

NETBALL AUSTRALIA

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

In accepting that girls and boys should have equal access to the same quality netball programs it is unacceptable to exclude either boys or girls under the age of 12 years from any competitive or non-competitive netball activity.

The following practical recommendations are provided for clubs and associations to consider when developing programs and competitions for boys and girls.

11 & Under

- a) Boys may play unrestricted.
- b) No finals will be played – all teams will participate in a round robin on the grand final day for other grades, or another suitable occasion.

Netball Australia actively encourages clubs and associations to cater for boys, including age groups over 11 & Under.

13 & Under

In this age group there are certain minimum requirements that must be included in the club/association by laws. Boys turning 12 in the calendar year of competition must be allowed to play. If you have boys in this age group you can cater for them in a number of ways:

- a) Designate a section of mixed or modified mixed and include a by law which states boys eligible for 13 & Under may play (i.e. allow 12 & 13 year old boys to participate). The by law must also state which modified mixed rules apply
- b) Designate the section as mixed or modified mixed and state which modified mixed rules apply (refer to section below) and include either of the following by laws:
 - i. Boys may play the season in which they turn 12, or
 - ii. Boys may play the year in which they turn 12.
- c) Conduct a boys only section. This may be for all eligible for 13 & Under boys.

As well as any section catering for boys, clubs or associations may offer additional sections for girls (i.e. section 2 is girls only).

Modified Mixed

Mixed rules enable clubs or associations to select the best type of competition for their members, taking into account the number of boys wishing to play and the



number of sections available. There are 3 types of modified mixed as well as the mixed rules usually used in adult competitions.

- a) Teams may have up to 1 boy on court at any one time.
- b) Teams may have up to 2 boys on court at any one time. If two (2) are on court at any one time they must play in separate thirds of the court (as indicated below).
- c) Teams may have up to 3 boys on court at any one time. If three (3) are on court at any one time they must play in separate thirds of the court. If two (2) or more boys are on the court at any one time they must play in separate thirds of the court, i.e. one as GS or GA, one as C, WA or WD, and one as GD or GK.
- d) Clubs or associations may also conduct mixed sections as per adult rules, i.e. teams must have 3 males and 4 females on the court at any one time. Males must play in separate thirds of the court (as outlined above).

Contact your Member Organisation

ACT 02 6260 5800
SA 08 8238 0500

NSW 02 9646 5666
TAS tna@tasnet.com.au

NT 08 8942 2241
VIC 03 9321 2222

QLD 07 3848 6330
WA 08 9286 5800

www.netball.asn.au

NETBALL AUSTRALIA

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (Continued)

Please note: When there is a decision to offer a mixed competition (other than for 11 & Under and boys under 12), the version offered and the number of sections offered at the various age groups are at the discretion of the club or association. This decision should be based on the total number of players, the number of boys and girls, the number of courts available etc. Please find below just two examples that can be used for relevant age groups.

Option 1

- a) Section 1 & 2 are girls only.
- b) Section 3 is modified mixed. Teams may have up to 2 boys playing at any one time. If two (2) are on the court at any one time they must play in separate thirds of the court (as indicated above).

*** Section 3 could include girls only teams, teams with 1 boy, teams with 2 boys or even teams with more than 2 boys who share time on court.*

Option 2

- a) Section 1 & 2 are girls only.
- b) Section 3 is mixed. Teams may have up to 3 boys and 4 girls on the court at any one time. Boys must play in separate thirds of the court (as indicated above).

Age Classification

Clubs or associations may choose the following regulations:

- All players taking part in the 11 and under age division must be under 12 years of age during the entire season, or
- All players taking part in the 11 and under age division must be under 12 years of age as of 31st December of the relevant year, or
- All players who commence competition in the 11 and under age division, and who are under 12 years of age at the date of commencement, will be permitted to continue in the competition until its conclusion.

For advice about State/Territory specific requirements, implementation of any of the above options or for updating the junior sections of your by laws contact your local State/Territory Netball Association.

Netball Australia acknowledges the contribution from Netball Victoria in developing the information on this fact sheet.

Contact your Member Organisation

ACT 02 6260 5800
SA 08 8238 0500

NSW 02 9646 5666
TAS tna@tasnet.com.au

NT 08 8942 2241
VIC 03 9321 2222

QLD 07 3848 6330
WA 08 9286 5800

www.netball.asn.au

