



FDLC Netball By-Laws

Revised August 2020

1. General

1.1 Netball is a **social sport** and is conducted by the Five Dock Leisure Centre (FDLC) as an in-house competition (not affiliated with any external entities) to promote teamwork and sportsmanship for all participants. With this in mind, FDLC expects all participants to adhere to the spirit of the rules, and promotes a fun and healthy atmosphere as the primary goals rather than displaying a 'win-at-all-costs' attitude.

1.2 These by-laws should be considered in conjunction with *Netball Australia's rules*. Where a conflict exists between these documents, these by-laws shall take precedence.

1.3 FDLC maintains a zero tolerance policy regarding:

- Persistent and/or wilful challenging of the decisions of umpires
- Overly aggressive behaviour towards umpires, players, FDLC officials and spectators

1.4 Team benches are to be occupied only by team members, coaches and team managers. All spectators are required to be located in spectator seating areas provided.

1.5 Team captains act as representatives of the team during the game. Captains are permitted to make enquires of game officials on behalf of team members only if the enquires are made in an appropriate manner at an appropriate time (during half time/full time). Continued questioning of game officials is not permitted and may result in a suspension.

1.6 Captains are required to provide reasonable assistance to game and FDLC officials in ensuring teams behave in an appropriate manner.

1.7 In the event of injury, it is the responsibility of the injured party to notify FDLC administration or the match official of the circumstances of the injury as soon as possible.

2. Participation

2.1 All players must have their name pre-printed on the scoresheet and must sign on personally before they take the court.

2.2 Where a name is not pre-printed on the scoresheet, that player must notify FDLC administration to verify proof of registration and must print their name onto the scoresheet with their player ID number given to them by administration, before they take the court **(please refer to clauses 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3).**

2.3 Players not pre-printed on the match sheet will be refused entry to a game if adequate proof of registration is not presented to administration beforehand. If a team suspects the opposition is playing unregistered players, they must notify the match officials or FDLC officials **prior to the match commencing.**

2.4 All substitutions must be indicated to the match official before taking the field.

2.5 Any visible jewellery must be removed before taking the court including necklaces, bracelets and piercings. FDLC accepts no responsibility for any body piercing jewellery which is not visible or any injury resulting from said jewellery. Wristbands of any sort are not permitted due to safety reasons and players' hair must be suitably tied back.

2.6 Any player, coach or manager suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and/or any illicit substance will not be permitted to take the court. Any player, coach or manager displaying behaviour deemed by game officials or FDLC officials to be caused by being under the influence of any such substance during a game shall be removed from the premises immediately.

3. Registration

3.1 All players must register by completing the official registration form and paying the appropriate registration fee before taking the court for their first game.

3.2 It is the player's responsibility to maintain current registration at all times. FDLC reserves the right to refuse participation to any unregistered person/s.

3.3 Player registrations are non-transferable and non-refundable.

3.4 One (1) game player registrations (\$11) are available for fill-in players. These will not be permitted for any finals matches.

4. Team Entry

4.1 Teams must submit the official FDLC team nomination form (either hard copy or email), accompanied by the \$30 team entry fee, on or before the nomination closing date.

4.2 Teams may nominate a maximum of 15 players per team

4.3 Players cannot be added to the roster after Round 13 of the competition. Requests to waive this rule will be considered on a case by case basis.

4.4 The team nomination fee will only be refunded by FDLC if the competition does not go ahead and/or any circumstances deemed to be within control of FDLC competition manager (eg. Not enough teams for the competition to go ahead, Change of date or times).

4.5 Any team withdrawing from the competition on their own accord and out of the control of FDLC after the close of nominations will forfeit their nomination fee and their season fee. Any reimbursement requests due to special circumstances will need to be made in writing to the competition organiser and/or FDLC management for consideration.

4.6 FDLC reserves the right to restrict junior players from playing in older age groups at its sole discretion where the situation is deemed to be contrary to the best interests of the individual and/or the competition. Players aged 16 – 17 years are permitted to play in an 18+ competition only with a parent/legal guardian's approval.

5. Court Fees

5.1 Season fees will be published on the entry form along with dates and competition times.

5.2 Team season fees will be paid in one part:

- Up-front (game fee x no. of regular season games, excluding semi-finals unless otherwise stated) – due before the first match of the competition. In certain situations, due date can be delayed until the 2nd week of competition.
- Forfeit fines – if a team forfeits they must pay the opposing team's match fee of whom they forfeit against before taking the court the following week. Failure to do so will result in the opposing team being rewarded the win until the forfeit fee is paid in full.

5.3 Full payment must be made by the due date. Non-payment of season fees by the due date may result in being refused permission to take the court, loss of competition points or removal from the competition

5.4 Teams competing in the Elimination/Semi Finals will need to pay their match fee prior to kick off, unless paid within the upfront fees which will be advised by management. Grand Finals are free of charge.

6. Eligibility

6.1 Once a player has played for one team in a particular competition, they may not transfer to another team in that competition without written permission from FDLC.

6.2 Players may participate in a number of competitions of the same sport

6.3 A team may borrow players from another team within the competition provided:

A) A minimum of four (4) players from the regular roster must participate in the game

B) It may only do so where the total number of players for the game does not exceed seven (7).

6.4 Teams fielding an ineligible player shall forfeit each game where the team is found to be in breach of these by-laws

7. Uniforms

7.1 Uniform tops must be matching. Uniform bottoms may be a different colour to the tops. Minor variations in trim may be acceptable. A grace period of 2 weeks can be given to teams upon approval of competition manager.

7.2 Players not in the correct uniform by the fourth week of the competition (without valid exemption) will not be permitted to take the court.

7.3 Bandanas, beanies and other similar headwear are not permitted. Protective headgear is permitted at the referee's and staff discretion.

7.4 In the event of a clash of colours, the team listed as Team A shall be required to wear alternative uniforms (FDLC netball bibs can be lent out to the team for the match)

7.5 Teams refusing to change uniforms, as per by-law 7.4 shall be assessed a forfeit loss.

7.6 Footwear must be purpose-designed (non-marking shoes) for use on the playing surface used for the competition. Any damage caused by inappropriate footwear shall be the responsibility of the wearer.

8. Timing Regulations

8.1 Timing regulations for round games shall be:

- Morning games will have 1 minute break each quarter.
- Night games have 40 minute games with running clock (4 X 9 minute quarters with 1 minute break each quarter)

FDLC reserves the right to alter these regulations when deemed necessary

8.2 In the event of a tied score at the end of regulation playing time:

- In a round game, the result shall stand as a draw
- In a semi-final and grand final, such 5 minute each way periods of extra time shall be played as are required to obtain a result.

9. Forfeits and Late Starts

9.1 A team may start a game with a minimum of 4 players.

9.2 Where a team is unable to field at least 4 players at the scheduled starting time, the game will delay for 5 minutes and if a team has not fielded a minimum of 4 players it will be classed as a forfeit. **Please see point 6.3 for rules on burrowing players.**

9.3 Where a team forfeits the score shall be recorded as 22 – 0.

9.4 Where both teams fail to appear with at least three players after 10 minutes, the game shall be declared a double forfeit and the score recorded as 0 – 0 with neither team receiving any competition points for the match.

9.5 Any team that forfeits 3 times in a competition may be removed from the competition and/or finals series at the competition organiser's discretion.

10. Player suspensions

10.1 To ensure the safety and enjoyment of all participants, FDLC will conduct disciplinary procedures in accordance to FDLC By-laws and netball official rules.

10.2 Any player, coach, team official or team follower may be cited and reported to face disciplinary procedures. These include:

- Serious Foul Play
- Violent Conduct
- Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.
- Displaying aggressive behaviour towards a player, coach, FDLC official or staff member.
- Breach of the player code of conduct and by-laws that all players have agreed to abide by while playing at FDLC.

10.3 Any player, coach, team official or team spectator may be cited for damage to FDLC property and facilities. FDLC reserves the right to pass on the cost of any repair or replacement of damaged property.

10.4 Discipline for players that have breached the player code of conduct. The following approach to misconduct will be adopted by all umpires:

- Penalty given to opposing team
- Caution a player (for further misconduct)
- Issue an official warning to a player
- Suspend a player for 2 centre passes
- Order a player off (in which a minimum of one (1) week suspension will apply).

If a player directly swears at an umpire this will be an automatic order off the field and a mandatory suspension will apply.

10.5 All complaints, protests or appeals must be lodged in writing to the competition manager by close of business within 48 hours after the match or alleged incident. If an appeal has not been lodged within said timeframe the suspension will stand. Email sportsprograms@fdlc.com.au or reception@fdlc.com.au.

10.6 Players penalised under 10.4 where a player is ordered off the field, that player may not participate in any capacity for the rest of the game and must leave the court.

10.7 FDLC reserves the right to address alleged misconduct via letter/email to captain (or if information given by individual) of a warning, or any other means deemed suitable for the circumstances.

10.8 An automatic minimum 1 week penalty will occur for any player ejected from the game. Longer suspensions will be reviewed by competition manager and Centre manager depending on the infringement as outlined in tables 10.9A, 10.9B & 10.9C.

10.9A Player Offences

Code	Offence	Minimum	Maximum
PO1	<i>Serious Foul Play</i>	<i>1 Week</i>	<i>2 Years</i>
PO1A	Violent play endangering the safety of opponent	2 Weeks	2 Years
PO1B	Rugby Tackle	3 Weeks	2 years
PO1C	Violent Charging	3 Weeks	2 years
PO2	<i>Violent Conduct</i>	<i>1 Week</i>	<i>2 Years</i>
PO2A	Head Butting	5 Weeks	2 years
PO2B	Punching/Fighting	2 Weeks	2 Years
PO2C	Kicking	2 Weeks	2 Years
PO2D	Elbowing an opponent	2 Weeks	2 Years
PO2E	Inciting a brawl/melee	5 Weeks	2 Years
PO3	<i>Spitting <u>at</u> an opponent or any other person (other than FDLC official/staff)</i>	<i>8 Weeks</i>	<i>2 Years</i>
PO3A	Spitting <u>on</u> an opponent or any other person (other than FDLC official/staff)	12 Weeks	2 Years
PO4	<i>Denying the opposition an obvious goal-scoring opportunity via foul</i>	<i>1 week</i>	<i>8 weeks</i>
PO5	<i>Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.</i>	<i>1 Week</i>	<i>2 Years</i>
PO5A	Using discriminatory language and/or gestures.	3 Weeks	2 Years
PO5B	Incitement to violence, repeated use of offensive, insulting or abusive words or gestures.	3 Weeks	2 Years
PO6	<i>Receiving a second yellow card in the same match</i>	<i>1 Week</i>	<i>1 Week</i>

10.9B Player Offences against FDLC Officials/Staff

Code	Offence	Minimum	Maximum
OF1	Using offensive, insulting or abusive language/gestures.	2 Weeks	2 Years
OF2	Incitement to violence, repeated use of offensive insulting or abusive words and gestures	8 Weeks	2 Years
OF3	Using discriminatory language and/or gestures	8 Weeks	2 years
OF4	Threatening or intimidating language or conduct towards an FDLC official/staff	10 Weeks	2 years
OF5	Threat of physical violence towards an FDLC official/staff or his/her family or property	12 Months	2 Years
OF6	Tripping or pushing an FDLC official/staff	12 Months	Life
OF7	Striking an FDLC official/staff with a ball or other object	12 Months	Life
OF8	Punching, kicking, elbowing or striking an FDLC official/staff	18 Months	Life
OF9	Spitting at or on an FDLC official/staff	18 Months	Life

10.9C Offences by Coaches and Other Participants

Code	Offence	Minimum	Maximum
CO1	Attacking or fighting with a player, spectator, team official or FDLC official/staff.	12 Months	Life
CO2	Spitting at or on a player, spectator, team official or FDLC official/staff	3 Months	Life
CO3	Unsportsmanlike or unprofessional behaviour.	1 Week	1 Year
CO4	Using discriminatory language and/or gestures towards players, team officials or FDLC officials/staff.	3 Weeks	2 Years
CO5	Refusing to comply with direction and requests provided an FDLC official/staff in relation to conduct and/or behaviour within a match	2 Weeks	1 Year
CO6	Unauthorised entry onto the field of play	2 Weeks	1 Year
CO7	Failing to comply with FDLC official/staff in identifying details of an individual when reasonably requested to do so	4 Weeks	2 Years
CO8	Continuously questioning the match official's decisions in an aggressive, unreasonable or untimely manner.	1 Week	8 Weeks

10.10 Suspensions will be the length of time in competition weeks. Bye rounds and weeks not involving competition matches will not count towards the suspension being served.

10.11 Any player, coach or other participant found to take part in a match that he/she is under suspension will receive an additional two (2) weeks suspension per game played whilst suspended in addition to the original suspension received. The team will also be seen to have forfeited each game in which the suspended participant took place and may also face a loss of competition points.

10.12 FDLC Staff reserve the right to issue suspensions to players for any dissent and offences as outlined in Table 10.9B (offences against staff) which occur before, during or after a match.

11. Results and Outcomes

11.1 Competition points will be awarded as follows:

- Win = 3
- Draw = 1
- Loss = 0
- Win due to Forfeit = 3 (receive score of 22 – 0)
- Loss due to Forfeit = 0

FDLC reserves the right to change competition points to suit a particular competition

11.2 Where a scoresheet error is discovered at the time of recording, scores and/or results may be altered to reflect correct result.

11.3 In the event of two teams finishing on the same amount of points at the end of the normal rounds before the finals rounds, the table standings will be decided in the following order:

1. Goal difference between the teams in question
2. Higher number of goals scored between the teams in question.
3. Head-to-head records between the teams in question.

12. Abandoned Matches

FDLC Staff reserve the right to abandon a game at their own discretion

12.1 If a match has been abandoned by an FDLC official/staff due to matters out of each team's control – including but not limited to serious injuries to a participant/court hazards – the match will be decided by the following:

A) If *less than 75%* of the match has been played the result will be recorded as a 22-22 draw irrespective of the score at the time of which the game was abandoned.

B) If *more than 75%* of the match has been played the result will stand as the score at the time of which the match was abandoned.

12.2 If a match is abandoned by an FDLC official/staff due to matters *within* each team's control – including but not limited to both teams being involved in a fight/melee, aggressive behaviour – the match will be declared as a 0-0 draw with neither team being awarded any competition points for the match.

12.3 The above decisions are made at the discretion of FDLC staff and management, and all decisions are final.

13. Finals

13.1 Qualification for finals shall be determined by FDLC from competition scoresheets.

13.2 to be eligible to participate in a finals series, a player or team must meet one of the following criteria:

- Player – has been on the team roster for at least 5 rounds or has played for that team for 5 rounds
- Team – has been in the competition for at least 5 rounds

13.3 Byes do not count as qualifying games

13.4 Any team playing an ineligible player in a finals game shall forfeit that game.

13.5 As per 13.4, teams competing in the Elimination/Semi Finals will need to pay their match fee (unless paid in upfront season fee) prior to kick off. Grand finals are free of charge.

14. Finals Formats

14.1 The top 4 placed teams at the conclusion of the regular rounds will compete in the *Division 1 Finals Series*; with the remaining teams competing in the *Division 2 Finals Series*.

14.2 The finals format will involve a 1st v 4th; 2nd vs 3rd (or 5th v 8th; 6th v 7th) straight elimination system. The winning teams will progress to the Grand Final.

14.3 Please refer to 8.2 outlining the rules and regulations for drawn finals matches

15. Injuries

15.1 In the event of injury, it is the responsibility of the injured party to notify FDLC administration or game official of the circumstances of the injury as soon as possible. The Injured player must leave the court immediately (there will be no injury time added to the match). If the position is left vacant, a player may substitute during an interval, stoppage or after a goal is scored. The substitute must play in that vacant position.

15.2 In extreme circumstances and in consultation with FDLC officials the umpire may decide to abandon a match

15.3 The injured player (or witness) must fill out an incident report as soon as possible (preferably after the game). This will be attached to the players account in case of the injured player needing to apply for insurance.

16. Playing Whilst Pregnant

Players are permitted to take part in FDLC's sporting competitions as long as they adhere to the *Five Dock Leisure Centre Participation in Sport during Pregnancy Procedure* whereby the pregnant player must:

- Firstly discuss their decision to play with their medical practitioner to evaluate the benefits and risks.
- Seek an approval letter from their medical practitioner and provide this to the FDLC Sports Programs team prior to participating in a match.
- Once approval is sought, the participant will be required to read the 'Five Dock Leisure Centre Participation in Sport During Pregnancy Procedure' and sign the FDLC player registration form which includes the Player Code of Conduct and return this to the Sports Programs team.
- Participant is advised to consider the health of both themselves and their unborn child when making decisions moving forward. It is advised that the participant seek regular medical advice throughout their participation and cease activity once requested by their medical practitioner.

The *Five Dock Leisure Centre Participation in Sport during Pregnancy Procedure* document is available on our website and upon request from the Sports Programs Team.

17. Spectators and Supporters

17.1 Any other person that enters any of the various FDLC venues is expected to abide by the above by-laws and will be dealt with in compliance with section 10 of the by-laws (see table 10.9C).

17.2 A team may face disciplinary procedures as a result of unacceptable spectator behaviours, resulting in a potential loss of competition points or expulsion from competition.

18. Court Markings

18.1 The Five Dock Leisure Centre caters to a number of different sports. We have multiple coloured lines on the courts. Basketball courts are marked the following way.

- Baselines are marked (White)
- Sidelines are marked (white)
- The D and C are marked (white)

Major rule changes by Netball Australia that apply to a FDLC competition

- 1. An umpire's whistle is no longer required to signal a successful goal. Rather the signal is one arm up in the air.
- 2. Penalties will now be referred to as sanctions. During the match, the umpire may penalise an infringement by awarding two types of sanctions: the free pass and the penalty pass.
- 3. The rule has been changed to provide an option for the player taking the penalty to either pass the ball immediately, or to wait for the infringer to stand out of play. **However, they cannot play the ball unless they have taken up the correct position indicated by the umpire. The umpire can call back play if the player hasn't taken up the correct position.**
- 4. The centre no longer has to have both feet wholly within the centre circle prior to the whistle being blown for the centre pass. They only need at least one foot within the centre circle.
- 5. If two opposing player gain possession of the ball in quick succession, the umpire calls 'possession', indicates the player who caught the ball first and allows play to continue.
- 6. A player who falls to the ground while holding the ball must regain footing before playing the ball and release it within 3 seconds of first catching it.
- 7. A defending player may not deflect a ball on its downward flight towards the ring, including touching the ball up through the net.

SNAPSHOT OF KEY CHANGES

Umpires will no longer blow their whistle when goals are scored and if it is clear that the ball is out of court.

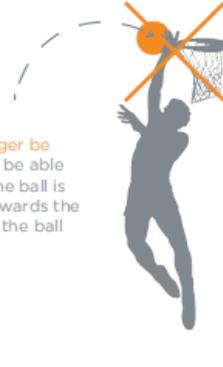


All injury/illness stoppages, which will include blood, will be up to 30 seconds, and the player concerned must leave the court.



When taking a centre pass, the Centre is required to now only have one foot wholly within the centre circle.

Goal tending will no longer be allowed. Players will not be able to deflect a shot once the ball is on a downward flight towards the ring, including touching the ball up through the net.



~~PENALTIES~~

SANCTIONS

Once a player taking a penalty pass is in the correct position, the player may choose either to play the ball immediately or to wait for the infringer to stand out of play. However, it is important to note that the changes to the rule regarding the taking of the penalty pass do not remove the requirement for a player who is sanctioned for a major infringement to stand out of play.



The use of the word 'Penalties' has been changed to 'Sanctions'. Sanctions will include Free Pass and Penalty Pass. Throw In and Toss Up are considered actions as opposed to Sanctions (or penalties under the current version).

