



**MEN'S NETBALL
NEW SOUTH WALES**



MLEAGUE 2023

COMPETITION RULES

www.mensnetballnsw.org.au

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How this document works

This document sets out the rules which will apply to the 2023 MLeague Mixed Competition.

It is important that you carefully read this document as it sets out the obligations and requirements for your Association, Club, teams, players, officials, umpires and spectators in conjunction with the MLeague Competition.

Subject to these Competition Rules, the Men's Netball NSW Constitution and any other document, the MLeague Coordinator shall have the authority to enquire and adjudicate all questions and disputes arising out of the Competition. If a matter is not provided for in the Competition Rules, the Men's Netball NSW Constitution or any other document, the MLeague Coordinator may make any determination they consider appropriate after consultation with the Men's Netball NSW Committee, where appropriate, and the decision shall be final.

What divisions will be available this year?

Associations, Clubs, teams and players will be able to compete in the following divisions (if offered as part of the competition) based on eligibility:

- Men's
- Mixed
- Junior

Key things to understand

- The International Federation Rules of Netball (INF Rules) apply to the MLeague Competition as amended by this document.
- Teams in Division 1 are permitted to have up to four (4) NSW Open Men's players from the past 3 years registered in their team in a season.
- Teams in Division 2 are permitted to have up to two (2) NSW Open Men's players from the past 3 years registered in their team in a season provided they are not a registered player in a Division 1 team in the same season.
- Players and Officials must register with Men's Netball NSW and the MLeague Competition via the PlayHQ website in order to be eligible to compete in the MLeague Competition.
- Teams are required to have a full matching uniform.
- Appointing a scorer / timekeeper is the responsibility of each team for all games.
- There are rules relating to temporary fill-in players and substitutions.

PART 1 - Modifications to the INF Rules of Netball

1 INF RULES OF NETBALL

The INF Rules will apply to the MLeague Competition as amended by the changes set out in the table below. These changes are made by Men's Netball New South Wales (MNNSW).

Rule	Changes
Rule 4 - Match Duration	
Rule 4.1 - Match Format	<p>A MLeague Men's 3A match will be played for a period of forty eight (48) minutes divided into four (4) quarters, each of twelve (12) minutes duration. An interval of 2 minutes shall be taken after the 1st and 3rd quarters and an interval of 3 minutes after the 2nd quarter.</p> <p>All Mixed division matches will be played for a period of forty eight (48) minutes divided into four (4) quarters, each of twelve (12) minutes duration. An interval of 2 minutes shall be taken after the 1st and 3rd quarters and an interval of 3 minutes after the 2nd quarter.</p> <p>All Finals matches for all divisions will be played for a period of sixty (60) minutes divided into four (4) quarters, each of fifteen (15) minutes duration. An interval of 3 minutes shall be taken after the 1st and 3rd quarters and an interval of 5 minutes after the 2nd quarter.</p>
Rule 4.2 - Extra time	<p>In the event that scores are tied at full time in a minor round match, no extra time will be played to determine a clear winner.</p> <p>In the event that scores are tied at full time in a finals match, then the <i>Extra Time Rules</i> from the INF Rules will apply.</p>
Rule 8 - Starting Play	
Rule 8.1.1 - Failure to take the court	<p>Teams must have at least five (5) registered players of their own team present at the start of the first quarter. If a team does not have the minimum number of team players on court at the start of the first quarter, the umpire shall wait up to 3 minutes to allow for additional team players to arrive so that there are at least 5 registered team players on court. If at the end of 3 minutes the minimum number of team players are not on court, the umpire is to declare a forfeit and award the game to the opposing team.</p>
Rule 9 - During of the match	
Rule 9.3 - Stoppages	<p>The current INF Rules regarding injury and illness stoppages will apply to the minor rounds of the MLeague Competition. The time keeper is required to time any 30 second stoppage. However, the game clock will not stop during any injury or illness time except during Finals matches where the clock will be stopped.</p>

PART 2 - Additional Rules

The additional rules set out in this part will also apply to the MLeague Competition. There may be circumstances where a specific rule in this part is inconsistent with the INF Rules (as modified by Part 1). If that is the case, the specific additional rule is that of one that applies to the extent it is consistent with the INF Rules.

2 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Club Affiliation and eligibility

- 2.1 Only Men's Netball NSW Affiliated Clubs are eligible to enter the MLeague Competition. A Netball NSW Affiliated Association may also be permitted to enter the competition subject to approval from the MNNSW Committee. Club affiliation information is found [here](#) and the application form [here](#).
- 2.2 All Clubs, Players and Team Officials participating in the competition must be registered financial members of Men's Netball NSW or any other Member Organisation prior to the commencement of the competition. To be financial, a Club, team or player must have paid all amounts owed to Men's Netball NSW and any associated bodies, including but not limited to the Australian Men's and Mixed Netball Association. Failure to be financial by the commencement of the MLeague Competition will lead to suspension and ultimately removal of the player or team (as applicable) from the competition.

Team Nomination and Entry

- 2.3 The closing date for Team applications into the Competition will be notified to Affiliated Clubs and accepted Associations by Men's Netball NSW. All entries for the competition must be lodged in accordance with the procedures as determined by Men's Netball NSW and accompanied with supporting documentation.
- 2.4 Associations and Clubs will be required to submit a Team Entry form detailing their nominated players to secure a place in the competition. The division nominated on the team entry form is not guaranteed and the MNNSW Committee reserves the right to paper grade every team to determine the suitability of those teams for a division. All Team entries must be received by the published date and time for the closing entries. Where a Club or Association fails to submit their Team Entry form by the closing date, a fine of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) will be imposed.

- 2.5 All players in a team must be registered with Men's Netball NSW and the MLeague Competition via the PlayHQ registration website. Subject to where rule 2.15 'Fill-in Players' applies, players that do not have a current Men's Netball NSW registration will not be allowed to participate in a game until they are registered.
- 2.6 A team competing in a Men's division may register a minimum of seven (7) players and a maximum of twelve (12) players in any one team. These players (including any fill-ins) must be recorded on the score sheet for each match.
- 2.7 A team competing in a Mixed division may register a minimum of seven (7) players and a maximum of thirteen (13) players in any one team. These players (including any fill-ins) must be recorded on the score sheet for each match.

Mixed teams are only permitted to have up to three (3) males players on court at any one time during a match and can only have one (1) male playing in the following groupings of positions at any one time:

- (a) GS and GA;
 - (b) WA, C and WD; and
 - (c) GD and GK.
- 2.8 A player may only be registered in one team per season but is permitted to play in both Men's and Mixed divisions. A player cannot change clubs until the next season.

Player Eligibility

- 2.9 MLeague Mixed 1 teams are permitted to have up to four (4) NSW Men's Open players from the past three (3) years (2023 and/or 2022 and 2021) registered in their team per season.
- 2.10 MLeague Mixed 2 teams are permitted to have up to two (2) NSW Men's Open players from the past three (3) years (2023 and/or 2022 and 2021) registered in their team per season provided they are not a registered player in a Mixed 1 team in the same season.
- 2.11 MLeague Mixed 3 teams are not permitted to have any Senior NSW (or any other State or Territory) Men's or Women's State Representative Players from the past three (3) years (2023, 2022 and 2021) registered in their team per season. This does not include any State Aged Representative players.

A full list of NSW Men's Open players from 2023, 2022 and 2021 can be obtained by emailing the MLeague Coordinator.

2.12 A player registered to a Club or Association team for the season is not permitted to play for another Club or Association team in the same season.

Temporary Fill-in Players

2.13 A player may be nominated to replace a player on a team for a match on a temporary basis where a registered player is unavailable.

2.14 Any temporary fill-in player included in a team must meet all eligibility requirements to participate in the competition including, but not limited to, the specific eligibility requirements for the relevant division.

2.15 The following rules will apply to temporary fill-in players:

- (a) current NSW Men's Open players are not permitted to be used as fill-ins in any division;
- (b) a fill-in player must not exceed a value of three (3) player points;
- (c) a team cannot use the same fill-in player more than three (3) times in one season;
- (d) Clubs are permitted to use players from their lower graded teams provided that player is playing up divisions. However, subject to rule 2.15 (c), after the same player has been used as a fill-in for a team in a higher grade more than three (3) times, that player must become a registered member of the higher grade team and will be disqualified from playing any further games in the lower grade team for the remainder of the season;
- (e) a fill-in player who is not registered with MNNSW can only fill in once per season, after which time they must be registered with Men's Netball NSW and the MLeague Competition before they can participate in another game (including filling in for any other team). Single game fill-ins play at their own risk.
- (f) Clubs and Associations must notify the MLeague Coordinator in writing no later than four (4) hours prior to the scheduled start time of the relevant match when a temporary fill-in player is being used.

2.16 Clubs or Associations teams may register new players to their teams after the commencement of the season up until but not passing the halfway point in the season. Any addition should be made by written notification to the MLeague Coordinator. The exception to this is when rule 2.15 (d) applies. All additional players will also be subject to rule 2.17 to qualify for finals.

Eligibility for finals matches

- 2.17 To be eligible to participate in any finals match players must have taken the court in at least four (4) minor round matches for their registered team in the current MLeague Competition season.
- 2.18 It is the responsibility of Clubs and Associations to manage team lists to ensure players taking the court are correctly recorded on the score sheets each match to meet the required minor round qualification. If a player is not recorded correctly on the scoresheet, they will be deemed as not having played in the match in question.

Deregistration

- 2.19 Deregistration of individual players will be in line with [Netball NSW Affiliation and Membership policy](#).

3 PLAYER POINT SYSTEM

General matters relating to teams and points

- 3.1 A player point system will be used for teams and games played in the MLeague Competition.
- 3.2 There will be division restrictions to the number of NSW Men's Open players that can be registered to a team per season. These restrictions are listed under the **Player Eligibility** rules.
- 3.3 A player registered in any Division 1 team is not permitted to play in any Division 2 or Division 3 teams.
- 3.4 A player registered in any Division 2 team is not permitted to play in any Division 3 teams.

Maximum team points

The maximum player points a team is allowed on court at any one time is:

Men's Division 3:	No points system applies
Mixed Division 1:	21 points
Mixed Division 2:	15 points
Mixed Division 3:	No points system applies

Player points

A player will carry the points set out in the table below:

Player point system

Player's representative level	Points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Open (for any State or Territory) Suncorp Super Netball 	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ANC or Academy player 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Open A, Mixed Open or Mixed Reserves Men's 23/Under Premier League females - Open Australian Indoor Netball Representatives 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Premier League females - 23/Under 	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Players who turn 21 years old by 31 December in the year of the MLeague Competition Non-representative player (being a player that does not have another representative level that applies to them) 	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Players who are 19 to 20 years old New recruits (being a player that is 21 years old or older that has not represented an Australian State or Territory or another country in netball at a representative level - this level only applies for the first year the player participates in the MLeague Competition) 	-1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Players who are 16 to 18 years old 	-2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Players who are 15 years old or younger 	-3

To determine a player's representative level, the following applies in descending order:

If the player was selected and accepted to represent NSW (or another State or Territory) at the 2023 AMMNA Championships	The representative level the player participated in at the 2023 AMMNA Championships
If the player was not selected and accepted to represent NSW (or another State or Territory) at the 2023 AMMNA Championships, but represented a State or Territory at an AMMNA Championships in the past three (3) years	The highest representative level the player participated in over the past three (3) years applies
All other players	The representative level relevant to the player*

* If a player was selected and accepted to represent a country (other than Australia) in a National team for netball in 2021 and/or 2022 and 2023, the player will carry the relevant representative levels as if they competed in the AMMNA National Championships.

4 GAMES AND SCORING

Match Points

4.1 The competition points will be awarded as following:

Win:	4 points
Draw:	2 points
Loss:	0 points
Forfeit:	-2 points

4.2 Each team is required to appoint a scorer/timekeeper for each of their games. Failure to do so may result in a penalty of one (1) competition point being deducted from the team who does not provide this person.

4.3 All player positions must be recorded on the scoresheet for each quarter. Failure to do so will result in players not being recorded as taking the court for the match and may affect their eligibility for final matches. It may also affect any insurance claims that may be required.

4.4 Any team that is identified as falsely recording a player on the scoresheet will result in an immediate forfeit of the game and/or lose two (2) competition points.

4.5 It is each team captain's responsibility to sign the scoresheet at the end of the game. If the scoresheet is not signed, Men's Netball NSW will deem the score as correct and the result will stand as recorded on the scoresheet.

Forfeits

4.6 If a team needs to forfeit a game, the team must notify the MLeague Coordinator at least 72 hours prior to the game commencing. A forfeit called within 72 hours of game time will result in the team incurring a \$100 forfeit fee. This fee is to cover the costs of court hire and umpires.

5 SEMI AND GRAND FINALS

5.1 The top four (4) teams from the minor round matches for each of the divisions advance to the respective Final Series.

5.3 The top four (4) teams will be decided by:

- (a) the highest four (4) competition points total in descending order;

- (b) if two (2) or more teams are tied on points, the team with the highest for and against percentage will be placed higher; and
- (c) if a tie is still not broken, the team with the better head to head result will be placed higher.

5.3 The final series for each of the Divisions will be conducted as follows:

- (a) Major Semi Final – 1st position on the premiership table at the completion of the Minor Round Matches (being designated as the 'Home Team') versus 4th position on the premiership table at the completion of the Minor Round Matches (being designated as the 'Away Team').
- (b) Minor Semi Final – 2nd position on the premiership table at the completion of the Minor Round Matches (being designated as the 'Home Team') versus 3rd position on the premiership table at the completion of the Minor Round Matches (being designated as the 'Away Team').
- (c) Grand Final – winner of the Major Semi Final versus winner of the Minor Semi Final with the Major Semi Final winner (being designated as the 'Home Team').

Men's Netball NSW reserves the right to alter the format of the final series for a division or competition. Any changes made to finals matches will be communicated to Clubs and Associations in a timely manner prior to the conclusion of the minor round matches of the MLeague Competition.

6 UNIFORMS

6.1 Players in a Team must play in matching playing uniforms for every match of the MLeague Competition unless extenuating circumstances exist in which case, notification must be sent to the MLeague Coordinator providing an explanation and giving as much notice as possible.

Full uniform refers to a matching playing top, playing shorts or dress with the same design (colours or patterns) across all pieces as nominated on their Affiliation Form. If a team does not comply, a penalty of one (1) competition point may be deducted from the team for each game the team or player is not in team colours subject to rule 6.2. The MLeague Coordinator will note uniform penalties on the scoresheet.

6.2 All teams must be in full uniform from round 1 of the MLeague Competition.

- 6.3 If clubs or associations playing against each other have similar colours, those teams must use an alternate uniform or distinct coloured patches or bibs to ensure teams are clearly distinguished.
- 6.4 Any clothing or footwear deemed inappropriate will result in a player being denied taking the court.

7 EQUIPMENT

- 7.1 Scoresheets and a Match ball will be supplied by Men's Netball NSW.
- 7.2 Warm up balls and other equipment will be the responsibility of the individual team.
- 7.2 All teams are to supply their own bibs or patches.

8 DISCIPLINE

- 8.1 Players that are suspended or ordered off the court during a game must be noted on the scoresheet for that game.
- 8.2 Any player that is ordered off the court in a game for any disciplinary reasons will automatically receive a one (1) game suspension and will be referred to the Men's Netball NSW Committee for disciplinary action.
- 8.3 The following will apply to a player who receives a game suspension:
- (a) the game suspension will apply to each division the player plays in;
 - (b) the game suspension will apply to the next game the player is to play in;
 - (c) the suspended player must actually attend that game (but not play, coach or take to the court in any way)

If the player's team has a bye or the player does not attend the game to which the suspension is to apply, the game suspension will then apply to the next round or the next game the player attends (as applicable).

- 8.4 Any player who is suspended three (3) or more times in a MLeague Competition season will be referred to the MNNSW Committee and may receive further disciplinary action as required including, but not limited to, suspension from additional games, removal from the competition and/or termination of membership with no financial reimbursement.

- 8.5 If a player is found to have made comments to another player, team official or umpire that is racist, abusive or intolerant in nature, such action will result in a player being automatically banned from any further Men's Netball NSW events or competitions and their membership will be terminated with no financial reimbursement.
- 8.6 Drugs and alcohol are not permitted on any premises where games are being played. No player, team official or umpire is to consume prior to or during a game. If an umpire, the MLeague Umpire Coordinator or the MLeague Coordinator believes a player, team official or umpire is intoxicated or under the influence of drugs, they will be asked to leave the court and be removed from the premises where the game is being held.
- 8.7 Any complaints about a player or team official should be made in writing to the MLeague Coordinator and be reviewed in consultation with the Men's Netball NSW Committee. The MNNSW Code of Conduct can be found [here](#).

9 UMPIRES

- 9.1 Men's Netball NSW will appoint umpires for all games. Umpires will be under the guidance and management of the MLeague Umpire Coordinator.
- 9.2 Umpires officiating at the MLeague Competition must have a minimum National Badge as follows:
- (a) Mixed 1 and Mixed 2 - current **National B** Badge or higher
 - (b) Mixed 3 - current **National C** Badge or higher
 - (c) Men's 3A - current **National B** Badge or higher
- 9.3 Any complaints in relation to an umpire must be made in writing to the MLeague Coordinator.

10 FEES

PlayHQ Registration

- 10.1 All participants must be registered with Netball NSW via the PlayHQ registration system. Participants that are not registered on the platform will not be allowed to take part in any matches until they are registered due to their lack of injury insurance.

PlayHQ registration fees may differ depending on the competition duration. Below is an **indication only** of the cost for a twelve (12) month fee. Exact amounts charged for membership will be determined by Netball NSW.

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------------|
| (a) | New Senior member | Up to \$100; |
| (b) | New Junior member | Up to \$80; |
| (c) | New Non playing member (Team Official) | \$55; |
| (d) | Non Player to Player conversion | Up to \$60; |

Membership may be based on a once in a 12 month period from when first registered regardless of the competition; or for the duration of a competition on a six (6) or nine (9) month term depending on the Netball NSW product type selected.

Player Entry Fee

10.2 Each player, once registered in a team, must pay a player entry fee to participate in the MLeague Competition.

This fee is set as an individual payment as listed below:

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------|
| (a) | Individual player entry fee per division | \$170; |
|-----|--|--------|

This amount does not include an individual's PlayHQ registration fee as outlined in rule 10.1 (if applicable)

No further discounts will be given for playing in multiple divisions.

Any players with outstanding fees at the commencement of the MLeague Competition season will be deemed unfinancial and unable to take the court until all fees have been paid and are subject to rule 2.2.

11 PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

11.1 Men's Netball NSW may engage a photographer or videographer to take photos or videos on their behalf for all or part of the MLeague Competition.

11.2 Men's Netball NSW reserves the irrevocable right to use your name, photograph, image, audio recording, video recording and likeness in all forms and manner for the purposes of live streaming of netball matches, social media publicity, promotion, general display or for any other related

purposes in whole or in part, including but not limited to publication on internet web sites, broadcasts and any other publications as released by Men's Netball NSW.

- 11.3 Extended video footage should only be taken by associations or clubs for training purposes.
- 11.4 All photographers and videographers should notify the opposing team of their intention to photograph or video the match for consent.
- 11.5 All photographers and videographers taking photos on behalf of an Association must register with Event Control upon arrival at the Competition.
- 11.6 Photographers and Videographers should comply with any Courtside Equipment Guidelines as published by Netball NSW.

12 GENERAL MATTERS

- 12.1 Any rules that are not covered in the INF Rules of Netball or by this document will be determined by the MNNSW Committee and the decision will be final.
- 12.2 Except where these Competition rules outline that a specific penalty is to apply, any breach of these competition rules may result in any one or more of the following penalties being imposed on a Club or Association by Men's Netball NSW in its absolute discretion.
 - (a) a fine
 - (b) loss of competition points

Men's Netball NSW reserves the right to amend these MLeague Competition Rules at any time without prior notice.

(END)