NGCNA REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM POLICY (U12-U18)

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1.0 Purpose

The NGCNA Representative Program (U12-U18) provides opportunities for players to develop their netball skills, participate in representative competitions and carnivals, and represent NGCNA in a safe, positive and respectful environment. This Policy sets out how the Program is administered, including player eligibility, selection, roles, participation requirements and operational arrangements.

2.0 Scope

This Policy applies to all persons involved in the NGCNA Representative Program (U12-U18), including players, parents and guardians, coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, selectors, coordinators, committee members and volunteers. It covers all representative activities, including trials, training, competitions, carnivals, travel, accommodation and related events.

NGCNA representative teams may compete in different competitions, including:

- Netball Queensland State Age Championships
- Tigers Cup

This Policy applies equally to all players trialling for or selected in an NGCNA representative team, regardless of their team or competition. Players and appointed personnel must also comply with the rules, conditions and requirements of the relevant competition organiser, where applicable.

3.0 Related Policies & Governing Requirements

This Policy must be read in conjunction with the NGCNA Player/Parent/Guardian Agreement, Constitution, By-laws, Competition Rules, Code of Conduct, Member Protection Policy, Complaints & Disciplinary Policy, applicable safeguarding requirements and other relevant governing documents, including Netball Queensland and Netball Australia Policies.

Where requirements are inconsistent, applicable legislation and the requirements of the governing authority with jurisdiction over the matter must be followed. Child safeguarding matters must be managed in accordance with applicable safeguarding policies and reporting obligations.

4.0 Program Structure

The Management Committee determines the Representative Program (U12-U18) offered each season, considering available competitions and age groups, coaches and officials, other required personnel, facilities, finances, development opportunities and NGCNA's objectives. The Program may include development squads, representative squads or teams or other approved opportunities.

5.0 Player Eligibility

Players must meet the applicable age, registration, membership and competition requirements established by NGCNA, Netball Queensland and Netball Australia, including the requirements below.

5.1 U12 - U15 Players

Players trialling for U12, U13, U14 or U15 representative teams must have registered and played with an NGCNA-affiliated club in the NGCNA Saturday Competition during the previous calendar year.

Players must register and play with an NGCNA-affiliated club in the NGCNA Saturday Competition in the year of selection.

5.2 U16 - U18 Players

Players trialling for U16 or U18 representative teams must have registered and played in either the NGCNA Saturday Competition or the NGCNA Wednesday Night Social Competition during the previous calendar year. Players who are turning U17 in the current year are eligible to trial for an U18 team.

Players must register and play in the NGCNA Saturday Competition or in the NGCNA Wednesday Night Social Competition in the year of selection.

5.3 Exemptions

A player may apply for an exemption in the following circumstances:

- **Relocation:** The player recently moved from an area that prevented participation in an eligible NGCNA competition during the previous calendar year.
- **Current injury:** The player is currently injured and unable to participate fully in trials. Attendance at trials is still expected where reasonably possible.

Applications must include supporting documentation and be submitted to the relevant Representative Coordinator for consideration by the Management Committee. Exemptions are assessed individually and must be approved before trials. **An exemption does not guarantee team selection.**

6.0 Nominations and Trials

6.1 Player Nomination

Players must complete the nomination process by the published deadline. Requirements may include submitting a nomination form, paying the trial fee, confirming eligibility, providing required information and attending selection activities. Fees and other administrative matters are managed under the relevant NGCNA procedures.

6.2 Position Selection

Players must nominate two preferred playing positions when registering for trials. Where the two nominated positions are in different court thirds (attack, mid-court or defence), a selected player will be allocated a position within one of those nominated thirds. Changes to position selection after registration are subject to approval by NGCNA.

6.3 Trial Attire

Players must wear the trial attire specified by NGCNA and must not wear club or representative attire. NGCNA will communicate the requirements before trials. Failure to comply may result in refusal of entry or participation.

6.4 Withdrawal from Trials

A player who decides to withdraw from the selection process must notify the relevant Representative Coordinator as soon as practicable. Withdrawal from the selection process means the player will no longer be considered for selection in an NGCNA representative team for that season. Trial fees are non-refundable upon withdrawal.

7.0 Player Selection

7.1 Selection Process and Attendance

NGCNA will advise players of the selection process, which may include trials, trial training, development clinics, match observation or other approved assessment activities. Players will be assessed in both nominated positions at least once.

Players are expected to attend all mandatory selection activities. A player unable to attend due to illness, injury, school commitments or other reasonable circumstances must notify the relevant Representative Coordinator as soon as practicable and may apply to the Management Committee to have the absence considered.

Absence from a selection activity may limit the Selection Panel's ability to assess a player. Previous netball or representative experience does not guarantee selection.

7.2 Selection Panel

The Selection Panel is responsible for selecting teams based on its assessment of players. All team selections are subject to final approval by the Management Committee.

Selectors must maintain confidentiality, act impartially and promptly disclose actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest to NGCNA. NGCNA will determine how any conflict is managed, which may include limiting the selector's involvement in decisions concerning the affected player.

7.3 Selection Outcomes

Selection outcomes are final. Individual feedback on selection outcomes will not be provided to players or parents/guardians. Disagreement with a selection outcome alone does not constitute a complaint under the NGCNA Complaints & Disciplinary Policy.

7.4 Shadow and Replacement Players

NGCNA may identify shadow players for each age division. If a vacancy arises, the Management Committee may select a replacement player from a lower team or from the identified shadow players. Where practicable, replacement players should be selected from players who participated in the original selection process. In the event that shadow players have been exhausted, the Management Committee may invite or select players who did not attend selection trials.

7.5 Rules of Netball Theory Exam

Selected players must complete the Rules of Netball Theory Exam at their own expense and achieve a minimum result of 70%. The exam must be completed before the team's first competition game. Players who have not met this requirement by the deadline will not be permitted to compete.

Players must provide their certificate of completion to their Team Manager. The exam must be completed every four years from the date it was completed.

7.6 Withdrawal After Selection

Withdrawal after team selection without a valid reason, as determined by the Management Committee, may result in exclusion from all NGCNA Representative Programs for the following two years. The Management Committee may consider exceptional circumstances when determining whether the exclusion applies.

A player who is offered a shadow player position and declines the offer is exempt from the two-year exclusion period. However, if a position subsequently becomes available, the player is no longer eligible to be offered or accept that position.

For the purposes of this clause, selection is considered final once NGCNA has formally notified the parent/guardian in writing of the player's team position. Social media announcements are for public notification purposes and do not determine the date of selection.

8.0 Representative Appointments and Roles

The Management Committee may appoint a Junior Representative Coordinator, a Senior Representative Coordinator, selectors, coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, team assistants, welfare or safeguarding personnel and other support personnel as required. Position descriptions outlining role responsibilities are available to applicants.

Before commencing their roles, appointees must meet applicable screening, Blue Card, accreditation, training and suitability requirements. All appointees must comply with applicable NGCNA policies and governing netball requirements and refer concerns through the appropriate reporting process.

- **Representative Coordinator** - The Representative Coordinator oversees delivery of the Representative Program under the direction of the Management Committee, including selection arrangements, support for coaches and managers, communication, competitions, carnivals, uniforms and administration.
- **Coach** - The Coach is responsible for training and player development, providing constructive feedback, supporting player wellbeing and maintaining appropriate professional boundaries.
- **Assistant Coach** - An Assistant Coach may be appointed where available and approved by NGCNA. The Assistant Coach supports the Coach with training, player development and team activities.
- **Apprentice Coach** - may be appointed where available and and approved by NGCNA.
- **Team Manager** - The Team Manager supports team administration and family communication, maintains attendance records, coordinates competition and carnival arrangements, assists with uniforms and equipment, and communicates travel information.
- **Team Assistant** - The Team Assistant provides daily care and practical support for representative players and team personnel during State Age events involving shared accommodation.

9.0 Player and Parent/Guardian Expectations

9.1 Players

Selected players are expected to attend and prepare for scheduled activities, communicate absences, follow reasonable coaching directions, participate positively, care for NGCNA property, comply with uniform requirements and represent NGCNA appropriately.

Players are encouraged to promptly raise any concerns about their safety, wellbeing or the conduct of others with an appropriate trusted adult or NGCNA representative. Safety concerns must be managed in accordance with applicable safeguarding and reporting requirements.

9.2 Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians must support their child’s participation and treat coaches, selectors, officials, volunteers, players and other families with respect. They are expected to set a positive example and contribute to a safe, respectful and supportive environment for all participants.

Parents and guardians must not engage in sideline coaching, challenge or argue with umpires or officials, interfere with coaching or selection decisions, or engage in intimidating, abusive, disruptive or otherwise inappropriate behaviour. Behaviour that may breach an applicable policy will be managed under the relevant complaints and disciplinary process.

Concerns regarding coaching, selection, court time or team management must be raised respectfully through the relevant Representative Coordinator.

9.3 Team Tents and Restricted Team Areas

Team tents and designated team areas are restricted to players and authorised team personnel. Parents and guardians must not enter these areas without permission from the Team Manager or an authorised team official. Parents and guardians must follow the directions of team officials regarding access to team areas and arrangements for communicating with or collecting players.

10.0 Player/Parent/Guardian Agreement

Before participating in the Representative Program, selected players and their parent or guardian must complete the NGCNA Player/Parent/Guardian Agreement. The Agreement records required participation commitments and information, including any applicable medical and emergency details, fees, attendance, uniforms, competitions, travel and acknowledgement of relevant policies. It must be consistent with this Policy and other applicable governing documents.

11.0 Training, Competitions and Program Costs

11.1 Training and Attendance

NGCNA will communicate training schedules and requirements and provide reasonable notice of additional sessions. Players are expected to attend all sessions, arrive on time and remain for the duration. Absences, late arrivals or early departures must be communicated to the relevant Representative Coordinator as soon as practicable. Training arrangements will consider player development, competition requirements, facility availability and player wellbeing.

Players who miss two or more training sessions without a valid reason, as determined by the Management Committee, may be removed from the team. Before any decision is made, the player and their parent/guardian will be given an opportunity to explain the absences.

Players must wear the NGCNA training singlet and black bottoms at all training sessions.

11.2 Competitions and Carnivals

NGCNA will advise teams of nominated competitions and carnivals and provide relevant information about dates, venues, arrival times, fees, uniforms, equipment, transport and accommodation. Players are expected to attend all nominated events.

11.3 Court Time

Selection does not guarantee equal court time in every match. Coaches determine court time based on competition requirements, player development, positional needs, team strategy, performance, attendance, commitment and player wellbeing. Court-time concerns should initially be raised with the Representative Coordinator.

Minimum court time is calculated across the entire Representative season, rather than separately for each carnival or competition. Minimum court time applies to players who are available to participate in

each carnival and is calculated over the season based on their availability. Absence from a carnival does not create an entitlement to additional court time at another carnival.

The minimum court time requirements are:

- **Junior State Age players:** 50% of available court time over the season.
- **Senior State Age players:** 33% of available court time over the season.

11.4 Uniforms and Equipment

Players must wear the approved representative uniform in accordance with competition rules and NGCNA requirements. Players who do not meet the applicable uniform requirements will not be permitted to take the court where compliance is mandatory under the competition rules. NGCNA cannot make exceptions to mandatory competition requirements. The Management Committee determines the uniform items, costs, supply, replacement and return arrangements.

At medal presentations held at carnivals, all players must wear the approved representative uniform, including netball shoes. Casual footwear, slides and other non-approved footwear must not be worn while players are wearing the representative uniform. Players are expected to present themselves neatly and appropriately and maintain a professional team appearance when representing NGCNA.

11.5 Representative Fees

Representative fees must be paid by the due dates advised by NGCNA. Where fees remain unpaid, NGCNA may restrict participation in representative activities until payment is made or an alternative arrangement is approved in writing by the Management Committee. Financial matters are managed under NGCNA financial procedures.

12.0 Medical, Injury and Concussion

Parents and guardians must provide accurate and current medical and emergency information required to support player safety. Injuries must be managed appropriately. A player with suspected concussion must be removed from play and managed in accordance with the Netball Australia Guidelines for the Management of Sports Related Concussion in Netball.

A player returning from injury must provide a medical certificate to the relevant Representative Coordinator before recommencing training and attend at least one training session before participating in a carnival or competition.

13.0 Travel and Accommodation

Travel and accommodation involving players under 18 must comply with the Netball Australia Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, Child Safe Practices, and NGCNA procedures. NGCNA will maintain a separate operational procedure outlining the requirements and responsibilities for personnel involved in representative travel and away events.

14.0 Child Safety and Safeguarding

NGCNA is committed to providing a safe, respectful and inclusive Representative Program. All participants must comply with the Netball Australia Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, applicable NGCNA safeguarding and member protection policies, relevant legislation and applicable reporting obligations. Children and young people may raise concerns directly with NGCNA and are not required to do so through a parent or guardian.

15.0 Photography and Image Consent

Photographs and other images of players must be taken, used, stored and shared in accordance with applicable NGCNA consent, privacy and child-safeguarding requirements. Required consent must be obtained before images are taken or used, as applicable under those requirements.

16.0 Concerns, Complaints and Interim Action

Routine concerns about the Representative Program should be raised with the relevant Representative Coordinator. Concerns involving the Representative Coordinator, serious concerns or safeguarding concerns may be raised directly with the NGCNA Secretary as Complaints Manager or the Management Committee.

Complaints and alleged breaches must be managed under the applicable NGCNA, Netball Queensland or Netball Australia policy, including any safeguarding and reporting requirements.

NGCNA may take reasonable interim action where necessary to protect people, maintain safety or prevent further incidents. Interim action is precautionary and does not constitute a finding of wrongdoing. Any further action must be taken in accordance with the applicable governing process.

17.0 Communication, Privacy and Records

NGCNA will provide players and families with timely, accessible Program information. Important information must not rely solely on social media. Communications must comply with applicable safeguarding and privacy requirements.

Personal, medical, selection outcomes, complaints, and safeguarding information must be secure and handled in accordance with applicable privacy and record-keeping requirements. NGCNA will maintain records required by its policies and applicable law.

18.0 Feedback and Review

NGCNA may seek feedback from players, parents and guardians, coaches and team officials to improve the Representative Program, including feedback from children and young people.

The Management Committee will review this Policy at least annually and following significant changes to legislation, governing netball requirements, NGCNA policies or the Program.