

EXEMPTIONS POLICY

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to provide the process by which a Club, Entity Team, or other participating organisations, on the behalf of a playing Member where applicable, may apply for a variation to a current policy of Mandurah Netball Association Inc.

It outlines the process involved in the application and the minimum requirements for any variation to current policy to be considered. This may apply to any Association policy or Competition Handbook, including, but not limited to, those relating to:

- Age eligibility (playing up or down)
- Playing uniform
- Jewellery (medical, religious or cultural)
- Splint and other wearable medical items
- Finals eligibility

2. APPLICABILITY

- a. This Policy applies to all Clubs and Members affiliated with the Association.
- b. This Policy applies at all times when Association policies apply.

3. DEFINITIONS

In this Policy, unless otherwise stated:

Association mean Mandurah Netball Association;

Club means any 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;

Competition Handbook means the competition handbook or equivalent document that manages the structures and rules for a competition;

Constitution means the constitution of Mandurah Netball Association Inc.;

Decision-maker means the individual or committee, including sub-committees, that has the power to make decision under this Policy, as determined by **clause 6(a)-(d)** of the Policy.

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

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

Permit & Protest means that subcommittee of the Association;

Policy means this policy.

4. THE POLICY

- a. Any Club who wishes to apply for an exemption to current policy must do so in writing to the Association.
- b. The request should come from a Club official and be sent through the prescribed form (where applicable), and must include:
 - i. The exemption being requested, and;
 - ii. The reasons for the exemption.
- c. All applications must be accompanied by supporting documentation where relevant, such as:
 - i. A letter from a medical professional (where applicable);
 - ii. Images of the uniform, splint or wearable medical items, or jewellery item to be considered for exemption, and;
 - iii. Actions that will be taken to minimize related risk.
- d. Where an exemption is being requested relating to Netball Australia's NetSetGo participant categories, additional information may be required to support the application, as determined by the Association.
- e. All applications must come from the participant's Club, and not from an individual Member.
- f. All applications for an exemption must be submitted to the Association prior to the cut-off for team nominations prior to the commencement of the season.
- g. A short notice exemption, received after the cut-off for team nominations, may be considered by the Association in the following circumstance:
 - i. Where the application relates to a change of circumstances that has occurred to the relevant participation who previously did not required an exemption, or;
 - ii. Where the application relates to a new player to a nominated team, or;
 - iii. Where the application does not relate to age eligibility, or;
 - iv. At the discretion of the Association.
- h. All short notice exemption applications must be made as soon as possible after the Club becomes aware of the circumstances, or the Association may decline to consider the application.
- i. The Association cannot guarantee the provision of a decision on a short notice exemption application prior to the next match day or to the next match in which the participant wished to play.
- j. Verbal short notice exemption applications may only be made on the match day.

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5. PROCEDURES

- a. The Decision-Maker for exemption requests will be as follows:
 - i. For age eligibility, the Competitions Coordinator;
 - ii. For playing uniform, the Uniform Coordinator;
 - iii. For jewellery (medical, religious and cultural), the Association Umpire Development Officer ('AUDO') or Umpiring Coordinator;
 - iv. For splints and other wearable medical items, the AUDO or Umpiring Coordinator;
 - v. For finals eligibility, the Permit & Protest Committee;
 - vi. For finals permits, managed, under the Finals Permit Policy, the Permit & Protest Committee.
- b. For anything else, a Decision-Maker will be determined by the Committee.
- c. Where a Decision-Maker requires assistance with their decision, they may seek guidance from the Permit & Protest Committee or the Committee.
- d. A Decision-Maker may delegate their power to another member of the Committee of MNA staff.
- e. On receipt of an application:
 - i. The Association will forward a copy of the letter and the accompanying documents to the Decision-Maker.
 - ii. The Decision-Maker will consider the application in a reasonable timeframe.
 - iii. The Decision-Maker will inform the Association of the decision and any relevant information to be communicated to the applying Club or Entity Team.
 - iv. The Association will inform the applying Club or Entity Team of the decision in writing.
 - v. If the application is approved, a notation may be made on the appropriate teams card reflecting the approval of a permit, along with the date that the permit was approved.
- f. On receipt of a short notice application:
 - i. A decision will be made on whether to consider the application, with consideration being given to:
 - 1) The level of urgency related to the application;
 - 2) How soon the Club was aware of the need for the exemption, and;
 - 3) The availability of the Decision-Maker to provide a decision within the time required.
 - ii. If it is decided that the application will be considered:
 - 1) Where the application is made in writing:
 - a) The Association will forward a copy of the letter and the accompanying documents to the Decision-Maker.
 - b) The Decision-Maker will consider the application.

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- c) The Decision-Maker will inform the Association of the decision and any relevant information to be communicated to the applying Club.
 - d) The Association will inform the applying Club of the decision in writing.
 - e) If the application is approved, a notation will be made on the appropriate team card reflecting the approval of a permit, along with the date that the permit was approved.
- 2) Where the application is made verbally:
- a) A reasonable effort will be made to convene the Decision-Maker to consider the application.
 - b) The Decision-Maker will consider the application.
 - c) The Decision-Maker will inform the Association of the decision and any relevant information to be communicated to the applying Club.
 - d) The Association will inform the applying Club of the decision verbally at the time of the request, and subsequently in writing.
 - e) If the application is approved, a notation will be made on the appropriate team card reflecting the approval of a permit along with the date that the permit was approved.
- g. All reasonable efforts will be made to limit access to any sensitive information supplied to the Association.

6. MANAGING BREACHES OF THE POLICY

- a. If a Club fails to acquire an exemption for a player and that player takes the court in breach of this Policy, the matter will be dealt with by the Committee or an approved delegate by:
 - a. Contacting a Club official to determine whether an exemption can be applied, and;
 - b. Where player safety is of concern, having the relevant player leave the court and not return to play until the breach has been resolved, and;
 - c. Where the breach is considered significant by the Association, using the rules managing playing an ineligible player in the relevant Competition Handbook.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Clubs, Entity Teams, and other relevant organisations are responsible for being familiar with this Policy and following its processes as required.
- b. The Association is responsible for the timely consideration of any requests received under this Policy.

8. CHANGES TO THE 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.

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The Association will review this policy on 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 governance.