

# NETBALL SA THE HOSPITAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION GROUP PREMIER LEAGUE 2022 REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS



## 1. THE HOSPITAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION GROUP PREMIER LEAGUE OBJECTIVES

The current objectives of The Hospital Research Foundation Group Premier League competition are appropriate, fit for purpose and should be retained.

- to be the best South Australian netball competition that provides opportunities for players, coaches, officials and administrators;
- to provide progression through the elite pathway for developing players, coaches, officials and administrators throughout SA in an effort to increase the depth and quality
- to provide a competition that is highly competitive across all entrants;
- to create a pathway link between the The Hospital Research Foundation Group Premier League Competition, State Programs, Australian Netball Championships (ANC) and Suncorp Super Netball (SSN) Teams;
- to encourage a strong local profile measured in high spectator participation and media support;
- to enhance the reputation of netball in the community; and
- to increase the engagement of fans, current and future participants and enhance the connection with the wider SA netball community.

The review found that the previous objectives are fit for purpose, they are valid and appropriate based on what we are all trying to achieve for the competition and should be continued, with some minor tweaks to sharpen the focus.

These objectives will be the reference point in the operational aspects of The Hospital Research Foundation Group Premier League competition.

## 2. GOVERNANCE

Review the Constitutions and Rules of both The Hospital Research Foundation Group Premier League and the Adelaide Metropolitan Netball Division (AMND) with a view to defining the distinction between the competitions.

It is evident from the consultation process that there is significant confusion on the relationship and connection of The Hospital Research Foundation Group Premier League and AMND competition as there is some link in both competition rules to each other, this confusion creates challenges for both the Netball SA administration and the Premier League Clubs on how they govern and manage the two competitions.

# NETBALL SA THE HOSPITAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION GROUP PREMIER LEAGUE 2022 REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS



The governance review will be looking to provide clarity on the relationship between the two competitions.

## 3. NUMBER OF CLUBS

Retain the number of clubs (8) in The Hospital Research Foundation Group Premier League Competition.

In comparison with other states, the participation numbers and number of teams in The Hospital Research Foundation Group Premier League is currently within parity and hence caution should be applied to the consideration of an expanded number of teams in The Hospital Research Foundation Group Premier League given the participation rates in SA. If the number of teams were to be extended, this would effectively dilute the competitiveness of the competition. Increasing the number of teams and therefore another 48-60 players would not assist with equalisation or fulfil the objectives.

South Australian Netball is widely regarded for “performing to expectations” at the elite level in the Suncorp Super Netball (SSN) competition. SA has eight players currently contracted to play in the SSN, with 11 contracted for next season, with an additional five as training partners across different teams. The eight contracted players represent 10% of the total number of contracted players (10 per team across the eight teams in the SSN) and SA has approximately 12% of the total number of registered participants in the sport.

## 4. ACCREDITATION

Retain the Accreditation process but review the process to simplify the administrative burden on Clubs and remove any duplication of process.

Feedback highlighted the significant operational burden of the previous accreditation purpose.

While the content of accreditation is viewed favourably, the process of this operationally would be best to entail a streamlined online application followed by a club audit/ interview. The accreditation purpose will focus on indicating areas of opportunity for each club for development.

## 5. POINTS SYSTEM

Retain and modify the current Points System to enable this system to be a more effective lever for achieving equalisation of the The Hospital Research Foundation Group Premier League competition with consideration to be given to the following:

# NETBALL SA THE HOSPITAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION GROUP PREMIER LEAGUE 2022 REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Consider incorporating a 'sliding scale' of points spread over a three year period
2. Revise the allocation of points to Adelaide Thunderbirds players
3. The points system can be increased to a 10 - 15 point scale to better reflect the significant difference between players who accrue the most points compared with those who accrue the least points
4. Points for under-age state representative players.

The existing points system is applied to those players who have previously been registered with a Club and regulates the movement of players between Clubs and ensures that no Club gains an unequal advantage in terms of the number of players or the quality of talent of players.

There was consensus among Clubs that the current Points System was not performing its intended purpose. The allocation of points is not commensurate with the actual value of players and it does not adequately represent the full range of player talent. Models are currently being developed and will be provided to Clubs for feedback prior to the points system being finalized in preparation for the 2023 season.

## 6. ZONING

It is recommended that the Premier League Clubs are allocated a regional zone for development purposes.

The recommendation for zoning focuses on the Premier League Clubs being allocated regional zones for development purposes to provide the opportunity to collaboratively build a model in regional areas around their requirements, as well as have a positive impact for clubs.

Netball SA will work with Associations and the Premier League Clubs to develop the framework for this. This may include a phased approach to assist in the implementation.

## 7. SQUAD SIZE

Netball SA to reduce each Premier League squad size to 24 players

Squad size is currently 30 however the maximum that can be named for any one round is 24 (12 for League and 12 for Reserves) therefore this recommendation streamlines the squad size to align with this.

# NETBALL SA THE HOSPITAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION GROUP PREMIER LEAGUE 2022 REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS



## 8. PLAYER CONTRACTS

Remove Netball SA Player Contracts as a requirement in the rules and replace with an “Intent to Play”. Playing squad submissions to be submitted in two halves in December and January/February each year with player lists to be released online.

This recommendation will see Netball SA Premier League Clubs operate on a playing roster system with clubs to submit their roster in two halves in order to allow for greater transparency around ‘free agents’ and opportunities for players, as well as opportunity for media profile. Moving to a yearly playing roster system ideally encourages greater transparency and encouraging equalisation as players seek to play at the highest level. An information session on this will be held for Players and Parents of Players to ensure education and awareness around this change.

## 9. REVIEW

These recommendations are to be assessed annually culminating in a review in line with the next accreditation process.

This would be for ongoing implementation culminating in review of the impact at the end of the accreditation timeline to make sure these changes are having the desired effect.