

STNC POLICY

St Thomas Netball Club Participation policy



St Thomas Netball Club- Work Hard, Play Fair, Have Fun

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| Policy Title: | St Thomas Netball Club participation and court time policy |
| Approval Date: | June 2025 |
| St Thomas Netball Club | <p>STNC is a not for profit, member-based organisation. The committee is run by volunteers to ensure the ongoing support of the sport of netball in the Whitehorse community.</p> <p>Our Values are Inclusivity, Teamwork, Respect & Development.</p> |
| Commitment | <p>Netball's Victoria's Commitment Statement to Safeguarding Children and Young People and other important information can be found at https://vic.netball.com.au/child-safety-netball</p> <p>At STNC we embrace diversity in gender, age, ethnicity, disability, religion and sexual orientation. We are committed to providing a safe environment for children across netball.</p> <p>STNC Commitment to Safeguarding Children & Young People</p> <p>Every person in the netball community has a responsibility to understand their role in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in our care. STNC is committed to promoting and protecting the rights of children and preventing abuse from occurring by fostering a culture where children feel safe and empowered. We also seek to ensure the cultural safety of First Nations children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with a disability.</p> |

Primary Purpose of Policy

- Transparent measures of court time during the season and at finals competition time
- Transparent measure for positions at all skill levels
- Transparent level for team selection

Key Principles

Team selection

- Teams are formed each season according to age, skill level, team balance and player position strength.
- Once formed, it is important that all members of the team are treated fairly and able to participate fully in the success of the team.
- For all age groups, participation, enjoyment, and skill development for the benefit of the player and the team are very important.

Team Lists

- A copy of the individual team list will be provided to the Coach by the committee before the start of the season.
- The Coach will be provided with parent contact details in order to set up training times and assist with team administration.
- A team WhatsApp should be established prior to the first training and a Team Manager appointed.

Player Availability

- Coaches can keep records of player availability and attendance at training.
- It is expected that all players in junior teams will attend training regularly. Exceptions will only be made after discussion with the Coach and Team Manager.
- Exceptional circumstances for absence from training should be escalated to the Coaches' Coordinator.
- Normal season courttime may be impacted by poor player attendance at training and or poor behaviour at training or on game day.

*NB: poor player behaviour must be reported to the Coaching Coordinator

*NB: No more than a quarter may be deducted in the following mid season game for poor behaviour (i.e: a player may be rostered off for a quarter and deducted a quarter- no more than half a game off the court).

Court Time

It is STNC policy that all players shall share equal court time across the season and within the game wherever possible.

Matches where a player is unavailable shall not count for calculation of that player's court time. In practice, this means:

- If there are more than seven players available for a match, player rotations will be required to ensure every player has a chance to participate in the match.
- Common rotations with different number of players are:
 - 8 players – 4 player full game, 4 players 3 quarters
 - 9 players – 1 player full game, 8 players 3 quarters
 - 10 players – 8 players 3 quarters, 2 players a half
- The coach must ensure that rotations are equitable and comply with the club policy of even court time across the season. This means that a player should not get half a game, or a full game every match.
- Rotations should be planned ahead of the match and recorded so as to keep track of court time and positions.

Finals

It is STNC policy that every player will play a **minimum of half a game** in all finals matches.

- Finals matches can be very different in intensity and atmosphere to home-and-away matches.
- All available players who have contributed to the team's success in reaching finals must participate in the match.
- Rotations should be planned prior to the match so as to retain team balance and ensure that every player plays at least half the match.

Playing Positions

Monday Go and Junior teams

It is STNC policy that all players in these age groups will rotate through all court positions, so that across the season they have the opportunity to play every position on more than one occasion. Ideally, a player will play in goals for a few weeks, mid-court for a few weeks and defence for a few weeks.

To avoid confusion on match day, it is best to have your position rotations worked out for each game beforehand, including rotating additional players on and off the court. You should discuss this with your team at training so that they expect to be rotated.

Coaches will need to work out the most effective way to rotate your players – changing positions every quarter can be very confusing, particularly with children very new to the game and unsure of court positions. It is ideal to keep a record of the positions played by each player to ensure they all have an opportunity to try different positions throughout the season.

Primary and Junior Secondary teams

It is expected that players will be consolidating into 2-3 preferred court positions that match their skills and abilities and enhance the team performance

Mid-Secondary to Open teams

It is club policy that players in these teams will tend to be settled into more defined positions or areas of the court. Players should be encouraged to play a minimum of 2-3 positions across the season and continue to experience different areas of the court where possible.

- Players and coaches in these age groups have a much better understanding of both their strengths and the team requirements, so players tend to be settled into more defined positions or position rotations e.g. defence, attack, mid-court.
- It is still important to encourage a breadth of skills across the team and the ability to move between positions so that player absences and rotations do not impact the balance and performance of the team.

Fair Participation

For all age groups, participation, enjoyment, and skill development for the benefit of the player and the team are very important. A win should never be at the expense of fair participation for all players in the team.