

COMPETITION MANAGEMENT GUIDE

20/01/22



In September 2021, Netball SA communicated to associations regarding the need to plan for 2022 and consider what sport looks like in a COVID world. As part of this, associations were encouraged to review their competition guidelines to incorporate a clause that allowed the association to adjust the competition format as required. Further to this, examples of more specific approaches such as abandoning matches were included.

Following on from this, Netball SA has prepared the below to provide volunteers with specific suggestions regarding how competitions can move forward. Hopefully, reducing some of the burden and stress of managing competitions during these unprecedented times.

REMEMBER

- The health and safety of the community remains the highest priority
- Whilst balanced competition is important, the opportunity to participate whenever possible is of higher priority (particularly for junior programs and competitions)
- Where possible the Minor Round and Finals should be conducted within the traditional timeframes
- Whenever possible, equality in the draw should be of less importance than the opportunity to participate

SUGGESTIONS

SINGLE ROUND INTERRUPTION

- Should an entire round of matches be deemed abandoned, follow the association's rules and by laws. If the association does not have rules regarding this, it is suggested that no points or percentage be awarded to any team
- The season should commence with the next scheduled round
- The season should continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

CONSECUTIVE ROUND INTERRUPTION

- Should consecutive rounds of matches be deemed abandoned, follow the association's rules and by laws. If the association does not have rules regarding this, it is suggested that no points or percentage be awarded to any team
- The season should commence with the next scheduled round
- The season should continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

INTERRUPTION OF MULTIPLE ROUNDS

- Should multiple rounds of matches be deemed abandoned, follow the association's rules and by laws. If the association does not have rules regarding this, it is suggested that no points or percentage be awarded to any team
- The season should recommence with the next scheduled round
- The season should continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

INDIVIDUAL MATCH INTERRUPTION

- Should individual matches within any round be deemed abandoned, teams should receive the points allocated for a draw and the average weekly percentage of all participating teams of the same competition from that round of matches
- The individual games may not be rescheduled
- The season can continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

INDIVIDUAL TEAMS/PLAYERS/OFFICIALS

- In the instance where players are unable to participate in a match or matches due to quarantine/isolation/border closures, the association should consider what the process may be before the season commences. It is noted that the minimum number of participants that can take the court is 5 and the association may choose to deem this adequate for a game to proceed.
- The association may wish to consider a process whereby teams are able to submit a scorecard when matches are deemed abandoned for matches to be counted towards finals qualifications. The association is encouraged to decide prior to the season commencing and ensure the process is communicated to clubs immediately.

RETURN TO PLAY FOLLOWING A COVID INTERRUPTION

- If 1-3 consecutive rounds have been deemed abandoned, it is possible for the season to recommence at the next scheduled round. This is determined by the association.
- If 4-6 consecutive rounds have been deemed abandoned, it is possible for the season to recommence at the next scheduled round. To mitigate injuries as much as possible, a minimum of a 7-day training period is encouraged before Return to Play. This is determined by the association.
- If more than 6 consecutive rounds have been deemed abandoned, it is possible for the season shall recommence at the next scheduled Round. To mitigate injuries as much as possible, a minimum of a 14-day training period is encouraged before Return to Play. This is determined by the association.

FINALS MATCHES

- An association can reschedule finals matches at their absolute discretion
- If an association is unable to conduct a finals series, it is suggested that the minor round premier be deemed the premier of the competition.
- If a Grand Final must be rescheduled due to COVID interruptions, the association is encouraged to consult with its clubs to determine a mutual date.
- If an association is unable to conduct a Grand Final it is suggested that the team with the higher ladder position be deemed the premier of the competition.

FINAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Should a season be impacted on by COVID the association may determine game requirements for players at their absolute discretion at any stage during the season

AWARDS & VOTES

- Votes and awards should be awarded for games played and not for missed matches

OTHER KEY CALLOUTS

- Consider your options for scheduled byes, if the season is interrupted teams with scheduled byes may be disadvantaged.
- Consider relaxing forfeit fines due to quarantine requirements.

If any circumstances occur outside of what is listed above, the association can determine the best course of action with final discretion. Your relevant Development Coordinator is there to assist associations in this process. Current health guidelines should be always upheld.