

# CENTRAL MURRAY & GOLDEN RIVERS FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUES



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# CM & GR NETBALL RULES

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# PART 1

## CENTRAL MURRAY & GOLDEN RIVERS RULES

### 1. LAWS OF NETBALL

Game rules shall be played in accordance with those of International Netball Federation - Rules of Netball (most current edition).

### 2. CONSISTENCY

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

### 3. CM & GR NETBALL COMPETITIONS

The CM & GR Leagues 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.

### 4. 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 & Golden Rivers Leagues competition or program must be a current Netball Victoria member.
- c. CM & GR 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. 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 paid prior to the player taking the court.

### 5. CLUB PENALTIES

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

### 6. COMPETITIONS

Competitions in both leagues are similar however there are some small differences:

Central Murray	Golden Rivers
The eight (8) grades – A Grade, A Reserve, B Grade, B Reserve, 18 & Under, 16 & Under, 14 & Under, 12 & Under.	The GR will play A, B, B Reserve, 17 & Under, 14 & Under and 12 & Under.

The 12 & Under competition is an unofficial skill development competition. Scoresheets are NOT required to be completed for this competition. No premiership points or votes will be given in this competition.	
Each Club is to field a minimum of six (6) teams; that is three (3) senior teams and three (3) junior teams.	Each club is expected to field 5 grades; A, B, B Reserve, 17 & Under, 14 & Under
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. Central Murray: A Grade must be filled before A Reserve; A Reserve must be filled before B Grade, B Grade must be filled before B Reserve. OR Golden Rivers: A Grade must be filled before B Grade, B Grade must be filled before B Reserve. 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.	
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.	

## 7. 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 20 unit 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 5 unit fine.
- c. The Central Murray interleague uniform is royal blue and sky blue colours. The Golden Rivers interleague Uniform is royal blue and yellow 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. Compression shorts, if worn, may be black, skin coloured or club colours.
- 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.
- g. Players will not be able to take the court until they comply with (f) above.

## 8. 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. Playing an unregistered player results in the offending team losing four (4) premiership points.
- c. Additional players may register throughout the season provided their details are placed on the Netball Victoria registration system.

## 9. MALES PLAYING IN THE NETBALL COMPETITION

- a. For a complete understanding of using males in the netball competition, please refer to the "Males Playing Netball Policy".
- b. Males who are 13 years of age or older are not permitted to participate in the netball competition. Males that turn 13 during the season are permitted to complete the season.
- c. Teams may have up to two (2) boys playing at any one time. If two (2) boys are on court at one time they must play in separate thirds of the court, (ie one as GS or GA, one as C, WA or WD and one as GD or GK).

## 10. SHARED PLAYERS & THE EQUALIZATION RULE

For a complete understanding of the Equalization Rule in the netball competition, please refer to the Equalization policy. A "shared player" is a player who is "loaned" to an opposing team.

- 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. 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 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 teamsheet, both hardcopy and by using the 'Borrow Player' function on NetballConnect.

## 11. RISK MANAGEMENT

- a. Injury Reporting
  - i. All Clubs are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injured player or players' guardian (player under 18) on the Injury Reporting Sheets provided;
  - ii. Coaches of CM & GR representative teams are responsible for recording all injuries at the discretion of the injury player or players' guardian (player under 18) on the Injury Reporting Sheets provided.
- b. Pre Match Checklist
  - i. A pre-match checklist will be completed prior to the first game at all CM & GR matches, programs and training;
  - ii. Every home Club must, in consultation with a visitor club representative, complete and sign a pre-match checklist. The original checklist should be kept on file by the home club for insurance purposes.
- c. Any hazards identified will be:
  - i. Documented;
  - ii. Rectified if possible;
  - iii. Reported to the appropriate agency (local council, reserve committee) if major repair are required.
- d. Pregnancy - As per Netball Victoria and CM & GR Member Protection Policy.

- e. First Aid
  - i. CM & GR Leagues will provide a first aid kit for all representative games; The CM & GR Leagues will nominate a Primary Carer for all organised Interleague tournaments.
  - ii. 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.
  - iii. Emergency phone numbers - Ambulance, Doctor, Physiotherapist, Health Clinic and Police and an Emergency Procedure Plan is to be displayed in the Clubrooms and in the First Aid Kit for all home games.
- f. Weather/Serious Injury - In the case of extreme weather conditions, dangerous conditions or serious injury where a player is unable to be removed from the court, games can only be postponed or cancelled by the umpires in consultation with captains and coaches of teams involved in that game. 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.
- g. Coaches and Volunteers
  - i. All club appointed coaches of junior players, team officials and umpires are required to have a current Volunteer Working with Children Check;
  - ii. Appointed coaches and umpires of the junior CM & GR representative teams will be subject to a Volunteer Working with Children Check;
  - iii. 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 Volunteer Working with Children Check.

## 12. TEAM OFFICIALS

### a. Coaching Qualifications

All coaches of CM & GR club and representative netball teams are required to be accredited. To be accredited:

- i. Coaches must participate or have booked into at least one of the CM & GR 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.

The penalty to be imposed by the CM & GR Leagues if coaches continue to coach having not obtained the necessary accreditation must be:

A 20 unit fine (Senior) or 10 unit 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 shall be registered with Netball Victoria via Netball Connect.

### b. Primary Carer Qualifications

- i. Each team shall provide one suitably qualified or experienced Primary Care Person;

- ii. The primary carer must hold the minimum qualification of HLTAID003/HLTAID011 – Provide First Aid, which must be current;
- iii. The Primary Carer shall be identified by wearing the Board approved vest supplied by the leagues and have access to a first aid kit, ice and spray bottle containing water and disinfectant for blood ruling.
- iv. 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.

### **13. UMPIRES**

- a. The co-ordination of netball umpiring across the CM & GR Leagues 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 CM & GR Leagues game except in the case of injury or illness.
- d. In the CM & GR Leagues each team shall supply an umpire and each umpire shall umpire no more than 2 games per day.
- e. In the CM all A Grade games must be conducted with current badged umpires. For GR this is an aspirational goal. CM Clubs may apply to the Umpire Manager for an exemption to this rule if they believe they have a "competent" umpire.
- f. The procedure and criteria for appointment of umpires in finals is documented in the "Netball Umpire Finals Appointment Policy"
- g. Umpires shall wear the set umpire uniform top as directed by the Central Rivers Board when officiating in any CM & GR Leagues' matches. Umpires are to wear white or black bottoms – no noticeable logos are to be displayed.

### **14. 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 nomination and may nominate an umpire from another club. Nomination by each club is not compulsory. The Umpire Committee will vote on the nominees.

### **15. 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.

### **16. 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.

- a. In the event of a forfeit by a team prior to the game, the opposing team shall receive four premiership points and the percentage relative to a 20 goal to nil win.

- i. 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 Paperwork submission portal, with all uploaded documents to be clearly marked as a forfeit.
- b. In the event of a forfeit by a team after the commencement of play, the opposing team shall receive four premiership points and the percentage relative to a 20 goal to nil win OR the percentage relative to the score recorded at the time of the forfeit, whichever is highest.
- c. When a forfeit notification is not received by the visiting club the defaulting club, a 5 unit penalty shall be imposed.

## **17. 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:

- a. 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;
- b. Extra time of two halves of 5 minutes, with a 1-minute interval at half time, team changes are permitted and teams change ends;
- c. 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.
- d. In the event of injury or illness during extra time, positional changes and/or substitutions may be made.

## **18. INTERLEAGUE COMMITMENTS**

- a. Every Club in the CM & GR 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.
- b. Any player(s) after gaining Interleague selection must sign a player's contract. Penalty – If this contract is broken a one (1) match suspension, which will be accrued to the player(s) on their next playing game. The Leagues Manager will then inform the Club(s) involved.
- c. Junior Interleague coach positions will be advertised every year. Applications will be received by the Leagues Manager.
- d. If any team (not Club) has two or more players or playing officials are representing the CM or GR on the same day as a scheduled draw game that Club may request the game be rescheduled to a time convenient to both Clubs. The Leagues Manager must be notified by both Clubs of the amended date prior to the game being rescheduled. If the Clubs concerned cannot come to an agreement about the time, the Leagues Manager shall appoint a suitable time. The game must be played within four (4) weeks of the event or prior to the last home and away game whichever occurs sooner.

## **19. MATCHDAY REQUIREMENTS**

- b. Clubs must;
  - i. Have access to two (2) outdoor netball courts;
  - ii. Provide an umpire for each game;
  - iii. Supply their own Primary Carer, identified by wearing orange vest supplied by the leagues, first aid kit, ice and spray bottle containing water and disinfectant for blood ruling.
- c. Home teams must provide;



- i. At least three (3) time clocks – one to keep quarter time, 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;
  - ii. An air horn or another audible sound device to note end of quarter/game;
  - iii. One A-Frame or equivalent scoreboard for each court;
  - iv. A Court Supervisor, identified by wearing yellow vest supplied by the leagues, to be present at the courts for the duration of the games; Court Supervisors must be nominated on each court's scoresheet.
- d. Both teams must provide a timekeeper/scorer for each game.
    - i. a minimum of 2 people will be required for each game, 1 home representative and 1 away representative. For season 2023, the official record will be the hardcopy score sheet. Scoring is to be completed on the prescribed hardcopy team sheet, and online via NetballConnect (if possible).
  - e. Both clubs must sign the pre-match checklist to ensure playing arena is safe before any matches are played.
  - f. 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.
  - g. Scores and best players for all grades must be published on NetballConnect by 5.00pm on the day of the match for media and league purposes.
  - h. A game can commence if five (5) players from each side are available to take the court.
  - i. All players and team officials; consisting of Coach, Team Manager and Primary Carer, must be situated in the designated official bench areas for the duration of the game.
  - j. Voting for Best and Fairest shall be as follows:
    - i. The match umpires shall award votes for the best three players in each game except for 12 & Under. Voting shall be 3 votes for the best player, 2 votes for the second-best player and 1 vote for the third best player;
    - ii. Votes shall be placed in the envelope provided;
    - iii. Both umpires must sign vote cards and vote envelopes, (signature must be across the seal and legible).
    - iv. Seal 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.

## **20. SCORING/TIMEKEEPERS**

- a. Each team must provide a non-participating scorer/timekeeper for all matches, 14 years of age or older. These two 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.
  - i. Scoresheets for each match are available for download from NetballConnect or clubs may use existing home club hard copy score books. Where a device is available, scoring can also be completed online via Netball Connect.

### Central Murray:

- i. 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, the best player as determined by the scorers, the coaches, umpires, and court supervisor along with notification

of any sanctions given during the game (caution/warning/suspension). Failure to fully complete the scoresheet is penalized in the Club Excellence Award.

### Golden Rivers

- i. Two (2) hardcopy scoresheet will be used for each match. These scoresheets will list the complete names (both given and surname) of the starting 7 players. Substitute players need to be entered on the score sheet once they take the court. These scoresheets shall also indicate the positions played each quarter, the captain for each team, the match score, the best player as determined by the scorers, umpires and notification of any sanctions given during the game (caution/warning/suspension). Failure to fully complete the scoresheet is penalized in the Club Excellence Award.
- b. At the match conclusion, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the scoresheets is correct, the scoresheets are to be signed by;
  - i. The captains of both competing teams;
  - ii. The Scorers of the match;
  - iii. The umpires for each competing team.
- c. Four (4) points shall be awarded for a win and two (2) points for a draw in all grades except for 12 & Under (there will be no points awarded in this grade). If the draw consists of an unequal number of games played, the effected teams shall be awarded four (4) points and a twenty (20) goal advantage for all missed games.
- 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.

## **21. PREMIERSHIP POINTS**

Allocation of Points:

- a. Points shall be allocated as follows;
  - i. Win - 4 points
  - ii. Draw - 2 points
  - iii. Forfeit - as per by-law 17
  - iv. Bye – No points will be awarded
  - v. Percentage points awarded based on goals scored for and against;
- b. 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.
  - i. 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.
- c. 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).
- d. 12 & Under is an unofficial competition, no points will be allocated, no ladders created, no finals or awards.

## PART 2

### CENTRAL MURRAY

#### 22. SCHEDULE OF GAMES

This schedule allows for fourteen (14) minutes in each game for injuries and changeover between games.

Grade	Start Play	Quarter Lengths	Q1 Break	Q2 Break	Q3 Break
A Grade	12.50pm	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
A Reserve	2.15pm	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
B Grade	12.50pm	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
B Reserve	2.15pm	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
18 & Under	11.25am	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
16 & Under	10.00am	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
14 & Under	11.25am	12 mins	2 mins	3 mins	2 mins
12 & Under	10.00am	12 mins	2 mins	3 mins	2 mins
Time	Main Court (Court 1)		Reserve Court (Court 2)		
<b>Home and Away</b>					
9:00am	Net Set Go / Modified Programs				
10.00am	16 & Under		12 & Under		
11.25am	18 & Under		14 & Under		
12.50am	A Grade		B Grade		
2.15pm	A Reserve		B Reserve		
<b>Minor Finals</b>					
<b>Time</b>	<b>Court 1</b>		<b>Court 2</b>		
<b>Grand Finals</b>					

#### 23. PLAYER QUALIFICATIONS

##### Senior Players

- a. To qualify for finals a player must participate in six (6) separate rounds of the Central Murray, with their registered Club.
  - i. In the case of their only being six (6) teams in a competition, to qualify for that competitions 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 six (6) games in 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.

##### Junior Players:

- c. To qualify for junior finals a player must participate in six (6) separate rounds of Junior netball (in an official competition) in the Central Murray League, with their registered Club.

- i. In the case of there only being six (6) teams in a competition, to qualify for that competitions finals, a player must participate in four (4) separate rounds within that competition in the Central Murray with their registered Club.
- d. Once a junior player has played a total of six 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 Under 14 competition and Under 12.
- e. Junior players can play in the senior competition if they wish: Once a junior player has played a total of six games in any higher senior grade, they are no longer eligible to play in a lower senior grade for the remainder of the season. Junior players are eligible to play in their respective junior grade during the finals providing they meet the finals eligibility requirements above.

**Penalty:**

- a. In the event of the offending team winning the match, the four (4) premierships points shall be awarded to the opposing team, together with the percentage of a 20 goal win and a penalty of four (4) premierships points shall be deducted from the offending team's points tally held prior to the match.
- b. In the event of the offending team losing the match, four (4) premierships points shall be deducted from the team's points tally held prior to the match,
- c. If the breach is during a finals match the match will be awarded to the non-offending team and a 20 unit penalty.

*Examples:*

**Senior Players:**

- A player has played 5 A Grade and 3 A Reserve games for the season – the player is eligible for both A Grade and A Reserve in finals.
- A player has played 3 B Reserve, 3 B Grade and 2 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 Grade, 4 A Reserve and 7 B Grade games for the season – the player is only eligible for A Grade and A Reserve in finals
- A player has played 4 A Reserve and 1 B Grade game for the season – the player is not eligible for finals.

**Junior Players:**

- A player has played 7 Under 16 and 7 Under 14 games for the season – the player is only eligible for Under 16s in finals.
- A player has played 7 A Grade, 4 A Reserve and 6 Under 18 games for the season – the player is eligible for A Grade and Under 18
- A player has played 4 A Grade, 4 A Reserve and 9 Under 16 games for the season – the player is eligible for A and A Reserve, Under 18s and Under 16s in finals
- A player has played 10 Under 14 games – the player is eligible for Under 14, Under 16, Under 18, A Grade, A Reserve, B Grade & B Reserve in finals.

## **24. MERCY RULE – 14 & UNDER, 12 & UNDER GRADES**

The Central Murray is 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.

- a. Coaches who know they are scheduled to play a weaker opposition should endeavour to implement strategies to prevent the Mercy rule being implemented by:
  - i. Giving more game time to weaker players;
  - ii. Rotating players through unfamiliar positions;
  - iii. Instructing players to play "off" their opposition number.
- b. Where score lines are not reduced by implementing the above strategies, the Mercy Rule must be invoked and adhered to by both clubs.

- i. When the score differential in Home & Away matches equals 35 points in U12 matches or 50 points in U14 matches, the scorers will notify the umpires and play is stopped.
  - ii. The scores at this point, with a 35 and 50 differential will be submitted to the league as the FINAL SCORE. The game and scoring continues on the scoreboard however no further scores can be added to the official score sheet.
  - iii. When the Mercy Rule is invoked, *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 invoked, as well as, goal shooters will be the only official results entered)*
- c. When the Mercy Rule is invoked, Coaches must consult and share players using spare bibs or, alternatively, work out other suitable strategies which make the game more equal. **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:
  - d. When the mercy rule is invoked, 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;
    - i. The premiership points may be forfeited; and/or
    - ii. The club fined; and/or
    - iii. The coaches brought before the Independent Tribunal and charged with a breach of the Code of Conduct.
  - e. The Mercy Rule does not apply in finals.

## 25. FINALS

- a. The top five (5) teams in each grade at the conclusion of the home and away season will qualify for the finals series.
- b. 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.
- c. Teams found playing an ineligible player during finals will be considered to have lost that match.
- d. 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.
- e. 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 2 unit fine.
- f. Clubs successful in tendering for finals are to provide refreshments for CM & GR umpires and officials during finals.
- g. The CM & GR Leagues will provide balls, scorebooks and time clocks for use during finals.
- h. Twelve (12) 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 grade except for 12 & Under each season;
  - i. Best and Fairest for each section;
  - ii. Runner-Up Best and Fairest will only be provided for junior grades
  - iii. In the event of a tie, two (or more) awards shall be presented.
- b. Most Valuable Player awards are to be presented in the 18 & Under and A Grade competitions.
- c. 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.
  - i. 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.
  - ii. Clubs may only nominate only one player per year for the 19 and Under Distinction Award.
  - iii. All 19 and Under Distinction Award will be reviewed and decision made by the Central Rivers Board.
- e. Criteria to be met by each nominee for 19 and Under Distinction Award are:
  - i. Nominee must be 19 & Under which is determined by 31<sup>st</sup> of December of that year;
  - ii. Nominee may only be nominated for the award once;
  - iii. In the current season, nominees must be playing in a senior Club team.
  - iv. Nominees club involvement and commitment to club activities;
  - v. Nominees sportsmanship;
  - vi. Nominees playing performance throughout the Central Murray season;
  - vii. Nominees' representation within league or regional teams;
  - viii. Nominees' achievements.

## PART 3

### GOLDEN RIVERS

#### 27. PLAYER QUALIFICATIONS

- a. A team that plays a non-registered player will incur a fine of 10 units.
- f. Once a senior player has played a total of six games in any higher grades, they are no longer eligible to play in a lower grade for the remainder of the season.
- g. Finals games will not be included in the games tally of a player.
- h. Junior players may play unlimited games in senior and junior grades whilst returning to play in their respective junior grade during the home and away season.
- i. Once a junior player has played a total of six games in any higher senior grade, they are no longer eligible to play in a lower senior grade for the remainder of the season. Juniors are eligible to play in their respective junior grade during the finals series. Juniors may play finals in any grade providing they meet the finals eligibility requirements.
- j. Penalty: Home and away season - A loss of four premierships 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.

#### 28. SCHEDULE OF GAMES

- a. 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. Matches may only be transferred to another venue if both clubs agree and approved by the Board.
- b. Game Length:

Game Length					
Grade	Game Length	Quarter Lengths	Q1 Break	Q2 Break	Q3 Break
A Grade	71 mins	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
B Grade	71 mins	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
B Reserve	71 mins	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
17 & Under	71 mins	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
14 & Under	71 mins	15 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins
12 & Under	51 mins	10 mins	3 mins	5 mins	3 mins

- c. Game times can be changed following consultation and agreement between one Executive of each club no later than 8pm Tuesday evening of the match day week.

ONE Court Times			
Time	Grade		
9:25am or agreed time	12 & Under		
10:15am	14 & Under		
11:30am	17 & Under		
	<b>Round 1-5:</b>	<b>Round 6-10:</b>	<b>Round 11-16:</b>
12:45pm	B Grade	B Reserve	A Grade
2:00pm	B Reserve	A Grade	B Grade
3:15pm	A Grade	B Grade	B Reserve

- d. Clubs that have two courts may, with the permission of the visiting club, play two matches at the same time. They should be played as:

TWO Court Times			
Time	Grade		
10:15am	14 & Under and 12 & Under		
11:30am	17 & Under		
	<b>Round 1-5:</b>	<b>Round 6-10:</b>	<b>Round 11-16:</b>
12:45pm	B Grade	B Reserve & A Grade	A Grade & B Reserve
2:15pm	B Reserve & A Grade	B Grade	B Grade

## 29. FINALS MATCHES

Times - MINOR FINALS		Times - GRAND FINAL	
Time	Grade	Time	Grade
9:45am	14 & Under	9:15am	14 & Under
11:00am	17 & Under	10:45am	17 & Under
12:15pm	A Grade	12:15pm	A Grade
1:30pm	B Grade	1:45pm	B Grade
2:45pm	B Reserve	3:15pm	B Reserve

- a. To be eligible to play in GRFNL finals:
- i. a player must play minimum five games in an official competition, with the same GRFNL affiliated club in the current season on separate Saturdays.
  - ii. In any grade where there are less than six teams competing, a player must play three games with the same GRFNL affiliated club in the current season on separate Saturdays.
  - iii. a player must play a minimum of three games in the lowest grade they wish to participate in for finals.
  - iv. Once a senior player has played a total of six games in any higher grade, they are no longer eligible to play in a lower grade for the remainder of the season. Finals games will not be included in the games tally of a player.
  - v. Players are able to play in a higher grade during the finals series – without having played a minimum number of games providing they have met the eligibility criteria above (i. ii and iii)

### Junior Players:

- i. Junior players may play unlimited games in senior and junior grades whilst returning to play in their respective junior grade during the home and away season/finals series
- ii. Once a junior player has played a total of six games in any higher senior grade, they are no longer eligible to play in a lower senior grade for the remainder of the season. Juniors are eligible to play in their respective junior grade during the finals series. Juniors may play finals in any grade providing they meet the finals eligibility requirements.

### Penalty:

- i. In the event of the offending team winning the match, the four (4) premiership points shall be awarded to the opposing team, together with the percentage of a 20 goal win and a penalty of four (4) premiership points shall be deducted from the offending team's points tally held prior to the match.
- ii. In the event of the offending team losing the match, four (4) premiership points shall be deducted from the team's points tally held prior to the match,
- iii. If the breach is during a finals match the match will be awarded to the non-offending team and a 20 unit penalty.

### Examples:

- A player has played 5 A Grade and 3 B Grade games for the season – the player is eligible for both A Grade and B Grade in finals.



- A player has played 7 A Grade, 4 B Grade and 3 Under 17 games for the season – the player is only eligible for A Grade and Under 17s.
- A player has played 12 A Grade and 3 Under 17 games for the season – the player is eligible for A Grade and Under 17s.
- A player has played 1 A Grade, 6 B Grade and 6 B Reserve games for the season – the player is only eligible for A Grade and B Grade in finals.
- A player has played 12 B Reserve games – the player is eligible for B Reserve, B Grade and A Grade in finals.
- A player has played 7 Under 14 and 7 Under 17 games for the season – the player is eligible for Under 14s and Under 17s in finals.
- A player has played 12 Under 14 games – the player is eligible for Under 14, Under 17, A Grade, B Grade & B Reserve in finals.

### 30. AWARDS / PRESENTATION NIGHT

- a. Votes are to be used in determining the GR Best and Fairest players in each grade, except the 12 & Under. Voting for Best and Fairest shall be as follows:
  - i. At the conclusion of the match umpires shall award votes for the best three players in grade. Voting shall be 3 votes for the best player, 2 votes for the second-best player and 1 vote for the third best player; These votes can be distributed in any manner, including all votes to one team;
  - ii. The full names of these players and the number of votes received by them shall be recorded by the umpires;
  - iii. Both umpires must sign vote cards and vote envelopes, (signature must be across the seal and legible). In the event of either umpire failing to sign, the offending club will be fined 2 units for each unsigned envelope/card. The votes for players will remain valid;
  - iv. Home teams shall provide vote cards and envelopes for all grades;
- b. Votes shall be placed in the envelope provided and given to the Central Rivers League football umpire for return to the RAC.
- c. The player(s) receiving the most umpire votes shall be awarded the respective grade Best and Fairest. There will be no countback if the count is tied. The player(s) receiving the second most umpire votes shall be awarded the respective Runners Up Award. There will be no countback if count is tied.
- d. The A Grade best and fairest award shall be known as the "Reita Pay Memorial Award". The winner will be awarded the "Reita Pay Medal" and suitable trophy.
- e. Most Valuable player will be awarded in the A Grade and Under 17 competitions.
- f. Championship Club Award
 

All clubs in the League will contest the "*Fenton Perpetual Trophy*" for the Championship Club. Points awarded will be 2 points for a win and one point for a draw in any participating competitive grade. In the event of clubs being equal on points at the end of the home and away matches, the winner will be decided on a count back, i.e. most wins in A Grade, then B Grade, etc., down to the lowest junior grade. Winner will be announced at the League Presentation Night.
- g. Junior Distinction Award
 

Junior players are eligible for nomination for the GRFNL Junior Distinction Award if they suit the following criteria: -

  - i. Player must be under the age of 17&U as of the 31st December in the year of competition;
  - ii. Player may be participating currently at either junior or senior level or both.

Nomination Submissions:

- i. Must include the player's netball history (e.g. awards, coaching, umpiring, courses, club involvement, club/league level);
- ii. Limited to one nomination per club and no more than two A4 pages in total;
- iii. Must include comment from the player's coach;
- iv. Briefly describe overall sporting achievements – school, sport and community are also recognized;
- v. To be submitted to the Leagues Manager by the specified date distributed with nomination requests.
- vi. Include authorization from parent/guardian for permission of nomination and publication of photos or details contained within this nomination;
- vii. Players may be nominated for this award more than once but if successful, cannot be renominated;
- viii. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted;

The judging panel shall consist of the Central Rivers Board.

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