

## FINALS PERMIT POLICY

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that teams playing in Finals Matches have sufficient players to compete in games, and that the standard of a team playing on Finals Matches is not improved by Permit Players.

### 2. APPLICABILITY

- a. This Policy applies to all Clubs, Entity Teams, and Members participating in Association competitions.
- b. This Policy applies at all times during Association competitions, unless otherwise varied by that competition handbook.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

In this Policy unless otherwise stated:

**Association** means any netball club or Entity Team affiliated and financial with the Association, and as otherwise;

**Club** means any netball club or Entity Team affiliated and financial with the Association, and as otherwise defined in **Rule 11(8)(a)** of the Constitution;

**Committee** means the management Committee of the Association as determined by the Constitution;

**Constitution** means the constitution of the Mandurah Netball Association Inc;

**Eligible Player** means a player who is eligible to play in Finals Matches;

**Entity Team** means a single team entering the competition at the Association that is not affiliated with a Club;

**Finals Matches**, or **Finals**, means matches that are played after the completion of the Regular Season, such as preliminary Finals, semi Finals, and grand Finals;

**Ineligible Players** means a player who is not eligible to play in a Finals Match;

**Member** means any affiliated members of the Association, including players, coaching and umpiring officials, volunteers, Clubs, and Club members;

**Permit & Protest Committee** means that subcommittee of the Association;

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**Permit Player** means a player who is seeking, or has received, approval from the Permit & Protest Committee to participate with a team in a Finals Match as a replacement for a registered member of that team;

**Policy** means this policy;

**Regular Season** means the period in which matches are held during the current season prior to Finals Matches occurring, such as Rounds 1 – 15.

#### **4. THIS POLICY**

- a. A Club, via their nominated Permit Officer, may apply to the Permit & Protest Committee to have a Permit Player replace an Eligible Player in a team for a Finals Round match.
- b. An Eligible Player can only be replaced for a Finals Match by an approved Permit Player.
- c. Any Player who is not an Eligible Player for the team and who has not had a permit approved by the Permit & Protest Committee is an Ineligible Player.
- d. A Permit Player:
  - i. Must be an Eligible Player;
  - ii. Must be from a lower grade or division than the Eligible Player they are replacing;
  - iii. Must not be of a higher playing standard than the other players in the team on which they will be playing, and;
  - iv. Should be of a similar playing capability to the Eligible Player they are replacing.
- e. A player being replaced by a Permit Player:
  - i. Must be an Eligible Player;
  - ii. Must be a member of the team in which the Permit Player is intended to participate, and;
  - iii. Is no longer an Eligible Player for that match only.
- f. To be an Eligible Player, a player must:
  - i. Be a registered and financial playing Member for the current season, and;
  - ii. Have played in at least three(3) matches with their Club during the Regular Season, with these matches being played on separate competition dates.
- g. No permit will be issued to replace a player who is not an Eligible Player for the match.
- h. An Eligible Player from a higher grade or division is not permitted to play in a lower team or division at any point during the Regular Season or Finals.

#### **5. PROCEDURES**

- a. Permit requests should be received within the timeframe specified by the Association.

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- b. Emergency applications required due to unforeseen circumstances may be made up to the commencement of the game, noting that a Permit Player must have received approval prior to taking the court.
- c. A permit will only be issued if an Eligible Player in a team is not able to take the court during a Finals Round match; if an Eligible Player intends to take the court, even if only briefly, then no permit will be issued for an additional player to cover them.
- d. A team may have more than one application for a Permit Player for a single Finals Round match, however the total number of permit issued to a team will be no greater than the number of Eligible Players in the team.
- e. If a team has only seven Eligible Players, a permit for an eighth player may be applied for and will be considered.
- f. Permit requests under this Policy must be received on the prescribed form, as supplied by the Association.
  - i. The form may require the provision of particular information;
  - ii. The form may require additional procedures;
  - iii. A separate form is required for each Permit Player and for each playing date.
- g. Once approved, Permit Players will be marked on the scorecard and the player that they are replacing will be struck off.
- h. Permit Players are to be treated as a member of the team, and all substitutions must be in accordance with the current official Rules of Netball, as published by World Netball.
- i. It is the preference of the Association that a Permit Player should not be used in such a way that an existing member of the team is caused an unfair loss of court time.
- j. Requests for an exemption to any rule in this Policy should follow the requirements of the **Exemption Policy**. Exemptions will only be granted in the event of extreme circumstances.

## **6. MANAGING BREACHES OF THIS POLICY**

- a. If a team plays an Ineligible Player, the penalty shall be the loss of that game by a forfeit.

## **7. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. Clubs are responsible for nominating their Permit Officer prior to submitting any permit requests.
- b. Clubs are responsible for submitting permit requests in a timely manner and being responsive to the Permit & Protest Committee when additional information is required.
- c. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that their teams are familiar with this Policy and understand its requirements.

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- d. The Permit & Protest Committee is responsible for making decisions on permit requests, and doing so in a timely manner.
- e. The Association is responsible for managing and making decisions on breaches of this Policy.

**8. CHANGES TO THIS POLICY**

This Policy may be cancelled, amended, or supplemented by the Association as and when it sees fit. Any variation will be given to Members in writing by the Association.

The Association will review this policy in a regular basis to ensure that it remains effective in supporting the objectives and strategic direction of the Association and to ensure ongoing best practice and governance.