

CONSTITUTION / (HUISHOUEDELIJK REGLEMENT)

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 Netbal Nederland (NNL) operates as an informal association. The Association intends to pursue formal registration with the Chamber of Commerce and execute a formal notarial deed of incorporation at a future date determined by the Board.

1.2 The Association is committed to the Code of Good Sports Governance (*Code Goed Sportbestuur*) and the Strategic Plan 2032 for Dutch Sport.

Terms	Meanings
NNL	Netbal Nederland
Constitution	The Constitution of Netbal Nederland
Bylaws	The Bylaws of Netbal Nederland
The game/Netball	The game of Netball
WN	World Netball
EN	Europe Netball
Member	Member Club and/or Registered Participant and/or Independent Member of Netbal Nederland
Member Club	Affiliated club of Netherlands Netball as defined in Article 4.2 (i)
Registered Participant	Individual member of Netherlands Netball as defined in Article 4.2 (ii)
Independent Members	A member of Netbal Nederland as defined in Article 4.2 (iii)
The Board	The Chairperson, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, and other Functional Directors
The Bond Council	Oversight committee of NNL, formed through representatives of Member Clubs
Term of Membership	The term of Membership shall run from the date the player becomes a member until either their membership lapses or their membership is withdrawn.
Financial Year	The financial year runs from September 1 to August 31 to align with the sporting season.

2. NAME of the Organisation

2.1 The Organisation shall be called Netbal Nederland.

2.2 Current address: Catharina van Aragonlaan 2, 2135 VA Hoofddorp, The Netherlands.

2.3 The address may be changed if so decided by the Board.

2.4 Netbal Nederland shall be the sole governing body of netball in The Netherlands, recognized by World Netball, Europe Netball and NOC*NSF.



3. NNL's OBJECTIVES

To promote and encourage the development of the game of Netball in The Netherlands. To represent NNL at international levels (World Netball/Europe Netball) and to cooperate with national bodies, such as the NOC*NSF, in order to further the development and growth of netball.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Membership of NNL shall be open to any person interested in participating in Netball and to any:

- netball organisation in The Netherlands or Belgium or netball group in The Netherlands or Belgium, provided that:
 - They agree to conform to the Constitution and Bylaws of NNL
 - They are prepared to take a full and active part in the activities of NNL

4.2 There shall be three categories of members within NNL:

(i) MEMBER CLUBS

Affiliated clubs that promote netball, pay fees to NNL and have been admitted by the Board. Only Member Clubs hold voting rights in the General Assembly.

- Clubs may be registered with the Kamer van Koophandel (Kvk) and have their own internal statutes. Applications for club memberships are submitted to the Board.
- A rejected club may appeal to the Bond Council.

(ii) REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

Individual natural persons registered through a Member Club, including players, coaches, and umpires.

- All individual players, coaches, and umpires must be registered in the National Member Database.
- Every individual over the age of 18 must agree to the NOC*NSF Code of Conduct regarding sportsmanship and safety.

(iii) INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Natural persons directly affiliated with the Association without a club connection, including Life Members or Volunteers.

4.3 There can be no fewer than two (2) Member Clubs of NNL.

4.4 All club coordinators will maintain an up-to-date register of all their members' information on a secure Google worksheet, which adheres to GDPR (AVG) guidelines as stated in article 19, in collaboration with the Treasurer.

4.5 Admission of new Member Clubs is decided by the Board. Rejected applicants may appeal to the Bond Council.

5. MEMBERS' RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

5.1 An annual fee shall be paid by all Registered Participants to the Member Club where they play according to



the tariff stipulated by the club which may be updated from time to time. Without detracting from the above, the Bond Council, at its discretion, may determine a standard yearly fee for all the clubs.

5.2 Registered Participants and Independent members participating in competitions/activities organised by NNL shall also pay any additional fees relating to the particular competition/activity.

5.3 All fees shall be recommended by the Board and approved by the Bond Council.

5.4 The financial accounts of NNL shall be made up to the end of the financial year.

5.5 Membership of NNL will be terminated by the death of a Member, or if NNL is disbanded.

6. Organs of NNL

The organs of NNL shall be:

- (i) The Board (Bondsbestuur)
- (ii) The Bond Council (Bondsraad)
- (iii) Examining committee (Tuchtscommissie & Landelijke Financiële Commissie)

In addition to the above, working groups and committees focusing on specific topics within NNL can be established by the board according to the needs of the organisation.

7. Annual General Meeting

7.1 An Annual General Meeting (AGM) of NNL shall be held every year.

7.2 A legal quorum at the AGM shall be at least half of the Council members who are Registered Participants and represent a Member Club (Bond Council). If the Annual General Meeting is assembled but there is no legal quorum, the meeting shall be postponed by 14 days at the same time.

7.3 An Extraordinary AGM may be called at any time during the year by the Chairperson.

7.4 All Members shall be given at least fourteen (14) days' notice by email of a AGM.

7.5 The Agenda for the AGM shall be decided by the Board.

7.6 Club Members and The Council members may propose resolutions, including amendments to the Constitution, for the consideration of the Annual General Meetings. Notice of such resolutions/amendments shall be given in writing and must reach the General Secretary no later than ten (10) days before the Annual General Meeting. A copy of these amendments shall be circulated to the Club Coordinators who may distribute it to all full members at least five (5) days before the Annual General Meeting.

7.7 The Notice convening an Extraordinary General Meeting shall clearly state the purpose of calling such a meeting. No other business, except that stated in the Notice, shall be considered during the Extraordinary General Meeting.

7.8 The Chairperson of NNL shall preside at all General Meetings. In their absence the General Secretary, or the Treasurer or a Member of the Board shall act as President.

7.9 All decisions other than amendments to the Constitution shall be decided by a simple majority vote.

7.10 In the event of a tie, the motion is either rejected or moved to the following meeting.

7.11 Approval by two thirds (2/3) of the Bond Council members present at an AGM is required for any



amendments to the Constitution.

7.12 The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of such notice by, any person entitled to receive notice thereof, shall not invalidate any resolution passed or proceeding held at any General Meeting.

7.13 Notwithstanding the above, a vote may be made by submitting a power of attorney to the Chairperson of NNL at least 24 hours prior to the Annual General Meeting.

8. The Board and the Bond Council

8.1.1 The Board (Bondsbestuur) of NNL consists of a minimum of three (3) Directors:

- The Chairperson
- The General Secretary
- The Treasurer

Other Directors could include but are not limited to:

- The Technical Director
- The Operational Director
- The Commercial and Communications Director

The Association is managed by a Board consisting of a Chairperson, General Secretary, Treasurer, and other functional directors. The Board represents the Association in all legal matters and is responsible for the overseeing governance and daily operations of the Association. The day-to-day executive management, financial administration, organization of competitions, administration of national performance pathways, and training compliance are the exclusive responsibility of the Board (*Bondsbestuur*).

In accordance with Article 2:45 of the Dutch Civil Code, the Association is legally represented in all external judicial and extrajudicial matters by the Board. Contractual agreements and legal documents must be signed jointly by at least two (2) authorized officers of the Board (normally the Chairperson acting jointly with either the General Secretary or the Treasurer).

8.1.2 Any Registered Participant of NNL may be nominated for election by any Member Club, Council or Board Member and seconded by another Member Club, Council or Board Member. Written notice of such nomination, stating the name and address of the nominee and of the proposer and seconder, together with the nominee's consent in writing, must reach the *General Secretary* at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

8.1.3 In the event that no nominations are received for one or more offices, within the stipulated time, nominations may be made by a Member Club, Council or Board member and seconded by another during the Annual General Meeting.

8.1.4 If during the same Annual General Meeting the number of nominations remains less than the number of vacant posts, then the Board will be composed of those elected persons on condition that the number is not less than three (3). However, the Board so elected will endeavour to appoint suitable persons to fill the remaining vacant posts within a reasonable time.

8.1.5 Should any vacancy arise in respect of any office during the year, the Bond Council (Bondsraad) or General Assembly should officially appoint all interim directors, or the Board may nominate an interim director who must be formally ratified by the Council within a set period.

8.1.6 If the members of the Board shall, at any time, be reduced in number to less than the number prescribed by or in accordance with this Constitution it shall be lawful for them to act as the Board solely for the purpose of summoning an Extraordinary General Meeting to appoint a new Board.



8.1.7 All the members of the Board shall have voting powers during Board meetings. In case of an equality of votes, the motion is either rejected or carried to the next meeting.

8.1.8 Board members can serve 3-year terms, with a maximum of two re-elections (9 years total).

8.2 The Bond Council

8.2.1 The Bond Council is the highest democratic oversight body of the Association, representing the collective interest of the Member Clubs. The Council responsibilities are listed in article 8.14.

8.2.2 Each Member Club may have two representatives attend Council meetings and cast votes on behalf of their club. Only ONE vote is allowed per Member Club.

8.2.3 Committees: The Council may appoint internal advisory committees to assist with oversight. The Board remains responsible for appointing operational committees (e.g., Umpiring, Coaching, League) required to manage daily operations.

8.2.4 Each Member Club shall have voting power during Council meetings. In case of an equality of votes, the proposed motion is rejected.

8.2.5 All matters at Council meetings shall be decided by a simple majority of votes, except for amendments to the Constitution of the dissolution of the association, which require a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority.

8.2.6 The quorum necessary for the transaction of business at Council meetings shall be at least half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the Member Clubs entitled to vote.

8.2.7 If a scheduled meeting lacks a legal quorum, the meeting shall be dissolved. A second meeting shall be convened within fourteen (14) days with the same agenda. This second meeting shall have the legal capacity to transact business and pass valid resolutions regardless of the number of voting members present. Urgent decisions may not be pushed through without a quorum.

8.2.8 To ensure the smooth running of NNL, the Council shall meet at least four times a year either at face-to-face meetings or via secure digital video-conferencing software.

8.2.9 It shall be within the powers and responsibilities of the Council:

i) To approve the long-term sport policy, financial strategy, and macro-development goals of NNL as proposed by the Executive Board;

ii) To implement the policy of NNL as decided by the General Meeting;

iii) To review, verify, and approve the annual budget and annual financial balance sheets;

iv) To elect, appoint, suspend, or dismiss members of the Board;

vi) To approve amendments or additions to the general internal regulations (*Constitution/Huishoudelijk Reglement*) of NNL.

vii) To decide in case of any difficulty regarding the interpretation of NNL's Constitution, Bylaws and Regulations;



9. FINANCIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE (KASCOMMISSIE)

- 9.1 There shall be a Financial Audit Committee (*Kascommissie*), who are appointed annually by the Bond Council / General Meeting.
- 9.2 Members of the Financial Audit Committee must be entirely independent. Board members (*Bondsbestuur*), Bond Council members (*Bondsraad*), and employees of NNL, or anyone serving on an institutional organ subject to the committee's audit, are strictly barred from joining the Financial Audit Committee.
- 9.3 The Financial Audit Committee will examine all NNL's annual financial matters, balance sheets, and ledgers. It will present a written report to the Annual General Meeting.
- 9.4 This committee will be composed of members with an accounting, financial background or relevant analytical background..

10. DISCIPLINARY, SAFEGUARDING AND INTEGRITY

- 10.1 All Members, Registered Participants, and Independent Members are bound by the Constitution, Bylaws, policies, and codes of conduct of NNL, including the formal NOC*NSF Codes of Conduct regarding sportsmanship, integrity, and safety.
- 10.2 Disciplinary, safeguarding, integrity, and dispute-resolution procedures shall be regulated in separate policies approved by the Bond Council. To ensure a socially safe sports environment, NNL adopts the reporting and investigation protocols mandated by the NOC*NSF. NNL shall appoint an independent Confidential Counsellor (*Vertrouwenscontactpersoon* - VCP) as a primary point of contact for integrity issues.
- 10.3 Sanctions, including warnings, suspensions, fines, or termination of membership, may only be imposed following a fair hearing by an independent Disciplinary Committee (*Tuchtcommissie*). For matters concerning sexual harassment, doping, match-fixing, or sexual intimidation, NNL explicitly delegates disciplinary jurisdiction to the Institute for Sports Justice (*Instituut Sportrechtspraak* - ISR).
- 10.4 Appeal procedures shall be governed by the applicable disciplinary or dispute-resolution policy. Appeals against decisions made by the internal Disciplinary Committee shall be handled by an independent Appeals Committee (*Commissie van Beroep*), whose decision shall be binding, without prejudice to cases under the direct jurisdiction of the ISR.

11. ACTIVITIES OF NNL

- 11.1 NNL shall act to promote its objectives and in addition:
- 11.2 NNL shall be recognised by all its members as the only body in The Netherlands which has the sole right to organise the game of Netball at National and International level. NNL has the right of representation and responsibility both at National and International events and competitions.
- 11.3 NNL shall adopt and enforce the rules of the game of Netball as set out by the WN and enforce Bylaws and Regulations within the WN rules.
- 11.4 NNL shall promote the ideals of true sport, fair play, and a socially safe sporting environment amongst its members. NNL actively promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion, and strictly prohibits any form of discrimination, harassment, or abuse within netball competitions and clubs under its jurisdiction, in



accordance with the NOC*NSF guidelines.

11.5 NNL shall organise, administer, control and exercise discipline over the game of Netball in The Netherlands. Severe disciplinary matters, including violations of code of conduct, safety breaches, or integrity issues, shall be handled by an independent disciplinary committee or referred to the Institute for Sports Justice (Instituut Sportrechtspraak - ISR).

11.6 As an informal association, NNL shall maintain affiliation with the NOC*NSF and ensure continuous compliance with the Code of Good Sport Governance (*Code Goed Sportbestuur*). Representation shall be sought on any external committee, council, or sports body deemed beneficial to the development of Netball.

11.7 NNL shall appoint at least one independent Confidential Counsellor (*Vertrouwenscontactpersoon - VCP*) accessible to all members, and mandates that all affiliated clubs implement safeguarding protocols.

11.8 NNL shall consider and decide on all matters relating to the game of Netball in The Netherlands.

12. PUBLICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND MEDIA

12.1 All correspondence including notices of meetings, circulars etc. shall be sent to all members via digital correspondence.

12.2 Members shall act responsibly in public communications and shall not knowingly damage the reputation or interests of NNL or its Members. Detailed media and communications requirements may be regulated through separate policies.

12.3 Full Members must send a copy of any formal official publication they produce (or that is produced on their behalf) to the General Secretary of NNL within 15 days after it is published. This only includes: an annual report, a policy document or an official press release.

13. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) AND COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

13.1 Netbal Nederland owns all exclusive commercial rights, logos, media rights, and broadcasting rights for national tournaments and national team apparel.

14. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

14.1 Members shall make reasonable efforts to resolve disputes through the internal procedures of NNL before initiating external legal proceedings. For matters concerning disciplinary actions, safeguarding breaches, or integrity violations, members shall utilize the jurisdiction of NNL's independent committees or the Instituut Sportrechtspraak (ISR) [10.3].

14.2 Any legal disputes, proceedings, or institutional matters relating to NNL that cannot be resolved through internal or sports arbitration channels shall be governed exclusively by Dutch law and submitted to the competent civil court in the Netherlands.

14.3 Nothing in this article shall be interpreted as restricting or denying a member's fundamental right to seek urgent injunctive relief or file criminal reports with Dutch authorities.



15 INDEMNITY

- 15.1 No act, matter or thing done by the General Meeting, the Board, Bond Council, Examining Committee or persons acting under the power delegated to them by the General Meeting or Bond Council, shall be deemed to be invalidated by reason only of any inadvertent irregularity in appointment.
- 15.2 Officers and members of the Bond Council or persons acting under the powers delegated to them by the General Meeting or Bond Council, shall be indemnified by NNL against all costs and losses for which they may become liable by reason of any action or thing done in the discharge of any duty performed.

16. USE OF OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE

- 16.1 Standards relating to respectful communication, offensive language, harassment, social media conduct and behavioural expectations shall be governed through the NNL Code of Conduct and Integrity Policies.

17 DISSOLUTION

- 17.1 NNL shall only be dissolved by an Extraordinary General Meeting during which the motion for dissolution must have been approved by two thirds (2/3) of the voting members present. Dissolution of NNL shall be carried out in accordance with the law.
- 17.2 Any surplus financial assets, equipment, or properties remaining after all debts and liabilities have been completely settled shall not be distributed among the members. Instead, all remaining assets must be transferred to a registered Dutch non-profit organisation with an *ANBI* (public benefit) status that shares a similar sporting, charitable, or youth development objective.

18. DISPUTES AND MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

- 18.1 If any dispute shall arise on the interpretation of this Constitution or Bylaws or Regulations of NNL, or the need arises to deal with any matter not provided for in the Constitution, Bylaws or Regulations, the Bond Council shall have the power to resolve the dispute or provide for the matter. The Bond Council's decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

19 NETBALL EUROPE

- 19.1 All members of Netbal Nederland are required to adopt and adhere to the policies, rules, and regulations set forth in the Netball Europe Constitution. In cases where there is a conflict between Netbal Nederland policies and those of Netball Europe, the policies of Netball Europe shall take precedence, unless otherwise determined by the Netbal Nederland Bond Council.

20. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR / AVG) COMPLIANCE

- 20.1 Netbal Nederland shall collect, process, store, and manage all personal data pertaining to Registered Participants, Member Clubs, and Independent Members strictly in accordance with the Dutch *Algemene Verordening Gegevensbescherming* (AVG)
- 20.2 Personal data stored by NNL shall be used solely for the administration, organization, and development of netball in the Netherlands. Personal data shall never be sold, leased, or shared with external third-party commercial entities without the explicit, written, opt-in consent of the individual member (or their legal guardian if under the age of 18).

