

INTRODUCTION

The Sitzler First Nations Netball Carnival is a celebration of community, culture and connection through netball.

Each year, teams from across the Northern Territory and beyond come together on Larrakia Country to share in a weekend that is as much about belonging as it is about competition. The Carnival provides a welcoming and inclusive space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, girls, boys and men to play, connect and represent their communities.

Since its inception in 2017, the Carnival has continued to grow, creating opportunities not only for athletes, but also for coaches, umpires and supporters to be part of the game. It reflects the strength of community through sport, and the important role netball plays in bringing people together.

PURPOSE AND IMPACT

At its heart, the Carnival is about increasing participation in sport and recreation in a way that feels accessible, safe and community driven.

It provides:

- A fun and competitive environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants of all ages
- The opportunity to include up to two non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in a team.
- Opportunities to strengthen connections between communities across the Territory
- A platform to support player, coach and umpire development pathways
- A space to celebrate culture, identity and shared experiences through netball

COMMUNITY REACH

The Carnival attracts teams travelling from across the Northern Territory and interstate, including Central Australia, Katherine, and remote communities.

With strong participation anticipated again in 2026, the event is expected to host:

- **20+ teams**
- **200+ participants**, including players, coaches, umpires and supporters
- Divisions including **11&U, 13&U, 15&U, 17&U, Mixed and Open**, supporting participation across a range of age groups.
- Divisions for **13&U** and **Mixed** are open for males with a maximum of three on court (one per third – as per Carnival rules) at any time.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

A key strength of the Carnival is its ability to connect participants with important health information in a culturally safe and engaging environment.

Health organisations are invited to be part of the event, providing:

- Direct engagement with participants
- Access to resources and support services
- Opportunities to share knowledge that can be taken back to communities

This approach creates a ripple effect, where information shared during the Carnival extends beyond the event and into families and communities across the Territory.

OUTCOMES

The success of the Carnival is measured not only in matches played, but in the experience created.

We aim to deliver:

- A safe, welcoming and well-run event
- A positive and enjoyable experience for all participants
- Increased interest and ongoing involvement in netball across both female and male pathways
- Strengthened pathways for players, coaches and umpires
- Greater awareness of health and wellbeing resources

QUICK SNAPSHOT

The 2026 Sitzler First Nations Netball Carnival will be held from Friday 22 May to Sunday 24 May 2026 at Territory Netball Stadium, located within the Sitzler Netball Centre on Larrakia Country.

- Team Nominations via Netball Connect Open: Thursday 23 April 2026
- Team Nominations Close: 11:59pm, Friday 15 May 2026
- Draw Released: Wednesday 20 May 2026
- Nomination Fee: \$330 (incl. GST) per team
- Umpires will be co-ordinated through Netball NT. If you are an umpire or know someone who would like to umpire at this Carnival, please contact Gayle Nairn at Netball NT.

Recognising our sponsors for this event:

Sitzler, Confident Girls Foundation, Gilbert and Northern Territory Government