

Netball New Zealand

Uniform Position Statement

November 2022

Netball New Zealand's (NNZ) strategy, Poipoia, contains guiding principles that focus on providing Netball opportunities that are local, affordable and accessible within fun, safe and welcoming environments.

NNZ is committed to supporting Netball uniform guidelines that adhere to the official Rules of Netball as well as those that promote safety, inclusivity, practicality and affordability. These guidelines are intended for all those who offer Netball within New Zealand including Centres, schools and clubs.

Definitions

For the purposes of this document, we have included playing uniform as well as additional clothing items that might be worn whilst playing Netball (e.g., jewellery, leggings, medical devices) when discussing 'uniform'. This document also refers to the World Netball Rules of Netball (2020 edition) where the rules dictate uniform related aspects for individuals (e.g., hair length, fingernail length, etc).

Notes

1. This position statement is intended to encourage participation by removing overly strict/historic uniform barriers whilst balancing safety and other important factors mentioned below.
2. The World Netball Rules of Netball (2020) cover some uniform related aspects. These have been included in this position statement.
3. When participating in NNZ National Domestic Competitions (NNZ Under 18 Champs, NNZ Open Champs, and NZ Secondary Schools Netball Champs) all Centres/teams must adhere to the relevant Uniform Rules and Apparel Branding Rules & Guidelines as outlined in the National Competition Rules.



NNZ holds the following positions on player and match official uniforms:

Guiding principle	Overview	Position
World Netball Rules of Netball (2020)	Footwear	Suitable sports footwear must be worn (5.1.1 (i)(a))
	Playing positions	Playing position initials 15cm high must be clearly visible and worn above the waist, front and back. (5.1.1(i)(b))
	Extra items	Players may not wear anything that could endanger themselves or other players (5.1.1(iv)). For example, zips, hoods or large hair clips.
	Adornment/ jewellery	No adornment or jewellery may be worn other than a wedding ring which shall be securely covered with tape. (5.1.1(iv)(a)).
		A medical alert bracelet may be worn provided it is covered with tape (5.1.1(iv)(b)).
	Fingernails	Fingernails must be short and smooth (5.1.1(iv)(c)).
	Hair	Hair should be suitably tied back (5.1.1(iv)(d)).
Safety and Inclusivity	Religious or cultural	Items may be worn for religious or cultural reasons e.g., hijab. We strongly recommend that adornments are removed where possible. If these are unable to be removed e.g., a kara or taonga, they should be securely taped.
	Medical	Items may be worn for medical reasons. If items are unable to be removed e.g., medic alert bracelet or Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) device (for diabetes), they should be securely taped. It is the responsibility of the person wearing the device to ensure it does not pose a risk to any other person on court. We suggest items are padded or covered by a sweatband where needed.
		Players and match officials should be able to wear prescription sports glasses only if these are made from durable, unbreakable polycarbonate. Contact lenses are <i>preferable</i> though it is noted this is not always possible.
		Players and match officials should be allowed to wear hearing aids.
	Fitbits or sports watches	For clarity, fitbits, watches or sports watches worn on the wrist are unable to be played in. These are covered in adornments and jewellery.
Gender	Gender identity should not determine the uniform worn by players and umpires. There should not be prescribed uniforms e.g., for men/boys and women/girls. We encourage options and choice for all acknowledging there are more than two genders.	



Practicality/ distinguishes teams and umpires	Uniform	Uniforms may consist of a netball dress, skirt, skorts or shorts with a polo, t-shirt or playing singlet or long sleeve top and/or long leggings. Match official uniforms should differentiate them from the team's playing uniform (5.2(i)(a)). <i>Note: the World Netball Rules of Netball 2020 do not require the match official's uniform to be white.</i>
	Uniform options	Netball providers may offer options within their uniform to players and match officials. If a netball provider offers uniform options, all the uniform options should result in players in the same team being easily recognised as being in the same team. <i>E.g., if some players wear shorts/top combination and others a dress, they should still be easily recognisable as the same team/club by colour and design.</i>
	Additional clothing	Players and match officials may wear sports briefs, bike shorts, compression wear, sports gloves or leggings under playing attire. Socks of any colour may be worn. <i>Note: in general, within a team, it is preferable that these items are the same colour for the match officials benefit.</i>
Affordability	P.E. Uniform	A pre-existing sports uniform should be able to be used assuming it is safe, inclusive and practical. <i>E.g., school P.E. uniform can be the playing uniform.</i>
Appropriate	Appropriate uniform	It is advised that netball providers retain a clause that uniforms must be 'appropriate'. As this is difficult to define, the intent is to prevent teams registering in uniforms that could be considered offensive or inappropriate. Good judgement is needed here.
Other	Juniors, Social and Recreational	It is advised that juniors (year 1 to year 6), social and recreational grades do not require a playing uniform to encourage participation and minimise playing barriers. It is expected playing bibs are enough at this level to distinguish between teams. It is helpful for teams to be in the same colours where possible.
	Climate	It is advised that any age group may wear additional thermal or polypropylene under their playing uniform if they choose. <i>Note: within a team, it is preferable that this is the same colour for the match officials benefit. In very cold weather, other items, such as beanies or raincoats (without zips/hoods) are left at the Centres discretion.</i>



Suggested items requiring or not requiring Centre dispensation:

Item name	Requires Centre dispensation?	Explanation
Cultural necklace, cultural bracelet including a wedding ring/band or similar.	No*	For safety we encourage these to be removed whilst playing. If they cannot be removed, they should be securely taped and padded where needed. The umpire should check this before the game.
Diabetes monitoring device	No	This should be securely taped and padded where needed. The umpire should check this before the game.
Medic alert bracelet	No	This should be securely taped. The umpire should check this before the game.
Sports glasses	No	Any glasses played in must be durable and unbreakable sports glasses.
Sports gloves	No	The umpire should still check a player's fingernails before the game.
Hijab	No	We encourage this to be allowed should the player want to wear it.
Thermals/ polypropylene	No	We encourage this to be allowed should the player want to wear it.

**It is optional for Centres to request that cultural items that cannot be removed are logged with the Centre at the start of the season. This helps the Centre respond to questions about these items quickly if needed and to distinguish jewellery from cultural items.*

Netball festival days/events

Discretion is left to the Centre during these types of events. We advise following the guiding principles above, considering risk and applying good judgment here.

Centres, Clubs and Schools

These guidelines were created in consultation with a group consisting of NNZ, Zone, Umpire, Centre, club and school representatives from across New Zealand. These guidelines are not mandated though we encourage all netball providers to reflect, adopt and align your policies wherever possible.