

Northern Marvels and Northern Comets National Netball League (NNL) Team Update – Effective November 1 2022

1. Purpose

This document outlines the structure of the Northern Marvels and the Northern Comets NNL teams and the process for selecting Northern Marvels and the Northern Comets team management and player groups.

2. Background

From November 1st, 2019 the Northern Comets have been governed and managed by the Northern Stars, and the Northern Marvels have been governed and managed by Netball Northern Zone (zone)

3. What does this mean?

- **The Northern Stars** govern and operate the Northern Comets and may operate a performance programme for all those involved with the Northern Comets.
- **The Northern Mystics and Zone** will govern and operate the Northern Marvels and the performance programme, known as the NZEPP, for all those involved with the Northern Marvels.
- Athletes will be selected from their catchment areas as described in Appendix A and by Figure 1.
- Training Partners (TPs) will play for the NNL team aligned to the ANZ Premiership team they are contracted too (e.g., Northern Stars TPs will play NNL for the Northern Comets; and Northern Mystics TPs will play NNL for Northern Marvels).
- Apprentice Training Partners (ATP): ATPs will be selected from within their designated catchment area as described in Appendix A and by Figure 1.

4. Selection Process

The aim of both ANZ Premiership teams is to select the best players in the zone for their performance programmes and NNL teams. Therefore, the following guidelines shall be followed.

- a. A minimum of 80% of each NNL Team will be selected from the pool of players from within each area as designated by Appendix A and Figure 1.
- b. Training partners for the Northern Stars and the MG Mystics may be selected from anywhere in the Northern Zone or New Zealand without impacting this 80% threshold as outlined in 4a.
- c. Apprentice training partners (ATP) can also be selected from anywhere in the Northern Zone. However, if an ATP is not automatically domiciled in the area delineated by the line (see appendix A – Figure 1) then the two ANZP Head Coaches will meet to discuss the possibility of a release. In considering a release, the ANZP Team seeking the release will present their case to the other ANZP Team. If the two teams agree, then the release will be automatic, and the player can sign a loyalty agreement for the ANZP team of their choice. If the two teams cannot agree the case will be referred to an independent arbitrator.
- d. Where an ATP signs a loyalty agreement with the ANZP team in the area they are not domiciled in they will form part of the 80% threshold mentioned in point 4a.
- e. Other releases: Any player wanting to be released to the other area will need to apply to their own area for a release. There are two further opportunities (see appendix A) for this to occur, however neither ANZ Premiership team will consider more than 20% of their final team make up coming from released players. This policy will be reviewed at the conclusion of each NNL season, on an annual basis. The review will include player feedback and feedback from the head coaches of the Northern Comets, Northern Marvels, Robinhood Stars and MG Mystics, to establish relevance and workability.

5. Geographical split

The zone has been split into two specific areas. See Appendix A - Figure 1. This delineation was determined by natural waterways and main roads which separate the South and South East areas from the Central, West and North of Auckland. Northern Comets will select their team from athletes who live south of this line. Northern Marvels will select their team from athletes who live north of this line. The defining factor in terms of which team an athlete is eligible to trial for, will be determined by their residential address as at 1 November in the year preceding the next NNL competition, and the line separating the respective areas.

6. Trial Management and Administration

The Northern Mystics and zone will appoint team management and oversee athlete selection for the Northern Marvels. NZEPP positions will be offered after this process. The Robinhood Northern Stars will appoint team management and oversee athlete selection for the Northern Comets.

Trial details for each team can be found advertised on the Northern Zone and Northern Stars online media channels.

7. School aged athletes

School aged athletes can trial for NNL. Selection into the final squad will be based on:

- The coach identifies athlete readiness through investigating the athlete's personal situation across all developmental areas and from a holistic position. This includes:
 - Discussion with the social support systems and structures of the athlete;
 - Preparation of a individual development plan for the athlete which is consistent with the findings from the coach's investigation.

Final selection is based on individual players receiving an exemption from Netball New Zealand. This is done on a case by case basis and the process is managed by the Northern Zone for the Northern Marvels and the Robinhood Northern Stars for the Northern Comets.

8. Squad numbers

Final NNL squad size is determined by the Netball New Zealand NNL competition rules. Historically, the competition rules have allowed for up to 16 athletes. Squads may include athletes who require an exemption from Netball New Zealand to play in the NNL. Northern Zone and Northern Stars will apply for exemptions on a case by case basis. If an exemption is not granted, the Head Coach of the squad affected can select another athlete from the pool of non-selected NNL trialists, from either Northern Marvels or Northern Comets.

9. Release criteria

A maximum of 20% of each squad (for this purpose based on the maximum number of athletes within the final squad as per the NNL competition rules) may come from releases. There are three grounds for release. The release referred to in 9.1 is made by the Head Coach of one of the ANZP Teams. The release referred to in 9.2 and 9.5 should be initiated by the athlete, and be made to the squad in the area they reside:

1. To occur before trials: A release is sought by the ANZP team for an athlete they want to recruit an ATP by asking them to sign a loyalty agreement, yet the athlete is not domiciled in the same Northern Zone area as that Team.
2. To occur before trials: A release is sought for logistical and location bound purposes which may be determined by the athlete's place of study or work regularly being attended.
3. To occur during trials where an athlete has not been selected for the final trial for their NNL squad.
 - a. The process shall be: Team managers of each NNL squad will share these athlete's names to the other team once these decisions are made, thus providing an opportunity to trial for the other team, if timing permits.
4. To occur after the final teams are selected: A release is sought because an athlete has trialed in their area and not been selected; and they perceive a playing opportunity in the other squad.
5. If either NNL squad wishes to include an athlete who has not trialed a Northern zone NNL squad, and the athlete is not domiciled in the same Northern zone area as that NNL squad, the NNL Head

Coach must first consult with the Northern zone NNL team in the area where the athlete is domiciled.

Releases will be considered in line with the NNL competition rules, in particular Rule 3.1, 3.3 and 3.4. See Appendix B for NNL eligibility Rules 2021.

10. Replacement athletes in either Northern Comets or Northern Marvels

The NNL Head Coaches will look at athletes who have trialled for either squad and have not been selected in the final squad. If an athlete is selected from this pool the squad selecting her will notify the other squad in advance and follow the rules stipulated in Rule 3.5 of the NNL competition rules. See Appendix B for NNL eligibility Rules 2021.

11. Disputes

- 11.1 In the event of any dispute arising between the parties which is related to the terms of this Contract, the parties shall negotiate in good faith, and failing that, if mutually agreeable, to mediate the dispute to endeavour to reach a settlement.

- 11.2 In the event that the dispute is not resolved by clause 11.1 within a reasonable period of time, the dispute shall be determined by arbitration under the Arbitration Act 1996 according to the substantive laws of New Zealand.

- 11.3 If clause 11.2 applies, each party shall meet their own costs, and there shall be one arbitrator who shall be appointed by mutual agreement between the parties, and failing that, appointed by the President of the Auckland District Law Society, and the decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on the parties.

Appendix A

Delineation of areas

Northern Comets	Northern Marvels
South of Manukau Harbour Inlet, Neilson St Onehunga, South Eastern Highway way, the Hauraki Gulf Inlet between East Tamaki, Howick and Bucklands Beach, with Glen Innes, Pt England and Glendowie resting to the North.	North of Manukau Harbour Inlet, Neilson St Onehunga, South Eastern Highway, the Hauraki Gulf Inlet between Glen Innes, Pt England and Glendowie, with East Tamaki, Howick and Bucklands Beach, with resting to the South.

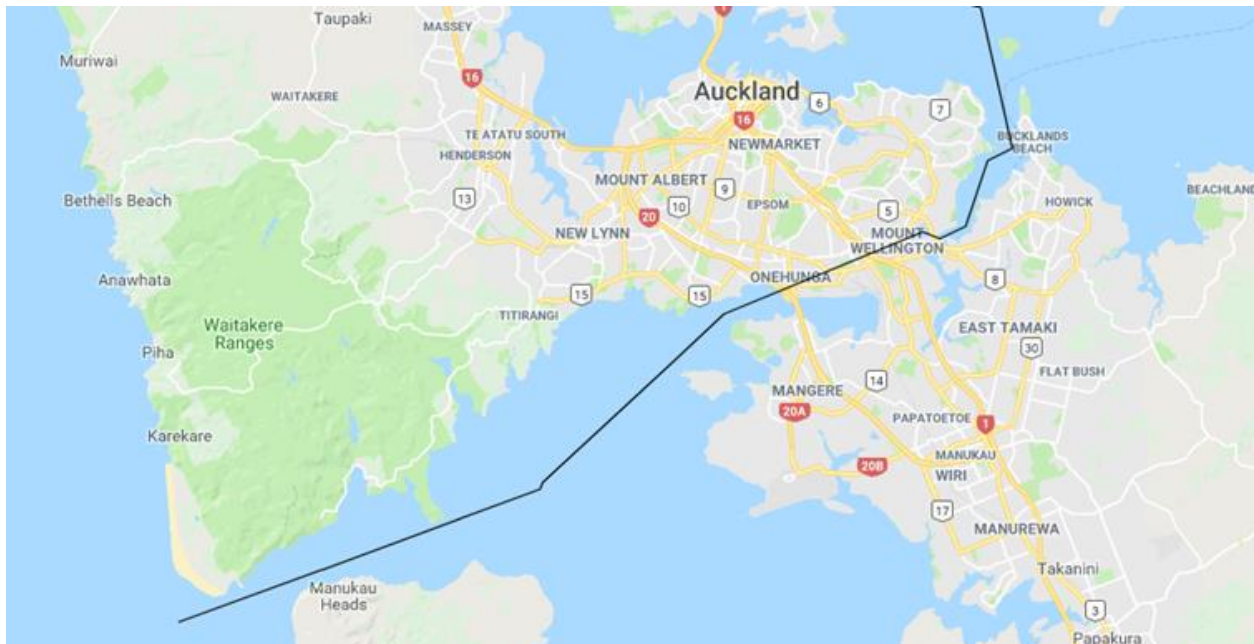


Figure 1 – Geographical delineation of the Northern Comets and Northern Marvels catchment areas

Appendix B

3. ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION

These Eligibility criteria form part of the Competition Rules and are fully enforceable by NNZ.

3.1 *Selection of Players to Teams*

3.1.1 The Eligibility Criteria have been developed to not only meet the objectives detailed in Rule 1.1 but to ensure that Zones/teams and Players clearly understand an individual's eligibility status for the NNL. This is so that each Team has the best opportunity to field a competitive team and each Player has the best development and competition opportunities. By confirming eligibility for Teams at an early stage, Zones/teams can invest in conditioning and other sports science programmes with the assurance that players are eligible for the NNL.

3.1.2 The Eligibility Criteria recognise that:

- (a) Players in New Zealand may move from one Zone to another Zone for reasons which may include but are not limited to; work, study, family or personal relationships.
- (b) Players' long-term development and playing opportunities are paramount and good management plans and programmes to support this are critical.

3.2 *Application of Eligibility Criteria*

These Eligibility Rules apply to all Teams, all Players and all Team Officials. Each Zone/team shall ensure that any player who is being considered for selection for a Team that it will field in the League, is given a copy of, or access to, the Competition Rules.

3.3 *Eligibility for Selection*

3.3.1 Subject to Rule 3.3.6 to be eligible for selection in any Team for any League Season, a player must:

- (a) be a member of Netball New Zealand in the twelve (12) months prior to the commencement of the National Netball League; and
- (b) be a member of the Zone of the NNL Team in the year of competition for that NNL Team; and
- (c) be resident in the Zone of the National Netball League Team for the duration of the NNL Competition; and
- (d) be eligible and available for selection as a NZ National Team Player for teams which may include but are not limited to; Under 21, NZ "A" and/or the Silver Ferns.

- (e) Players who are attending Secondary School in the year of competition are eligible for selection by a Zone for an NNL Team subject to receiving an exemption as per 3.3.6 and meeting the criteria in Appendix 5 of these rules. For the avoidance of doubt, a Secondary School player may not be selected until NNZ has confirmed that the criteria in Appendix 5 have been met and the exemption granted.
- 3.3.2 To be eligible for selection as a New Zealand National Team Player a player must meet the international eligibility rules as specified by the International Netball Federation (INF) and as outlined in NNZ policies.
- 3.3.3 A NNL team may have one NZ ineligible player that is either a NZ permanent resident or a NZ citizen.
- 3.3.4 Athlete eligibility status must be determined and provided to NNZ by a date nominated by NNZ.
- 3.3.5 An ANZ Premiership player that is on a Standard Player Agreement and eligible under the criteria in Rule 3.3.1 and Rule 3.5.1 (c) may play in the National Netball League for the Team that is owned or managed by the same Zone or Team as the ANZ Premiership team.
- 3.3.6 A player who is not on a Standard Player Agreement for the current ANZ Premiership season is eligible provided they meet the criteria in Rule 3.3.1 and have not played more than 36 quarters during the ANZ Championship from 2015-2016 and/or during the ANZ Premiership or other approved equivalent competition prior to the current National Netball League season.
- 3.3.7 Zones may apply to the National Netball League Eligibility Committee to grant an exemption for individual athletes as part of their Team as per the process outlined in Appendix 4 of these Rules.
 - (a) Exemptions may be applied for the full season, part season, or for individual matches. Reasons for exemption applications may include but are not limited to;
 - (i) Secondary School Player
 - (ii) Exceeded 36 quarters during the ANZ Championship from 2015-2016 and/or during the ANZ Premiership or other approved equivalent competition prior to the current National Netball League season.
 - (iii) NZ Citizen relocating to New Zealand or change of international eligibility.
- 3.3.8 In determining such exemption, the NNL Eligibility Committee shall take into consideration such matters as it considers appropriate, which may include but are not limited to:
 - (a) whether there are other players available who meet the criteria in Rule 3.3.1 and who could perform at a comparable and competitive level from within the Zone and/or NZ;
 - (b) whether the player will benefit positively through development, play or other opportunities;

- (c) the desire to develop Player and positional depth in the respective Zone or for NZ;
 - (d) whether approving an ineligible Player will enhance the strength of the Team making the application;
 - (e) whether approving an ineligible Player will enhance the League.
- 3.3.9** The decision of the National Netball League Eligibility Committee shall be final in granting Exemptions to the Eligibility criteria as set out in Rule 3.

3.4 *Selection Process – Zone National Netball League Squad*

- 3.4.1** For each year that a Zone is entitled to field a team in the League, the Zone must, by the date specified by NNZ provide in writing to NNZ as the Zone National Netball League Squad the names of up to sixteen (16) non-ANZ Premiership contracted players to play in the NNL.
- 3.4.2** Each Player must enter into a Standard Player Agreement with that Zone covering the relevant League Season prior to notification of that Player as a member of the Team to NNZ.
- 3.4.3** If a Zone is requesting an Exemption for player/s named in the Zone National Netball League Squad they must submit this request when the Zone NNL Squad is submitted.
- 3.4.4** Within 48 hours of receipt of the names of players, NNZ will circulate to all Zones the players notified in accordance with Rule 3.4.1, including any player/s for whom an exemption is being sought by the Zone.
- 3.4.5** Where an Exemption for a player is declined the Zone may submit a replacement player.
- 3.4.6** All players are subject to meeting the eligibility requirements and/or the approval of NNZ where required prior to playing in a National Netball League match.
- 3.4.7** Only the players named in this squad will be eligible to play in the NNL, except where replacement player rules are invoked.
- 3.4.8** At no time can the total number of players in the squad exceed the number that was registered.

3.5 *Match Team*

3.5.1 *Team Match List*

- (a) For each game Teams must submit the names of the ten (10) players for a game to the LOM no later than midday Friday prior to the game.
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt;
 - (i) All teams of 10 players must be named and notified to the LOM by midday Friday regardless of whether the match the Team is to play is on the Saturday, Sunday or Monday following.

- (c) A maximum of two ANZ Premiership contracted players may be named in the Team Match List for a National Netball League team for any game.

3.5.2 Playing Time Limit – National Netball League and ANZ Premiership

- (a) No player shall play more than ninety (90) minutes of cumulative playing time in the ANZ Premiership and/or the National Netball League in a 12 hour period.
- (b) Where there are games played on consecutive days players are permitted to play all of each game. For the avoidance of doubt, for example, where an NNL match is on Saturday and the ANZP match is on Sunday a player may play all of each game.
- (c) Teams may apply for a Replacement Player where a Player named in the Team Match List for a National Netball League game has exceeded the playing time as per Rule 3.5.2. (a).
- (d) Teams must apply in writing to the LOM and/or their nominee for a Replacement Player prior to the NNL game commencing.
- (e) The LOM and/or their nominee will notify the Team and all other relevant parties as soon as practicable once approval for a replacement player has been granted.
- (f) A Replacement Player must meet all Eligibility requirements as per Rule 3.4.

3.5.3 ANZ Premiership

- (a) A National Netball League Player may be named/contracted as a Temporary Replacement or Interim player by any New Zealand ANZ Premiership Team:
 - (i) subject to the rules of the ANZ Premiership; and
 - (ii) return to play for their original National Netball League team whether this is owned or not by the same Zone as the ANZ Premiership Team.
- (b) A National Netball League player may be contracted as a permanent replacement or commuted as a player for any New Zealand ANZ Premiership Team:
 - (i) subject to the rules of the ANZ Premiership; and
 - (ii) shall thereafter only be eligible to play for the National Netball League team owned by the same Zone/Team as the ANZ Premiership Team to whom they are contracted.

3.5.4 Replacement Players:

There are circumstances that may necessitate the Team applying for a Replacement Player.

- (a)** In applying for a replacement player, the Team must provide sufficient information for the LOM to assess properly an application for either a Permanent Replacement Player or Temporary Replacement Player for a Team. This may include but it not necessarily limited to:
- (i)** Written confirmation from the Player to be replaced or other interested parties that the grounds for replacement apply.
 - (ii)** The results of any medical examination that the Player to be replaced has undergone or is required by NNZ to undergo (such an examination to be at the Team's cost) and all other relevant medical or supporting certificates.
- (b)** Temporary Replacement Player
- Reasons for which a Team may apply for a Temporary Replacement Player include but are not limited to:
- (i)** In the event of injury and/or illness to a Player;
 - (ii)** Where a Player requires a release to fulfil her obligations as a NZ National team Player during the League Season;
 - (iii)** For other reason(s) acceptable to NNZ including but not limited to injury, bereavement, work commitments, illness of a dependent, or sitting an exam;
 - (iv)** Where a Player has exceeded the provision for playing time across the ANZ Premiership and/or the National Netball League within a 12 hour period [Ref: Rule 3.5.2]; and
 - (v)** Temporary Replacement Players must be applied for each Match on a round by round basis.
- (c)** Permanent Replacement Player
- Reasons for which a Team may apply for a Permanent Replacement Player include but are not limited to:
- (i)** The Player is no longer available to play for the Team due to serious injury, illness, bereavement, pregnancy, moving overseas or work commitments, or for other reason(s) acceptable to NNZ.
 - (ii)** Where a Player requires a release to fulfil her obligations as a NZ National team Player during the League Season;
- (d)** Process:
- (i)** Applications for a Replacement Player must be received in writing and/ or notified by phone to the LOM or their nominee no less than 12 hours before the scheduled start time of the relevant match. (exception - Rule 3.5.2)
 - (ii)** The LOM or their nominee will notify the outcome of the application to the Zone no less than 3 hours before the scheduled start time of the relevant Match.
 - (iii)** Subject to the proposed Replacement Player meeting the Eligibility Criteria; and

- (iv) Provided that NNZ reserves the right to investigate applications if necessary and appropriate, so that Zones are prevented from replacing Players for non-genuine or illegitimate reasons.
- (v) If a team has less than 10 players for a Match the team may apply for a Temporary Replacement Player between 12 hours and 3 hours before the scheduled Match start time. Teams must contact the LOM as soon as possible to allow the maximum time to consider an application.

3.5.5 Finals Series Qualification – For all Players

- (a) A Player will only be eligible to play in the Finals Series for a Team if that Player:
 - (i) Has been officially approved by and registered by NNZ as a member of that NNL team or aligned ANZP team; and
 - (ii) Has been named and taken the court for that Team in a minimum of 3 Round Robin matches in the same League Season.
- (b) A Zone may apply to NNZ for an exemption under Rule (ii) above for reasons including but not limited to Players becoming seriously ill or injured in the final three weeks of the preliminary rounds. An exemption may be granted at NNZ's complete discretion and will be final and binding.

3.5.6 Application of Eligibility Rules relating to replacement Players

- (a) The Eligibility Rules apply equally to the nomination of replacement players throughout the season.

3.5.7 Sanctions

- (a) Failure by a Zone, Official or Player to abide by the requirements in the Player Eligibility rules as above may lead to sanctioning as provided for under Rule 9.

3.6 Use of Agents

Where Zones use third parties or agents to approach or enter into agreements with Players, the Eligibility Criteria will still apply to the Zone. Where the Eligibility Criteria are intentionally or unintentionally breached or attempted to be breached, the Eligibility Criteria will still apply to the Zone concerned as if it has acted personally and directly. NNZ reserve the right to take any appropriate action as provided for in these Competition Rules and the Zone/Team Participation Agreement.