



Promoting Boys & Men's Participation in Netball Policy

Introduction

Frankston District Netball Association (FDNA) and Peninsula Waves Netball Club (Waves) under its auspice, welcomes the opportunity for boys & men to participate in netball.

Creating and fostering opportunities for both mixed-gender and single-gender competitions is an important way to provide every individual the opportunity to participate, in a manner that is appropriate to their ability, comfort and personal preference.

Encouraging a love of netball starts with inclusive participation, at a grassroots level.

FDNA and Waves are committed to providing a safe, fair and inclusive sporting environment where all people can contribute and participate. This supports the Association's vision: "more people engaged in netball more often through a diverse range of opportunities".

FDNA has endorsed this policy to support and encourage the participation of boys & men in grassroots netball. The policy provides Clubs with clear direction and information to support members' participation in development of mixed-gender and boys' single gender competitions. We acknowledge that not every Club will be able to create mixed or boys' single gender teams, for a variety of reasons. However, as a collective, we believe the Frankston region's netball community can develop and foster a number of participation options for boys & men.

Netball Victoria's (NV) statistics shows that whilst men & boys make up approximately 49% of the Victorian population, they are only approximately 3% of Netball Victoria's membership. At the junior level, this equates to around 1%.

NV's research shows that men & boys' participation in school netball programs is growing and that the interest in social mixed competitions is strong across the social/private provider industry. We all believe that there is demand for competitions to better facilitate men & boys participating.

Under the NV Gender Regulation, boys from age 13 are not permitted to participate in girls' competitions. To provide increased opportunities for participation, boys should be supported and encouraged to play mixed and where possible, boys' single gender competition.

How will Netball Victoria help?

- Support and promote the development of junior boys' competition via the Victorian Men's and Mixed Netball Association (VMMNA)
- Adopt a Gender Regulation including the requirement to be clear and transparent on gender
- Improve the visual imagery of boys & men across all channels including social media, digital and website
- Encourage Affiliates to notify NV of their mixed/boys/men's competitions so that these can be published and promoted on the NV website as a reference for all clubs, associations, leagues, members, schools and participants
- Establish channels and opportunities for Affiliates to connect and collaborate on developing new mixed and boys/men's competitions
- Create and promote new mixed divisions across all NV competitions



- Support improved connections from school-based competitions and play to 'club-based play'
- Encourage Affiliates to try new formats such as Rock Up Netball and create new mixed divisions.

What will FDNA do?

- Ensure all competitions have clear gender requirements covering the name of competitions, by-laws, promotions, advertising and general communications
- Provide a range of options for playing and participating in netball – girls/women, boys/men and mixed competitions
- Plan to meet the demand for social mixed play by offering additional formats of play eg Rock Up Netball
- Collaborate with local primary and secondary schools (& other Associations) to create additional mixed competitions, particularly suitable for boys aged from 13 years
- Offer mixed or boys/men's divisions at tournaments
- Use the support of NV to promote new mixed competitions, & consider finding other interested affiliates with whom to collaborate on mixed play opportunities
- Consider if any existing competitions can be changed to a mixed competition
- Actively seek input/feedback on how mixed competitions could be provided
- Enter mixed teams into NV competitions
- Host exhibition or 'come and try' events to generate interest
- Seek support from VMNA for mixed gender proposals
- Increase the number of boys in our NetSetGO program – including participants and Coaches
- Work toward entering a boys' team to play in the VMMNA junior competition
- Encourage more boys & men to undertake accreditation in coaching and umpiring
- Refer interested individual players to the VMMNA competition
- Use mixed competitions to create more opportunities for boys & men to take on leadership roles, coaching and umpiring

What will Waves do?

- Offer gender neutral training partner programs to align with our VNL & PENS programs to create a clearer pathway for all participants, and an opportunity for structured regular trainings
- Enter our boys/men training partners into the VMMNA M League competition in July
- Provide details of the VMMNA State Team Selections to promote advancement in the netball pathway
- Organise exhibition matches to promote our pathway to young boys participating, to encourage them to stay in the sport
- Make all Athletes identifying regardless of gender as boys/men as visible as much as possible: VNL Home Games, Saturday Competition, Events etc
- Encourage any local players to compete weekly at FDNA

Policy Endorsed by FDNA Board of Management: July 2021

Review date: August 2022



What should FDNA affiliated Clubs do?

- Welcome interest from boys & men at all age groups
- Actively communicate with FDNA to ensure we know what numbers and ages of boys & men Clubs need to accommodate
- Keep up to date with FDNA programs and competitions to ensure correct information is provided to boys & men participating, and their families
- Communicate positively with girls & women and their families to ensure boys & men are genuinely welcomed
- Seek out and celebrate boys & men participating in other areas of your club: Coach, Umpire, Committee etc. Look for opportunities for boys & men to collaborate and support each other in netball
- Understand and comply with gender regulations and guidelines, and seek appropriate advice as required.