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# Outer East FN Club Forum

*Sunday 16th February 2025*

*Netball Session*



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# Thank you

Thank you everyone for your attendance this morning, it is greatly appreciated.

We hold these educational forums each year with an aim to assist clubs at all levels of their businesses.

We hope they are beneficial to everyone, particularly those that may be new into their roles.

We really appreciate you giving up your Sunday morning for this forum.



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# This morning's sessions

10:30am – Georgia Burt – Netball Victoria  
Coaching & Umpiring  
Accreditations

11.00am - Kate Upton & Ella Bayliss –  
North- East Blaze –  
Building a strong culture within your  
netball squad

11.30am - Matt Blanchard – Outer East FN  
Housekeeping for 2025



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# Georgia Burt Netball Victoria

Georgia is from the NV Workforce Department and is here to give a presentation on Umpiring & Coaching pathways and accreditation.

We thank Georgia very much for going above and beyond the call of duty of giving up her Sunday morning to be here today.



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# **Ella Bayliss & Kate Upton.**

## **North-East Blaze**

Ella & Kate are head coaches at VNL Club North-East Blaze but they also have a long association with netball in our region both as coaches and players within our competition.

They are here today to talk to you about building a strong culture within your netball squads.

We thank both Ella & Kate for giving up their Sunday morning to present for us today.





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# Communications with Clubs

As many communications as possible have been and will continue to be sent out in one weekly memo to Clubs on a Thursday.

This memo is addressed to President, Secretary and the Club [outereastfn.com.au](mailto:outereastfn.com.au) emails.

For more targeted communications with shorter timeframes, your netball coordinator will receive an email with the Club Secretary cc'd in.



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# Registering Participants

All players, coaches and club umpires must first register to **your club** on Netball Connect.

Once they have completed that, they then register to **your club** on PlayHQ entering their Netball Connect number where required.

**Why do they need to register to our Club?**

Because if they don't, your admin cannot view them, and we cannot view them.



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# Single Game Registration

If a player does not hold current 2025 Netball Victoria Membership, they must purchase a single game voucher thru your Club's Netball Connect registration link.

If a player does hold current 2025 Netball Victoria Membership, the Club must request a single game voucher by contacting Matt via email/sms with name, D.O.B and Netball Connect number.

A player is not registered until you receive written confirmation either via email or sms.





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# Importance of being registered.

Registration provides the insurance coverage to a player and their Club.

Without registration, a Club may be exposed to legal action in the case of any serious injury or any unforeseen circumstances.

The penalties for playing an unregistered player is \$500.00 and a loss of premiership points.



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# Scoresheets

After a successful trial period during the 2023 & 2024 Finals Series and throughout the 2024 Junior Home & Away series, the entire competition will move to downloaded scoresheets from PlayHQ for the 2025 season.

The triplicate, carbonised, scorebooks are no longer.

If your Club requires a copy of a scoresheet post-game for your internal use, we recommend to simply take a photo on the day of a match or request an email copy.



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# Match Scoring into the future.

Manual pen & paper scoring of matches will eventually fade away.

Many FNL competitions have already moved into fully electronic scoring as have sports like basketball and cricket.

When will PlayHQ move in this direction, we are unsure, it may be 2 years it maybe 5 years, but it is important to put this on the radar now for club committees to consider to start budgeting for an iPad in the coming years ahead.



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# Live Scores

A reminder to all clubs that Live Scoring is mandatory for all A Grade matches within our competition.

Naturally, if Clubs have the resources to do so, you are welcome to Live Score all your matches if you so well wish.

PlayHQ hope to have the availability to Live Score on the NetballHQ app before Round 1 kicks off, which will streamline the process on matchday.

We will keep you updated on this.



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# Why do we Live Score A Grade?

We have commercial agreements in place with both Game Face and Yarra Valley FM where these scores are updated and broadcast during live stream fixtures.

Also, clubs requested in a 2021 review that more promotion was needed to be put into female football and netball.

The penalties for the host club not to live score their A Grade fixture is \$50.00





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# Competition Voting System

A slight change to the competition this year will see our panel umpires voting online for the very first time.

This has come about by us adopting OfficialsHQ as our Umpiring Coordination Platform.

So, any A & B Grade matches officiated by our panel umpires will not require the cardboard vote card.

C, D, 17s and 15's will continue to use the vote cards.



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# Umpires Panel & Club

All umpires under the age of 18 are to wear green wristbands to identify that they are underage. This is a statewide edict from Netball Victoria. A supply of free wristbands should be available to clubs by Round One.

Any abuse, threats or intimidation from team benches, on court players or spectators would now be handled thru Child Safety standards.

A sobering reminder that any of the above should not be tolerated at your club, regardless of an umpire's age.



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# Time change request & Umpires

While we try to accommodate time changes as best we can, understand that it is not always possible.

Umpire availability on Saturday mornings is reducing every season. A huge factor in this is the amount of money on offer to umpires in the Private School competitions.

Also, with the implementation of OfficialsHQ in 2025, the 14-day notice of request will now be strictly adhered to.

If you intend to have time changes with Anzac Day ceremonies in mind, please get those requests in now.



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# Team Benches

Team Benches consist of a maximum five officials (Primary Carer is compulsory) and a maximum of five substitute players, all who must be named on the scoresheet.

Children (those not involved in the game), toddlers, prams, strollers, pets are not allowed on the bench under any circumstances.

Most importantly, no officials can approach the sideline during the match unless invited to do so by the umpire, to assist an injured player.





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# Team Benches

Your players and officials are to remain in the designated team bench area.

They not permitted to patrol the sidelines like Brown's cows.

If your court has a perimeter fence, it is an expectation that all spectators and people not involved in the match are on the outside of the court.

Your Court Supervisor should be enforcing this.

**The behaviour you walk past is the behaviour you accept.**





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# Score bench

Two representatives from the host club and one representative from the visiting club, makes up your official score bench.

The Scorer & Timekeeper must sit next to each other, **Why?** So, the scorer can see the clocks and the timekeeper can see the scoresheet. It maintains match integrity.

Only three people are allowed on the score bench. No children, toddlers, strollers, prams or pets.

The Scorer records starting positions for each quarter, The position tracker records any mid game substitutions.



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# Nails, Jewellery & Socks.

As per World Netball Rules (2024), fingernails must be kept short and smooth.

No jewellery at all.

Wording "Outer East" socks to be worn by all playing participants.

Umpires are often confronted by people claiming that they have permission not to abide by these rulings.

If we were to provide any exemption, we would do so in writing, and it would be the responsibility of the player to produce this exemption upon request.



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# Bylaw Exemptions

Every season we are inundated with request for exemptions to various bylaws.

If you do submit a request for an exemption, may I ask to please keep the information relevant to the situation at hand and not write a novel.

For the fairness and transparency to all nineteen clubs, any successful application to exemptions should be communicated, providing they do not contravene any privacy laws.



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# Bylaw 61.4.3

## Player Movement

In the event of two (2) or more teams from the one club competing on the same weekend, no more than two (2) players per team are eligible to play in a maximum of two (2) games.

This is the most requested and most rejected exemption request.

It is already in place as a failsafe mechanism to absorb absenteeism of any kind.

It not designed to be the norm.

**The penalty for breaching this by law is \$100.00 and loss of premiership points.**





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# Team withdrawal cut off 28th Feb

As outlined at the netball forum in the later part of 2024, it is an expectation that all nineteen Clubs will field 17&U, D, C, B and A Grade teams in season 2025.

If you plan to withdraw any teams at all, you must request permission to do so in writing on or before Feb 28th.

Failure to do so will incur a \$500 fine. **Why?** Simply, because it plays havoc with fixturing and impacts every other club in your division.

We also invite and strongly encourage Clubs to field a 15&U team as well in 2025.





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# Re-grading

The practice of re-grading Clubs is over.

In years gone past we have re-graded clubs and teams, and it has had massive ramifications on competition integrity, such as ladder positions, B&F voting, Team of the Year etc.

In some instances, Clubs have got their way then proceeded to put the cue in the rack for the remainder of the season.

Clubs now will field A Grade downwards, no exceptions. If a Club fields no netball teams at all, they would send both their netball & football into recess.



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# 20 Years of Netball

2025 will see the 20-year celebration of netball in Outer East.

Steph is working on many stories to run to celebrate the occasion on social media.

If you and your club has a great story to tell, we would love to share it with the entire Outer East community.

Email Steph on  
[mediacomms@outereastfn.com.au](mailto:mediacomms@outereastfn.com.au)



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# Match Netballs

A double whammy, we have moved away from Energetic as our Netball supplier and K'archer are scaling back their sponsorship.

As a result, we now have new netballs on order thru a new supplier.

We will still use 2024 netballs until the stock has expired. If clubs have stock carried over from last year, (uninflated new balls) let me know the amount you are holding, and we will look to purchase some back off you.

Please have this info back to me by February 28th.



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# Here if you need us:

It's so great to see that many Clubs have their registration pages open on Netball Connect & PlayHQ,

If Clubs need assistance in any areas at all in the lead up to the season, please just reach out at any time.

I am happy to come out at meet with Clubs face-to-face or willing to take a call 24/7 to provide any support that is needed.

My contacts 0434 401 844 and  
[netball@outereastfn.com.au](mailto:netball@outereastfn.com.au)



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# The end...that's all folks.

Thank you everyone for your attendance this morning, it has been greatly appreciated.

I am happy to stay back and answer any questions or queries that you may have.

I wish you Club all the very best for Season 2025.

Safe travels and I will see you all again soon.

