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# Central Murray FNL

# **NETBALL RULES**

Last reviewed: March 2026

**CENTRAL MURRAY FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUE**

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# Contents

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Laws of Netball & Consistency	3
Central Murray Netball Competitions	3
Netball Victoria Membership	3
Club Penalties	3
Competitions	3, 4
Uniforms	4
Player Registration	4, 5
Males Playing In The Netball Competition	5
Shared Players & The Equalization Rule	5
Risk Management	5, 6, 7
Team Officials	7, 8
Umpires	8
Netball Umpires Awards	8
Starting The Game	8
Forfeits	8, 9
Finals - Draws	9
Interleague Commitments	9
Matchday Requirements	9, 10
Scoring/Timekeepers	10, 11
Premiership Points	11
Rolling Substitutions	11, 12
Schedule Of Games	12
Player Qualifications	13, 14
Mercy Rule	14
Finals	15
Awards & Presentation Night	15, 16
Extraordinary Circumstances	16
Indemnity	16

# 1. Laws of Netball & Consistency

Central Murray (CM) is the governing body, and its competition rules override all other netball rules. Rules of play will be governed by the World Netball Rules. Any provision in the World Netball Rules, Netball Victoria or Australia Rules, inconsistent with any provision contained in these rules, the World Netball, Netball Victoria/Australia Rules shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

Where any provision in the Netball Victoria/Australia Rules is inconsistent with any provision contained in these laws, the provision in the NV/NA Rules shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

# 2. Central Murray Netball Competitions

The Central Murray League netball competitions are a single gender female competition. The Equal Opportunity Act (2010) (Victoria) permits the exclusion of boys from participating in female competitions when:

- a) The strength, stamina and physique of competitors is relevant; or
- b) The exclusion is intended to facilitate participation by girls and is reasonable.

# 3. Netball Victoria Membership

- a) Netball Victoria membership fee is set annually by Netball Victoria.
- b) All players, coaches and umpires participating in a Central Murray competition or program must be a current Netball Victoria member.
- c) CM Leagues Staff and Board Members shall have their Netball Victoria membership paid by the leagues.
- d) Players may play during the season on a Single Game Voucher. A Single Game Voucher is exactly that, valid for one single game, not one day of matches. Official Netball Victoria Vouchers can be purchased via NetballConnect prior to participation in any game. The Player using the Single Game Voucher must be recorded on the scoresheet, both online and hardcopy.
- e) A player may only play on three (3) Single Game Vouchers within the playing season. If the player wishes to play for the Club after three (3) games, full registration details and Netball Victoria fees need to be completed and paid prior to taking the court.
- f) Single Game Voucher uses do not count towards finals eligibility, do not have any best & fairest or MVP votes that umpires award recorded against their name and SGV games do not count towards busting.

# 4. Club Penalties

Penalties for non-compliance with the reasonable administrative expectations of the Central Murray are at the discretion of the Central Rivers Board.

- All paperwork filled out and uploaded by 9.00am Monday, and hard copies delivered by 5.00pm Monday.
- All scores MUST be uploaded and saved on Netball Connect by 7.00pm on the day of the match.
  - o Repeat offences will incur a fine of \$200.

# 5. Competitions

Central Murray
There are eight (8) grades in the Central Murray – A Grade, A Reserve, B Grade, B Reserve, 17 & Under, 15 & Under, 13 & Under, 13 & Under Reserve.
The 13 & Under Reserve competition is an unofficial skill development competition with no points or votes awarded and no ladders. For games to be counted towards finals eligibility for higher grades, scoresheets are required to be completed for these competitions. If scoresheets are not completed, the games in 13 & Under Reserve will not be counted towards finals eligibility. <i>There is NO busting between 13 &amp; Under and 13 &amp; Under Reserve.</i>
Each Club is to field a minimum of six (6) teams; that is three (3) senior teams and three (3) junior teams.

Players in underage competitions are to be these ages as at the 31 <sup>st</sup> December in the current year of the competition.
In the event of a Club being unable to field all senior teams during the playing season, a top-down filling of teams is to be followed; e.g. A Grade must be filled before A Reserve; A Reserve must be filled before B Grade, B Grade must be filled before B Reserve. This top-down approach must also be followed when on the day forfeits occurs. Clubs requesting an exemption to this ruling must do so to the League Manager.
If a club can show that they are unable to field one or more teams due to insufficient registered players, that club can apply for a special exemption from the Central Rivers Board. The Central Rivers Board will then review the submission and decide in the best interests of the Club and the competition.
If a Saturday gazetted time or venue is to be altered, it must be done by mutual agreement. The Leagues Manager must be notified in writing by the instigating Club three (3) days prior to the alteration taking place, with the opposition club CC'd into the email and all updated timings.
Minimum eligible age to play in any of the competitions is 10 years of age which is determined as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December of that year of competition.
Players are not recommended to play more than two (2) games on any given match day – this is a recommendation from Netball Australia

## 6. Uniforms

- a) Clubs wishing to change their uniform must notify the Leagues Manager in writing, together with a picture of the intended design, including bib colours. The League Manager must approve all designs and changes prior to the club changing their uniform. Penalty – Failure to complete any of these tasks will incur a \$200 fine per game.
- b) If a Club alters its uniform prior to the commencement of the season the club must register a picture of its updated design with the Leagues Manager. Penalty – Failure to complete any of these tasks will incur a \$50 fine.
- c) The Central Murray interleague uniform is royal blue and sky blue colours.
- d) If two (2) Clubs have similarly coloured uniforms, during the playing season the visiting Club is required to alter their uniform to make it distinguishable from the other, e.g. Bib colour. During finals the team finishing lower on the ladder are required to alter their uniform.
- e) Shorts, if worn, may be black, skin coloured or club colours, and must not have noticeable logos or pockets. A \$100 fine will apply if players are found not compliant.
- f) Players may not wear anything that could endanger them or other players, specifically no adornment or jewellery may be worn. A medical alert bracelet may be worn provided it is covered with tape. Fingernails must be short and smooth. If a head covering is worn and needs to be fastened, clips and non-sharp pins are to be used. Head coverings must be tight and non-flowing. Additional clothing options are for cultural/religious modifications only. Additional clothing must be all black, all white or club colours and must be worn under the existing team uniform.
- g) Any offending player/(s) will be asked to leave the court / unable to take the court, until compliance of the above clauses are carried out. Players must be in full uniform, in registered club colours for all matches, any player without full uniform is not permitted to take the court.
  - o If a player refuses to comply, then the Central Rivers Board will sanction the Club and the Player/(s) as they see fit.
- h) All Game Day bibs, must have the WorkSafe Logo present

## 7. Player Registration

- a) Players must be registered via NetballConnect, with required Netball Victoria fees paid, prior to taking the court for any League sanctioned matches. Clubs must register the bulk of their players 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the season to allow the Central Rivers Board adequate time to assess the viability of Club's in the lead up to the season.

- b) If a team has a player take the court at the commencement of play, who is not listed on the team sheet, the opposition team must make note of this and advise the League, so the League can review.
  - o If the player has been found to register after the game, they will be treated as unregistered.
- c) Playing an unregistered player results in the offending team losing four (4) premiership points.
  - o \$200 fines are applicable for offences.
- d) Additional players may register throughout the season provided their details are placed on the Netball Victoria registration system.

## 8. Males Playing in the Netball Competition

- a) For a complete understanding of using males in the netball competition, please refer to the “*Netball Victoria Gener Regulation Policy*”.
- b) Males who are 13 years of age or older are not permitted to participate in the netball competition.
  - o Males that turn 13 during the season are permitted to complete the season.

## 9. Shared Players & The Equalization Rule

- a) A team must present on the day of the match a minimum of 5 players to be eligible to request “loan” player(s) from their opposition. Loan players can be different each quarter. If a team presents with less than 5 players a forfeit must be the official result. Players can then be shared, and an unofficial match played.
- b) In the week prior to the match the team with less than the required numbers may borrow players from other teams to ensure a match proceeds according to the league schedule. On the day of the match if a team has only 5 or 6 players the Equalization Rule (evening up numbers) applies.
- c) A shared player is eligible to receive League Best & Fairest votes, playing for either competing club. All votes received by an individual as a shared player will contribute to that individual’s total best and fairest votes for the season.
- d) Clubs must utilize the Equalization Policy when fielding all underage teams every week.
- e) Players being shared under the Equalization Rule must be added to the destination club’s team sheet, both hardcopy and by using the ‘Borrow Player’ function on NetballConnect.

## 10. Risk Management

- a) Injury Reporting
  - All Clubs are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or players’ guardian (players under 18) on the Injury Reporting Sheets provided;
  - Coaches of CM representative teams are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or players’ guardian (players under 18) on the Injury Reporting Sheets provided.
- b) Pre-Match Checklist
  - A pre-match checklist will be completed prior to the first game at all CM matches, programs and training;
  - Every home Club must, in consultation with a visitor club representative, complete and sign a pre-match checklist, preferably online if possible. If it is done on the hard copy sheet, the original checklist should be kept on file by the home club for insurance purposes.
- c) Any hazards identified will be:
  - Documented;
  - Rectified if possible;
  - Reported to the appropriate agency (local council, reserve committee) if major repairs are required.
  - The Central Rivers Board retain the right to take whatever action it deems necessary to address any issue arising from a ground or court inspection report, including but not limited to;
    - o Moving the game to another venue
    - o Cancelling the game
    - o Re-scheduling the game to another time

- Preference of the Central Rivers is for any scheduled game to be completed on the same day or weekend at the agreement of competing clubs.
  - In the event the game needs to be moved, or indoor courts are required they must be approved by the League; however preference is always to play on outdoor courts.
- d) Pregnancy
- As per Netball Victoria and CM Member Protection Policy. An individual who is pregnant is free to play in the Central Murray FNL.
  - However, a pregnant player should;
    - Be aware that her own health, and the wellbeing of her unborn child, is of utmost importance in her decision about whether to continue playing sport;
    - Obtain medical advice as to the risks associated with playing sport when pregnant. She should ensure she understands this advice and where necessary question the advice until she is sure she understands the risks taken in participating in Netball;
    - Have regular antenatal reviews with her doctor, including ongoing review of her exercise participation;
    - Take into account her changed physical condition, use common sense and not take unnecessary risks;
    - Remember that the ultimate decision to participate in Netball will always be hers, whilst having regard to all the circumstances.
    - The Central Murray disclaims any liability for any injury or complication sustained by a pregnant woman in the course of an Australian Netball Match.
- e) First Aid
- Central Murray League will provide a first aid kit for all representative games; The CM League will nominate a Primary Carer for all organised Interleague tournaments.
  - All competing clubs must supply a Primary Carer for each game of Netball, who is to be present on the team's bench for the entirety of the game and wearing the prescribed Primary Carer vest.
  - Emergency phone numbers - Ambulance, Doctor, Physiotherapist, Health Clinic and Police and an Emergency Procedure Plan is to always be displayed in the Clubrooms and in the First Aid Kit for all home games, fines of \$100 will apply if Clubs are found not compliant.
- f) Weather/Serious Injury/Games Stopped
- In the case of extreme weather conditions (including lightning), dangerous conditions or serious injury where a player is unable to be removed from the court, the Umpires may, at the request of either or both Captains call for time off for a maximum of 45 minutes, after which play must be completed or abandoned. Where captains cannot agree on the resumption of play, the two umpires have the casting votes.
  - When a match has been abandoned during the home & away season the result will be recorded as one of the below:
    - If games are cancelled prior to half time, the premiership points are split (2 points per team).
    - If games reach half time or more, the score stands, and premiership points and league votes are awarded as usual.
  - When a match has been abandoned during a final:
    - If games reach half time or more, the score stands.
    - If games are abandoned prior to half time, the team finishing higher on the ladder at the completion of the home and away rounds will be awarded the win.
  - The maximum amount of a time a game can be stopped for is a 45-minute period, after this the above shall apply.
  - However, if there is sufficient time to continue modified quarters for the game, and it provides both a fair and equitable solution and both teams can agree, this 45-minute period can be extended, but it is not to impeded into the next game and cause further delays.
- g) Child Safety
- As per 29.2 Child Safety in Netball

- The Central Murray and all Teams / Clubs are responsible for the observance, promotion, enforcement and monitoring of the Child Safety in Netball Policy and Code of Conduct.
- The Central Murray and all Teams / Clubs are responsible for the management and administration of the application of the Netball Victoria Working with Children Check Regulation – Found in the Netball Australia Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy, Appendix 6.
- The Central Murray and all Teams / Clubs are responsible for the management and administration of complying with the 11 Child Safe Standards
- Coaches and Volunteers
  - ⊖ All club appointed Coaches of Junior Players, Primary Carers, and Umpires are required to have a current Working with Children Check, if Senior teams consist of players under the age of 18 then all players above 18 years are encouraged to hold a valid Working with Children Check (volunteer card will suffice).
  - Appointed Coaches and Umpires of the junior CM representative teams will be subject to a Working with Children Check;
- In the event of any junior representative teams being required to spend a night away from home to compete in tournaments, accompanying team managers will also be subject to a Working with Children Check.
- Appointed Coaches must sign the Child Safety in Netball Code of Conduct Declaration

## 11. Team Officials

- Coaching Qualifications: All coaches of CM clubs and representative netball teams are required to be accredited. To be accredited:
  - Coaches must participate or have booked into at least one of the CM Coaching Workshops at the commencement of the season; OR The coach must complete the online entry level, Foundation Netball Coaching Course specified in the National Coach Accreditation Framework; OR The coach has already gained an equivalent or higher coaching qualification which is approved by the Board. This accreditation must be acquired by April 30.
  - Coaches must be registered via Netball Connect prior to the Season commencing.
- The penalty to be imposed by the Central Murray if coaches continue to coach having not obtained the necessary accreditation:
  - A \$200 fine (Senior) or \$100 fine (Junior); and
  - The loss of match points for the matches won by the team whilst the unaccredited coach continues to coach. In the event of no match points being received the league must apply the above fines.
  - Fines are applied once per round only (\$200 or \$100) and are not applicable to every match.
- In the instance where coaches are not accredited and commit to completing the next available (or otherwise agreed upon) Accreditation Course, the following bonds for clubs are to apply \$200 (Senior) and \$100 (Junior). Where a coach fails to complete the agreed upon Accreditation Course the bond paid by the club is forfeited.
- All coaches must have a full membership (Senior/Junior/All Abilities). Full membership is required to be covered by profession indemnity insurance and to be eligible to participate or officiate in an Association or League Competition or Program (including Net Set Go), as per Netball Victoria's Affiliation and Membership Policy.
- Primary Carer Qualifications
- Each team shall provide one suitably qualified or experienced Primary Care Person;
  - The primary carer must hold the minimum qualification of HLTAID003/HLTAID011 – Provide First Aid, which must be current or hold the appropriate qualified medical profession;
  - Appropriate Minimum Qualifications means the minimum qualifications (First Aid)
  - Qualified Medical Professional (QMP) means a qualified doctor, paramedic, physiotherapist, osteopath, chiropractor, registered nurse or firefighter with Emergency Management Competency and appropriate first aid competencies.

- The role of the primary carer, is just that, they cannot hold any additional roles at the same time, this is a directive from Netball Victoria.
- The Primary Carer shall be identified by wearing the Board approved vest available at the leagues and have access to a first aid kit, ice and spray bottle containing water and disinfectant for blood ruling.
- All individuals over the age of 18 who act as a Primary Care Persons shall have a Working with Children Check and details shall be recorded in the club WWCC Register.

## 12. Umpires

- a) The co-ordination of netball umpiring across the Central Murray in finals, is delegated to the Leagues' Manager and the Netball Umpire Committee. The role of this committee and its delegation is documented in the Netball Committee Appointment Policy.
- b) Umpires must provide a current Working with Children Check and be recorded on the club's WWCC Register.
- c) Umpires are not to be substituted during any game except in the case of injury or illness.
- d) In the Central Murray, each team shall supply an umpire and each umpire shall umpire no more than 2 games per day.
- e) All A Grade games must be conducted with a current badged umpire. Clubs may apply to the Umpire Manager for an exemption to this rule if they believe they have a competent umpire. Competent, unbadged umpires may umpire lower grades, but badged umpires are always preferable where possible.
- f) The procedure and criteria for appointment of umpires in finals is documented in the "Netball Umpire Finals Appointment Policy".
- g) The Central Murray in conjunction with Netball Victoria have adopted the Green Band initiative. Which is to protect young umpires under the age of 18 by creating a safe and respectful environment for them to officiate.
  - Umpires under 18 will wear a green band on their arm or hold a green scrunchie during matches.
- h) Umpires shall wear the set umpire uniform top as directed by the Central Rivers Board when officiating in any Central Murray League matches. Umpires are to wear black bottoms with no noticeable logos displayed for the Home & Away Season, as well as finals.
  - Umpires who officiate in representative tournaments will be directed as to which colour bottoms are to be worn by the respective Association hosting the tournaments.

## 13. Netball Umpires Awards

The Netball Umpire Committee will award umpires with special awards. Clubs can nominate umpires for 'umpire awards' and must be submitted to the League Manager by the date set on the nomination forms. A club can make multiple nominations and may nominate an umpire from another club. Nomination by each club is not compulsory. The Umpire Committee will vote on the nominees.

## 14. Starting the Game

The opposing Captains will toss a coin for the goal end or Centre Pass.

- This applies in all home and away games and finals.
  - In home and away games – the 'away' team will make the call.
  - In finals – the team who is ranked highest on the day will call.

## 15. Forfeits

For the purposes of these Netball Rules, a forfeit is applicable when a game is scheduled to proceed, and one team fails to participate OR when a team is scheduled to play against a club with no team entered in a particular grade.

- In the event of a Club being unable to field all senior teams during a round in the home & away season (including finals), a top-down filling of teams must be followed. *Eg; A grade must be filled before A reserve, A reserve must be filled before B grade, B grade must be filled before B reserve.*
- In the event of a forfeit by a team prior to the game, the opposing team shall receive four premiership points and a 20 goal to nil win.
  - o The non-forfeiting team can complete a scoresheet, up to 12 players, with the coach's or captain's signature. The score sheet is to be lodged via the Netball Connect & the Netball Paperwork submission portal (Jotform), with all uploaded documents to be clearly marked as a forfeit. This must be completed by 9.00am on the Monday following the game to be accepted. **Paperwork must be labelled clearly as a forfeit or it will not be accepted.**
- In the event of a forfeit by a team after the commencement time of play, the opposing team shall receive four premiership points and a 20 goal to nil win OR the score recorded at the time of the forfeit, whichever is highest.
- In the event a club needs to forfeit, this must be done 24 hours in advance, advising the League and opposition Club and a top-down approach must occur. Forfeits on the day should be avoided. If the forfeit notification is not received by the opposing club a fine of \$200 will apply.
- For Teams who have consistent and consecutive forfeits, the Central Rivers Board will sanction the Club as it sees fit.

## 16. Finals - Draws

No match shall be a drawn game in the finals. If a draw occurs at the end of full-time extra time shall be played:

- There shall be a 3-minute interval at the end of full time where coaches may address their teams before they resume the court, team changes are permitted and teams change ends;
- Extra time of two halves of 5 minutes, with a 1-minute interval at half time, team changes are permitted and teams change ends;
  - o In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time, a visual signal is placed at the official bench to indicate that play will continue until one team leads by two goals.
  - o In the event of injury or illness during extra time, positional changes and/or substitutions may be made, in accordance with the Netball Victoria Injury/Illness Rule. If an injury is called or blood present as per Rule 4.1.2, the player must be substituted immediately.

## 17. Interleague Commitments

- a) Every Club in the Central Murray will be given the opportunity to nominate players to try out for Interleague Representation. All nominated players are invited to try out and must attend at least two (2) try-outs to be eligible for junior Interleague teams. Nominated players must be available for all of the scheduled tournaments unless an extenuating circumstance arises, then it is at the absolute discretion of the League.
- b) All players who make the Interleague squads, will be required to pay a participant levy, which is invoiced to their registered club, in the event sponsorship does not cover the entirety.
  - o This fee must be paid prior to the official interleague games, or the player will be ineligible to take the court.
- c) Junior Interleague coach positions will be advertised every year. Applications will be received by the Leagues Manager.

## 18. Matchday Requirements

- a) Clubs must;
  - Have access to two (2) outdoor netball courts;
  - Provide an umpire for each game;

- Supply their own Primary Carer, identified by wearing orange vest, available from the League, first aid kit, ice and spray bottle containing water and disinfectant for blood ruling.
- b) Home teams must provide;
  - At least three (3) time clocks – one to keep quarter time and intervals, one to keep 30 second injury rule and one to keep 2-minute suspension time. If clubs wish they may have a fourth clock for intervals;
  - An air horn or another audible sound device to note end of quarter/game;
  - One A-Frame or equivalent scoreboard for each court;
  - A Court Supervisor, identified by wearing yellow vest which can be purchased from the leagues, to be present at the courts for the duration of the games; The Court Supervisors details must be present at each of the score benches in the event of assistance being required.
- c) The Home team must provide a timekeeper & a scorer for each game. The Away Team must provide a scorer.
  - A minimum of 3 people will be required for each game, 2 home representatives and 1 away representative.
  - The official record will be the hardcopy score sheet. Scoring is to be completed on the prescribed hardcopy team sheet, and online via NetballConnect as iPad/tablet scoring is now mandatory.
    - o The Home Club is responsible for the Hard Copy Scoresheet & the Time Clock and the Away Club is responsible for using the iPad/Netball Connect.
    - o The Home Club must still provide the iPad to the Away Scorer
    - o The League will assign independent scorers & timekeepers from neutral clubs where possible on Grand Final Day.
- d) Both clubs must sign the pre-match checklist to ensure playing arena is safe before any matches are played.
- e) The home club must submit the scoresheet, MVP cards and any injury forms associated with each grade via the Netball Matchday Paperwork Portal no later than 9.00am on the Monday after the match. Hard copies of paperwork must be kept by the home club until the beginning of the following season. Best & Fairest Cards, MVP Cards & Rolling Sub Slips must be returned to the League in Hard Copy no later than 5.00pm on the Monday following the Match.
- f) Scores for all grades must be published on NetballConnect by 7.00pm on the day of the match for media and league purposes.
- g) A game can commence if five (5) players from each side are available to take the court.
- h) All players and team officials; including the Primary Carer, must be situated in the designated official bench areas for the duration of the game.
- i) Voting for Best and Fairest shall be as follows:
- j) The match umpires shall award votes for the best three players in each game except for 13 & Under Reserve. Voting shall be 3 votes for the best player, 2 votes for the second-best player and 1 vote for the third best player;
  - o Votes shall be placed in the envelope provided;
  - o Both umpires must sign vote cards and vote envelopes, (signature must be across the seal and legible).
  - o Sealed and signed envelopes must be delivered to the Central Rivers League Football Umpires prior to the completion of the Senior Football Match for return to the RAC.

## 19. Scoring/Timekeepers

- a) The Home Team must provide a non-participating scorer & timekeeper for all matches, the Away Team must supply a scorer, all must be at least 14 years of age or older.
  - o These three (3) people must sit together for the duration of the match. Scorers and timekeepers should not be distracted by other matchday personnel or any personal electronic devices.
- b) Scoresheets for each match are to be pre-filled and then downloaded and printed off NetballConnect. Scoring must also be completed via an iPad/Tablet on Netball Connect in addition to the hard copy sheet.
  - o One (1) hardcopy scoresheet will be used for each match. These scoresheets will list the complete names (both given and surname) to of maximum twelve (12) players intending to take the court, prior

to the commencement of play. These scoresheets shall also indicate the positions played each quarter, the captain for each team, the match score and the Umpires and Scorers names.

- Repeat offences of failing to fully complete the scoresheet, will see clubs fined at the Central Rivers Boards discretion.
- c) At the match conclusion, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the scoresheets is correct, the scoresheets are to be signed by;
  - The captains of both competing teams;
  - The Scorers of the match;
  - The umpires for each competing team.
- d) In the event of a late start; each team is given five (5) minutes grace, after which time the clock is to be started by the umpires, and three (3) goals will be added to the score of the team ready to play. If the game is not started within five (5) minutes of the clock being started then the game is forfeited and normal procedure applies. This applies to all grades of competition.
- e) Timekeepers must make note of any players who have been cautioned and/or suspended and are in control of this person when they are sitting off if there is not a third umpire.
- f) Any players who are listed on Netball Connect, who do not end up playing, are to be removed by the Team Manager online by 9.00am Monday following the game. This is the same as a player handwritten on the team sheet – they must be added to the game in Netball Connect to reflect the hard copy by 9.00am Monday.

## 20. Premiership Points

Allocation of Points:

- Points shall be allocated as follows;
  - Win - 4 points
  - Draw - 2 points
  - Forfeit - as per by-law 16
  - Bye – No points will be awarded
- Percentage points awarded based on goals scored for and against;
- In the event that all teams play an equal number of scheduled games, ladders will be determined by the number of Points each team has received during the season.
- In the event of teams being equal on points, positions shall be determined by the percentage of goals scored for and against. In the event of teams being equal on percentage, positions shall be determined by the greater number of goals scored for.
- In the event that teams play an unequal number of games, such as those that have additional bye's due to teams holding exemptions, ladders will be determined by Match Ratio (Match Ratio – reflects the percentage number of wins per the number of matches played).
- 13 & Under Reserve is an unofficial competition, no points will be allocated, no ladders created no finals or awards.

## 21. Rolling Substitutions - All Grades

- a) The rolling substitution stands at the designated area / marker.
- b) Before leaving the designated area, the substitute tags (with hands) the player leaving the court, and passes the rolling sub slip (pink) to the player coming off.
  - this slip is then provided immediately to the scorer
  - slips must be returned in hard copy to the League on the Monday following the match
  - All players subbing on / off must be written on the sub slip and their name must be on the scoresheet
- c) Only one (1) rolling substitute per team can be made at a time.

- d) Play is not to be held up for rolling substitutions. If play is delayed, the player will be penalised under Rule 19.2. Delaying play.
- e) Players must observe the offside rules as they enter/leave the court.
  - o *Sanction: Free pass where the infringement occurred (offside area) unless this places the non-infringing team at a disadvantage, or advantage is applied.*
- f) Players must not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution.
  - o *Sanction: Free pass where the ball was when play was stopped (advantage may be applied).*
- g) If a player leaves the court as a rolling substitution, and there is no player in the designated area, the replacement player is treated as a late player (as per Rule 3.8) and must wait until a break in play to enter the court. 3.8. Any late player may, after advising the umpire, take the court in the vacant position/s at the next break in play.
  - o *Action: Any late player is sent from the court until the correct time for entry and possession is awarded to the opposing team where the ball was when play stopped. Terminology: Incorrect entry*

## 22. Schedule of Games

Central Murray					
Grade	Start Play	Qtr Lengths	Q1 Break	Q2 Break	Q3 Break
A Grade	12.35pm	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
A Res	2.00pm	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
B Grade	12.35pm	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
B Res	2.00pm	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
17 & U	11.10am	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
15 & U	9.45am	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
13 & U	11.10am	12 mins	2 mins	3 mins	2 mins
13 & U Res	9.45am	12 mins	2 mins	3 mins	2 mins
Time	Main Court (Court 1)		Reserve Court (Court 2)		
Home and Away					
9:45am	15 & Under		13 & U Res (modified)		
11.10am	17 & Under		13 & Under		
12.35pm	A Grade		B Grade		
2.00pm	A Reserve		B Reserve		

*Minor Finals & Grand Finals - To be confirmed by June, Clubs to be consulted.*

- Home and away matches and the finals series of the netball competition are to be played on the same day and at the same venue as the football competition.
  - o Matches may only be transferred to another venue if both clubs agree and it must be approved by the Board.

## 23. Player Qualifications

- a) To qualify for finals a player must participate in five (5) separate rounds of the Central Murray, with their registered Club.
  - In the case of their only being six (6) teams in a competition, to qualify for that competition's finals, a player must participate in four (4) separate rounds within that competition in the Central Murray with their registered Club.
- b) After playing a total of seven (7) games in **combined** higher grades players may not play in a lower grade for the remainder of the season, including finals. Finals matches will not be included in the games tally of a player.
  - *Example: Player A plays 5 Games in A Grade and 2 Games in A Res, they are ineligible to play B Grade.*
- c) Junior players may play unlimited games in senior grades whilst returning to play in their respective junior grade during the home and away season.
- d) Once a junior player has played a total of seven (7) games in any combined higher senior grades, they are no longer eligible to play in lower senior grades for the remainder of the season.
  - Juniors are eligible to play in their respective junior grade during the final's series.
  - Juniors may play finals in any grade providing they meet the finals eligibility requirements.

### *Playing Unregistered Players*

*Penalty: Home and away season - A loss of four premiership points in the grade played, and if the team won, the results will be deemed a forfeit.*

*Finals Series - if the team won, the match will be awarded to the opposition.*

### Junior Players:

- a) To qualify for junior finals a player must participate in six (6) separate rounds of Junior netball in the Central Murray League, with their registered Club.
  - In the case of there only being six (6) teams in a competition, to qualify for that competition's finals, a player must participate in four (4) separate rounds within that competition in the Central Murray with their registered Club.
- b) Once a junior player has played a total of eight (8) games in any higher junior grade, they are no longer eligible to play in a lower junior grade for the remainder of the season, including finals.
  - Exclusion applies for juniors who wish to play in the 13 & Under competition and 13 & Under Reserve.
- c) Junior players can play in the senior competition if they wish, once a junior has played a total of eight (8) games in any combined higher senior grade, they are ineligible to play in a lower senior grade for remainder of the season, including finals.
  - Juniors may play finals for their respective junior team, providing they meet the finals eligibility requirements.

### Examples:

#### **Senior Players:**

*A player has played 5 A Grade and 2 A Reserve games for the season – the player is eligible for both A Grade and A Reserve in finals, but cannot play in B Grade or below.*

*A player has played 3 B Reserve, 2 B Grade and 1 A Reserves games for the season – the player is eligible for B Reserve, B Grade, A Reserve and A Grade in finals.*

*A player has played 3 A Reserve and 1 B Grade game for the season – the player is not eligible for finals.*

### **Junior Players:**

A player has played 7 17 & Under games and 6 15 & Under games for the season – the player is only eligible for 17 & Under in finals.

A player has played 7 A Grade, 4 A Reserve and 6 17 & Under games for the season – the player is eligible for A Grade and 17 & Under

A player has played 4 A Grade, 3 A Reserve and 9 17 & Under games for the season – the player is eligible for A and A Reserve, and 17 & Under in finals.

A player has played 10 15 & Under games – the player is eligible for 15 & Under, 17 & Under, A Grade, A Reserve, B Grade & B Reserve in finals.

## **24. Mercy Rule**

### **13 & Under & 13 & Under Reserve**

The Central Murray are committed to encouraging more junior players to maintain their interest in netball and increase their longevity in the sport. The Mercy rule is to promote competitive matches and avoid overly merciless score lines. Junior netball must focus on sportsmanship, enjoyment and fun, and promote participation.

- Coaches who know they are scheduled to play a weaker opposition should endeavour to implement strategies to prevent the Mercy rule being implemented by:
  - o Giving more game time to players who have had less court time;
  - o Rotating players through unfamiliar positions;
- Where score lines are not reduced by implementing the above strategies, the Mercy Rule must be enacted and adhered to by both clubs.
  - o When the score differential in Home & Away matches equals 35 points in 13 & Under Reserve or 50 points in 13 & Under matches, the scorers will notify the umpires and play is stopped.
  - o The scores at this point, with a 35 and 50 differential respectively, will be submitted to the league as the FINAL SCORE.
  - o The game and scoring continues on the scoreboard however no further scores can be added to the official score sheet.
- When the Mercy Rule is enacted, *there will be a timeout of three minutes for coaches to organise their respective teams*, the match shall continue for the remainder of the allocated time of play. However, if the rule is applied within three (3) minutes of the break, the game will resume after the break. *(The score at the time of the Mercy Rule being enacted, as well as, goal shooters will be the only official results entered)*
- When the Mercy Rule is enacted, Coaches must consult and share players using spare bibs or, alternatively, work out other suitable strategies which make the game more equal.
  - o The scoreboard (A Frame) differential must reflect this equalization. *(The scoreboard keeps running and the differential must reduce in the subsequent time allowed. If the score differential does not reduce further strategies must be employed. The game will be stopped (for the three minutes) to implement these strategies).*
- Some of these will be:
  - o Sharing the better players to even up the teams;
  - o The losing team will receive all centre passes until the scores are even;
  - o Rotating players through unfamiliar positions.
- When the mercy rule is enacted, both coaches MUST then do their best to adhere to the Mercy Rule in a sportsmanlike manner to ensure an even contest. If this is not done, at the discretion of the Central Rivers Board;
  - o The premiership points may be forfeited; and/or
  - o The club fined; and/or
  - o The coaches brought before the Independent Tribunal and charged with a breach of the Code of Conduct.
- The Mercy Rule does not apply in finals.

## 25. Finals

### Top 8 Finals Series

- a) The Top 8 teams in the Central Murray in each grade at the conclusion of the home and away season will qualify for the finals series.
  - In the event of teams being equal on points, positions shall be determined by the percentage of goals scored for and against.
  - In the event of teams being equal on percentage, positions shall be determined by the greater number of goals scored for.
  - In the event teams play an uneven number of games, the ladder is determined by Match Ratio (games won/games played).
- b) Teams found playing an ineligible player during finals will be considered to have lost that match.
- c) For all finals, clubs participating in these games will each supply one (1) scorer and one (1) timekeeper or scoreboard attendant over the age of 14 years of age.
  - These people must sit together for the duration of the match; they should not become distracted from other personnel or personal electronic devices.
  - The Leagues Manager will appoint neutral scorers and timekeepers when possible, for Grand Final matches.
- d) During the finals series all team sheets must be filled in and handed to league officials at least 1 hour prior to the start of the match.
  - *Penalty – Failure to complete any of these tasks will incur a \$200 fine.*
- e) Clubs successful in tendering for finals are to provide refreshments for Central Rivers umpires and officials during finals.
- f) The Central Murray League will provide balls, scoresheets and at times, time clocks, for use during finals.
- g) Fifteen (15) Premiership medals and a Premiership Trophy will be provided for all grades.
  - These will be presented at the completion of each Grand Final match.
  - Clubs have the option of purchasing further medals at their own cost.

## 26. Awards & Presentation Night

- a) The following player awards will be presented for each season, except for 13 & Under Reserve;
  - Best and Fairest (All Grades except 13 & Under Reserve)
  - Runner-Up Best and Fairest (13, 15 & 17 Under only)
- b) In the event of a tie, two (or more) awards shall be presented.
- c) Most Valuable Player awards are to be presented in the 17 & Under and the A Grade competition.
  - All votes are to be pre-counted by the Leagues Manager prior to Presentation Night.
- d) A 19 and Under Distinction Award will be presented at the end of each season.
- e) Criteria and nomination forms are to be distributed by the Leagues Manager, and completed Nomination Forms are to be forwarded to the Leagues Manager by the set date. Players may only be nominated for the 19 and Under Distinction award once.
  - Clubs may nominate one player per year for the 19 and Under Distinction Award.
  - All 19 and Under Distinction Award nominations will be reviewed and decision made by the Central Rivers Board.
- Criteria to be met by each nominee for the 19 and Under Distinction Award are:
  - Nominee must be 19 & Under which is determined by 31<sup>st</sup> of December of that year;
  - Nominee may only be nominated for the award once;
  - In the current season, nominees must be playing in a senior Club team.
  - Nominees club involvement and commitment to club activities;
  - Nominees sportsmanship;

- Nominees playing performance throughout the Central Murray season;
- Nominees' representation within league or regional teams;
- Nominees' achievements.

## 27. Extraordinary Circumstances

In the event of extreme circumstances occurring in the Leagues' Rules, the Central Rivers Board of Management shall have the power to deal with any matters arising and impose any penalties as they see fit.

## 28. Indemnity

Any person playing Netball in any competition organised by the League shall do so at their own risk. The Central Rivers Board of Management and their respective servants, agents, independent contractors and voluntary workers carrying out honorary or unpaid duties and each and every person participating or otherwise engaged in Netball matches (including training sessions) conducted by or under the auspices of the League, the Club or the Netball Victoria from any actions, proceedings, demands, suits, claims, costs and expenses and other liabilities of whatsoever nature directly or indirectly arising from any injury or impairment.

Version Control			
Version	Purpose/Change	Author	Date
1.0	Formation of CM & GR Leagues	J Brookshaw/A Hird	February 2019
2.0	Major Review- End of Season	J Brookshaw/Z Ferrier	February 2020
3.0	Major League Review of Rules	Z Ferrier/J Brookshaw	March 2021
4.0	Major League Review of Rules	Z Ferrier	September 2022
5.0	League Review of Rule	J Chester	March 2024
6.0	League Review of Rule	J Chester	March 2025
7.0	League Review of Rules & Updates	J Chester	March 2026