

# 2026 ACS Netball Rules

Last updated January 2026

ACS Netball games shall be played under the rules of the Netball Australia unless otherwise stated hereunder or in ACS Competition Rules.

Mercy Rule applies to all competitions except for 1st Seniors. The Mercy rule will apply if:

- a team is leading by 10 goals at any stage during the game. Each time a goal is scored, the opposition team will take the centre pass. Once the score reduces below 10 points, then full rules resume.
- a team is leading by 15 goals then the leading team will take the WD off until the margin is reduced to less than 15 goals, then the WD can resume in the game.
- The maximum recorded score differential is 30 goals based on the lower team's score.

1. **Umpires:** Minimum 'B' Badge accreditation for Senior matches and Intermediate A matches. All games shall have 2 badged (accredited) umpires. It is the home school's responsibility to ensure umpires at B Badge level.
2. A team may consist of unlimited players but no more than 7 players may take the court at any one time.
3. A size 5 (71 cm) ball will be used. Home team to provide balls.
4. Captains will toss for the choice of end and first centre pass.
5. **Match Times:** Games will be played back to back. The 'A' game plays first, followed by the 'B' game. Quarters are 10 minutes with 2, 2 & 2 minutes between breaks.
6. **Term 1, 2026 trial:** St Michael's Grammar School has requested to use their outdoor court for lower level grades on a trial basis. SMGS have invested heavily in the equipment and have assured members of the court's safety. **To be reviewed at the end of Term 1, 2026** to determine if it can be used for the remainder of the year.

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7. **Substitutions:** Both teams have the right to make substitutions and/or team changes:
  - 7.1. During an interval.
  - 7.2. When play is stopped for injury/illness of a player or blood.
8. **Rolling Substitutions:** Rolling Substitutions will be implemented to be aligned with Netball Australia Rules and recommendations. Please see appendix: Substitution Information- Netball Victoria.
  - 8.1. Designated substitution zone/s should be clearly marked on the court. This can be done by chalk markings, or cones or dots on the ground. The location of the substitution zone will vary by venue, as not all venues have dedicated score benches. A single substitution zone could be used if needed.
  - 8.2. Please apply common sense to location of substitution boxes and ensure safety for all participants with special consideration given to the movement of umpires.
  - 8.3. Teams should have two sets of bibs to facilitate rolling subs.
  - 8.4. Substitutions must involve two players. A single player can not "roll on" or "roll off" the court.
9. Scorers must sit together
10. **Grand Finals Grand Finals:** In the case of the scores being tied at the end of regular time, teams should play an extra 5 minutes at each end. If a team is one goal or more ahead at the end of the extra 10 minutes they will be declared the winner. If the scores are still tied then the game continues until one team is two goals ahead. The maximum time allowed for this 'extra time' to be played is 20 minutes (including the first 10 minutes played). If a team is 1 goal ahead at the end of the maximum time (20 minutes) they will be declared the winner. In the event that after the maximum time period has elapsed and the scores are still tied then it will be declared a drawn final and the team that finished on top of the home and away ladder

clear on points will be awarded the premiership. If both teams are equal on points then the premiership is shared (percentage will not be taken into account).

11. **Result if a match is unfinished due to light failure, weather etc:** For a result to be declared the match must have reached half time then the score as it stands when play ceased shall be taken as the final result. Should a match not reach half time then it is deemed a draw.
12. **Uniform:** All players must be dressed in uniforms which distinctly show school colours. All teams can play in an approved uniform consisting of the following items provided it is the same colour and/or design and that no part of the uniform options cover the positional bib:
  - A dress
  - A singlet
  - A bodysuit
  - A tee shirt, long or short sleeved
  - A skirt
  - Shorts
  - Long pants either lycra or track suit style
- 12.1. Dresses, t-shirts, singlets, or long sleeve t-shirts must be the same design as all players on court.
- 12.2. All uniform options must still be able to clearly display a playing positional bib.
- 12.3. The choice of bottoms must either include the same design as the dress/top or be a designated block colour to match the uniform (i.e., black, royal blue, navy blue etc.). All players wearing alternative bottoms must be in school colours.
- 12.4. **Uniforms must not present a genuine safety risk to the wearer or other players (i.e. open pockets, buttons, or zippers).**
- 12.5. Jewellery which cannot be removed for religious / medical reasons should be covered with padding / tape as necessary to prevent injury to others. Jewellery or other items which cannot be securely covered or taped must be removed