



2026 Queensland State Titles Competition Manual

Sunday 20 - 22 September, 2026
Nissan Arena, Brisbane QLD

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INTRODUCTION

Netball Queensland's annual Queensland State Titles (QST) competition is designed to showcase the rising talent of Queensland Netballers in a high-performance environment. State Titles consists of two divisions: 16/Under & 18/Under with players travelling to Brisbane from around the State to compete. State Titles also serves as a platform for players wanting to be selected into the Queensland 17/Under & 19/Under State Representative Squads. The focus of QST is to produce a high-quality competition for Queensland Athletes and Officials.

QST will be conducted and played under the rules outlined in [World Netball - Rules of Netball \(2024 Edition\)](#), and in accordance with the QST Competition Manual. The Competition Manual shall consist of the competition rules and operational procedures to be adhered to by all teams involved in the event.

At the conclusion of Grand Final presentations, the Queensland 17/Under & 19/Under State Representative Squad will be announced. These Squads will train across the preseason before the final teams are selected to compete at the National Netball Championships the following year. Further information on State Titles can be found here: [State Titles - Netball Queensland](#)

CONTACTS

Contact	Role
<p>Teale Blessington <i>General Manager - Netball</i> E: teale.blessington@netballq.org.au</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversees the structure and delivery of the event
<p>Roselee Jencke <i>Head of Talent and Development</i> <u>Competitions Advisor (CA)</u> M: 0417 151 372 E: roselee.jencke@netballq.org.au</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitions Advisor - advisor on any netball related matter, rules, competition structure and points in association with Officials Advisor. Responsible for netball specific related enquiries from team management and overseeing the selection of the Queensland 17U and 19U Squads.
<p>Luke Asi <i>Head of Competitions</i> <u>Event Operations Manager (EOM)</u> M: 0402 700 782 E: luke.asi@netballq.org.au</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event Operations Manager - responsible for the overall day to day delivery and management of the event, including Netball Connect.
<p>Sam Douglas <i>Systems Lead</i> M: 0403 354 676 E: samantha.douglas@netballq.org.au</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event Operations - assisting in the overall day to day delivery and management of the event, including Netball Connect.
<p><i>Workforce Development Manager</i> <u>Officials Advisor (OA)</u> E: coachandofficials@netballq.org.au</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officials Advisor - oversees the umpire allocations, bench officials, umpire coaches and umpire development. Responsible for any netball related matter related to competition points, in association with the Competitions Advisor.
<p>Tracey Bruce <i>Firebirds Futures Academy Coach</i> E: tracey.bruce@netballq.org.au</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs Lead - responsible for event logistics relative to the High-Performance function, including team entry details for State Squad selectors.

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

Pending submission and acceptance of Intent to Participate forms, the following teams are anticipated to take part in State Titles:

16/Under Competition

- Kedron Wavell Cougars
- Darling Downs Panthers
- Bond University Bull Sharks
- Capricorn Claws
- Carina Leagues Club Tigers
- Gold Coast Titans Netball
- North Queensland United
- Mackay Monarchs
- Far North Flames
- Moreton Bay City Pulse
- Sunshine Coast Thunder
- Ipswich Jets Netball
- Brisbane South Wildcats
- Redlands Coast Eagles

18/Under Competition

- Kedron Wavell Cougars
- Darling Downs Panthers
- Bond University Bull Sharks
- Capricorn Claws
- Carina Leagues Club Tigers
- Gold Coast Titans Netball
- North Queensland (NQ)
- Moreton Bay City Pulse
- Sunshine Coast Thunder
- Ipswich Jets Netball
- Brisbane South Wildcats
- Redlands Coast Eagles

COMPETITION RULES

Competition Details

The QST will be conducted in accordance with:

- World Netball - Rules of Netball (2024 Edition) unless otherwise stated.
- The Competition is conducted under the authority of Netball Queensland Ltd. (Netball Queensland).

Netball Queensland staff will manage the format, structure, and conduct of the Competition and may make rules in respect to the following:

- Team and Athlete eligibility
- Integrity in Netball elements
- Uniforms and equipment
- Invitational teams
- Match organisation, officials, and requirements for the successful staging of the State Titles
- Official functions
- Invitations
- Venues
- Code of conduct and behaviour
- Media
- Attendance by athletes
- Broadcast or Streaming services
- Disciplinary matters
- Complaints process
- Event operations as noted in the Event Operations Manual
- Any other matters arising out of or incidental to or in connection with the good and efficient administration and management of the State Titles

Teams who are unable to fulfil the participation requirements outlined in this manual will be unable to participate in the Competition.

Netball Queensland has the power to waive compliance with the Rules and Regulations when satisfied that special circumstances exist.

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.

[Click here](#) to visit the webpage for the 16U and 18U QLD State Titles.

COMPETITION FORMAT

Netball Queensland reserves the right to use the competition format it believes is the best for the competition.

QST will be played over three (3) days with the first phase of the Competition referred to as the Preliminary Rounds. During the Preliminary Rounds, teams will play in two (2) pools and play each team once to establish preliminary ranking positions. Based on the final rankings from the preliminary round, teams will move into play-offs with a Grand Final for both divisions with teams vying for the competition title.

Game format will be as follows:

- Four (4) x ten (10) minute quarters

Quarters time (3 minutes), half time (5 minutes) and three-quarter time (3 minutes) breaks.

Competition Schedule

The competition schedule, including timing of matches, shall be circulated no less than 7 weeks in advance of the QST to each participating team. The draw shall be finalised and distributed 6 weeks prior to the start of the competition. Match times and court allocations will be scheduled at the discretion of Netball Queensland acknowledging teams flying in and out for the competition. Full list of key dates can be found in Appendix 1.

Points and extra time

The official score sheet completed by the bench official on Netball Connect is the only true record of the match. Championship points during the preliminary rounds will be awarded as follows:

Win = 2 points

Draw = 1 point

Loss = 0 points

Forfeit = 2 points will be awarded to a team if the opposing team forfeits

The Grand Final & semi-final matches will be played to a result. A draw will be accepted during preliminary round matches. At the conclusion of the preliminary rounds, teams will be ranked according to: Championship points awarded for a win, loss or draw as outlined above.

Determining Positions for Playoffs

In the event of teams tying on championship points at the end of the preliminary rounds matches, the ranking position will be decided by the following method:

1. The respective placings shall be determined by ranking the teams according to the goal percentages achieved by each team during the preliminary round - highest to lowest (i.e., goals for divided by goals against multiplied by 100).
2. If after ranking teams according to goal percentages to two (2) decimal points, and two teams remain tied, the results of the match between the two teams concerned during the preliminary round will decide the winner.
3. If the two teams drew their match, or if more than two (2) teams have the same number of points and goal percentage at the end of the preliminary round, then goal difference will be applied (i.e. the difference between goals for and goals against).
4. If teams can still not be separated, the team that has scored the most goals will be the higher ranked team.

Finals & Ranking Format

Following the preliminary rounds, all teams will play cross over finals followed by either a Grand Final or ranking game to determine their overall position.

Please note only the top two (2) ranked teams from each pool after the preliminary rounds will be eligible to win the State Title. There can be no draws in the Semi-Finals, or Grand Final. All Finals games are to play to a result. If teams are drawn at the end of a ranking game, a draw for that position will be declared.

In the event of a tie in the Semi Finals and Grand Final matches, there will be a two-minute interval at the end of full-time (end of fourth quarter):

The following shall apply for extra time:

- Substitute and team changes may be made during the two-minute interval.
- Teams change ends and the game is restarted by the team entitled to the next centre pass.
- Extra time of 2 x 5-minute halves will be played with a one (1) minute interval between the two halves.
- Teams change ends at the end of the first 5-minute half. Substitutions and/or positional changes may be made during the one (1) minute interval.
- The game is then restarted by the team entitled to the next centre pass.
- In the event that there is still a tie 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.

In the event of extra extra-time in the first Grand Final, the start time of the second Grand Final may alter to allow for a minimum 15-minute warm-up on Show Court. Ranking games that are tied at the end of the match will remain a draw and the two teams will be ranked in the same position.

QLD State Titles Athlete exemption

An athlete can be exempted from QST 20-22 September, upon forwarding a letter outlining the reason for an exemption. They can be granted an exemption under the following:

- Are a current Queensland State Team Member in 2025
- Have a medical certificate ruling them unfit to participate
- Are a nationally categorised athlete
- Are representing netball at a higher level

Once an athlete is selected into a Qld State Squad, they are expected to attend Phase 1 of selections from 27 September - 11 October (3 weekends) unless they come under the following category:

- Are a nationally categorised athlete

QLD State Titles Disqualification

An extreme breach of the relevant competition rules and any associated rule or policy regulating the QST may lead to the disqualification of an athlete and/or team.

Athlete disqualification

If an athlete is disqualified, they will be identified as disqualified on all timing, scoring and results. Their statistics will be removed from the individual statistics.

Team withdrawal or disqualification during preliminary rounds

A team either disqualified, or refusing to play, or refusing to complete a match shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the QST.

If a team withdraws from the QST, any matches it has played until then, as well as all the remaining matches to be played, will be recorded as a competition bye. The team shall be ranked last in the competition. The championship points will be corrected accordingly.

The results and statistics of matches involving the withdrawn or disqualified team must be rolled back. The competition schedule will be updated to reflect the withdrawal or disqualified.

Team withdrawal, failure to play or disqualification during Finals and Grand Final matches

A team either disqualified, refusing to play, or refusing to complete a match shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Competition and to have lost the match in question. The team will be ranked last in the competition and will not receive or will not be permitted to keep any trophies to which it was entitled or which it had already received.

All teams ranked below the team at the time of the withdrawal will be advanced by one place in the final ranking. Where appropriate after such revision of the ranking, the next highest ranked team(s) at the time of the withdrawal will be awarded any trophies as appropriate.

No goals will be awarded to any athlete in any matches that the team has played in until then.

Only the result and statistics of the last game must be rolled back.

Team playing an ineligible athlete:

- A team that elects to play an athlete that is not listed on the official entry form is therefore deemed ineligible, the result will be declared a forfeit for the match in which they have taken part and the results and statistics of that particular match will be 10 goals to 0 in favour of the team not in breach.

Match Stoppages & Injury Management

The QST will operate on a centralised timing system and therefore match delay, postponement, or the addition of injury time on the conclusion of the match, will not be possible.

Match Stoppages for Injury:

- Injury or Illness stoppages may occur as per Rule 10.9 of the World Netball - Rules of Netball manual.
- Any stoppage for injury/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 after a goal is scored or at a stoppage/interval.
- 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.

Match Stoppages for Blood/Blood Policy:

- An umpire is required to call time when a player who is bleeding is noticed and no on court player has called time.
- The player must leave the court immediately, be replaced, and treated off court.
- No extra time will be given for a stoppage.

Match Officials - Bench Officials & Umpires

Bench officials and umpires will be appointed by Netball Queensland and allocations and will be managed by the Officials Advisor (OA).

Two (2) bench officials will be allocated per game who will be responsible for scoring the match in Netball Connect. As central timing is being used rather than individual court timings, there is no need for a timekeeper. The scorers will keep score in the venue as well as in Netball Connect with a paper scoresheet as a backup in case of technology failure.

Two umpires will be allocated to all games throughout QST. If a team wishes to talk to an Umpire following a game, Team Managers are to approach Umpires before they leave the court for their change room. If the manager doesn't talk to the Umpires before leaving the court, they are to approach an Umpire Coach to organise a suitable time with the Umpires. Only Team Managers are to approach the Umpire after the game on behalf of the coach.

Match Timings & Live Scoring

Teams will have an allocated 15 minute prior to their game commencement for warm up on their playing court.

Duration of Games

- Four (4) by 10-minute quarters with breaks of 3, 5 and 3 minutes.

Rolling Substitutions

Rolling substitutions will be operational in the 16U and 18U State Titles. Teams will be allowed to make unlimited 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 for substitutions. Due to the use of rolling subs in this competition, rule 10.2 of the Rules of Netball (2024 Edition) will not be in effect.

For a substitution during play:

- The substitution zone will be clearly marked out on the court and will be no more than 1m by 4m
- The substitute(s) stands wholly inside the team's substitution zone to indicate a substitution is to be made
- Before leaving the substitution box, the substitute tags (with hands) the player leaving the court
- Players must observe the offside rules as they enter/leave the court and must not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution
 - SANCTION: Free pass where the ball was when the interference or offside entry/exit occurred or where the infringing player incorrectly entered the court (whichever is most advantageous to the non-infringing team)
- A player leaving the court must return to the team bench
- There is no need to supply the bench official with any detail advising of substitutions made.

Live Scoring

- All matches will be Live Scored through Netball Connect by the bench officials.
- The final score submitted in Netball Connect by the match bench official will be the one true score recorded, and no protest will be considered.
- It will be the responsibility of the Team Managers to correctly submit player tracking on Netball Connect during matches.
- Managers will be sent information and resources on how to use Netball Connect to submit player tracking and monitor stats through the Competition.

Player Minimum Quarter Recommendations

Consistent with the purpose of the Competition and aligned with Netball Australia requirements of teams participating in the 17U and 19U National Netball Championships (NNC), team coaches must ensure that players are provided with appropriate amounts of game time to ensure State selectors are able to see all players in action throughout the Competition.

In the 16U Competition, the recommendation is each player is utilised (enter the court) during a minimum (approximately 50%) of the total number of quarters, excluding the Finals.

In the 18U Competition, the recommendation is each player is utilised (enter the court) during a minimum (approximately 50%) of the total number of quarters, excluding the Finals.

It is the responsibility of the Coaching and Management team to keep an up-to-date tracking record of quarters played by each player should Netball Queensland staff request to sight this information. The live scoring facility will be set-up to record this information however Team Management are encouraged to also keep their own record in the event of technical issues.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Intent to Participate

Teams must submit by email their intent to enter the QST event as per the timelines indicated on the Intent to Participate form.

The Official Entry

The Official Team Entry, including all team and athlete details, must be submitted on the entry form seven (7) weeks prior to the scheduled first day of competition and entered into Netball Connect at this time.

An athlete or Team Official will not be deemed to be eligible to take the court in any QST match unless all paperwork has been received.

Changes to the official team after this deadline must be notified immediately to Netball Queensland. No change can be made to the official player list after the commencement of the QST regardless of injury, illness, or other commitments, i.e., the commencement of match one in each age group.

Integrity Netball Framework Education

Athletes and Officials are to complete the advised Sports Integrity Australia (SIA) eLearning Modules to gain Team Member eligibility for QST. The required eLearning modules will be communicated no less than eight (8) weeks prior to QST and are to be completed no less than four (4) weeks prior to the first day of competition.

Official Party

The official party of each team competing in the QST shall not exceed sixteen members, including twelve athletes.

Each team may have the following Team Officials:

- Coach
- Manager
- Two (2) other personnel

The Team Officials and up to five (5) athletes, not on court, shall constitute the team bench.

A team must field a minimum of ten (10) athletes for each match.

A team, in one (1) match can only play the twelve (12) team members identified on the team list provided before the commencement of the match.

Teams may have an unlimited number of players in their pre-event training squad.

Player Eligibility

- A player must be a current member of Netball Queensland
- QST is a female only competition unless otherwise specified by Netball Queensland
- The player must meet the relevant age eligibility, i.e.,
 - 16U players eligible to participate in the 16U competition must be born in 2010 & 2011.
 - 18U players eligible to participate in the 18U competition must be born in 2008 & 2009
 - If a player is born in 2009 and required to play up into the 18U division, an email to the Competitions Advisor must be submitted by the player/parent, club, and the request subsequently authorised by Netball Queensland.

Coach Eligibility

Coaching staff must hold a recognised Netball Australia Coaching Accreditation and Netball Queensland recommend the following minimum Coaching Accreditations as follows:

Head Coach - minimum Advanced Coaching accreditation

Assistant Coach - minimum Intermediate Coaching accreditation, ideally working toward Advanced

There may be some exceptions whereby a Development Coaching accreditation is held for an Assistant Coach, where the Assistant Coach is working toward their Intermediate accreditation.

Coaching appointments are made solely by the relevant Club operations personnel who are liable for character reference checking and ensuring coaches hold valid working with children checks.

Child Safety and Working with Children

It is the responsibility of the Team and Club operational personnel to ensure that all Officials:

- Are screened (including background checks and working with children check compliance) and cleared prior to appointment by the Club/Organisation.
- Receive training and education on child safety measures, referencing Queensland Government directives as required.
- Respond to any allegation or complaint regarding the safety and wellbeing of athletes as well as escalating any such allegations to the appropriate Netball Queensland representative.
- Complete the relevant Sports Integrity Australia Framework eLearning education as instructed by Netball Queensland.

Uniforms

Players may only take the court if they are wearing the team's registered an approved uniform unless they have been provided with a specific exemption by Netball Queensland.

Team uniforms must be sent to Netball Queensland's Commercial Manager (Tyler Kerr: tyler.kerr@netballq.org.au) for approval no later than 3 months prior to the competition start date.

Team uniforms should be as per the Netball Queensland Uniform guidelines provided and approved by Netball Queensland's Commercial Manager. These guidelines will include references to Netball Queensland's Inclusive Uniform policy which outlines all uniform options.

Please refer to the Rules of Netball for regulations pertaining to footwear, etc.

SPORTS MEDICINE PERSONNEL & INJURY

Sports Medicine Personnel

Netball Queensland will appoint Sports Medicine personnel for the State Titles. Appointed Sports Medicine personnel will hold a current minimum Senior First Aid Certificate and valid Working with Children Check/Bluecard.

The responsibility of the NQ Sports Medicine personnel is to assist with on court injuries or to continue treatment of injuries after the player has been removed from the court. They will not be available to provide preventative strapping. Preventative strapping is the responsibility of the player/team.

Injury Escalation

Only Netball Queensland medics are to call for an ambulance and will work with venue and NQ staff to advise safe entry to the venue. This is important to ensure multiple ambulances are not called for the same incident.

Injury Claim

Players who sustain injury or illness and are required to miss a game or games, will need to have the injury or illness verified in writing by the NQ provided Sports Medicine Personnel which can be provided to Netball Queensland staff overseeing State Squad selection.

Personal Injury Claim Form

1. The Personal Injury Claim Form is to be used by any player (or team official) injured at training or during competition.
2. This form can be accessed via [Netball Australia - How to make a claim | Howden Australia \(howdengroup.com\)](#).
3. Only players who are registered as a member of their Association on the Netball Connect system are covered under the Netball Queensland insurance policy. Parents should check to ensure their child is registered.

Instructions for filing a personal injury claim:

1. Please download the Claim Form here: [Netball Australia Personal Injury Claim Form](#)
2. Complete each section of the claim form. The declaration by your Association or Club must be completed by a nominated official. Incomplete claim forms may cause a delay in processing your claim.
3. Please return your Personal Accident claim form and supporting documentation via email or post to the Personal Accident claims handler, N2N Claims Solutions who will process your claim on behalf of Canopus Australia.
4. N2N Claims Solutions Address: Locked Bag 3111, Rhodes NSW 2138.
5. Claims Solutions will confirm receipt of your claim form and advise whether they require further information.

For assistance with completing your Personal Accident Claim Form please contact Howden:

Phone: 1300 420 370

Email: netball.aus@howdengroup.com

PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

Any protest or complaint should be assessed by the Team or Club's Operations Manager to review whether the event is to be dealt with via the CODE OF CONDUCT process.

If any teams wish to report any incidents or complaints that they deem are not to be lodged as a code of conduct, any such complaints must be submitted verbally to the Competitions Advisor within 15 minutes of match conclusion or immediately after the incident.

A protest or complaint must be submitted to the Competitions Advisor, to be investigated by Netball Queensland. The complaint will be reviewed initially and if deemed there is a need to investigate further, the Competitions Advisor in conjunction with the EOM and OA will do so. Netball Queensland reserves the right to utilise any means they deem necessary to make a decision.

Should a protest or complaint relate to a single match, such protest must be formally submitted via email within one (1) hour of the conclusion of the match. The formal submission must be lodged by the Operations Manager (or equivalent).

The final score entered into Netball Connect by the bench officials of each match will be recorded as the correct and only score. No protest of the final score will be considered.

Protests and Complaints MUST be lodged by a Club Representative. Parents and Spectators must inform the Club Representative and only they (Club Representative) can lodge the protest or complaint in person.

Clubs are reminded that they are responsible for their Parents and Spectators behaviour. Once a decision is made by the Competitions Advisor and Netball Queensland, the decision is final.

Any complaint warranting further review by a Complaints Committee, must be submitted via email and include the team's name, opposition team's name, time, nature of protest or complaint, and the names of people involved (if applicable) to the Competitions Advisor. The Competitions Advisor will escalate the submission to a Complaints Committee who have the final decision of the submission outcome. In the event the submission falls under the CODE OF CONDUCT process, the complaint will be managed through this process.

Codes of Conduct, Behaviour and 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 the State Titles **must at all times comply with and abide** by these policies as a Netball Queensland-run competition, especially:

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- [Netball Australia's Member Protection Policy](#)
- [Netball Australia's Child Safeguarding Policy](#)
- [Netball Queensland's Code of Conduct & Integrity](#)
- [Netball Queensland's Disciplinary Procedures & Regulations](#)
- [Netball Australia's Policy & Position Statement on Concussion in Netball](#)

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

COMPETITION AWARDS

Perpetual Trophies

Perpetual trophies will be presented to the winning team of the 16U State Titles and the winning team of the 18U State Titles.

A Netball Queensland staff member will contact the teams holding the perpetual trophies one (1) month prior to the Competition to ensure the trophies are cleaned and returned to Netball Queensland.

Should the perpetual trophy be damaged or lost the team will be invoiced by Netball Queensland for any cost incurred in repairing or restoring the trophy to its appropriate condition.

Player Medals

Player medals will be presented to the winning team and the runners up in both the 16U and 18U Competitions.

Special Awards

The MVP of both the 16U Final and the 18U Final will also be announced, the selection of the MVP's will be done by the State Selectors in attendance. Awards will be presented at the Closing Ceremony.

Appendix 1

The dates are indicative and may be subject to change at the discretion of Netball Queensland with sufficient notice provided where possible.

KEY CALENDAR DEADLINES	
Competition dates: 20 - 22 September 2026	
Deadline	Item
4 months prior - May 2026	Intent to Participate
3 months prior - 26 th June 2026	Player uniform submission
8 weeks prior - 24 th July 2026	Competition Event Manual(s)
8 weeks prior - 24 th July 2026	eLearning modules sent to teams
7 weeks prior - 31 st July 2026	Draft Draw (<i>and feedback provided within same week</i>)
7 weeks prior - 31 st July 2026	Submission of Team Entry Form & Headshots Netball Connect Registration complete
6 weeks prior - 7 th August 2026	Final Draw Circulated
4 weeks prior - 21 st August 2026	eLearning modules must be completed (Integrity in Netball Framework)
2 weeks prior - 6 th September 2026	Final Event Documentation (<i>e.g., Team Manager Information</i>)
7 days after event - 29 th September 2026	Event Evaluation - Stop, Start, Continue