

SITZLER FIRST NATIONS NETBALL CARNIVAL

2026 COMPETITION GUIDELINES

FRIDAY 22 MAY – SUNDAY 24 MAY 2026

TERRITORY NETBALL STADIUM, LARRAKIA COUNTRY

ABOUT THE CARNIVAL

The Sitzler First Nations Netball Carnival celebrates community, culture and connection through netball, bringing together teams from across the Northern Territory in a competitive and inclusive environment.

Since its inception in 2017, the Carnival has continued to grow, providing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander athletes and officials to participate, compete and connect through sport, while embracing the spirit of reconciliation.

VENUE AND IMPORTANT DATES

The 2026 Carnival will take place from Friday 22 May to Sunday 24 May at Territory Netball Stadium, located within the Sitzler Netball Centre in Larrakia Country.

Team nominations will open on Thursday 23 April, and close at 11.59pm on Saturday 16 May 2026, with the official draw to be released on Wednesday 20 May. The team nomination fee is \$330 (incl GST) per team.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Players must remain within their nominated age group for the entire 2026 calendar year, with eligibility determined based on the age they turn in 2026 (as of 31 December 2026).

Division	Age Group & Gender	Birth Years
Women's	Open – Women	2008 and earlier
Mixed	Open – Women & Men	2008 and earlier
17 & Under	17, 16, 15 – Girls	2009–2010
15 & Under	15, 14, 13 – Girls	2011–2012
13 & Under	13, 12, 11 – Girls & Boys	2013–2014
11 & Under	11, 10, 9 – Girls & Boys	2015–2017

PLAYING OUT OF DIVISION

Players may compete in one age division above their eligible age group, provided they are appropriately capable of doing so.

A player may participate in up to two games above their registered division. If they take the court for a third game in a higher division, they will be moved permanently to that division and will no longer be eligible to compete in finals for their original team.

Players are not permitted to compete in a lower age division at any stage, and those born in 2016 or 2017 are not eligible to play up.

Teams are responsible for ensuring all players meet eligibility requirements.

Action: Any breach of these rules will result in a deduction of four competition points.

MALE PARTICIPATION

Male participation is welcomed within specific divisions of the Carnival and must be in line with the rules outlined below.

Male players are eligible to participate in the 11 & Under and 13 & Under divisions, as well as the Mixed Open division. Male players are not permitted to compete in the 15 & Under, 17 & Under or Open Women's divisions.

In the 11 & Under division, there are no positional restrictions for male players.

In the 13 & Under division, modified mixed rules apply. A maximum of one male player is permitted in each third of the court, meaning one in shooting (GS or GA), one in midcourt (WA or C or WD) and one in defence (GD or GK). If a male is played at GA, then another male cannot be WA and if a male is played in GD another male cannot be WD.

In the Mixed Open division, teams must always have at least one male player on the court. A maximum of three male players may be on court at any one time. A maximum of one male player is permitted in each third of the court, meaning one in shooting (GS or GA), one in midcourt (WA or C or WD) and one in defence (GD or GK). If a male is played at GA, then another male cannot be WA and if a male is played in GD another male cannot be WD.

Action: If a team is found to be in breach of these rules, play will be stopped immediately, and positions must be corrected before the match resumes. Continued breaches may result in further action at the discretion of Netball NT.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY (CULTURAL CONSIDERATION)

While the Carnival is focused on increasing participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander athletes, it also celebrates reconciliation and inclusivity.

Teams may include up to two non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander players. It is expected that all teams will approach this in the spirit of the Carnival and respect the intent of the event.

Teams from regional communities who require additional flexibility to participate, please contact Netball NT to discuss your requirements.

EQUIPMENT

Teams are required to supply their own bibs, while Netball NT will provide Gilbert match balls.

FIRST AID

A first aid post will be available for the duration of the Carnival. Please note that preventative strapping will not be provided.

FOOD AND DRINK

Food and beverages will be available for purchase throughout the weekend.

UMPIRES

All umpires for the Carnival will be appointed and managed by Netball NT, and teams are not required to supply an umpire.

If a team has an umpire they would like to be considered for inclusion in the official draw, they are encouraged to have that individual contact Netball NT prior to the Carnival.

UNIFORMS

All players must wear a consistent team uniform. This may include dresses, skirts, shorts, leggings, or t-shirts, provided all players are in the same colour.

Netball NT supports cultural and religious inclusivity, and uniform adaptations such as headscarves or long sleeves are permitted, provided they are safe and aligned with team colours.

COMPETITION RULES – RULES OF NETBALL (2024)

1. MATCH FORMAT

All matches will be centrally timed and consist of two 12-minute halves, with a three-minute break at half time. Finals formats may be adjusted following the closure of nominations.

2. ROLLING SUBSTITUTIONS

Rolling substitutions will be used throughout the Carnival.

3. INJURY TIME

Injury time will be managed in accordance with the World Netball Rules. As all matches are centrally timed, play will not be stopped for injuries.

4. FORFEITS

Teams that do not take the court within 30 seconds of the scheduled start time may still play if they arrive within three minutes, however they will be penalized for delaying play as per World Netball Rules (2024). Any team arriving three minutes or more after the scheduled start time will forfeit the match, with four competition points awarded to the opposing team.

5. SCORING

The first-listed team in the draw will act as the home team and is responsible for scoring, while the opposing team will check the score. Scoring will be done on iPads supplied for each match.

6. POINTS SYSTEM AND RANKINGS

Teams will be awarded four points for a win, two points for a draw, and zero points for a loss. At the conclusion of the preliminary rounds, teams will be ranked based on competition points, followed by head-to-head results for and against and if needed total goals scored.

7. FINALS ELIGIBILITY AND EXTRA TIME

Players must have participated in at least two matches to be eligible for finals.

If a finals match is drawn, a two-minute break will be taken, where substitutions and team changes can be made. Teams change ends before extra time is played in two five-minute halves. At the end of the first five minutes of extra time, players change ends and continue with the next centre pass (there is no break). If at the end of the extra time the match remains tied, play will continue until one team achieves a two-goal advantage.

8. DRAWN MATCHES

In the event of a tie in finals and grand final matches, extra time will be played.

The following shall apply for extra time:

8.1 A two-minute break will be held, where substitutes and team changes may be made.

8.2 Teams change ends, and the game is restarted by the team entitled to the next centre pass.

8.3 Extra time of two x five-minute halves will be played. There will be a one-minute interval between the two halves.

- 8.4 Teams change ends at the end of the first five-minute half. Substitutions and/or positional changes may be made during the one-minute interval.
- 8.5 The game is then restarted by the team entitled to the next centre pass.
- 8.6 If there is still a tie at the end of extra time, a visual signal shall be used to indicate that play shall continue until one team has a two goal advantage.

9. APPEALS

Any appeal or request for clarification must be made through the team captain to the Carnival Coordinator. If the captain is under 18, the coach may act on their behalf.

10. AWARDS

Rising Star awards will be presented in each junior division, recognising players who demonstrate fairness and spirit of the game. An MVP award will also be presented in the Open division, with votes submitted by opposition teams following each match.

Non-Indigenous players are not eligible for these awards.

11. CODES OF CONDUCT

All players, coaches, officials and spectators are expected to uphold the values of respect, fairness and sportsmanship in line with Netball Australia's Codes of Conduct and the Netball NT 'Our House' rules.

12. PLAYERS CODE

- 12.1 Participate because you enjoy it, not just to please parents and coaches.
- 12.2 Play by the rules.
- 12.3 Participate fairly and safely.
- 12.4 Abide by decisions, without argument or bad temper
- Captains and/or players have the right to approach an umpire during an interval or after the game for clarification of any rule.
 - Approach the umpire in a courteous and polite way.
- 12.5 Co-operate with your coach, and other players
- Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately fouling or provoking an opponent and throwing/ damaging equipment is not acceptable or permitted.
 - Treat all players as you would like to be treated.
 - Always ensure that your behaviour is fair.
 - Be a patient and enthusiastic supporter of fellow players.
- 12.6 Applaud all good play, by your own team and opponents.
- 12.7 Be a responsible team member
- Always be on time.
 - Encourage and assist all players.
 - Attend all training sessions.
 - Ensure you always bring the appropriate uniform and equipment to training and/ or matches.
- 12.8 Do not engage in practices that affect sporting performance (alcohol, tobacco and drug use).

12.9 Respect and acknowledge the contribution of those who create the opportunity for you to play.

13. SPECTATORS CODE

- 13.1 Most players (in particular children) participate in netball activities for fun. They are not participating for entertainment of spectators only.
- 13.2 Applaud good performance and efforts by all players. When watching a game congratulate both teams on their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
- 13.3 Respect the umpires' and coaches' decisions. If there is a disagreement, follow the appropriate procedure in order to question the decision and teach children to do likewise.
- 13.4 Never ridicule or scold a player for making a mistake during a competition. Positive comments are motivational.
- 13.5 Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by administrators, coaches, players, umpires or parents/ guardians.
- 13.6 Show respect for your team's coach, the umpire and opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- 13.7 Encourage players to play according to the rules and the official decisions and develop your own knowledge of the rules.
- 13.8 Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by refraining from using foul language, harassing administrators, coaches, players or umpires.
- 13.9 Support the use of age-appropriate development activities and modified rules.

14. COACHES CODE

- 14.1 Operate within the rules and spirit of netball, promoting fair play over winning at any cost.
- 14.2 Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviour and skills.
- 14.3 Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
- 14.4 Treat each person as an individual.
- 14.5 Display control and courtesy to all involved with the sport
- 14.6 Respect the rights and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- 14.7 Respect the decisions of umpires, officials, coaches and administrators in the conduct of the sport.
- 14.8 Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance will exist) with people under the age of 18 years.
- 14.9 Adopt appropriate and responsible behaviour in all interactions.
- 14.10 Adopt responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.
- 14.11 Act with integrity and objectivity and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- 14.12 Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a safe environment.
- 14.13 Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment free environment.
- 14.14 Do not tolerate harmful or abusive behaviour.
- 14.15 Place the safety and welfare of the athletes above all else.
- 14.16 Any physical contact with a person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the person's skill development.

14.17 Be honest and do not allow your qualifications to be misrepresented.

CONTACTS

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