

FINALS POLICY

Version: 2	
Responsible Person: Charlene Smith	Reviewed on: 18/10/2023
Approved by Board on: 18/10/2023	

INTENT OF POLICY

The policy is to ensure that:

1. Teams playing finals have sufficient players to compete in finals games
2. The standard of a team playing in the finals is not improved by 'permit player/s'.

APPLICABILITY

This Policy applies to all Clubs and Entity Teams.

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. 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.

HOW POLICY WORKS

It is essential that the Policy is understood at all levels of the Association, i.e.

1. Clubs
2. Coaches
3. Players (and parents)

BACKGROUND

1. To be eligible to participate in final rounds matches all players must have played at least five times with their Club during the season with these qualifying matches being played on separate dates;
2. Final round fixtures – should a player have played more than 5 games during the season in a higher grade / division than originally registered, they then become a permanent player for the higher team and cannot play in the lower division once the 5th game has been completed; A player is considered to have played the game, once they have taken the court in any quarter of a game other than their own registered team. If a player is written onto a scorecard, but does not take the court, that game is NOT considered played.

For Example:

- a If a player is registered to 20U A Division and fills in for Senior Division 4 on 4 occasions. They remain registered to 20U A Division, however, once they play the 5th game in Senior Division 4, they become a permanent player in that team and cannot play back down into the 20U A Division. or
 - b If a player is registered to 20U A Division and fills in for Senior Division 4 on 4 occasions. They remain registered to 20U A Division, however, if they then play the 5th game in Senior Division 3, they become a permanent player of Senior Division 4 as they played the majority of those play up games in Senior Division 4 and cannot play back down into the 20U A Division. They can then play up into the Senior Division 3 but must comply with the original rule for the 5th game.
3. Final round fixtures – should a player have played an equal number of games in more than one grade/division, the higher grade/division will be deemed to be the team the player is registered in for the purpose of finals;
 4. Final round fixtures – a player from a higher grade/division cannot play in a lower team/division without the sanction of the SNA Board and only then in the event of extreme circumstances.

PERMIT APPLICATIONS

1. A team that is eligible to play in the finals may apply to the SNA Board to bring up a 'permit player' from a lower age division/senior division to play in the finals.
2. The application must be on the approved form and include the following details:
 - i. Grade requesting permit for and position this team finished on ladder;
 - ii. Number of registered players in this team who have qualified for finals;
 - iii. Position of player/s required for this team permit;
 - iv. Name/s of registered player/s from this team who are unavailable for the final;
 - v. Reasons why the player is required (reasons can include injury or illness to a registered player in the team, work commitments, etc.) SNA reserves the right to seek further clarification/proof of reason provided;
 - vi. Details of Permit Player (the applicant) ie Name and date of birth;
 - vii. Grade the player/s registered in & position their team finished on ladder;
 - viii. Will this player be playing in own team final;
 - ix. Is this player a State League player or an SNA Representative Team player?
3. It must be indicated on the permit application the permit dates required;
4. The applicant 'permit player' must not be of a higher playing standard than the player being replaced, this is at the discretion of SNA and will be assessed on an individual basis. If the permit player is to give the team 7 or 8 players, the player may not be of a higher playing standard than the team.
5. An individual Finals Permit Form is required for each Permit player, for each final date;
6. Applications on the [Finals Permit Form](#) must be received at least 5 days prior to the game;
7. In cases of emergency, applications on the 'Finals Permit Form' form will be accepted up to two hours prior to the commencement of the game;
8. All Finals Permit Forms must be submitted by the Club Permit Officer and signed by this Club Official;
9. Clubs will be advised the outcome of their Permit Application as soon as practical.

PENALTY

1. Should a player play up without Permit approval the penalty shall be the loss of that game by a forfeit;
2. Should a player from a higher grade/division play in a lower grade/division without Permit approval the penalty shall be loss of that game by a forfeit.

GUIDELINES and INTERPRETATION FOR PERMITS AND PERMIT PLAYERS

1. Permits will only be issued if a registered player(s) in a team cannot take the court on the finals day(s). If a registered player can take the court, even if they may only be able to play for 1 quarter, then they are considered to be able to take the court and no permit will be issued.
2. The number of permits issued for a team will only be equal to the number of registered and qualified players in the team. For example, if there are 9 registered players in a team who have played the required qualifying games and 2 cannot take the court, then 2 permits may be issued.
3. If a team has only 7 registered players a permit may be applied for and will be considered.
4. Permit players are to be treated as a regular member of the team. All substitutions shall be in accordance with the current [Official Rules for Netball](#) as published by Netball Australia.

RELTATED DOCUMENTS

[Finals Permit Form](#)

[Competition Handbook](#)

[Official Rules of Netball](#)