

New Zealand Men's and Mixed Netball Association

Tournament Policy and Rules

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Purpose and scope

1. The New Zealand Men's and Mixed Netball Association Tournament Policy and Rules (policy and rules) applies to all netball tournaments, events, or fixtures sanctioned by the New Zealand Men's and Mixed Netball Association (NZMNA).
2. Decision making in relation to the policy and rules shall rest in the first instance with the NZMNA Tournament Committee. Any decision of the Tournament Committee may be appealed to the NZMNA Board. Any decision of the NZMNA Board may be overturned by a general meeting. The Tournament Committee shall act in accordance with the Tournament Committee Terms of Reference and this policy and rules.
3. Tournaments, events, or fixtures will be played in accordance with the current World Netball rules book.¹ There may be instances where this policy and rules conflict with the World Netball rules book. In these instances, this policy and rules will be considered the overriding authority.

Tournament eligibility and registration

Team entries, registration, and fees

4. Team entries to an NZMNA sanctioned event (an event) will be accepted from NZMNA member associations as defined in the NZMNA Constitution (Constitution) and NZMNA Association Policy. Invitational teams and associate members may also be allowed to enter and are dealt with below.
5. A team or teams seeking to enter an event who are not current members or associate members, may seek membership in line with the Association Policy, for consideration by the NZMNA Board. Invitational teams will not be required to seek membership as outlined below.
6. Team registrations will be opened at least ten (10) weeks prior to an event and will close at the latest, six (6) weeks prior to the start of the event. No late entries will be accepted.
7. Any teams that register and fail to pay applicable association and/or tournament fees by the due date set by the Tournament Committee shall not be entered into the event. All fees are due no later than four weeks prior to the start of the event.
8. All registered teams, players, team management, and umpires shall be deemed to have accepted the NZMNA code of conduct by virtue of registering and taking part in an event.

Associate members pathway

9. As per the NZMNA Association Policy, once a new member association application is made and approved, they shall be considered an Associate Member for three (3) years. During this period, the associate members shall pay an entry fee of 1.5 times the entry fee for member associations.
10. Associate members shall be eligible to compete for points, titles, trophies, and awards. Players who participate in teams under Associate Members shall be eligible for New Zealand selection in line with the International High-Performance Policy.

¹ <https://netball.sport/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/World-Netball-Rules-Book-2024.pdf>

Invitational teams

11. Teams seeking to enter an event that are not eligible for membership under the Association Policy may participate in an event as an invitational team. This shall be at the discretion of the NZMMNA Board on the advice of the Tournament Committee. Factors to consider for invitational teams will include:
 - a. Whether there are established member associations from the same region as the invitational team
 - b. Whether there is space within the tournament draw to accommodate additional invitational teams
 - c. Whether the invitational team is supporting the growth of the sport
12. Invitational teams are ineligible to compete for points, titles, trophies, or awards and will be charged an entry fee set at 1.5 times the entry fee for member associations. Players in these teams may be eligible for New Zealand international selection subject to the International High-Performance Policy.

Player eligibility and registration

13. To be eligible to participate in an event, participating players must:
 - a. Be a New Zealand Citizen; or
 - b. Be a permanent resident; or
 - c. Be living in New Zealand (3 months)
 - i. Living in New Zealand means resident in New Zealand for a period of three (3) months or more at the start date of the tournament.
14. Teams may register up to 12 players on the registration form for an event. Player registrations must be submitted at least four (4) weeks prior to the start of the event. Players may only be registered in one (1) team. Amendments may be made to the player registration list up until the end of the managers meeting. Only players registered at this point may take the court.
15. If a registered player is injured and can no longer take further part in the tournament and a medical certificate is provided to the tournament convenor, a replacement player may be added to the registration list. Once the tournament has begun no players who have taken the court or been registered for a team may be added or play for any other team.
16. Players must adhere to the NZMMNA Diversity and Inclusion Policy.
17. Players who take part in an event must adhere to the NZMMNA Code of Conduct and will be deemed to have agreed to the NZMMNA Code of Conduct by taking part in an event.

Men's and Mixed Nationals

Grades

18. Registrations for Men's and Mixed Nationals will be accepted in the following grades:

Open A	1-hour games, 4 x 15 min quarters, quarter breaks of 3/5/3 minutes	Open grade
Open B	40 min games, 4 x 10 min quarters, quarter breaks of 2/3/2 minutes	Open grade
Open	Same as open B grade	Open grade

Reserves		
Masters	Same as Open B grade	Players aged 35 years or older for duration of event
Under 23's	Same as Open B grade	Players aged 23 years or under for duration of event
Under 20's	Same as Open B grade	Players aged 20 years or under for duration of event

19. Each grade shall be limited to a maximum of eight (8) teams and minimum of four (4) teams. Proof of age will apply to age restricted grades, and team managers shall be responsible for providing verification of age to the Tournament Committee as part of team registration.
20. Entries to all grades will be determined by seedings from results in the previous year. The winner of Open B and Reserves grades shall be promoted to the grade above in the following year. The lowest ranked team in Open A, Open B, and Reserves shall be relegated to the grade below in the following year.
21. If a team does not return the following year, the next seeded team will take their place. The Tournament Committee shall publish a seeded list of teams at the conclusion of each tournament each year.
22. In any given year, the Tournament Committee may introduce additional reserves grades so long as each additional grade adheres to clause 17 of this policy and rules. Each additional reserves grade shall be numbered to maintain the seeding approach. The Tournament Committee will **consult** with these teams before determining their approach and will determine the best approach once entries close.
 - a. For example: 12 teams register for Men's Nationals and are not eligible to enter the Open A and Open B grades as they are new teams or are seeded too low to enter these grades. The tournament committee determines that there shall be a Reserve 1 grade with 8 teams determined by seeding, and a Reserve 2 grade with the remaining 4 teams.

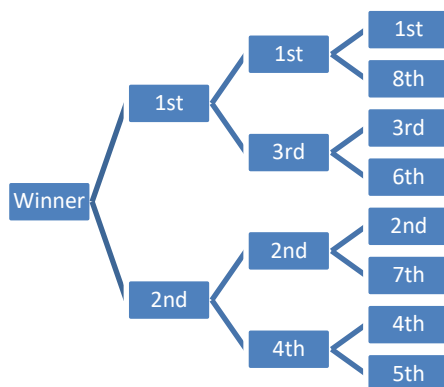
Points

23. During round robin play, points shall be awarded as follows:
 - a. 4 points for a win
 - b. 2 points for a draw
 - c. 1 point for a loss of 5 or less
 - d. 0 points for a loss
 - e. -4 points for a default
 - i. A default fee of \$100 may apply. This will be determined at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
24. In the event of two teams being tied on the points table at the end of round robin games, the points system of goals for and against will apply to determine placings.

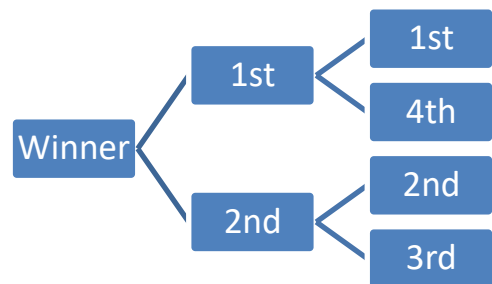
Finals and extra time

25. For A grade, the top four ranked teams will qualify for semi-finals. The two teams ranked 5th and 6th playoff to determine relegation. The semi-finals will be played in a 1 v 4 and 2 v 3 format. The winners of each semi-final game will proceed to the final.
26. For all other grades, quarter-finals or semi-finals may be played dependent on team entries and at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

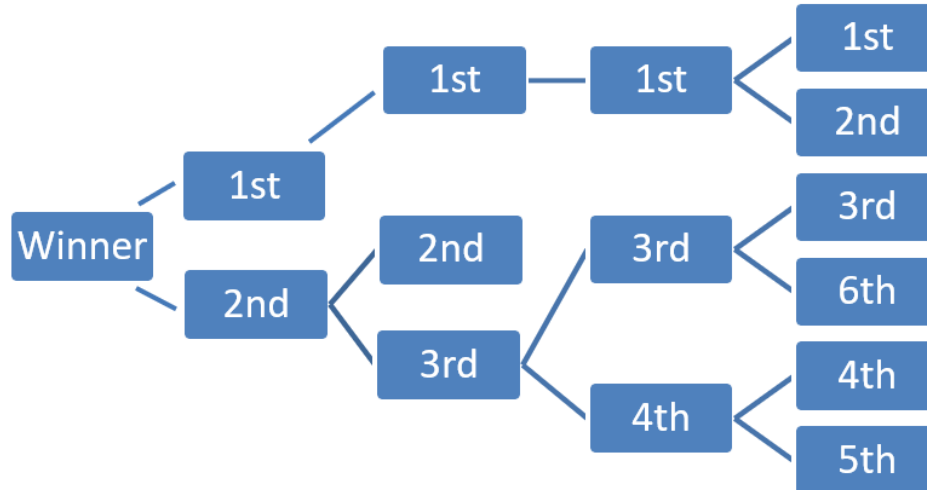
Quarter-finals example:



Semi-finals only example



Alternative finals example with only six teams in all grades excluding A grade:



27. For seeding purposes, the losing team of each semifinal or quarterfinal will be ranked based on their placing at the end of round robin play.
28. All finals games require a winner - no draws are permitted. If scores are tied at full-time the following procedures apply:
- There is an interval of four (4) minutes at the end of full-time.
 - Extra time consists of two halves of equal length, with a half-time interval of one (1) minute. Teams change ends at half-time.

Interval	1 st half	Half-time	2 nd half
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4 minutes	A grade: 5 minutes Others: 3 minutes	1 minute	A grade: 5 minutes Others: 3 minutes
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- c. The first centre pass in each half is taken by the team entitled to the next centre pass.
- d. In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time, play will continue until one team has a two (2) goal advantage.

Tournament teams

29. The Tournament Committee may consider additional tournament teams to be included in the draw. In the event of tournament teams being included, the Tournament Committee will **consult** with entered teams in each grade to test interest before making any decision. Tournament team games shall only be played if there is sufficient space in the draw.

Draw

30. The draw will be determined by the Tournament Committee once registrations have closed and must adhere to this policy and rules. The draw must be released at least two (2) weeks prior to the start of the event.
31. If there is an error with the released draw, or the draw is in breach of this policy, the Tournament Committee should be notified as soon as possible to correct the draw.
32. For each match, team 1 on the draw will take the benches to the right of the bench as it faces the playing court. Team 2 will take the benches to the left.
33. No team or player will play more than 120 minutes of netball in any single day during the tournament.

Mixed Nationals – positioning

34. In all grades and during all games at Mixed Nationals, there must always be a minimum of three male identified players AND three female identified players on the court at any one time.
 - a. The meaning of female and male is laid out in the Diversity and Inclusion Policy.
35. The seventh player on court may be either female or male identified, and this can alternate at each team's discretion during the course of any match.
36. Where there are only three male identified players on court, they must be positioned in each third of the court – one in the attacking circle (GS/GA), one in the midcourt (WD/C/WA), and one in the defensive circle (GD/GK). In the event that a fourth male identified player enters the court, they may only take the court in a midcourt position(WD/C/WA).
37. If any one team has less than six players on court, or less than the required number of male and female identified players, the match shall be immediately awarded to the opposing team.

Uniforms

38. Teams must play in their registered uniform colours in line with the Association policy. If wearing playing bottoms, these must all be the same colour. Skins are permitted so long as they do not create a clash with colours of the opposition team.

Umpires

39. The umpires for all games shall be appointed by the Tournament Committee, who may delegate umpire appointments to an umpires panel led by an umpire coordinator. The panel shall determine how appointments to matches will be made.
40. Each team shall be required to submit one umpire. Teams who do not register an umpire in line with clause 37 shall pay an umpire levy which shall be determined each year. Failure to pay this levy will result in the team being deregistered from the tournament. No umpire may be a registered player or member of team management.
41. Umpires for the A grade must have a minimum of New Zealand C badge or equivalent. Umpires for all other grades should have a minimum of a Zone badge or higher.

Other

42. All games shall be played with netballs supplied by NZMMNA. From time to time, umpires may request teams to provide a netball.
43. No sponsored banners or advertising shall be permitted without express permission from the NZMMNA Board. No tobacco, vaping, or alcohol sponsorship or advertising is permitted.
44. Teams must leave the playing venue clean and tidy. Failure to adhere to this rule may result in a cleaning fee being charged to teams.

Protests

45. During an event, protests may be lodged that require formal adjudication. Protests are serious matters that occur on, or off court, during an event that involve players, umpires, support staff, or spectators conduct that is alleged to be in breach of the NZMMNA code of conduct.
46. The Tournament Committee will consider any protests that are lodged. If a member of the Tournament Committee has a conflict of interest, they may not hear that protest. If the matter is alleged to have taken place on court, the Tournament Committee may seek views from the umpires of that game.
47. A protest must be lodged in writing within three (3) hours of the matter that is alleged to have taken place and a \$150 fee must be paid. The fee will be returned upon consideration of the protest, unless the Tournament Committee finds the protest to have been made without reasonable cause. The protest must include:
 - a. The nature and details of the protest
 - b. The parties alleged to be involved
 - c. The action you wish to be taken to resolve the protest
48. When lodging a protest, any relevant evidence including photographs, videos, or testimonies from witnesses may also be submitted. The Tournament Committee must notify the party that is subject to the protest as soon as possible. That party has three (3) hours from this notification to submit any evidence.
49. The Tournament Committee must meet and determine the outcome of the protest within twenty-four (24) hours of the time that the protest was lodged. All parties have the right to

attend the meeting of the Tournament Committee to be available for questions or clarifications. The meeting will then exclude the relevant parties to allow the Tournament Committee to make their decision which may:

- a. Uphold the protest
- b. Dismiss the protest and return the fee paid
- c. Dismiss the protest and withhold the fee paid

50. In the case of a protest being upheld the following sanctions may be applied:

- a. A written warning, with any further protests upheld resulting in immediate removal from the event
- b. A stand down from part of the remainder of the event
- c. Expulsion from the remainder of the event
- d. Expulsion and a further stand down period of from subsequent two NZMMNA events.

51. The final decision will be made and communicated to all parties in writing.

52. An appeal may be lodged to the NZMMNA Board, who must hear any appeal with six (6) hours of an appeal being lodged. The Board shall appoint three (3) members not affiliated to the regions and teams involved to determine the outcome of the matter.

53. The decision of the NZMMNA Board may not be appealed.