

IDENTIFIED ATHLETE POLICY

Version: 2	Reviewed on: 31/10/2022
Responsible Person: Charlene Smith	Approved by Board on:31/10/2022
Position: President	

APPLICABILITY

This Policy applies to all Clubs and Entity Teams.

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 emailed to Clubs and Entity Teams by the Association and uploaded to our website. 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.

INTENT OF POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the eligibility of athletes in the winter netball competition at Success Netball Association Inc. ('SNA') who participate in one or more high level netball competitions.

HOW THE POLICY WORKS

The policy sets out the steps to be followed by Clubs, coaches, and athletes to deal with athlete eligibility at SNA competition level.

The SNA Board will consider applications for exemption under this policy.

POLICY

1. An **Identified Athlete** is a person who is a current playing member of:
 - a. a Suncorp Super Netball (SSN) team;
 - b. an Australian Netball Championship (ANC) team;
 - c. a West Australian Netball League (WANL) team;
 - d. a National Netball Championship (NNC) team, or;
 - e. a team in an equivalent competition to those listed above in another State, Territory, or country;

An Identified Athlete will have their participation in the SNA winter competition restricted. For the purpose of this policy, these athlete's will be defined as **Identified Athlete's**. This includes all **Identified Athlete's** that have had a contract for the previous playing season.

An Identified Athlete who has a contract in a WANL Underpinning program, will not have their participation in the competition at SNA restricted and is not included in the number of Identified Athletes participating per team.

2. An **Identified Athlete** who is turning 16 or older is not eligible to participate in any division during the SNA winter competition except:
 - a. 20U Division 1 (where age eligible);
 - b. Opens Division 1
3. Clubs with multiple **Identified Athlete's** registered are required to place these athletes in their highest graded Open team (e.g. Open Division 1), or, where age eligible and at the discretion of the Club, in a 20U Division 1 team. There will be a limit of 3 registered **Identified Athlete's** per team.
4. It is expected that if a Club has 3 Identified Athletes in one team, that team is registered to Open Division 1 or 20U Division 1. If a Club has 2 Identified Athletes or less, they may be registered no lower than Open Division 2 or 20U Division 2.
5. Clubs are required to send through to the SNA Board, the details of all **Identified Athlete's** that they are nominating in a team with their current status. This includes training partners or train-on athletes. This must be submitted via email when submitting teams on Play HQ prior to SNA's grading date.
6. Clubs may apply to the SNA Board to have exemptions for training partners or train-on athletes considered additional to the 3 registered Identified Athlete's in clause 3. If an approval is given, then a maximum combination of 3 registered **Identified Athlete's** including training partners or train-on athletes, will be allowed on the court at any given time.
7. Clubs shall be responsible for advising SNA of any alteration to the status of an athlete with involvement at any level included in clause 1 during season. This might include, but is not limited to:
 - a. a promotion from training partner or train-on to the playing squad of a competition, or;
 - b. being selected into a competition during the SNA winter season.
8. It is an **Identified Athlete's** responsibility to notify their Club of their selection into a team in any of the competitions listed in clause 1, including any change in their status, such as those in clause 7.
9. Should the SNA Board be made aware of an **Identified Athlete's** change in playing circumstances that impact their eligibility under this policy, then the Board may choose to review the grading of that player in the SNA winter competition.
10. A Club may apply in writing to the Board to consider an exemption to this policy due to extenuating circumstances applicable to an **Identified Athlete**. Refer [Exemption Policy](#)
11. Clubs must provide the following information on any application for an exemption:
 - a. The competition and division in which the **Identified Athlete** is participating, including the relevant club (e.g. Peel Lightning Netball, Western Sting, West Coast Fever);
 - b. The **Identified Athlete's** SNA Club, Club team, and Grade nominated for the team.

- c. The division(s) that the Identified Athlete has played in previous years for any level of competition included in clause 3(a) and at SNA;
 - d. The **Identified Athlete's** current pathway or progression (e.g. athlete returning from pregnancy; athlete returning after extended absence)
12. Applications for exemption must be lodged with SNA:
- a. Prior to the player being registered via Play HQ or;
 - b. By 4pm on the Wednesday prior to the first match in which it is intended that the **Identified Athlete** take the court, to cover a change of circumstances after the SNA season has commenced.
13. All decisions made by the Board in relation to this policy are final and there is no right of appeal.
14. This policy applies to the usage of [Single Game Vouchers](#) by **Identified Athlete's**.

PENALTY

In the event of a team playing a player who is not eligible to play for that team, the offending team shall forfeit the match and shall be penalised a further two (2) points. Refer [Fines and Penalty Table](#)

RELATED DOCUMENTS

[Competition Handbook](#)

[Fines and Penalty Table](#)

[Single Game Voucher Policy](#)

[Exemption Policy](#)