



Gladstone Netball Association

Memorial Park, Side Street | Gladstone, QLD 4680
(PO Box 982)

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) – Finals

Effective Date: 17.06.2025 Reviewed By: GNA Executive

1. Purpose

This SOP outlines the structure and eligibility requirements for finals competition, ensuring fairness, transparency, and compliance with Gladstone Netball Association (GNA) policies.

2. Scope

This procedure applies to all teams participating in the association's competitive fixtures, including ladder placements, player eligibility, and finals format.

3. Ladder Placements

3.1 Determining Standings

Ladder standings in Netball Connect (NC) are determined using the following criteria:

1. Points – Teams earn points based on match results.
2. For and Against – The total goals scored versus goals conceded during the season.
3. Goal Average Percentage – $(\text{Total Goals For} \div \text{Total Goals Against}) \times 100$

4. Player Eligibility for Finals

4.1 Minimum Participation Requirement

- Players must have participated in at least 50% of season fixtures to qualify for finals.
 - If a Player sustains an injury during the season, and does not meet minimum game requirement, they may Seek an exemption by submitting A written application to the Secretary of the Association, Via their Club, before the deadline set by the GNA Executive Committee.

4.2 Grand Final Participation

- A player may compete in two Grand Finals in the same season but will receive only one trophy, awarded in their primary grade.
- The Exception to this is if a player plays in a JNR and SNR Grand Final, as a Registered Senior Player

4.3 Movement Between Grades for Finals

- If a club has a team in a higher grade and is short of players in the Semi-Finals or Grand Finals, they may bring up a player from a lower grade, provided:
 - The player has participated in 50% of games within the Gladstone Netball Association for that season.
 - A written application is submitted to the Secretary of the Association, Via their Club, before the deadline set by the GNA Executive Committee.



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4.4 Injury and Substitute Players for Finals

1. Request Process

- All requests for injury or substitute players must be submitted in writing to the GNA Secretary by **12:00pm the day prior to finals**.
- Requests must include: *(if a request does not include these items, it will be denied)*
 - Team name
 - Player name/s
 - Type of player request (injury or substitute)
 - Valid reason for the request

2. Injury Players

- Injury players are **not permitted to take the court** if there are original team members available to play.
- Injury players must wear a vest to clearly identify them as an injury player.
- If an original team member leaves the court injured and an injury player is used, the injured player **cannot return to the court for the remainder of the game**.

3. Substitute Players

- A team must have a minimum of **5 original team members** to take the court.
- If a team has **fewer than 7 original team members**, they may request substitute players.
- Substitute players:
 - Count as part of the 7 players on court
 - Cannot be used as reserves (bench subs), or played in place of Original Team Members, if original team members are available to play
 - Maximum of **2 substitute players** may be approved (used in place of original team members only)
- If a team has **7 original team members**, substitute players will not be granted.
- If a team is granted Substitute players, and then has original players available to play, the approval of the Substitute player/s is void.
- If, during the game, a team drops below **5 original team members**, the match will be deemed a **forfeit**.

4.5. Marking of Attendance

- **GNA Competitions Policy – Section 9 (Scoring, Player and Attendance)** must be followed for finals.



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5. Uniform Requirements for Finals

5.1 Club Uniform Compliance

- All clubs must ensure that every player participating in finals matches is dressed in the club's designated and approved uniform.
- This refers to **Mandatory Uniform Requirements**, as outlined in the GNA Competition Policy.

5.2 Consequences for Non-Compliance Failure to comply with uniform standards may result in:

- A warning issued by match officials or GNA Executive, and
- Forfeiture of the match

5.3 Special Circumstances In rare cases where a uniform breach is unavoidable (e.g., unforeseen damage)

- Clubs must notify the GNA Executive prior to the match start for review and consideration.
- Written correspondence via Club Secretary is required

6. Finals Format

6.1 Semi-Finals Structure

The top four teams compete in semi-finals as follows:

- Game 1: 1st vs. 2nd
- Game 2: 3rd vs. 4th
- Outcome of Matches:
 - The winner of Game 1 advances directly to the Grand Final.
 - The loser of Game 1 plays the winner of Game 2 in the Preliminary Final.
 - The loser of Game 2 is eliminated from the competition.

6.2 Preliminary Final Structure

- Game 3: Loser of Game 1 vs. Winner of Game 2
 - The winner advances to the Grand Final.
 - The loser is eliminated.

6.3 Grand Final Structure

- Grand Final Match: Game 1 Winner vs. Game 3 Winner

6.4 Injury Time

- **Injury time applies to Grand Finals only** and will follow official Netball Australia rules.
- Injury stoppages will be monitored by the match officials, ensuring minimal disruption to game flow.



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6.5 Drawn Game Procedures for Finals

- If the **any Finals game (Semi, Prelim or Grand Final)** is drawn at the end of regular play:
 - An additional **two halves of 5 minutes** will be played, with a 1 min break in between
 - If the game is still tied after extra time, **play continues until one team is 2 goals ahead**, at which point the match concludes.

5.5 Final Match Rescheduling

- If a Finals game is cancelled, the match will be rescheduled at a later date as determined by the GNA Executive Committee.

7. Enforcement & Review

7.1 Governance & Compliance

- This SOP will be enforced by the GNA Executive Committee.
- Teams that fail to comply may face penalties, including disqualification or forfeiture of matches.

Document Control

Date	Comments	Authorised
22/09/2025	Defined injury and Substitute Players and Uniforms	Melanie Wilson