

# Hamilton City Netball Centre Uniform Policy

Hamilton City Netball Centre is committed to supporting Netball uniforms that adhere to the official World Netball Rules of Netball as well as those that promote safety, inclusivity, practicality, and affordability.

This policy is intended to encourage participation by removing overly strict/historic uniform barriers whilst balancing safety and other important factors mentioned below.

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### 1) General

- a) **This policy is intended for all those who participate in netball competitions offered at the Hamilton City Netball Centre including players and umpires.**
- b) It is recognised that Clubs and Schools may have their own uniform policies and guidelines which members must adhere to.
- c) When representing Hamilton City Netball Centre all players, umpires, coaches and managers must adhere to the relevant Uniform Rules and Apparel Branding Rules & Guidelines as outlined from the Netball NZ and/or specific event competition rules.
- d) For the purposes of this document, we have included playing uniform as well as additional clothing items that might be worn whilst playing Netball (e.g., jewellery, leggings, medical devices) when discussing ‘uniform’.
- e) If there are disputes on uniform or items within the policy that are ambiguous, decisions will be made by HCNC Events team and will be made in the best interest of the competitions and for the safety of all.

## 2) World Netball Rules of Netball (2020)

- a) The World Netball Rules of Netball (2020) relating to uniform will be followed where not stated in this policy.

Overview	Position
Footwear	Suitable sports footwear must be worn (5.1.1 (i)(a))
Playing positions	Playing position initials 15cm high must be clearly visible and worn above the waist, front and back. (5.1.1(i)(b))
Extra items	Players may not wear anything that could endanger themselves or other players (5.1.1(iv)). For example, zips, hoods or large hair clips.
Adornment/ jewellery	No adornment or jewellery may be worn other than a wedding ring which shall be securely covered with tape. (5.1.1(iv)(a)).
	A medical alert bracelet may be worn provided it is covered with tape (5.1.1(iv)(b)).
Fingernails	Fingernails must be short and smooth (5.1.1(iv)(c)).
Hair	Hair should be suitably tied back (5.1.1(iv)(d)).

## 3) Uniform Options – Players and Umpires

- a) All teams must be recognisable as a team based on their uniform.
- b) Umpires must be distinguishable from the teams.
- c) All players in a team must wear matching bibs.
- d) A new club, school, or team must submit colour image of their proposed uniform and bib for approval and registration. Once registered, no other team can wear the same uniform.
- e) Teams wishing to purchase new uniforms must receive approval from HCNC Event team prior to purchasing uniforms.
- f) Uniforms must be 'appropriate'. As this is difficult to define, the intent is to prevent teams and umpires wearing uniforms that could be considered offensive or inappropriate. The HCNC Events team will have the final decision on what is deemed 'appropriate'.
- g)



*All teams must be recognisable as a team based on their uniform*

		
<p><i>Juniors (futureFERNS) are not required to have a uniform</i></p>	<p><i>Leggings and thermals can be worn under uniform</i></p>	<p><i>School PE uniform is an option for teams</i></p>

<b>Overview</b>	<b>Position</b>
<p>Uniform – Players and Umpires</p>	<p>Uniforms may consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Dress, skirt, skorts or shorts with a club polo, t-shirt or playing singlet,</li> <li>b) Long sleeve top and/or long leggings,</li> <li>c) Umpires uniforms should differentiate them from the team’s playing uniform (5.2(i)(a)).</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: The Word Netball Rules of Netball do not require the umpires uniform to be white or for both umpires to be in the same uniform.</i></p>
<p>Uniform options</p>	<p>Uniform providers can offer options within their uniform to players and umpires.</p> <p>All the uniform options should result in players of the same team being easily recognised as belonging to the same team. E.g., if some players wear shorts/top combination and others a dress, they should still be easily recognisable as the same team/club by colour and design.</p>
<p>Additional clothing</p>	<p>Players and umpires may wear in addition to their uniform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. sports briefs or bike shorts</li> <li>b. compression wear</li> <li>c. polypropylene/thermals</li> <li>d. gloves</li> <li>e. leggings</li> <li>f. Socks of any colour.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: in general, within a team, it is preferable that these items are the same colour.</i></p>

#### 4) Safety, Inclusivity and Comfort

- a) Players may not wear anything that could endanger themselves or other players.
- b) The onus is on the player to ensure that they meet the requirements of the uniform and additional clothing before taking the court.

Overview	Position
Religious or cultural	Items may be worn for religious or cultural reasons e.g., hijab.  If items are unable to be removed e.g., a kara or taonga, they should be securely taped.
Medical- general	Items may be worn for medical reasons. These are worn at the risk of the participant/player.  If items are unable to be removed e.g., medic alert bracelet or daith piercing, they should be securely taped.
Medical- diabetes	Players and umpires may wear Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) devices, if the CGM device is covered or taped. These are worn at the risk of the participant/player. It is the responsibility of the person wearing the device to ensure it does not pose a risk to any other person on court.
Medical- glasses	Players and umpires may wear prescription glasses. These are worn at the risk of the participant/player. Contact lenses are <i>preferable</i> though it is noted this is not always possible.
Medical- hearing aids	Players and umpires may wear hearing aids. These are worn at the risk of the participant/player.
Fitbits	Players may <b>NOT</b> wear fitbits, watches or sports watches worn on the wrist.
Gender	Gender identity should not determine the uniform worn by players and umpires. Prescribed uniforms e.g., for men/boys and women/girls are not required. We encourage options and choice for all acknowledging there are more than two genders.
Climate	These items are considered low-risk and can be worn: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Sports caps/hats</li> <li>b) Beanies</li> <li>c) Thermal or polypropylene worn under uniform</li> </ol> These items are considered higher-risk and can NOT be worn: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Scarves</li> <li>b) Players may not wear raincoats, however Juniors (futureFERNs) can wear those without a zip and hood if the playing position/bib is still clearly visible.</li> </ol> <p><i>Note: within a team, it is preferable that this is the same colour.</i></p>

## 5) Affordability

Overview	Position
P.E. Uniform	<p>A pre-existing sports uniform could be used assuming it is safe, inclusive and practical. <i>E.g., school P.E. uniform can be the playing uniform.</i></p> <p>futureFERNS could wear school hoodies (if required) though the hoods must be tucked under so they are not a safety issue and a bib worn over the top.</p>
Uniform Suppliers	Team uniforms do not need to be purchased from recognised uniform suppliers. Uniforms could be purchased from large retail stores.

## 6) Juniors - futureFERNS

Overview	Position
Juniors - futureFERNS	<p>Juniors (futureFERNS Year 1 to Year 6) do not require a playing uniform. This is to encourage participation and minimise playing barriers.</p> <p>Playing bibs are enough at this level to distinguish between teams.</p> <p>Clothing worn by Junior teams can take into consideration the weather and comfort of the players e.g., wearing thermals, beanies, sunhats, raincoat without zips or buttons and with hoodie tucked inside. Safety must still be the priority.</p>

## 7) Dispensation

- a) Dispensations will be considered on a case-by-case basis where safety may be a consideration. For clarity, a table is included as to what would require a dispensation and what would not.
- b) Dispensation requests should be in writing to the HCNC Events team at [admin@netballhamilton.org.nz](mailto:admin@netballhamilton.org.nz)
- c) Dispensations that are granted will receive a letter from the HCNC Events team. Either the player or team manager should carry a copy of this letter and produce this letter if queried by umpires or other officials.

<b>Items requiring or not requiring Centre dispensation</b>	<b>Does this require Centre dispensation?</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Beanie	No	Low-risk item
Cultural necklace, cultural bracelet including a wedding ring/band or similar.	No	For safety we encourage these to be removed whilst playing. If they cannot be removed, they should be securely and entirely taped. The umpire should check this before the game and can require further taping.
Diabetes monitoring device	No	This should be securely and entirely taped. The umpire should check this before the game.
Prescription/ reading glasses	No	These are worn at the player's own risk.
Gloves	No	Gloves are NOT to be worn instead of having short and smooth fingernails. The umpire should still check a player's fingernails before the game. The gloves must be securely taped on with no zips, buttons or fasteners exposed.
Hijab	No	Securely fastened this can be worn.
Medic alert bracelet	No	This should be securely and entirely taped. The umpire should check this before the game and can require further taping.
Sports Sunglasses	Yes	Dispensation must be gained from the HCNC Events team before they are able to be worn. These are worn at the player's own risk.
Sports cap/ hat	No	Low-risk item
Thermals/ polypropylene	No	Can be worn under playing uniform.
Other item not stated	Yes	Any item not stated in this policy should have a dispensation applied for.