

## **MALE PARTICIPATION IN NETBALL**

This document outlines Netball New Zealand's (NNZ) recommendation on male<sup>1</sup> participation in Netball.

### **Background**

A working group was established in 2021 which included representation from Centre, Zone, NNZ, NNZ Youth Board, the community (parents/players) School Sport New Zealand (Secondary School) and New Zealand Men's and Mixed Netball Association (NZMMNA). Community consultation was undertaken through a Centre/community survey with over 900 responses. The findings of the working group and community have helped to form the below recommendation.

### **Poipoia**

Netball New Zealand is guided by its strategy, Poipoia. Poipoia's overall purpose and goal is to connect and inspire communities through Netball. Netball New Zealand believes in embracing all New Zealand's diversity with a fun, safe and welcoming environments. The principles of Poipoia guide and demonstrate the ways in which Netball strives to be inclusive and continue to adapt and grow the game by making Netball accessible and the ultimate experience for *everyone* who touches it. This document and Netball New Zealand's view on male participation in Netball is guided by Poipoia.

### **NNZ recommendation on male participation in Netball.**

To develop, foster, and encourage the participation of men, and boys in Netball, while protecting and continuing to nurture the unique position that Netball holds as the leading sport for women and girls in New Zealand.

This will be done by continuing to provide participation opportunities<sup>2</sup> that cater for females only, while developing and fostering more playing opportunities for men and boys, by encouraging the provision of male and mixed competitions at National, Zone and local level.

Stakeholders providing participation opportunities must include clear guidelines on the eligibility of participants with specific reference to female, male or mixed competition. Eligibility criteria for participation opportunities must be set and clearly communicated to the participants by the competition provider.

---

<sup>1</sup> Male participation – for the purpose of this recommendation male is defined as the sex assigned at birth to the participant.

<sup>2</sup> Participation opportunities include but are not limited to Centre competitions, grades, teams, tournaments and representative competitions.

## Male participation in Netball

Age	Year 1-8	Secondary School 12-18 years	18+ years
<b>Participation opportunities for men and boys</b>	Centre competitions  futureFERNs	Centre competitions  School and club teams with male and/or mixed players  Male and/or mixed competitions  Celebration Box Netball NZ U18 Championships (U17 Male grade)	NZMMNA competitions Centre competitions  Club teams with male and/or mixed players for male participation.  Males and/or mixed competitions  NZMMNA Men's National Championships.  NZMMNA Mixed National Championships.
<b>Guidance to refer to</b>	The Human Rights Act  NNZ Regulations  Junior Netball Policy	The Human Rights Act  NNZ Regulations  Secondary School Guidelines	The Human Rights Act  NNZ Regulations
<b>Participation statement</b>	It is illegal to discriminate by sex prior to 12 years of age. This means that boys may play Netball alongside females till the age of 12.	In relation to participating in any competitive sporting activity, discrimination based on a person's sex is permitted (if over 12 years of age) if the strength, stamina, and physique of the competitor is relevant.	In relation to participating in any competitive sporting activity, discrimination based on a person's sex is permitted (if over 12 years of age) if the strength, stamina, and physique of the competitor is relevant.

The below guidance seeks to provide practical advice and clarity on how NNZ, NZMMNA, Zones and Centres will work together to support and increase playing and development opportunities for boys and men in male and mixed competitions.

### How will NNZ help support male participation

- Support and promote the development of male participation opportunities by developing guidelines and best practice case studies, with a focus on futureFERNs and Secondary School participation.
- Increase the visibility of male Netballers across all NNZ digital channels such as Social Media pages, and the NNZ Website.
- Promote new and existing mixed/men's competitions across NZ. Investigate opportunities for male participation opportunities at a national level. e.g., Silver Ferns, fast5 and National

Age group competitions (2022 U17 male grade at Celebration Box Netball NZ U18 Championships.)

- Showcase male participation opportunities, such as Aotearoa Men vs Australia (Curtain raiser to Constellation Cup)

#### **How will NZMMNA help support male participation?**

- Support NZMMNA member associations and NNZ Centres to develop local men's and mixed leagues, competitions, and tournaments.
- Provide marketing or promotional support through NZMMNA media channels, networks, and partners.
- Provide Zones and Centres with advice to raise awareness and visibility.
- Support Centres to educate and inform their communities to provide a quality experience for our men's and mixed participants.
- NZMMNA will link participation opportunities to a clear performance pathway.
- Deliver Men's and Men's and Mixed national competitions.

#### **How can Zones help support male participation?**

- Provide information and support on how to run a successful competition.
- Support ongoing opportunities for match play with ANZ premierships teams and associated knowledge sharing and PD opportunities.
- Exhibition matches between franchises working collaboratively with NNZ and NZMMNA.

#### **How can Centres help support male participation?**

- Investigate and deliver male participation opportunities which may include 7v7, fast5, 6v6, have a go, for competitive and non-competitive participants.
- Create and grow mixed/men's competitions particularly suitable for our Rangatahi, collaborating with other Centres, schools, and clubs.
- Engage with youth, clubs, schools, players, parents, administrators to seek feedback on how mixed/men's competitions could be provided or improved.
- Host exhibition or "have a go" events to generate interest or run a pilot programme in secondary schools with a festival day to celebrate.
- Work with Men's and Mixed local Associations as appropriate, to foster the development of male participation in their community.