

Perry Park Recreation Centre

Netball Competition By-Laws

All players participating in Perry Park Recreation Centre sport competitions do so at their own risk, with the understanding and acceptance that injury insurance is not provided by the Centre, as specified in Section 3.5 of this document.

All players participating in Perry Park Recreation Centre sports competitions must abide by the Centre's *Conditions of Entry, Indoor Court Rules* and the *Netball Competition By-Laws* (this document).

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All participants are required to read in acknowledgement and agree with the following *Indemnity and Release* clause, and agree to comply with the Centre's *Code of Conduct*.

Indemnity and Release

To participate in Perry Park Recreation Centre's sports competitions, you must acknowledge and accept the risk associated with the activity, and release the City of Sydney Council of liability related to the activity.

While the City of Sydney (Perry Park Recreation Centre) will endeavour to provide a safe playing environment, the activities undertaken in this program will expose participants to inherent risks or dangers which cannot be eliminated. These can include but are not limited to: bodily injuries, strains, fractures, concussion, and/or death. The Participant releases and holds harmless the City of Sydney from and against any injury, loss, cost, expense, demand or liability (to the extent not caused or contributed to by the negligent act or omission of the City of Sydney), directly or indirectly arising out of or in any way connected with the Participant's participation in the Centre's sports competitions.

Code of Conduct

To participate in Perry Park Recreation Centre's sports competitions, you must acknowledge and accept the Code of Conduct outlined by the Centre. Non-compliance may result in you forfeiting your right to participate in the program.

Participants must abide by the Centre's Code of Conduct at all times when participating in the sports competitions. Participants must:

- a. Follow all reasonable instruction, direction and requests given by Centre staff.
- b. Be respectful to all people participating in the sports competitions, including other participants, officials and Centre staff.
- c. Read and comply with Perry Park Recreation Centre's relevant sports competition by-laws.
- d. Read and comply with Perry Park Recreation Centre's Conditions of Entry.

Team registration fees do not include personal accident or injury insurance cover. Individuals are encouraged to consider private health insurance options.

1. Registration

1.1. Registering a team

- a. To register a team into a Perry Park Recreation Centre competition, a team captain (or manager) must:
 - i. Submit a complete *Team nomination form* to the Centre in person or via email to pprcadmin@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au; and
 - ii. Pay the total team fees in person or via phone on (02) 9288 5651.

1.2. Team nomination form

- a. The complete *Team nomination form* can be submitted by email to pprcadmin@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or in person at the Centre reception as per 1.1.a.
- b. Teams can have a maximum of 12 players on the team nomination form. Team captains (or managers) must consult with Centre reception if they wish to have more than 12 players.
- c. Teams can add players throughout the season. However, the Centre retains the right to reassess the skill level of the newly formed team and make any required divisional changes as per 2.5.d.
- d. Players listed on the *Team nomination form* are considered part of the team's roster.
- e. Team registrations after the start of a season are subject to availability.

1.3. Team captain (or manager) responsibilities

- a. Team captains (or managers) will be the team's main point of contact for the Centre.
- b. Team captains (or managers) are responsible for:
 - i. Communicating to their team the Centre's *Conditions of Entry* and *Indoor Court Rules*;
 - ii. Communicating with their team on behalf of the Centre and;
 - iii. Completing and updating *Team nomination forms* throughout the season. This includes change of player details and/or team roster.

1.4. Fees and payment

- a. Team fees are paid in full during team registration, either in person or via phone as per 1.1 above.
- b. The Centre will remove a team from existing fixtures if a team fails to promptly pay any outstanding fees.
- c. There is no discount or refund if a bye and/or forfeit occurs in the competition. However, friendly games may be organised and played in lieu of a bye and/or forfeit where possible.

2. Rules and regulations

2.1. Senior & mixed netball rules

- a. The Centre's netball competitions follow rules and regulations outlined by The International Netball Federation (INF), Netball NSW and Netball Australia.
- b. The Centre's senior netball competitions are for participants aged 16 and over (at the time of competition). Players under the age of 16 are only permitted to participate in senior competitions provided the Centre receives written consent (form provided by the Centre) from a parent or legal guardian.
- c. Teams must have a minimum of five (5) registered players on the court at any time, and a player must be playing in the Centre Position.
- d. Mixed teams must have a minimum of one (1) male and are allowed a maximum of three (3) males on the court at any time.
- e. Only one (1) male from each team is permitted to play in each goal circle per quarter.

2.2. Junior netball rules

- a. Competition rules are the same as seniors and will be adjudicated as such.
- b. Age groups are defined by the age at which players turn in the calendar year and are grouped as follows:
 - i. 10-12 years
 - ii. 13-15 years
- c. Players may play up an age group upon request provided the Centre determines they are of suitable playing ability and a written consent form (provided by the Centre) is received from a parent or legal guardian.

2.3. Length of games

- a. Length of games are as follows:

Senior netball = 4 x 8 minute quarters, running clock

Junior netball = 4 x 7 minute quarters, running clock
- b. Game time may be reduced if a team fails to arrive on time or fails to comply with the player sign on procedure as per Section 2.7 of this document.
- c. Late teams will be penalised one (1) goal every one (1) minute the game is delayed. A one (1) quarter grace period is permitted for late teams before the game is considered a forfeit loss for the late team.
- d. The length of games may be subject to change pending Centre discretion.

2.4. Game points for result

- a. Game points allocation are as follow:

Win = 3 Points

Draw = 2 Point

Loss = 1 Point

Forfeit Win = 3 Points

Forfeit Loss* = 0 Point

*Please see section 3.2 for additional information regarding the Centre's forfeit policy.

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- b. Teams can download the free SportFix app to view the fixtures and results. Alternatively, teams may go onto www.sportfix.net/PerryParkRecreationCentre.

2.5. Grading

- a. To ensure fairness to all participating teams, the season may start with grading rounds to allocate teams into divisions according to their skill level.
- b. The Centre determines the number of grading rounds based on the number of teams registered into the competition and the number of rounds the competition will run for.
- c. The match results from games specifically classified as grading rounds are used solely to allocate teams into the most appropriate division and will not be reflected on the competition ladder.
- d. The Centre retains the right to re-grade a team if management believes a team has been incorrectly placed into a division, or if a change has been made to a team's roster.
- e. The Centre retains the right to increase the number of grading rounds if it will help with the accurate grading of teams. The number of competition rounds will be decreased accordingly.
- f. The Centre retains the right to decrease the number of grading rounds if the Centre believes they are not required. The number of competition rounds will be increased accordingly.
- g. Teams may request a review of grading prior to round four (4) of the competition by contacting the Centre on pprcadmin@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.
- h. Should a team be regraded and reallocated to another division after competition rounds have commenced, the team's current competition points, including goals for and against, will be carried over on the ladder.
- i. If a team enters the competition after competition rounds have commenced, they will receive one (1) competition point for each round they have missed, and zero (0) goals for and against.

2.6. Borrowing players

- a. Teams are permitted to borrow players from another team provided:
 - i. The team has the minimum number of players required, as outlined in Section 2.1 of this document;
 - ii. The borrowed player is registered to play at the Centre;
 - iii. Players are only borrowed to fill the number of on-court players, not to substitute for the team.
- b. Borrowed players from a higher division may only play in the WA and/or WD positions.
- c. Borrowed players from the same or lower division or age group may play in any position.
- d. Teams may only borrow players during the regular competition rounds, not during finals series.
- e. External and/or new players can fill-in/register late in the season provided they add their full name and signature to the team sign-on sheet prior to participation, to acknowledge their understanding & acceptance of the competition terms & conditions.
- f. Teams playing with unregistered or non-rostered players may see their game result in a forfeit loss.

2.7. Player sign on procedure

- a. The team captain (or manager) is required to provide the full names of all registering players, including new players registering throughout the season.
- b. Prior to their first round of competition, all players must sign next to their name on the *Team sign on sheet* to indicate they acknowledge and agree to abide by the *Netball Competition By-Laws*, the Centre's *Conditions of Entry*, *Code of Conduct* and *Indoor Court Rules*, and accept the *Indemnity and Release* clause outlining inherent risk of injury and/or death associated with participation in the sport competition.
- c. All players, including those arriving after a game has commenced, must sign their initials off on the round in which they are participating on the *Team sign on sheet* before taking the court.

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- d. Games will not start until all present players have signed on as specified in 2.7.b and 2.7.c above. The game clock will continue to run; any teams deliberately delaying the game will have one (1) goal awarded to the other team per one (1) minute of delay.
- e. Borrowed players must write their names on the scoresheet and note down which team they are originally rostered on.
- f. Any player playing under a different name may be reported for misconduct and be placed on review for disciplinary action. The game may result in a forfeit loss. Team captains (or managers) are responsible for ensuring players are signed on correctly and truthfully.
- g. Centre staff may request personal identification if there is suspicion of misconduct. Refusal to follow direction from staff may result in a forfeit loss and further disciplinary action.

2.8. Player substitution

- a. Players may only substitute and/or switch positions between quarters and during time called for injury, illness or blood.

2.9. Finals series

- a. The top four (4) teams in each division will play two (2) rounds of finals in a knockout format:
 - i. Round 1 – Semi-finals (SF)
 - SF game 1. Position 1 vs. Position 4
 - SF game 2. Position 2 vs. Position 3
 - ii. Round 2 – Grand finals (GF)
 - Winner of SF game 1 vs. Winner of SF game 2
 - Loser of SF game 1 vs. Loser of SF game 2 (for 3rd place)
- b. The top four (4) teams in each division are determined by the following:
 - i. Competition points
 - ii. Goal differential/percentage
 - iii. Total goals scored
- c. To be eligible for a finals series, a player must be registered and have played:
 - i. A minimum of three (3) games for seasons with 12 rounds or less (including finals)
 - ii. A minimum of five (5) games for seasons with 12 round or more (including finals)
- d. Teams are not permitted to borrow players for any finals series as per Section 2.6.d of this document.
- e. If a team that finishes in the top four at the end of the season is unable to compete in the final series, the highest placed team outside the top four (4) that is available for the finals series will be brought into the fourth position instead. All remaining teams will move up in position accordingly.
- f. In the event of a draw in any finals game, play will continue until one team achieves a two (2) goal lead.
- g. Friendly games are available to teams that did not qualify for the finals series. Teams may request the Centre to organise a friendly game during the final series rounds.

3. Policies

3.1. Refund policy

- a. Team fees are non-refundable unless:
 - i. Teams withdraws from the competition at least seven (7) days prior to the competition start date;
 - ii. The competition does not go ahead.
- b. The Centre does not provide refunds if:
 - iii. The game is a forfeit and both teams miss a game.
 - iv. A game is abandoned as per 3.4 below.
 - v. A team or player is suspended or removed from the competition due to any misconduct, as per Section 4.3 below.
 - vi. A team decides to withdraw from the competition within seven (7) days of the scheduled start date, or after the competition has commenced.

3.2. Forfeit policy

- a. If a team does present to play with at least five (5) original rostered players, they will receive a forfeit loss and their opposing team will receive a forfeit win.
- b. However, teams are strongly recommended to attend their game and play a friendly with their opposition. Doing so will result in receiving one (1) competition point for a loss instead of zero (0) for a forfeit. The game will be considered “played” by all registered players who participate.
- c. Teams needing to forfeit must notify the centre by calling (02) 9288 5651 as soon as possible. Teams unable to reach centre staff via phone must leave a voicemail and send a follow up email to ppracadmin@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.
- d. Forfeits received after 3.00pm on the day of competition will result in minus three (-3) competition points.
- e. A team’s third, and any subsequent forfeits in the same season, will result in minus three (-3) competition points per forfeit.
- f. There will be no refunds for forfeits as per 3.1.b.i. above. The Centre will endeavour to organise a friendly game for teams forfeited against, otherwise the court is available for training.
- g. The team being forfeited against will be assigned a 15-0 win, while the forfeiting team will receive a 15-0 loss and zero (0) competition points. (with exceptions outlined in Section 3.2.b above).
- h. Games won by forfeit will be considered “played” by all registered players in the winning team, and noted as such on the team sign-on sheet.
- i. Games lost by forfeit will be considered “played” by any registered player from the forfeiting team who attends to play a friendly game, and noted as such on the team sign-on sheet.
- j. Any team that forfeits three (3) or more times in the same season may be unable to register for the following season. The Centre will consider the team in question’s effort to attend and play friendly games during forfeited rounds when deciding on their eligibility for re-registration.

3.3. Competition withdrawal policy

- a. Teams must inform the Centre in writing via email at ppracadmin@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au if they wish to withdraw from a competition.
- b. Team fees are non-refundable, unless teams meet conditions outlined in 3.1.a above.

3.4. Abandoned game policy

- a. A game may be abandoned if there is serious misconduct from players and/or spectators, or if players and/or spectators fail to follow reasonable instruction from Centre staff. There will be no refunds for these abandoned games, as per Section 3.1.b.ii above.
- b. In the event of an abandoned game for the reasons specified in Section 3.4.a above, the offending team(s) will be deemed to have forfeited.
- c. Games may also be abandoned under the following circumstances:
 - i. In the event that the Centre operating standards are compromised, such as a power failure or storm damage;
 - ii. The safety of staff and/or guests is compromised;
 - iii. Adverse weather conditions including extreme heat (see Section 3.9 of this document)
- d. In the event of abandoned games for the reasons specified in Section 3.4.c above, the Centre will reschedule these games to be played at a later date.

3.5. Insurance policy

- a. All players participate at their own risk.
- b. Personal health/injury insurance is the responsibility of the individual player, and is not provided by the Centre for issues relating to injury or death whilst competing in any netball competition.
- c. Players are encouraged to find an appropriate insurance policy to provide cover in case of sustained injury or death.

3.6. Uniform, footwear & jewellery policy

- a. Playing bibs are provided by the Centre. Teams may bring and use their own bibs if they wish.
- b. Teams are encouraged to wear like coloured clothing.
- c. Players may wear sport specific gloves during games.
- d. Players must wear enclosed running or sport specific, non-marking shoes, and are not permitted to play bare foot or wear any other footwear including sand or canvas shoes, sandals, thongs, boots or high heels.
- e. Players may wear prescription glasses.
- f. Players may wear hats and sunglasses for the purpose of UV protection (outdoor competitions only).
- g. Fingernails must be short and smooth, covered by sport specific gloves or taped with sports/medical tape.
- h. Long hair must be suitably tied back.
- i. No adornment or jewellery may be worn. Exceptions include:
 - i. Wedding rings;
 - ii. Wedding bands;
 - iii. Medical alert/ID bracelets.These items must be securely taped over.
- j. Sport specific gloves and sports tape will not be provided by the Centre.
- k. Players not following the uniform policy may not be permitted to play.

3.7. Drug and alcohol policy

- a. Any players suspected to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be asked to leave the Centre immediately.

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- b. Refusal to comply with staff directions will result in a forfeit loss to the non-compliant team and may entail further disciplinary action and/or assistance from the police.

3.8. Pregnancy policy

- a. Pregnant players are strongly recommended to seek advice from an appropriate, qualified medical practitioner regarding the risks involved in participating in netball competitions while pregnant, whether it is safe to continue participation and for how long you should continue to participate.

3.9. Team and spectator seating policy

- a. Teams must convene in their designated zone (on opposite sides of the official bench) prior to their match, during the match (applicable only to substitute players) and during the half time breaks.
- b. Spectators must remain on the opposite side of the court to the official bench and team zones.
- c. Spectators and substitute players are expected to behave in a respectful and courteous manner at all times. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the court area as per Section 4.2.c below.
- d. Team captains (or managers) are responsible for ensuring their team and supporting spectators follow these rules.

3.10. Hot weather policy

- a. The recommended temperatures for cancellation of games are as follows:
Senior games (over 18) = 36°C or above
Junior games (under 18) = 32°C or above
- b. The Centre may allow for extra drink/rest breaks during games being played in excess of 30°C.
- c. The Centre reserves the right to reschedule games in the event of hot weather.

3.11. COVID-19 Safety Plan

- a. In this section:
 - i. **The Centre's COVID-19 Safety Plan** means the COVID-19 Safety Plan relevant to the Premises/Facilities/Equipment prepared by the City of Sydney Council in accordance with the Order.
 - ii. **COVID-19** refers to the disease known as the Novel Coronavirus caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, being a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, characterised as a pandemic by the World Health Organisation on 11 March 2020 (COVID-19) and resulting in orders by NSW Health under the Public Health Act (NSW) 2010, including the Order.
 - iii. **COVID-19 Safety Plan** means the relevant safety plan required under the Order, and if not required under the Order, the general COVID-19 Safety Plan provided on the NSW Government website at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe-businesses>, which sets out health and safety measures at the Venue including restrictions on gathering and movement, hygiene and public safety, physical distancing and crowd control measures, staff wellbeing, recording contact details of all persons attending the Centre during the competition period, cleaning, record keeping and information exchange for competition participants any other measures required under the Order from time to time.
 - iv. **Order** means the order (as amended from time to time) to restrict or prevent gatherings and movement in NSW to control and manage COVID-19. The City of Sydney Council will prepare and maintain the Centre's COVID-19 Safety Policy in relation to the Order.
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/public-health-orders.aspx>
- b. The Centre will periodically introduce/amend/extend COVID-19 procedures, rules, and restrictions. Team captains/managers are responsible for communicating and ensuring they and all team players observe and comply with the Centre's COVID-19 procedures, rules, and restrictions.
- c. All players participate in the Centre's sports competitions must use the City of Sydney Council's contact tracing application to record their details each time they attend the Centre. The team

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captain/manager is responsible for ensuring all of their team players complete the City of Sydney Council's contact tracing application upon entry of the facility.

- d. All players are not to attend the Centre if they are feeling unwell or experience any flu-like symptoms. Team captains/managers are responsible for communicating with Centre staff if they or any of their team players are unwell or present with any symptoms.

4. Governance

4.1. Complaints

- a. Teams may file a complaint or report misconduct of any players, teams or sporting officials by submitting a *Customer feedback and complaints form*. This form is provided upon request by Centre staff and must be completed and returned within 24 hours of the alleged incident, either in person or via email to pprcadmin@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au. The form's details will be evaluated by Centre management with reference to the Centre's Service User Exclusion Procedure, and the outcome will be communicated to teams via email within five (5) working days.
- b. Confronting other players, umpires or Centre staff is a breach the *Code of Conduct*. Penalties will apply as per Section 4.3 of this document.
- c. While the Centre endeavours to ensure teams act in accordance with the competition rules, teams may inform Centre staff if they suspect a team is in breach of these rules.

4.2. Sporting officials

- a. Decisions made by sporting officials are final and must be respected at all times. Penalties may apply to players disputing calls during or after the game as per Section 4.3 of this document.
- b. Sporting officials have the right to send players and/or spectators off or out of the court area for any intimidating or antisocial behaviour. In this event, players and/or spectators must leave the court area under the supervision of Centre staff before the game can resume.
- c. Removed players and/or spectators are permitted to remain in the Centre's foyer reception area, provided further intimidating or antisocial behaviours is discontinued.
- d. If antisocial behaviours continue, staff will direct players and/or spectators to leave the Centre entirely as per the Centre's Service User Exclusion procedure.
- e. The match may result in an abandoned game if players and/or spectators fail to follow the directions of Centre staff and/or the sporting officials.
- f. Clarification from sporting officials may be requested only via the team captain or manager at the beginning of the match, at half time, or at the end of the game.

4.3. Umpire disciplinary discretion

- a. To manage a match and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all players, netball umpires may, in addition to the normal sanction, use any of the following disciplinary procedures;
 - i. Verbal cautions for unfair play or misconduct, including but not limited to; dissent, intimidation, retaliation, unsportsmanlike conduct & delaying play, and the deliberate or persistent infringing of any rule.
 - ii. Verbal warnings for continued unfair play or misconduct following a caution, or actions deemed dangerous play.
 - iii. Suspension a player for a period of two (2) minutes for continued unfair/foul/dangerous play or misconduct following a warning or in the first instance of dangerous play should the umpire consider this action is justifiable and warranted.

When a player is suspended no substitute is permitted and the player's position must be left vacant unless the suspended player is the centre. In this instance one on-court player must move to play as centre during the suspension.

Following the suspension period the suspended player must return to their original playing position and any player who moved to play as centre during the suspension must return to their original playing position.

- iv. The ordering off of a player for the remainder of the match for serious misconduct or continued foul play, usually following a warning or suspension.

When a player is ordered off no substitute is permitted and the player's position must be left vacant unless the suspended player is the centre. In this instance one on-court player must move

to play as centre and the position of this player must be left vacant for the remainder of the match.

- b. Any player who is ordered off the court by an umpire may face further disciplinary action as outlined in Section 4.4 of this document.

4.4. Disciplinary sanctions

- a. Disciplinary sanctions may be issued to individual players, entire teams, and/or spectators.
- b. Acts or threats of physical violence or any other illegal behaviours may be reported to the police.
- c. Should the behaviour and/or actions of any player or spectator, either physical or verbal, result in their expulsion from a match and/or removal from the court area, the following guidelines will be utilised by Centre management to determine the most appropriate disciplinary action.
- d. **Behaviour-related sanctions guideline:**

Offence	Recommended suspension
<i>Breaching Conditions of Entry and Indoor Court Rules</i>	1 – 2 weeks
<i>Disputing decisions of a sporting official</i> (e.g. persistent dissent towards a sporting official)	1 – 2 weeks
<i>Unsportsmanlike behaviour</i> (e.g. spitting, kicking bins, or other people's possessions)	2 – 4 weeks
<i>Intimidation</i> (e.g. threatening gestures, words or actions towards a player, spectator, sporting official or Centre staff)	3 – 6 weeks
<i>Obscene language and/or gestures towards a player, spectator, sporting official or centre staff</i> (e.g. abusive or insulting language, comments regarding race, sexuality or religion)	3 – 6 weeks

- e. **Physical altercation-related sanction guidelines:**

Offence	Recommended suspension
<i>Attempting to strike</i> (e.g. attempting to push, elbow, kick, punch or head-butt)	4 – 8 weeks
<i>Striking</i> (e.g. making contact with another person by pushing, elbowing, kicking, punching, head-butting or attempting to fight with another player who does not retaliate)	6 – 12 weeks
<i>Fighting or spitting</i> (e.g. when two or more players push, kick, punch, choke, or wrestle with one another)	6 – 26 weeks

- f. **The recommended suspension periods will double for second and subsequent offences.**
- g. The Centre will issue disciplinary action based on written reports from sporting officials, Centre staff and witness statements, the person's disciplinary history, and any other relevant information held by the Centre.
- h. If a player is playing while actively suspended, Centre staff will abandon the game and award a forfeit win to the opposing team. The offending team will be deducted three (3) competition points and the suspended player's suspension period will be increased by an additional two (2) rounds.
- i. The Centre reserves the right to issue longer suspension periods, or a Centre ban if the Centre believes there is sufficient reason for it.

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4.5. Appeals

- a. A suspended person has the right to request a review of their disciplinary action decision. Only one (1) appeal of a decision is permitted.
- b. Request for review must be lodged in writing to pprcadmin@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au within five (5) working days of the date of the letter of notification from the Centre.
- c. The penalty issued will remain in effect until the appeal review is determined.