



Grading Policy 2023

The Alice Springs Netball Association (ASNA), as the governing body for the sport in Alice Springs will:

- Provide a safe enjoyable, inclusive, and competitive environment,
- Deliver innovative options for participation in netball across one's lifespan,
- Exemplify consistency, transparency, and integrity through strong governance, and
- Promote positive collaboration with clubs and the broader community.

ALICE SPRINGS NETBALL ASSOCIATION (ASNA) GRADING POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to be clear and transparent about the process of grading teams into their appropriate Division for the continuous development of Netball as the dominant sport within Alice Springs. This policy relates to both Junior and Senior Competitions of the Alice Springs Netball Association (ASNA).

1. TEAM GRADING

1.1 Clubs must nominate their teams for the season in appropriate grades by the due date online via Netball Connect platform.

1.2 From the commencement of the season until the completion of Round Nine (9) the following shall apply:

- a) Clubs will nominate Junior teams into the following Age Divisions:
 - o 11 & Under,
 - o 13 & Under,
 - o 15 & Under and,
 - o 17 & Under.
- b) Clubs will nominate Senior teams into the following Divisions:
 - o Division 1
 - o Division 2,
 - o Division 3, and
 - o Division 4.

2. SENIOR GRADING

2.1 For the first Nine (9) weeks of the Senior Competition the following will apply:

- o Teams nominated in Division 1 and Division 2 will play in a combined competition called Competition A
- o Teams nominated in Division 3 and Division 4 will play in a combined competition called Competition B.

2.2 Each club with teams involved in Competition A are required to nominate a minimum of (2) teams in Division 1 or 2 (Competition A) at the start of the season. If a club is unable to nominate two teams in competition A, they will only be eligible to nominate teams in Division 3 and Division 4 (Competition B).

2.3 Following the completion of Round Nine (9) a grading process will occur. A Grading Committee will review each competition by examining the points tables with win/loss ratios and percentages considered. The Grading committee will be comprised of the following members:

- a) One (1) member of each club, nominated by their club at the commencement of the season. Please note that if this representative

is unable to attend the club can send one proxy representative to the meeting.

- b) One (1) member of the ASNA Committee
- c) If a decision is tied the ASNA Committee member will have the deciding vote,
- d) If a club representative does not attend the Grading Meeting their vote will automatically take on that of the ASNA member.

2.4 Following the completion of Round Nine (9) Senior Teams will be graded into Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4 playing the remaining Nine (9) rounds in these Divisions and competing for Division Championships.

2.5 The following outcomes may occur at the discretion of the Grading Committee at the completion of Week 9:

- a) Teams playing in Competition A will be divided into Division 1 or Division 2,
- b) Teams playing in Competition B will be divided into Division 3 or Division 4
- c) If a Senior team is considered not to be suited to the nominated Competition by the Grading Committee they may be moved up or down a Division i.e. a team moved from Competition A to Division 3 or a team moved from Competition B to Division 2.
- d) Clubs shall be notified of the teams that will be re-graded in each Division following the decision of the Grading Committee. A weeks break will be provided between Rounds 9 and 10 to allow for finalisation of Grading.
- e) In the event of a team being regraded to a higher Division then the competition they originally nominated in (i.e. From Competition B to Division 2) their competition points will be transferred to their re-graded Division.
- f) If a team is regraded to a lower division than originally nominated in (i.e. From Competition A to Division 3), that team will start with an average point score and an average "goals for" and "goals against" adjustment on the ladder, equal to the division they have been re-graded to. The average calculation method is to take the average of the scores from the teams left in the grade after any re-graded team/s is taken out and before any newly graded team/s is included.

2.6 ASNA Committee retains the right to request the Grading Committee review grading allocations at any point of the season prior to or following Round Nine (9) and apply decisions as set out in section 2.5.

2.7 Playing Regulations as set out in Section 6 shall apply to all Senior Divisions from the commencement of the ASNA Winter Netball Season.

2.8 To assess its suitability and applicability for the future development of Alice Springs Netball, this Grading Policy will be reviewed annually at the conclusion of each season.

3. JUNIOR GRADING

3.1 At the commencement of the Junior Competition teams will play in their relevant age divisions (11 & Under, 13 & Under, 15 & Under, 17 & Under)

3.2 At the completion of Round Nine (9) the Grading Committee will review the need for Grading in each Junior Division

3.3 If it is deemed necessary in a Junior Age Group for grading to occur teams may be divided into Division 1 and Division 2 based off examination of the points tables with win/loss ratios and percentages considered.

3.4 ASNA Committee retains the right to request the Grading Committee review grading allocations at any point of the season prior to or following Round Nine (9) and apply decisions as set out in section 3.3.

4. PENALTIES FOR BREACHES OF TEAM GRADING

4.1 When a club is advised of a team being regraded, that team will be scheduled to play in the relevant new division. A club that fails to comply with a competition grading decision made by the Association may be penalised in any of the following ways:

- a) The team that fails to comply with the grading decision may have two (2) competition points deducted.
- b) Subsequent non-compliance may result in two (2) competition points being deducted from all teams within that club
- c) Continued failure to comply may result in two (2) competition points being deducted from all teams within that club for every round, until such time that the club has complied with the grading decision.
- d) May be fined an amount set by the ASNA Committee

5. PLAYING REGULATIONS – JUNIOR AGE GROUPS (17&U, 15&U, 13&U and 11&U)

5.1 Players registered in 17&U shall not play in Senior teams graded lower than Division 3. If a player registered in 17&U plays for a team in Competition B during the grading period that team will only be considered to play in Division 3 following grading taking place.

5.2 Clubs with two (2) or more teams in the same division of a Junior Grade shall be able to use up to two (2) players per game from Team 1 in Team 2 (and vice versa) for a total of two (2) matches each during the minor season only. A player who plays (3) matches in their non-registered team shall be considered re-registered to that team, un-registered in the original team, and unable to participate in her/his

original team's matches. Players cannot play across junior grades during the final's series.

5.3 Where a grade has two (2) divisions, players from Division I shall not be able to play in Division II, but players from Division II shall be able to play in Division I for a total of two (2) matches each during the season. The playing of three games in the higher division of the players registered grade shall cause that player to be considered re-registered to that higher division, un-registered in the lower division, and unable to participate in her/his original team's matches.

5.4 Players registered in Junior grades shall be eligible, without penalty, to play any number of times for their own Club's teams in higher Junior or Senior grades during the minor rounds. This is to be in accordance with the club's player welfare policy which is to be submitted prior to commencement of the season. Separate rules apply for 17&Us and for final.

5.5 Boys turning twelve (12) in the calendar year of competition will be allowed to play in the 13&U competition. Such players must be registered with the association and cannot play outside the 13&U division.

5.6 A Junior player who has played 6 games or more combined total in Division 1 is ineligible to play in Junior finals or a grade lower than Division 1 unless they have played more than 6 games in that Junior or lower grade.

5.7 11&U Players are not permitted to play for any Senior Team.

6. PLAYING REGULATIONS – SENIOR DIVISIONS

6.1 These Playing Regulations shall apply to all Senior Divisions. In the event of a breach of these by-laws, the player(s) in default shall be treated as an unregistered player(s) (refer Penalty for Breaches of Registration).

6.2 All players must be nominated to a team prior to the commencement of the season or that individual's first game.

6.3 Players registered in a team in Competition A shall not play in any team in Competition B, unless permission has been granted by ASNA Committee for the re-grading of that player.

6.4 Until the completion of Round Nine (9) players are permitted to play in any of their club's teams without restriction within the same competition. Player's registered in a Competition B team are also permitted to play without restriction in any of their club's Competition A teams.

6.5 Following the completion of Round Nine (9) if a player has played more games for a team other than their nominated team, they will be re-registered to this team for the remainder of the season.

6.6 Following the completion of Round Nine (9), The playing of three (3) games in a higher Division shall cause that player to be considered re-registered to that higher Division and in the team in which the player played their third (3) game, un-registered in the lower Division, and unable to participate in their original team's matches.