

UniSport Australia Guideline

Netball

Women and Mixed

UniSport Australia (UniSport) netball competitions are conducted in accordance with the [INF Rules of Netball 2024 Edition](#) except where these differ from UniSport competition guidelines; in which case the latter shall take precedence. Reference should also be made to the UniSport *Breach of Competition Requirements* guideline for penalties related to breaches.

1. Team/squad size

- Minimum registered players – 10
- Maximum registered players – 14
- Maximum cross registrations – 3
- Minimum number of players that can take the field without incurring a forfeit – 5

1.1. Players who register in a mixed team are ineligible to register in the women's team and vice versa, should these teams be playing in the same Nationals event.

1.2. Each mixed team must have on court a minimum of two male players and a maximum of three male players with the following playing conditions adhered to:

- a) Minimum 2 males and a maximum of 3 males in
 - i) 1 shooting position (GA/GS) and/or
 - ii) 1 midcourt position (WA/C/WD) and/or
 - iii) 1 defence position (GD/GK)

2. Competition format

2.1. Game duration

- a) All games will be four x 12 minutes in duration with two minutes for quarter-time and four minutes for half time
- b) Only semi finals and medal games will be four x 15 minutes in duration with three minutes for quarter -time and five minutes for half time. UniSport reserve the right to alter game duration for other progression matches in the tournament, pending competition sizes and court availability.
- c) Injury time is only permitted in semi finals and medal matches.

2.2. Pool points scoring

Points for each match shall be awarded as follows:

- i) Winning team: 3 points
- ii) Drawn match: 2 points per team
- iii) Losing team: 1 point
- iv) Forfeited team: 0 points

2.3. Pool tiebreakers

In the event that two or more teams have the same number of points at the completion of the preliminary rounds, the higher placed team(s) will be decided when the first of the following criteria in order, favours one team:

- a) Difference in points scored (for and against) in all pool games.
- b) The percentages based on the total points scored for and against in all pool games.
- c) Result of round game/s of the teams on same points.

- d) Percentages based on their points for and against in the games in which they played one another.

2.4. Drawn matches

- a) If preliminary matches are drawn at full time, both teams will be awarded two points as per section 2.2.
- b) If progression or medal matches are drawn at the end of normal time, two extra periods of five minutes duration shall be played.
- c) At the end of this extra period, if scores are still tied, play will be recommenced with the team to score a two goal lead to be declared the winner.

3. Tactical changes

3.1. Tactical changes must be made without delay immediately after a goal has been scored. Tactical changes can be for:

- a) Team Change - When an on-court player changes position with another on-court player
- b) Substitution - when a player moves from the team bench to replace a player on court

3.2. During round matches when games are centrally times, teams will need to complete changes efficiently, so they are not penalised for delay.

3.3. For semifinals and final matches, time will be held for tactical changes.

3.4. For a substitution during play:

- a) The substitution zone will be clearly marked out on or near the court and will be no more than 1m by 2m.
- b) The substitute(s) stands wholly inside the team's substitution zone to indicate a substitution is to be made.
- c) Before leaving the substitution box, the substitute tags (with hands) the player leaving the court.
- d) A player leaving the court must return to the team bench.
- e) There is no need to supply the bench official with any detail advising of substitutions made unless that player is the Goal Shooter or Goal Attack (for statistics).
- f) Players must observe the offside rules as they enter/leave the court and must not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution.

4. Team duties

4.1. Team duty requirements for netball are:

- a) One person from each team competing in the current match to assist with timing and scoring.

4.2. The person fulfilling the team duty requirements can be any competent person associated with that team or university and does not necessarily have to be a player e.g. team manager.

4.3. Teams that do not fulfil team duties will be fined as per the UniSport guideline - *Breach of Competition Requirements*.

5. Uniform requirements

5.1. The specific uniform requirements for UniSport Nationals netball competitions are as per the [Netball Australia Uniform rules](#) with the following UniSport uniform requirements:

- a) Teams are required to provide at least one set of coloured netball bibs with playing position initials on both the front and back between 10cm and 15cm high and in a contrasting colour to the dominant colour of the bib.

6. Forfeits, delays and abandonments

- 6.1. A forfeit will be declared 10 minutes after the scheduled start of play where either team is unable to commence play.
- 6.2. The forfeit score is 20 goals to nil (0).
- 6.3. Should the commencement of a game be delayed due to no fault of either team (as determined by the competition management or UniSport), the game shall be played in its full duration if possible. If full game duration is not possible, the recommended revised game duration will need to be agreed upon by both teams. If resolution between the teams is not possible then the competition manager (or their delegate) will make the final decision regarding match format, which will not be subject to appeal.
- 6.4. In the event of a game being abandoned, the UniSport abandonment guideline will be implemented.

Previous amendments

August 2001 | July 2004 | April 2005 | August 2005 | March 2010 | April 2011 | May 2012 | May 2014 | February 2015 | April 2017 | February 2018 | June 2018 | March 2019 | July 2022 | July 2023 | May 2023 | July 2024

*All competitions will be held in accordance with the UniSport competition guidelines.

