au
Workforce Development Manager	Claire Kleinschmidt	coachandofficials@netballq.org.au

1. EVENT INFORMATION

1.1 General Information

1.1.1 Country Carnival is conducted under the authority of Netball Queensland Ltd. (Netball Queensland) in partnership with the Host Association (HA).

1.1.2 The Netball Queensland appointed Country Carnival Competitions team has the overall responsibility for the day-to-day operation and management of each event.

1.1.3 Netball Queensland (NQ) and the Host Association (HA) will manage the format, structure, and conduct of the event.

1.1.4 Associations who are unable to fulfil the participation requirements outlined in this manual will be unable to participate in the event.

1.1.5 Netball Queensland has the power to waive compliance with the rules and regulations when satisfied that special circumstances exist.

1.1.6 Netball Queensland has the power to grant dispensation to any of the rules or regulations when satisfied that special circumstances exist.

1.1.7 Any request to waive compliance with the rules must be submitted in writing, addressed to the Netball Queensland Competitions team.

1.1.8 Netball Queensland may impose a fine on or deduct points from any team if they are found to have contravened or disregarded any rules of the competition.

1.1.9 2026 Country Carnival will be played under the rules and regulations outlined in the [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 Subs rule)

1.1.10 Click here to visit the [webpage](#) for Country Carnival.

1.2 Definitions

1.2.1 The Country Carnival will be referred to as the “Event” throughout this document.

1.2.2 The event will consist of six age groups. Age groups will be divided in the following ways:

- 12U
- 14U Girls
- 14U Mixed
- 16U Girls
- 18U Girls
- 18U Mixed

1.2.3 Players do not have to be enrolled in school.

1.2.4 Teams in the 12 years age group 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 Act). The full policy can be found [here](#).

1.2.5 Mixed age groups will allow for teams to have both girls and boys playing. No limitations will be placed on teams regarding the number of boys and the positions they are allowed to play. This includes allowance of full boys’ teams.

1.3 Uniforms

1.3.1 Netball Queensland has developed an inclusive uniform policy to provide guidance to Affiliated Associations and their Clubs. The policy applies across all Netball Queensland events and is aligned with Netball Australia’s Uniform Guidelines.

1.3.2 Netball Queensland recognises the functional and representative purpose team uniforms have had and continue to play in sport, while also acknowledging the ways in which they can inadvertently act as barriers to participation for people of different genders, cultures and abilities. Netball Queensland is committed to removing barriers to ensure netball is accessible to all and supports decisions that best allow people to bring their authentic selves to any facet of the game. Netball Queensland encourages and will support Affiliated Clubs and Associations to adopt adaptable, flexible and enabling uniform policies that prioritise comfort and safety in all its dimensions.

1.3.3 Players:

Associations and Clubs must approve the uniform of any team.

Uniform options

All teams can play in an approved uniform consisting of the following articles of clothing provided the team plays in the same colour and/or design and that no part of the uniform options cover the positional bib:

- A dress
- A singlet
- A bodysuit
- A tee shirt, long or short sleeved
- A skirt/skort
- Shorts
- Long pants either lycra or track suit style
- Any other adaptive clothing or approved item

Uniform options must cater for all weather conditions, so players are protected from the sun and/or cold weather conditions. To promote equity Associations and Clubs are encouraged to offer all uniform options at a similar price point.

1.3.4 Umpires:

- The umpire uniform must be able to be distinguished from player uniforms.
- It is recommended that Associations and Clubs allow match officials to choose any combination of uniform items to wear in the manner they find most comfortable, including:
 - o Upper body – Short or long-sleeved shirt or singlet in solid colour or specifically designed.
 - o Lower body – Pants, skirt or shorts in solid colour or specifically designed.
- Umpires may wear head coverings for religious reasons. Such head coverings must be:
 - o made of soft material.
 - o non-flowing, with edges held securely or tucked into the shirt.
- For the purpose of Netball Queensland's competitions, Umpires are required to wear a predominantly white top and all black or all white bottoms.

1.3.5 Please refer to [World Netball - Rules of Netball \(2024 Edition\)](#) for regulations pertaining to footwear and bibs.

1.3.6 Associations may identify a sponsor's logo or team logo on the playing uniform up to a maximum size of 64cm². Associations may identify a manufacturer's logo on the playing uniform up to maximum size of 16cm². Sponsor, team and manufacturer's logos may only appear once on anyone (1) garment. Both may appear on the one garment. It is not permitted to display a sponsor's or other name on positional patches.

1.3.7 Uniform Approval Process

Each Association must submit their Representative uniform options to the Competitions team. Any changes during a season must be provided in writing to the Competitions team.

Association Decision Matrix

Allow individual players in each team to choose any combination of uniform items. However, Associations should ensure that these items are of similar design to create continuity of uniforms throughout the team and assist umpires to officiate the game, for example:

- T-shirts, singlets, or long sleeve t-shirts must be the same design.
- T-shirts, singlets, or long sleeve t-shirts must still be able to clearly display a playing positional bib.
- The choice of bottoms must either include the same design as the dress/top or be all black, all white, a designated solid colour or team colours.

Uniforms must not present a genuine safety risk to the wearer or other players (i.e., open pockets, buttons, or zippers). Players are not required to justify their choice of uniform. However, players may be required to provide information pertaining to items they wish to wear to allow the Club or Association to facilitate that uniform choice.

It is acceptable for players to wear head coverings for religious reasons. Such head coverings must:

- Be made of soft material.
- Be non-flowing, with edges held securely or tucked into the shirt.
- Not cover positional bib.
- Be tied on or fastened by clips and non-sharp pins.
- Be all black, all white, a designed solid colour or team colours.

Head coverings should be included as an item in a club's uniform options for a competition.

If jewellery is not able to be removed for religious / medical reasons, it is the player's choice to play with them, and this player accepts the risks involved.

Jewellery which cannot be removed for religious / medical reasons should be covered with padding / tape as necessary to prevent injury to others. Jewellery or other items which cannot be securely covered or taped must be removed.

1.3.8 For more information, please check the Netball Queensland Inclusive Uniform Policy on our [website](#).

1.4 Venue

1.4.1 Netball Queensland appoints a local Netball Association venue to host the Country Carnival, with the overall management of the event falling under Netball Queensland. In 2026, Country Carnival will take place at the Mackay Netball Association.

1.5 Sports Medicine Personnel

1.5.1 Netball Queensland Sports Medicine personnel will hold a current minimum Senior First Aid certificate.

1.5.2 The responsibility of the Netball Queensland Sports Medicine personnel is to assist Association Primary Carer's with on court injuries or to continue treatment of injuries after the Primary Carer has removed the injured player/s from the court.

1.5.3 No one other than Netball Queensland officials or Sports Medicine personnel are to call for an ambulance and to advise safe entry to the venue. This is important to ensure multiple ambulances are not called for the same incident.

1.5.4 Team Managers of players who sustain injury or illness and are required to miss games, may need to have the injury or illness verified in writing by Sports Medicine Personnel for the player to be granted concessions that are stipulated by their own Association.

1.5.5 Personal Accident Claim Form

The Personal Accident Claim Form is to be used by any player (or team official) injured at training or during competition.

This form can be accessed via <https://www.howdengroup.com/au-en/netball-australia>

Only players who are registered through NetballConnect as a financial member of their Association are covered under the Netball Queensland insurance policy. Parents should check to ensure their child is registered.

1.5.6 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):
- Claim form for personal accident claims sustained on, or after, 1 April 2025.
- 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: 1300420370

E: netball.aus@howdengroup.com

1.6 Protests & Complaints

1.6.1 Any protest or complaint made during or after the event must be lodged to the Netball Queensland Competitions team email: competitions@netballq.org.au. The complaint will be reviewed initially and if deemed there is a need to investigate further, Netball Queensland in conjunction with the Host Association will do so.

1.6.2 Should a protest or complaint relate to a single match, such protest must be lodged within one (1) hour of the conclusion of the match.

1.6.3 A protest or complaint must be submitted to the competition's office, to be investigated by Netball Queensland.

1.6.4 Protests and Complaints MUST be lodged by an Association Representative. Parents and Spectators must inform the Association Representative and ONLY they (Association Representative) can lodge the protest or complaint in person.

1.6.5 Associations and Teams are reminded that they are responsible for their Parents and Spectators behaviour.

1.7 Event Timeline

1.7.1 Refer to [Appendix 1](#) for the Event Timeline.

1.8 Site and Tents

1.8.1 Associations are required to either reserve a site space or hire a tent for the duration of Country Carnival.

1.8.2 Tent hire will be available for purchase through the Netball Connect Shop and will be organised by Netball Queensland.

1.8.3 Associations bringing their own marquees will also be required to reserve a site via the Netball Connect Shop at no charge.

2. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

2.1 Competition Format

2.1.1 Netball Queensland reserves the right to use the competition format it believes is the best for the age group and number of teams nominated for the competition.

2.1.2 The Event will comprise six (6) age groups:

- 12U - born 2014 and 2015
- 14U Girls - born 2012 - 2013
- 14U Mixed - born 2012 - 2013
- 16U Girls - born 2010 - 2011
- 18U Girls - born 2008 - 2009
- 18U Mixed - born 2008 - 2009

2.1.3 Associations may allow players to play up one age group without seeking permission from Netball Queensland. However, association must seek permission to have any players play down an age group.

2.1.4 Where possible, there will be two divisions for each age group. This will depend on numbers of registrations and will be age group specific.

2.1.5 Division structures will be determined once registrations have closed, and team numbers are finalised.

2.2 Daily Game Scheduling

2.2.1 The Event will be conducted as one session with all teams playing throughout the day. Exact timing will not be known until all team nominations are received but is anticipated to be approximately 08:00 to 20:00 as a guide.

2.3 Player Minimum Halves Requirements

2.3.1 Netball Queensland strongly supports the implementation of player minimum halves and equitable playing times for all players. It is up to the individual Associations, Coaches and Team Managers to ensure that this is upheld. The enforcement of minimum halves is ultimately the responsibility of the Association to ensure that players are provided with appropriate amounts of game time.

2.3.2 Minimum half requirements should be calculated across the entire two-day event. For the avoidance of doubt, players need to play their minimum halves across the event, not in each game.

2.4 Final Placings

2.4.1 Final ladder positions will be determined by the result of all games and points accumulated.

2.4.2 If two (2) teams have equal points after the last match, the final ranking of these teams shall be determined by the following method:

- The respective placings shall be determined by ranking the teams according to the goal percentages achieved by each team – highest to lowest (i.e. goals for divided by goals against multiplied by 100).
- If two (2) teams are tied according to goal percentages to two (2) decimal points, the results of the match between the two (2) teams concerned during the preliminary rounds will decide the winner.
- If the two (2) teams drew their match, or if more than two (2) teams have the same number of points and percentage at the end of the Preliminary Stage rounds, then goal difference will be applied (i.e. the difference between goals for and goals against).
- In the event of a further tie, the team scoring the most goals during the four-days will secure the higher-ranking position.
- If the teams are still at a further tie, the team with the biggest margin of victory in a single match throughout the rounds against any of their opponents will decide the winner.
- In the event of a further tie, a coin toss will decide the winner with the Association who comes first alphabetically choosing which side of the coin is the winner. The coin toss will be conducted by the Competitions team and Host Association representative.

2.5 Team Nominations & Eligibility

2.5.1 **Country Carnival is for regional associations.** Country Carnival's purpose is to provide opportunities for regional associations to have competitions with similarly skilled teams before the State Age competitions or in lieu of attending State Age competitions. In 2026, Netball Queensland will grant permission for South East Queensland Associations to enter their Junior State Age **third teams** into Country Carnival. If an association has questions regarding eligibility for Country Carnival, please contact the Competitions team: competitions@netballq.org.au

2.5.2 Divisions will be allocated based on aiming to provide a similar number of games to all teams and providing teams with the best opportunity to play against teams of a similar standard.

2.5.3 Nomination fees for 2026 Country Carnival is \$330 (GST included).

This fee is **non-refundable**. If the volume of nominations dictate that some teams are not able to be accepted than any nomination fee paid will be refunded fully.

2.5.4 Player, Coaches, Managers and Umpire self-registrations must be completed through Netball Connect. Please note that there may be exceptions to this rule and the Competitions team will advise Associations and Teams if another process is deemed acceptable.

2.5.5 Associations must register one (1) umpire per team nominated. Names and contact details of umpire(s) must be provided. An Excel spreadsheet will be sent to Associations to list and rank registered umpires.

2.5.6 Associations who are unable to provide their own Umpires must contact the Netball Queensland Workforce team to discuss their situation and their requirements. Netball Queensland will do their best to provide umpires, however it is up to the association to ensure an umpire is allocated to EACH team. If a team cannot provide an umpire, their team will not take the court and no refund will be given.

2.5.7 A team nomination will only be considered with the completion of the Team Nomination Process and payment of the required nomination fee by the due date specified in [Appendix 1](#).

2.5.8 Team Nomination Process

For your team nomination to be accepted, the following needs to be completed:

- The Team Nomination is lodged through Netball Connect.
- All umpires and team officials are to be registered on Netball Connect, unless directed otherwise by Netball Queensland.
- All players are to be registered on Netball Connect by **Wednesday 1 April, 2026**.
- Tents, Ice and Additional Items can be purchased through the Netball Connect Shop at time of registration or at a later date. This option will close on **Thursday 19 March, 2026** and no late purchases will be accepted.
- There will be NO option to invoice.
- Ice can be purchased during the event at the administration office by an association representative.

2.5.9 Late nominations will be accepted at the discretion of the Competitions team.

2.5.10 A nomination is considered late if any of the components in Point 2.5 are not completed by the Team Nomination Process due date specified in [Appendix 1](#).

2.6 Grading & Appeals

2.6.1 The size of divisions will be determined by the number of nominations received per age group. Following the closing date for nominations division's structure will be finalised.

2.6.2 Divisions will be reviewed after nominations close and teams allocations will be finalised based on the following:

- Divisions nominated into at registration.
- Previous Team results at Netball Queensland competitions.
- Previous Association results at Netball Queensland competitions.

2.6.3 Netball Queensland will then share the Division allocations and competition structure with all nominated Associations.

2.7 Team Composition

2.7.1 Associations may nominate a minimum of nine (9) and a maximum of twelve (12) players in any single team.

2.7.2 Should your Team make any changes to the team list after player registrations have closed, the Team Manager must contact the Competitions team to adjust the team list and ensure the new player is registered.

2.7.3 **Country Carnival is not a selection tournament.**

2.8 Composite Representative Teams

2.8.1 If Associations are unable to field teams in specific age groups they may apply to the Competitions team, in writing to form a composite representative team with another Association or Associations.

2.8.2 Formal written request of composite teams must be received in writing by the Competitions team at least one (1) week prior to the nominations closing date for the Event.

2.9 Import Players

2.9.1 Associations unable to fill a team from their own Association's members may apply in writing to the Competitions team for permission to import a maximum of two (2) players.

2.9.2 The import player rule varies from the Composite Representative Team. Teams wishing to use the Import Player rule are able to enter teams in the Age Group but may wish to top up their team with a maximum of two (2) import players. Equally, these Import Players may come from an Association, which has also entered a team in the same age group at the Event.

2.9.3 The correspondence must include reason/s why the Association is seeking to use an Import player or the application for an Import Player will not be considered.

2.9.4 If the application is approved by Netball Queensland, then a clearance letter must be obtained from the Association the player is being imported from and a copy of the clearance must be provided to the Competitions team one (1) week prior to the nominations closing date.

2.10 Dual Membership

2.10.1 Players with dual membership (i.e. registered at two (2) or more Associations in the given year) must choose one (1) Association in which they will play for in the given calendar year in any of the Netball Queensland competitions, including this Event.

2.10.2 Players are only eligible to represent an Association if they have participated in regular season fixtures with that association.

2.11 Awards

2.11.1 The “**Umpire Awards**” recognises umpires who have been identified as standouts. The Umpire Awards are chosen by the umpire coaching team.

2.11.2 Team awards and individual player medals will be presented for the first (1st) and second (2nd) positions in all divisions in each age group.

2.11.3 Awards will be presented at the Medal Presentation.

2.12 Rolling Subs (Substitutions)

2.12.1 2026 Country Carnival will have rolling substitution.

2.12.2 Teams will be allowed to make substitutions 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.

2.12.3 The substitutions zone may or may not be marked out on the Court. Substitutions must occur in front a team bench.

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

2.12.5 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 \(2024 Edition\)](#) rule offside with the free pass awarded where the ball was at the time of the infringement or at the point of the infringement which ever favours the non-infringing team.

3. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Associations

3.1.1 Any Netball Queensland Full Member Association may enter teams in the Event if the Association has paid the required Affiliation fee, Capitation fees and/or any other amounts due to Netball Queensland. Nominations will not be accepted from teams who are not financial with Netball Queensland or have not submitted all required paperwork to formalise affiliation at the time of nominations closing.

3.1.2 Associations from Bundaberg and north are not required to seek approval to attend Country Carnival. Associations based south of Bundaberg may enter their Junior State Age third teams. Netball Queensland member Associations eligible to attend Country Carnival can be found in [Appendix 2](#). Any other teams must seek permission in writing to the Competitions team to attend Country Carnival: competitions@netballq.org.au

3.1.3 Associations may only select players who have participated in regular season fixtures with that association.

3.2 Non-Associations

3.2.1 Netball Queensland reserves the right to allow the entrance of non-association affiliated teams granted they meet one of the criteria listed below:

- The team is providing an opportunity that aligns with Netball Queensland's diversity and inclusion strategic plan.
- The team is associated with a cultural organisation that is providing an opportunity for players that wouldn't have otherwise had an opportunity to attend.
- Players that are nominated for the teams cannot be chosen for an Association that are attending the Event.
- All teams granted entry by Netball Queensland are eligible to place and to medal.
- Netball Queensland reserves the right to add in any additional teams at their discretion.

All Non-Association teams must seek approval from the Competitions team before registering their team. Approval must be sought at least one (1) week prior to the registration close date: competitions@netballq.org.au

4. OFFICIALS

4.1 Team Officials

4.1.1 Teams must nominate one (1) Coach per team and may nominate up to one (1) Assistant Coach per team. Registrations for Officials close **Wednesday 1 April, 2026**.

4.1.2 It is recommended that Coaches and Assistant Coaches have the following accreditation or higher:

Coach: Development Coaching Accreditation

Assistant Coach: Foundation Coaching Accreditation

If Associations would like to upskill their coaches to meet these recommendations, please contact coachandofficials@netballq.org.au

4.1.3 All Coaches and Assistant Coaches must:

Hold current Working with Children Positive Notice Blue Card, a copy of which must be provided to Netball Queensland as part of the registration process.

Be a current registered member of Netball Queensland prior to the Event.

4.2 Match Officials

4.2.1 Country Carnival is an opportunity for umpires to be badged and receive umpire feedback. Any association planning on bringing an unbadged umpire will need to seek permission from the Netball Queensland Workforce team: coachandofficials@netballq.org.au. Otherwise, it is recommended for Umpires to hold a current Netball Australia minimum 'C' Badge Umpires Accreditation.

4.2.2 To assist with ensuring the required amount of umpires attend Country Carnival, Associations must register at least one (1) Umpire per team nominated. Umpires are not to umpire more than one (1) team unless approved by the Netball Queensland Workforce team: coachandofficials@netballq.org.au

4.2.3 Netball Queensland will send Associations attending the Event an Umpire spreadsheet. Associations will be asked to list and rank their umpires and include umpire details in full. The Workforce team will then create an umpire draw using ranked umpires. This will ensure that appropriate umpires are allocated to games.

4.2.4 To assist with umpire development, Netball Queensland will offer umpire coaching during the event.

4.2.5 Umpires should dress in clothing distinct from players with white top, and suitable sports footwear must be worn as stipulated in [World Netball - Rules of Netball \(2024 Edition\)](#).

4.2.6 Umpires must be ready to commence matches at the time specified in the program.

4.2.7 Reserve Umpires: To ensure there will be a reserve umpire available on every game, **Umpire 1** will be required to stay at their court after the match until both umpires for the next game arrive. Once both umpires have arrived the reserve umpire may leave.

4.2.8 Should your Association make any changes to the registered umpires after nominations have closed, please email coachandofficials@netballq.org.au as soon as possible prior to the event.

4.2.9 It is the responsibility of the Umpire to be fully aware of the Rules and Regulations of the Event and matches.

4.3 Scorers

4.3.1 All matches will be Live Scored.

4.3.2 One (1) scorer must be supplied by each team for each match.

4.3.3 Netball Queensland will provide Netball Connect support guides to help prepare Managers for their live scoring responsibilities.

4.3.4 Up to Eight (8) officials (2 scorers, 4 Coaches and 2 umpires) are the only personnel, aside from participating teams' bench players, permitted in the players' area between the courts. For the safety of players, umpires and spectators, all other spectators must be in the designated viewing areas.

4.3.5 The two (2) scorers are responsible for recording the score and MUST sit together.

4.3.6 The Team Manager will be responsible for scoring or assigning an appropriate scorer.

5. CONDUCT OF EVENTS

5.1 General

5.1.1 The Coach and Manager's meeting will be conducted in the lead up to the event. The date is outlined in Appendix 1. It is recommended that all Associations be represented at the Manager's meeting. Those who take part in the meeting agree to ensure the information is distributed to all within their Association. Recordings of the managers meeting and the slideshow presentation will be sent to all Team Managers/those that registered the teams.

5.1.2 Netball Queensland will be using Netball Connect and the [Country Carnival Hub](#) as a communication system during the event. Links to and further information about these platforms will be included in the regular communications sent to registered teams.

5.2 Player Movement

5.2.1 Players must play in their designated age group as per clause 2.1.2, unless they meet the conditions outlined in clause 2.1.3 or 5.2.2.

5.2.2 When a team has injured or has unavailable players during the Event, teams may borrow players from their teams in lower age divisions or from their second team in the same age group (only once they reach eight players). Association's must seek permission from the Competitions team if a player is required to play in a different team to the one they are registered under. For the avoidance of doubt, a player can only play one division higher than their actual age group. Once a player has been listed on another team's team sheet three (3) times they must remain in the higher team for the duration of the event. Netball Queensland may grant exemptions under special circumstances however they must be brought to the attention of the Competitions team prior to any player movement commencing.

5.2.3 In a situation where an injury or unavailability occurs, and the team is reduced to less than eight (8) available players, the Association may move players up from younger age divisions within their own Association or from their second team in the same age division. No team should have less than eight (8) players available. No player may move up more than a single age Division.

In extreme circumstances, where an Association has multiple players withdrawn and are unable to recruit any other registered members of their Association, they may seek to recruit a "local" player as an import.

Association's must seek permission from the Competitions team if a player is required to play in a higher age group.

6. MATCH RULES

6.1 General Rules

6.1.1 The competition will be played under the rules outlined in the [World Netball - Rules of Netball \(2024 Edition\)](#).

6.1.2 Duration of game: Match playing times for matches will vary depending on the number of team nominations. Match times for each event will be displayed on the website prior to the event.

6.1.3 Once a score has been submitted in Netball Connect it will be taken as the one and only true score for the match. If a discrepancy is to be brought up to the Competitions team, it must be submitted by both scorers of the match. Both scorers are to be present for the entire match. If only one scorer presents the score discrepancy, the score submitted in Netball Connect will be the only one counted. A score cannot be disputed after the next match begins unless both scorers are present.

6.2 Match Points

6.2.1 Points will be awarded as follows:

- Two (2) points for each win.
- One (1) point for a draw or tie.
- Zero (0) points for a loss and a bye.
- Two (2) points awarded to a team if the opposing team forfeits (and score recorded as 10-0 to the non-infringing team).

6.3 Stoppages

6.3.1 Injury, Illness or Blood

Stoppages for injury, illness or blood may occur as per the World Netball - Rules of Netball (2024 Edition).

Any stoppage for injury, illness or blood will require the player concerned to be removed immediately from the court. The player may be replaced and play continues or the player's position may be left vacant whilst play continues and the injured player is treated. In this case the player may return to the court at any time. If the injured player is a Centre, the Centre position must be filled but another position may be left vacant to allow the injured player to return to the court as described above.

If the injury is serious enough to halt the game, Umpires must ascertain quickly from team officials whether the player will continue or be replaced to enable the game to progress.

No extra time will be given for a stoppage.

6.3.2 In the case of wet weather please refer to Clause 7.2.

6.3.3 Postponement

- Netball Queensland may determine that a match will be played later in the day if a spare court is available. This option must be agreed upon by both teams and must not impinge on any of the other matches. If both teams agree to a postponed match, the final result will be the one that is recorded in Netball Connect. If a team does not agree to postpone the match, the infringing who caused the delay in start will lose the match and it will be recorded in Netball Connect as 10-0 to the non-infringing team.

6.3.4 Forfeits or Delayed Starts

If a game is late starting, due to one team not being present or ready to play, the infringing team will be deducted one goal per minute the game is delayed. This will be calculated on the following basis:

After one minute – 1 goal

After two minutes – 2 goals

After three minutes – 3 goals

After four minutes – 4 goals

After five minutes – 5 goals

After 6 minutes – 6 goals

After 6 minutes the game is officially forfeited and the score will be recorded as 10-0 in favour of the non-infringing team

7. CODES & POLICIES

CODES & POLICIES

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.

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 [here](#).

All participants, coaches, officials and administrators involved in Junior State Age **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 Netball Queensland policies prior to the start of Junior State Age.

8. ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

8.1.1 In the event of bad weather, the Bad Weather Panel consisting of four (4) members, a Netball Queensland representative, the Host Association Convenor, the Umpire Coordinator of the event and a host Association Committee member will be activated.

8.1.2 In accordance with Netball Queensland's Adverse Weather Policy. The Bad Weather Panel will decide when games are to be cancelled or suspended due to bad weather and when play can continue once the bad weather has passed. The Panel also has the right to cancel the competition if it is believed players, officials and spectators could be harmed due to extreme weather conditions.

8.1.3 The Bad Weather Panel will implement the Bad Weather checklist and will use reliable sources to assess the weather condition, and in making a decision regarding play.

8.1.4 Netball Queensland will communicate the decision of the Bad Weather Panel to each Association Representative, via Netball Connect, who is to pass on the message to their team managers.

8.1.5 Netball Queensland has the right to implement a Wet Weather Draw if required.

8.1.6 Should the venue receive sufficient rain that there is surface water (as defined by their being puddles of water on the court) on the courts, play on all courts will be halted until all surface water is removed. If the time required to remove the surface water exceeds the scheduled end of play for that round, then the rules as per 7.1.8 will apply.

8.1.7 No matches will commence if there is surface water on any court(s) following a rain delay. Once surface water is removed on all courts, play can commence on all courts at the same time. The game will be played to the pre-determined finish time for that round and a decision will be made by the Competitions team in relation to the duration of the half time break, if the time remaining is longer than the normal duration of one half of play at this Event. If play commences in what would have been the second half of the game, then no break shall be taken and the game shall finish at the originally scheduled time.

8.1.8 Game Cancellations

- For a game being played in halves, if due to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances a match is cancelled, the following regulations shall apply:
 - If a match is cancelled before the start of the second half a draw will be declared. Each team will be given one (1) competition point and no for and against will be awarded.
 - If the game has passed the halfway mark and entered the second half a win will be awarded to the team with the highest score at the time in which the match was stopped and for and against will be awarded.

- If the score is tied and the match has passed the halfway mark and entered the second half, a drawn result will be declared, and each team awarded one (1) match point and for and against will be awarded.

8.1.9 Cancellation of Competition

- Netball Queensland has the right to cancel the competition if they feel it is required due to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances.
- If the competition must be cancelled, the following regulations shall apply:
 - If less than 75% (exclusive) of the event (by total number of rounds) has been played, no winners will be recorded.
 - If more than 75% (inclusive) of the event (by total number of rounds) has been played, the competition ladder will stand as is and winners will be awarded.
- Netball Queensland has the right to determine the percentage of how much of the event has been played.

8. Appendicies

Appendix 1 - Event Timeline

2026 Country Carnival	Dates
Team Registrations & Netball Connect Shop OPEN	December, 2025
Team Registrations CLOSE	Friday 20 March, 2026
Netball Connect Shop CLOSES (incl. Tent/Site Hire, Ice & Additional Items)	Friday 20 March, 2026
Divisions & Competition Structure Advised	Tuesday 24 March, 2026
Draw Published	Tuesday 31 March, 2026
Player, Umpire, Coach & Manager Registrations DUE	Wednesday 1 April, 2026
Information Pack Available	Wednesday 1 April, 2026
Online Managers Meeting	Tuesday 21 April, 2026
Associations & Supporters Bump-In (Tent/Site Set-Up)	Friday 1 May, 2026
Competition Starts	Saturday 2 May, 2026

Appendix 2 - Country Carnival Associations

Country Carnival-eligible Netball Queensland Associations
Barcaldine Netball Association
Biloela Netball Association
Blackwater Netball Association
Bowen Netball Association
Boyne Tannum Netball Association
Bundaberg Netball Association
Burdekin Netball Association
Cairns Netball Association
Capricorn Coast Netball Association
Charters Towers and Districts Netball Association
Clermont Netball Association
Douglas Netball Association
Emerald Netball Association
Evelyn Netball Association
Gladstone Netball Association
Herbert River Netball Association
Hughenden Netball Association
Innisfail & Districts Netball Association
Longreach Netball Association
Mackay Netball Association
Mareeba Netball Association
Middlemount Community Sports Association
Monto Netball Association
Moranbah Netball Association
Mount Isa Amateur Netball Association
Rockhampton Netball Association
Sarina & District Netball Association
Tableland Netball Association
Townsville City Netball Association
Tully Netball Association
Whitsunday Netball Association