



DRAFT

Junior Grade & Player Selection Policy

June 2024


Junior Structure

To understand the scope of the Junior Competition (in 2024), please read the NENA Correspondence below.

NORTH EASTERN NETBALL ASSOCIATION

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[For release]

Trial of new junior competition structure in season 2024

Dear NENA players, parents, life members, members, sponsors and supporters,

At the end of season 2023 NENA opened a 'junior feedback survey' which more than 150 people, from all areas of NENA completed, with feedback on the positives as well as the negatives. NENA thanks those who took the time to complete this.

From here, the NENA Working Grades Committee (WGC) was formed, comprising of two delegates from each club and the NENA executive.

The WGC collated, analysed and interpreted this data to create a plan to recruit, retain and enable maximum participation for junior netballers - the future of the association.

These decisions were made in collaboration with all clubs' members. While some did not agree with all elements, the majority vote was accepted.

From the WGC, NENA will implement the recommendations to trial a new junior structure in season 2024, as follows, from round one on April 27:

The NENA junior and senior competitions will operate as separate competitions. A Saturday at netball will look exactly as it always has, the change is on paper and will allow clubs to use junior players also in the senior competition, all season, without penalty from the 'nine-game' rule (*NENA by-law 6. to qualify; 6.7*).

Each club is responsible for developing their own selection policies and processes regarding a junior player's participation in the junior competition only, senior competition only, or the ability to play both competitions.

A NENA junior will be classified as a 'player 17 years or under.' Players can turn 17 in the year of competition, from January 1 to December 31. (Individual player exemptions can be applied for to continue in the junior competition).

Within the junior competition, the age caps will be 17U (two grades), 13U (two grades) and 10U (two grades). 17U grades will be termed 'inters,' 13U grades will be 'juniors' and 10U grades will be 'sub juniors.'

Inters and juniors will be competitive and for a premiership, while sub-juniors will be non-competitive. Inters will have 15-minute quarters, juniors 12-minute quarters and sub juniors 10-minute quarters.

Time slots will be:

TIME	COURT 1	COURT 2
9am	Sub junior 2	Junior 2
10am	Inter 2	Sub junior 1
11:15am	Junior 1	Inter 1
12:30	A2	C1
1:45	B1	C2
3pm	A1	B2

(Note – senior time slots on rotation basis; rotation shown above is week 3)

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A club will enter a grade if they have five eligible players. If a club has 10 or more players in an age group, there will be two teams for that age group. The magic '10' number will apply to all three age groups, even the competitive inters and juniors.

This may mean sharing players between teams, or playing a five-vs-five match. This adjustment is currently working well in local junior football, cricket and basketball competitions.

A club with four or less players eligible for a grade can apply for a team exemption. There will be no more than two exemptions in any grade. Individual exemptions are still allowed in certain circumstances.

Clubs will come together in March 2024 with player numbers and will work honestly and compassionately together to brainstorm how to get as many players playing as much netball as genuinely possible.

All school aged students will fall in the 'junior' registration category, regardless of if they play the junior or senior competition.

While 2024 will trial a lot of changes, the core focus is to get juniors playing as much netball as possible. NENA will continue to support clubs to maintain junior players.

This season's trial will be reviewed at the end of the year, it may continue into 2025, or revert to the structure from 2023 and prior.

For further information, contact your club's junior co-ordinator. Club feedback via your club delegates is most welcome at NENA level.

Good luck to all in season 2024!

[ends]

Team & Player Selection & Court Time

Below outlines the policy for team and player selection, and court time for RSMU Junior Players.

17U – Inter 1 & 2

Team Selection

- Children aged 17 and under as of the 1st of January in the year of competition are eligible to play in this Age Group.
- Players will be in Years 9-12 at School, with some exceptions based on individual cases and player numbers.
- Both teams are selected based on ability and level of development.
- The selection committee will consist of the Coaches and the Junior Coordinator.

Training

- Fun, inclusive and challenge all players at their individual levels of development.
- Focus on skill development, position characteristics, intermediate and advanced set plays, and netball strategies (see [Netball Australia Skill Development Framework 'Intermediate/Advanced'](#) for details)
- Players will likely play more specialised positions in this age group. However, depending on the composition of the team, players may be required to play a different position than they are accustomed, to benefit the whole team.
- All players are expected to attend trainings. Nonattendance at training will impact individual court time (see *Non-Attendance*)
- Attitude at training will be taken into consideration when selecting the team (see *Player Behaviour*)

Court Time - Minor Rounds

- Coaches will give equal court time taking into consideration absentees, injuries, player match ups, team numbers, combinations and individual behaviour at trainings and game days.

Court Time - Finals

- All players will take the court during finals. It is at the coach's discretion as to how this time is divided by utilising the Rolling Substitution rule. This may mean that not every player will get equal playing time.

13U – Junior 1 & 2

Team Selection

- Children aged 13 and under as of the 1st of January in the year of competition can play in this competition.
- Players will be in Years 6-8 at School, with some exceptions based on individual cases and player numbers.
- Both teams are selected based on ability and level of development.
- The selection committee will consist of the coaches and the Junior Coordinator.

Training

- Fun, inclusive and challenge all players at their individual levels of development.
- Focus on skill development, position characteristics, basic set plays and strategies (see [Netball Australia Skill Development Framework 'Development 11-13 years'](#) for details)
- Players will get exposure in a range of positions and may begin to focus and develop in a specific position.
- All players are expected to attend trainings. Nonattendance at training will impact individual court time (see *Non-Attendance*)

- Attitude at training will be taken into consideration when selecting the team (see *Player Behaviour*)

Court Time - Minor Rounds

- Coaches will endeavour to give equal court time taking into consideration individual ability, absentees, injuries, player match ups, team numbers, combinations and individual attitude at trainings and game days.

Court Time - Finals

- All players will take the court during finals. It is at the coach's discretion as to how this time is divided by utilising the Rolling Substitution rule. This may mean that not every player will get equal playing time.

10U – Sub Junior 1 & 2

Team Selection

- Children aged 10 and under as of the 1st of January in the year of competition can play in this competition.
- Players will be in Years 3-5 at School, with some exceptions based on individual cases and player numbers.
- If numbers are limited in this age group, then the Club will consider opening registrations for players in Year 2 and 1.

Training

- Focus on skill development, position characteristics, game sense (see [Netball Australia Skill Development Framework](#) 'Foundation NetSetGo' for details)
- Nonattendance at training will impact individual court time (see *Non-Attendance*)
- Attitude at training will be taken into consideration when selecting the team (see *Player Behaviour*).

Games

- Game day gives everyone the exposure, experience, and enjoyment of game situations.
- All players, where possible, will get equal court time.
- There will not be set positions, players will rotate through all areas of the court.

Non-Attendance

- All registered players are expected to train each week, unless training has been cancelled by the Coach.
- If Players cannot make training, Coaches must be notified at least 3 hours prior to training via direct contact (SMS or Phone Call)
- If Players are unavailable to play on Game Day, they must inform the Coach prior to training for that week.
- Non-attendance at trainings will impact individual court time on Game Day:
 - Players who do not attend training, with or without notification to the Coach, will not start before a player who has attended training, regardless of reason for non-attendance.
 - Individual court time will be at the discretion of the coach for all reasons for non-attendance.
 - If a player is injured, ill or recovering from an injury, or away due to family holidays, will not count towards time 'off court'.
- If Non-attendance at training is due to illness or is away from School on a Friday prior to Game Day due to illness, it is recommended that they miss Game as a precaution and for the health and safety of other Players.

Player Behaviour

- All Players are expected to be kind, inclusive and respectful toward their teammates, coach, team managers, and primary carers and umpires.
- If a Player displays behaviour inconsistent with the above, the Coach may:
 - During Game Day – remove the Player from the Court at the next interval.
 - During Training – Ask the player to consider the behaviour, sit out for a period to be determined by the Coach. Depending on the severity of the behaviour, the Coach may contact the parent after training to discuss the behaviour and a disciplinary measure may be enforced.

Grievance Procedure

- In all first instances if a player/parent feels that this policy is not being upheld and they feel comfortable to do so they should request to meet with the coach to discuss their concerns.
- If the matter is not resolved, the matter will be elevated to the Junior Coordinator to reconcile.

Version Control.

V1. First Version - RSMU Netball Club General Meeting 17 June 2024