



NETBALL

COMPETITION RULEBOOK

This rulebook sets out the competition format and operating rules for the Netball Competition at the Maccabi Junior Games 2026. All players, parents/guardians, coaches and spectators are expected to familiarise themselves with these rules before the event.

1. COMPETITION & AGE CATEGORIES

- Netball is a girls' team competition.
- Age is determined by the age the player turns at any point during the 2026 calendar year.
- Players may only be registered to and play for one team within their designated age group.
- Players must play in their correct age group unless prior written approval is given by the Tournament Director.
- Guest or borrowed players are only permitted with Tournament Director approval in advance.

CATEGORY	AGES IN 2026
U12	10,11 & 12
U14	13 & 14
U16	15 & 16
U18	17 & 18

2. COURT, EQUIPMENT & PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

- Standard netball rules apply throughout, subject to these tournament-specific rules.
- Standard netball court markings and dimensions apply.
- Players must wear matching team colours/kit to help distinguish teams.
- Position bibs (GS, GA, WA, C, WD, GD, GK) will be provided by the tournament
- No jewellery may be worn during play.
- Non-marking court shoes are required.
- Squad size is 8 players.

- Seven players are on court at any one time.
- Rolling substitutions are permitted during play.
- A substitution can only occur once the outgoing player has left the court. The incoming player may then enter.
- The recommended time to make a quick substitution is immediately after a goal is scored.
- One adult per team is permitted on the sideline to coach and manage substitutions. This adult must remain off the court at all times.

3. MATCH FORMAT & LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- Match duration will be one way, 10–15 minutes. The final duration will be confirmed once entries are finalised.
- A minimum of 4 teams in a group is required for an age group to be viable.
- One group: the top 4 teams advance to semi-finals, followed by the final and 3rd place playoff.
- Semi-final 1: 1st vs 4th.
- Semi-final 2: 2nd vs 3rd.
- Two groups: the top 2 teams from each group advance to semi-finals, followed by the final and 3rd place playoff.
- Semi-final 1: 1st Group A vs 2nd Group B.
- Semi-final 2: 1st Group B vs 2nd Group A.
- More than 2 groups: quarter-finals may be introduced ahead of the semi-finals, depending on final entry numbers.
- A 3rd place playoff will be held between the two semi-final losers.
- The Tournament Director may make reasonable adjustments to the competition format based on final entry numbers and operational requirements.

4. LEAGUE POINTS, TIEBREAKERS & EXTRA TIME

POINTS SYSTEM: WIN = 3 | DRAW = 1 | LOSS = 0

- Where teams are level on points, ranking is determined in the following order:
 - Goal difference
 - Head-to-head result
 - Goals scored
 - Toss/coin flip
- In the semi-finals, final and 3rd place playoff, if scores are level at full time, 5 minutes of extra time will be played.
- Extra time is not sudden death.
- If scores remain level after extra time, sudden death follows.

5. SCHEDULING, LATE ARRIVAL & RESULTS

- Match length will be 10–15 minutes, with the exact duration set by the organisers based on the number of teams entered and confirmed before play begins.
- Turnaround between matches will be approximately 2–5 minutes from the final whistle of one game to the start of the next.
- Teams must be on court and ready at the scheduled start/whistle time.
- Teams are encouraged to arrive at their court at least 5 minutes before their scheduled start time to avoid forfeiture.
- Any team not on court when the game is started and the whistle is blown forfeits the match.
- A forfeit is recorded as a 5–0 loss.
- The Tournament Director has final discretion over forfeits where there are genuine extenuating circumstances.
- In the event of unsafe weather or court conditions, the Tournament Director may delay, shorten, reschedule or abandon matches.
- Any decision regarding abandoned or incomplete matches, including whether a match is replayed, the result stands or points are shared, rests with the Tournament Director.

6. COACHING, SPECTATORS, ELECTRONIC DEVICES & CONDUCT

- One adult per team is permitted on the sideline to coach and manage substitutions and must remain off the court at all times.
- Spectators and coaches must remain off the court and behind marked boundary lines at all times.
- A warning may be issued by the umpire for minor infringements or dissent and will be recorded against the player.
- A yellow card/temporary exclusion may result in a player being sent off court for a set period, such as 2 minutes. The team will play short during this time.
- A red card results in the player being sent off immediately for the remainder of the match. The team will play the remainder of the match a player short, with no replacement, and the player will receive a 1-match suspension for their team's next fixture.
- Improper substitution may result in a caution and/or time penalty at the umpire's discretion.
- Serious misconduct, including violent conduct or abuse of officials, may result in extended suspension or disqualification of a player or team from the event.
- Any coach or adult who interferes with play or is deemed by the umpire or organising committee to be unsettling a game through abuse, dissent or disruptive behaviour may be removed from the game and asked to leave the venue.
- Zero tolerance applies to abuse toward umpires, coaches, opposition players or spectators. Such behaviour may result in immediate dismissal from the event at the discretion of the organising committee.
- Umpire decisions are final on the day. Any formal dispute must be raised with the organising committee/Tournament Director and not with the umpire during play

7. PLAYER WELFARE, RESULTS & PROTESTS

- Any player who is bleeding or has an open wound must leave the court for treatment and may re-enter once safely dressed. A rolling substitution may cover this period.
- Player welfare and safety take priority over competition.
- Any formal protest regarding a match result or rule application must be submitted to the organising committee/Tournament Director in writing.
- Protests must not be raised with the umpire during or immediately after play.
- The Tournament Director's ruling on any protest is final.
- Any formal concern regarding eligibility, scheduling, discipline, safety or tournament administration should be referred to the Tournament Director.
- The Tournament Director may make reasonable operational adjustments where required for the fair and efficient running of the competition.

8. MEDALS & FINAL AUTHORITY

- Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded according to the final placings in each eligible age category under the approved competition structure.
- Final placings will be determined by the approved league and knockout format and applicable tiebreakers.
- All final decisions, including format adjustments based on entries, rest with the Tournament Director.
- The rules may be clarified or adjusted by the organising committee prior to the start of competition where required.
- Any changes will be communicated to all team managers before Round 1.
- The Tournament Director has final authority over scheduling, eligibility, competition format, discipline, weather and court conditions, and any matter not specifically covered by these rules.

