

Netball

Guideline review date: 28 October 2021

This guideline is provided to support schools in implementing the [managing risks in school curriculum activities procedure](#) [External link](#).

The [CARA planner \(DOCX, 600KB\)](#) [External link](#) must be used for the specific school context in conjunction with this guideline considering additional risks, hazards and controls and including environmental, facility, equipment and student considerations.

For activities beyond the scope of this guideline, complete a CARA record using the [CARA generic template \(DOCX, 488KB\)](#) [External link](#).

Activity scope

This guideline relates to student participation in netball as an activity to support curriculum delivery.

For activities conducted at a non-Department of Education venue, and/or when engaging external expertise, request written risk assessment advice and attach it to this CARA record.

For activities conducted off-site, schools must comply with the [school excursions procedure](#) [External link](#).

For activities conducted as part of representative school sport programs, schools should consult with [Queensland School Sport](#) [External link](#).

Medium risk

Netball activities involving regulation equipment.

Activity requirements

If any requirement cannot be met, the activity must not occur.

If any other safety recommendation cannot be met, modify the activity (or elements of it) and/or identify and use the [hierarchy of controls](#) to implement alternative control measures to meet or exceed the minimum safety standard.

Competition rules and procedures with additional or more stringent safety requirements must take precedence.

[Collapse all](#)[Expand all](#)

Students

Schools must consider age, maturity and skill level of students when planning curriculum activities.

Adjustments are required for [students with disability](#) to support access and participation in the curriculum.

Consult with the parents/carers of students with disability, or when appropriate the student, to ensure risks related to their child's participation in the activity are identified and managed.

Schools must consult current student medical information and/or health plans in accordance with the [managing students' health support needs at school procedure](#) [External link](#). Record information about any student condition (e.g. physical or medical) that may inhibit safe engagement in the activity and include specific support measures within emergency procedures.

Emergency and first-aid

Emergency plans and injury management procedures must be established for foreseeable incidents (e.g. evacuation, injury).

Adult supervisors must have:

- emergency contact details of all participants
- a medical alert list and a process for administering student medication

- communication equipment suitable to conditions (e.g. mobile phone) and a process for obtaining external assistance and/or receiving emergency advice.

Safety procedures must be determined for the location (e.g. identifying hazards, location of first aid support and equipment).

Access is required to [first aid equipment \(DOCX, 479KB\)](#) and consumables suitable for foreseeable incidents.

An adult with current emergency qualifications is required to be quickly accessible to the activity area.

Emergency qualifications include:

- [HLTAID009 External link](#) Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent
- [HLTAID011 External link](#) Provide first aid or [SISSS00118—Sports trainer level 1 External link](#) or equivalent

An adult with concussion management knowledge or training is recommended. Consult [first aid—managing head injuries \(DOCX, 565KB\)](#).

Induction and instruction

Induction is required for all adult supervisors on emergency procedures, safety procedures and correct techniques. If the activity is conducted at an off-site facility, induction is to be informed by advice provided in consultation with expertise at the venue.

Instruction is required for students on safety procedures (e.g. accessing first aid support) and correct techniques (e.g. safe play).

Consent

[Parent consent \(DOCX, 306KB\) External link](#) is required for all activities conducted off-site.

Supervision

Principals make final supervision decisions for the activity. Sufficient adult supervision must be provided to manage the activity safely (including emergency situations).

The number of adult supervisors required to fulfil emergency and supervision roles must consider the nature of the activity, students' ages, abilities and specialised learning, access and/or health needs.

Before the activity, all adult supervisors:

- must be familiar with the contents of the CARA record
- must assess [weather conditions External link](#) prior to undertaking the activity, inspecting the intended location in order to identify variable risks, hazards and potential dangers.

During the activity, all adult supervisors:

- must be readily identifiable
- must closely monitor students with health support needs
- must comply with control measures from the CARA record and adapt as hazards arise
- must suspend the activity if the conditions become unfavourable (e.g. extreme temperatures, thunderstorms).

Supervisor qualifications

Principals make final decisions in determining supervisor capability (competence, relevance and currency) and are responsible for encouraging and enabling school-based activity supervisors to raise their qualifications to improve safety standards.

All adult supervisors must comply with the [working with children authority—blue cards procedure External link](#) and be able to identify, and respond to, risks or hazards that may emerge during the activity. A registered teacher **must** be appointed to maintain overall responsibility for the activity.

At least 1 adult supervisor is required to be:

Medium risk level

- a registered teacher with competence (knowledge and skills) in teaching netball; or
- an adult supervisor, working under the direct supervision of a registered teacher, with Foundation Coach accreditation from [Netball Queensland External link](#) or similar.

Facilities and equipment

The qualified adult supervisor of the activity, in consultation with the principal, determines the requirements for facilities and equipment appropriate to the local context.

Location must be suitable for the activity being undertaken, including sufficient space, adequate lighting and ventilation to ensure safe participation and that safety rules and procedures can be followed.

Participants must wear [personal protective equipment](#) appropriate to the activity (e.g. enclosed footwear).

Fit-for-purpose, full length post padding made from impact absorbing foam.

Portable goal posts, if used, fitted securely into sleeves.

Fit-for-purpose netballs appropriate to the age of the participants (e.g. 9 years and under = size 4, 10 years and over = size 5).

Common hazards and controls

Further to those listed, include any additional hazards and control measures considering the local context of the activity.

Environmental hazards	Control measures
Biological hazards Body fluids (e.g. blood, saliva, sweat)	Manage bodily substances (e.g. blood) and open wounds before, during and after the activity. Consult infection control guidelines (PDF, 630KB) and Queensland Health's exclusion periods for infectious conditions poster (PDF, 1.5MB) External link for hygienic practices and first aid. Follow appropriate cleaning and hygiene management practices when using shared equipment (Departmental staff search "cleaning advice for shared equipment" in OnePortal).
Environmental conditions Weather, sun, humidity	The school's sun safety strategy must be followed if participating outside. Hats worn on court should be soft-brim and not inhibition vision. Assess weather (Bureau of Meteorology External link) and environmental conditions prior to participating outside. Follow the managing excessive heat in schools guidelines when participating in very hot or extreme heat conditions.

	Ensure drink breaks occur regularly. Make water available for individual participants between drink breaks.
Facilities and equipment hazards	Control measures
Boundary clearance	<p>Establish a 3.05 metre safety zone around the playing area. If this cannot be achieved, consider ways of reducing risks (e.g. reducing the field size, padding the obstacle).</p> <p>Ensure there are no sharp or rough edges (e.g. portable signage) facing the field of play.</p>
Chemicals	Lines are marked on grass in accordance with the line marking of sports fields fact sheet (PDF, 394KB).
Faulty or dangerous equipment	<p>Check all goal posts have rounded edges and are fixed securely.</p> <p>Check all rings and nets are fixed securely.</p> <p>Use markers made from non-injurious material (e.g. cardboard, foam).</p> <p>Check equipment for damage before and during the activity.</p> <p>Check footwear before each match to ensure they provide sufficient protection for the feet. Look for non-slip soles, no buckles or zips and no sharp-edged soles.</p>
Playing surface	<p>Conduct a field check to identify and manage surface hazards. Clear the playing surface from loose items or debris. Do not participate on a surface that is slippery, unduly rough or chopped up.</p> <p>Cover/fill playing surface hazards (e.g. sprinkler heads, post holes) to be level with the surrounds.</p>
Stray balls	Implement protocols to manage stray balls (e.g. pause gameplay, wait for break in play for retrieval).
Student considerations	Control measures
Physical contact Breaks/sprains, cuts/abrasions/grazes, concussion, accidental bumping	<p>Enforce rules to prevent rough play. Consult Play by the Rules External link (conduct and behaviour resources).</p> <p>Manage injuries according to established procedures. If in doubt, do not allow students to return to play after injury until medically cleared.</p>

Physical exertion Exhaustion and fatigue	Conduct warm-up/cool-down External link activities. Continually monitor participants for signs of fatigue and exhaustion.
Student issues	Remove accessories (e.g. jewellery, lanyards) before participating. Ensure fingernails, hair and clothing (e.g. pockets, bibs, shoelaces) do not interfere with the activity.

Additional links

- [International Netball Federation—Rules of Netball](#) [External link](#)
- [Netball Queensland](#) [External link](#)
- [Sports Medicine Australia fact sheets](#) [External link](#)

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