

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE NETBALL ASSOCIATION INC.**

**MINUTES – DELEGATES MEETING**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>Wednesday, 24 September 2025</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>7.35 pm</b>
<b>VENUE:</b>	<b>Tradies Gymea</b>
<b>ATTENDEES:</b>	<b>As per sign on sheet</b>
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>Emma Paterson – BRNC Jenny Rees – Executive Judy Lamb - St Pats Kim Scott – Executive Di Ward-Executive Ashleigh Barnes- Executive Anne Heptinstall- Executive Nicole Sholbrok- Gymea Dianna Lovell - Comets Nicole Jorgensen-Flames Julian Finch- Connells Point Maureen Finch-Connells Point</b>
<b>RECORDER:</b>	<b>Christine Magri</b>

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**MOVED:      Eagles  
SECONDED: Sylvania**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**CORRESPONDENCE IN:**

1. Various – requests for insurance forms
2. Various – rep trial enquiries
3. Various – Club requests for letters of support for grant Applications
4. Various – requests re finals
5. Various – enquiries re Summer/Spring Comp

6. Gymea – request for accessible Court for wheelchair user
7. Various – requests for Club contacts to be put on new website
8. Various – queries re: ladders
9. Various – wet weather queries

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE IN:**

**Nil**

**CORRESPONDENCE IN BE RECEIVED:**

**MOVED: Debbie**  
**SECONDED: Robin Walker**

**CORRESPONDENCE OUT:**

1. Various – Letters of support for Grant Applications
2. Various – Invitations to Grand Final Day

**CORRESPONDENCE OUT BE RECEIVED:**

**MOVED: Sharks**  
**SECONDED: Eagles**

**REPORTS:****PRESIDENT:**

Firstly, thank you to all clubs, from the executive members to players, coaches and managers, for the hard work they have done all season. Congratulations to all teams that reached the semi-finals, finals and grand finals. The presentations for the juniors again, not only highlighted the teams playing in the grand final but also gave me the opportunity to say thank you to all SSNA Executive members on behalf of the members of the association. On a personal note, I would like to thank the SSNA Executive for the commitment they all make each week to make sure the season runs smoothly. In addition, a big thank you to the presenters who awarded the trophies to each junior division and grade. We again presented the senior teams with their awards courtside. I think that this year it was more organised, and thanks must go to the junior rep players that assisted many of the presenters to their courts. Thanks to Angela Corbett who presented the A1 Margaret Corbett Cup to Flames and Runner Up awards to Sylvania.

Friday night netball ended in early August with all players being awarded either medallions or trophies. Friday night netball will remain for the foreseeable future as Seymour Shaw is no longer an option.

Discussion was held with the council regarding Stage 2 development of Bellingara Road Courts. This stage has a vision of giving us an extra 4 courts to our current number of courts, which is good news. I also had discussions regarding the resurfacing of the lower courts as well as lighting. Finally, the motion passed at the August Council Meeting to rename the courts, the Margaret Corbett Netball Courts has a few more steps to go before the name officially changes, and, hopefully in 2026 a ceremony renaming the courts can take place.

Tonight, discussion will take place regarding the Draft Constitution. I would like to thank Maria Lynch, for the work she has undertaken. In addition, motions have been submitted by clubs for discussion as well as motions from the executive.

The website has been upgraded and is finally live, thank you to everyone who has given feedback on what needs to be included and updated. It is still a work in progress, however, by the AGM the website should be updated and far more functional with information being updated regularly to ensure that all members and visitors to the website can access for both SSNA and club information.

I would like to congratulate the Under 23's Stingrays on placing 4th in the Premier League Competition, and the Opens team who placed third. Congratulations to all coaches, managers and players who worked hard throughout the season. A number of players have reached 50, 75 and 100 games milestones this season, indicating the success of the program.

Tomorrow night is the SSNA Representative Presentation Dinner. Unfortunately, the venue does not allow for representatives from clubs or Life Members to be invited due to the capacity of the venue.

There is still time to register for the Stingrays Spring Competition. Next year, a warmup competition of 6 weeks will be held, beginning in mid-February. Format for this competition will be announced in early November, with both Fast Five and traditional netball being offered.

Next year, SSNA is looking at having a volunteer of the week and team of the week award. Details will be provided early next year regarding the criteria and how to nominate.

There are other items that I believe need to be discussed, regarding our competition including wet weather, number of teams per grade, rep players and Saturday teams as well as boys progressing beyond 12 years being eligible to play. In addition, the possible introduction of the 2-point shot in the A1 competition. The motions presented tonight by the Executive and the clubs, hopefully, will generate positive and constructive discussion. Everyone needs to

be mindful that netball is just one sport option, and we need to ensure we are catering to the needs of a range of players of all abilities.

Once again, thank you to all club officials for the work you have undertaken this year to promote netball.

Nerida

**Question from the floor**

- ❖ Prue- how do the council believe they are going to fit in 4 more courts with the trouble with drainage. Nerida explained the advice that was presented from council and the engineers that they are proposing to level out the top courts/ 2<sup>nd</sup> tier to accommodate 4 additional courts.

Prue recommended that Nerida ensure that council is made aware of the drainage issues. Nerida will pass this information on to council when she next meets with them.

**Moved: Flames  
Seconded: Magpies**

**TREASURER:**

General Account Balance (as of 10/09/2025) = **\$263,621.69**

Expenses: custom umpire polo shirts, security, umpire fees, canteen supplies, new defibrillator, office expenses, coaches and managers payments, physics, Wi-Fi, electricity, BAS, trophies for GF.

Income: canteen, tape/physio sales, BBQ, PlayHQ, interest from term deposits.

Rep Account (as of 10/09/2025) = **\$12,924.15**

Rep fees are coming in and most families have paid promptly. Some are on payment plans. Whilst every effort has been made to keep costs low, it can still be expensive for some families.

Ideally, invoices could go out earlier, however, we like to give teams as many opportunities as possible to fundraise, even after State Titles.

One way to keep costs low would be to not stay away from State Titles.

Additionally, securing more sponsors, perhaps one for each Rep Team, would be ideal.

We have secured the services of Club Builder the Grant Professionals, and we're prioritizing grants we'd like to apply for.

We were delighted to donate **\$10K** to Crazy Hair and Sock Day – almost \$7K was collected by our members, through cash and online donations, and we were happy to top it up.

With the season running over, the accounts are still being finalized and will be sent to the auditor after 30/09/2025. The new auditor has experience with sporting associations, and we plan to have the P&L statement distributed 3 weeks prior to the AGM.

In preparation for next season, Clubs are reminded that they can arrange for their suppliers to invoice SSNA directly. This allows the club to pay only the pre-GST amount, as SSNA is able to claim the GST credit. This process helps clubs save money by reducing the overall cost of goods and services.

**MOVED: Barden Ridge**  
**SECONDED: Sylvania**

#### **NSW REPORT:**

NNSW Meeting scheduled for 1 November 2025

**MOVED:**  
**SECONDED:**

#### **EXECUTIVE:**

Discussion about end of season and representative teams.

**MOVED: Bronwyn Moir**  
**SECONDED: Fatima**

#### **REGISTRARS:**

##### **Senior Registrar Report**

A big thank you to all club registrars this season who were able to provide their senior player yellow cards as requested at time of registration. There were a few hiccups as there always will be when we are dealing with over 4500 registered

players, but it is hoped that the common errors can be rectified at club level before they get to the association.

I have compiled a list of Senior Player yellow cards which will require recent photos before the player can take the court next season. I have been accommodating this year, but I do not believe it is not appropriate for a senior player to still be playing under their school photos. It is extremely easy for a player to take a photo and have them printed every 3 years.

Lastly with late registrations this season saw a high number of late registrations into Senior teams, it is hoped that the late registration policy/procedures will become more streamlined in the coming years with some key changes **BUT** it needs to be stressed that if the association does not receive a yellow players card with a photo they will not be permitted to take the court.

#### Questions from the floor

- ❖ Alison James shared that she believes the late registration procedure is time consuming and would prefer that clubs not have to seek approval before they accept late registrations and that they can allow them to register online and allocate to a team on the basis that they meet the late registration guidelines.

Executive response: There are many times that players history is not disclosed and that without the approval of association registrars it would be difficult to police. Recommend that clubs send their late registrations asap. It was put to the floor if any clubs experienced delays this season. No clubs indicated that there were issues.

**MOVED: Debbie Grimshaw**

**SECONDED: Sylvania**

#### **UMPIRES CONVENOR:**

Congratulations to all 97 umpires who umpire across SSNA Finals Series.

Badged umpire shirts are now available to be purchased. Along with the white zipper umpire Jumper.

Representative tracksuits are only for umpires who attend State titles or Metro.

Congratulations to the following umpires who were awarded at Grand finals.

Myrtle Williams - Vicki Newham

Umpire Merit - Issy Rowley

Most Improved - Adelina Ilkovski

Umpire of the Year - Candice Pendergast  
Encouragement (Clubs) - Germaine Tua, Bailey Halpin, Peta-Lee Crow,  
Savannah Longstaff

BADGED umpires

**National B**

Issy Rowley - Jannali  
Bailey Halpin - Gymea  
Kasey Harlum - Jannali  
Nellie Breese - Eagles  
Sophia Alvarez - Menai  
Shauna Mulholland - Sharks

**National C**

Alyssa Thurlow - Joeys  
Mackenzie Potts - Greenpoint  
Jess Flynn - Barden Ridge  
Mackenzie Banister - Eagles  
Georgia Harlum - Jannali  
Rebecca Yule - Eagles  
Kiara Packer - Jannali  
Kasey Marsh - Jannali  
Amalie Wong - Jannali  
Isabella Alvarez - Menai  
Gracie Metliss - Menai  
Sienna Heslehurst - Menai  
Maddison Adams - Thistles  
Olivia Ruxton - Gymea  
Adelina Ilkovski - Connells Pt  
Christopher Innis - Sharks

**Jemma Bradshaw – Barden Ridge (correction)**

Peta Lee Crow - Connells Pt  
Charlotte Ollivier - Sharks

**Sutherland Summer Series Talent program**

Umpires will receive an email based on their performance over SSNA Final series. They will be given the opportunity to umpire teams during SSNA Spring competition and be coached by a number of Senior National B and C Umpires. They will be guided to develop their skills and knowledge with the aim of working towards a National C and/or B for the 2026 netball season.

**BRNC- Note that Jemma Bradshaw is in fact a BRNC registered umpire.**

**MOVED: Flames**

**SECONDED: Sharks**

## **TOURNAMENT:**

Semi's, Finals and Grand finals all went well with little to no problem Thank you to all involved for your continued patience and support.

One problem faced was the taking down of the ladders, which was discussed at the last delegates' meeting. Many teams seemed unaware that this was going to occur, which again stresses the importance of all information from this meeting being disseminated to all the club players and volunteers. In 2026 the percentage will not be shown on the ladder. Teams will still need to be aware that any team on the same points will have the Sutherland calculation.

Clubs will have a spreadsheet of all teams with the correct ladders ready for 2026.

Spring Netball – registrations have opened and the 3month registration opens 11<sup>th</sup> September. The reason for clubs with mixed club players registering directly with SSNA is to quicken the process and stop the incorrect registration link being used. Currently if a player moves clubs for a team in the spring competition it will initiate a club transfer. This becomes a longer process for the player and errors can occur. The club transfer will again have to be activated for 2026 winter for all players returning to their usual team. Playing using the SSNA team specific link stops club transfers.

Looking forward to the Spring season ahead.

## **Question from the floor**

- ❖ Alison James (Comets) wanted to seek clarification as to why SSNA will not simply enable the transfer between clubs to be automatic override. Executive explained that this is not possible from an association level but rather a club function. It was again stated that the recommended process provided for Spring Comp with teams comprising of players from more than 1 club was a way to ensure that interclub transfers did not occur for the following seasons. Alison stated she believes that this system is flawed.

**MOVED: Menai**

**SECONDED: Gymea**

## **COACHING**

### **CO-ORDINATOR:**

They commenced with a club coaches coordinators meeting in March. From that meeting 8 coaching sessions were held throughout the year for club coaches covering Balance, footwork, the pivot, catching, throwing basic defence, shooting

technique, circle deference and finally court strategies. These sessions were spread across the season from April to August and attended well by the clubs. Each participant received a certificate of attendance and distributed at council meetings.

Nominations for junior coach, Senior coach were received from a number of clubs, and all coaches were looked at by a panel from day 10 to day 14, those nominated for awards and the winners were presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> time slot on grand final day the list and winners are attached.

I have enjoyed the camaraderie and interaction with many club coaches this year and have watched their development closely. It was extremely rewarding. A number of coaching resources have been made available to the club coaches at the sessions during the year. There will also be information on the web site once completed.

We encourage all club coaches to do their foundation course that are on the Netball NSW / Australia website. This will allow clubs and coaches to continue to develop their knowledge.

Many thanks for all the support that was received from clubs this year in the assistance to develop club coaches. I would also like to thank Thistles, Gymea, Sharks, Barden Ridge, Loftus and Menai for providing players for the coaching forums to happen.

Regards  
Deb Grimshaw  
2025 Coaching Co-Ordinator

## COACHES AWARDS 2025

### **Junior Club Coach Nominations**

Zara Kardum	Connells Point
Roma Taylor	Sharks
Emme Pierce	Sharks
Dominique Mah	Connells Point
Micky Martin	Joeys
Isabella Maher	

### **Senior Club Coach Nominations**

Ashleigh McLeod	St Catherines
Chris Newman	Menai
Shellie Bolton	Sharks
Kara Boeg	Thistles
Alex Ruxton	Gymea
Javier Salinas	Connells Point
Sophie Alifierakis	Connells Point
Sarah Shaw	Thistles
Emma Dewhurst	Thistles
Amelia Babb	Connells Point

Cass Jefferies	Thistles
Georgia Santo	Magpies

**Coaches Encouragement Award**

Georgia Santo	Magpies
Kimberely Smith	Sharks
<b>Sarah Kent</b>	
Kara Boeg	Thistles
Caragh Finlay	

**MOVED: Sharks**  
**SECONDED: Barden ridge**

## **SELECTION & REPS:**

Metro Team 1 (Div 2) played their Grand Finals against Liverpool on Sunday, 14 September 2025. They put up a really good fight narrowly missing the win by 2 goals.

Team 2 (Div 3) finished 3<sup>rd</sup> after losing their final to Blacktown.

Court Craft Summer Series commences the week commencing 14 October 2025. We have 3 Opens teams and 1 17's team entered.

Juniors Selections are scheduled for: -

### **12 Years**

**Phase 1: Sunday 21st September 2025**

**Phase 2: Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2025**

**Phase 3: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

### **13 Years**

**Phase 1: Tuesday 23rd September 2025**

**Phase 2: Tuesday 28th October 2025**

**Phase 3: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

### **14 Years**

**Phase 1: Thursday 25th September 2025**

**Phase 2: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**15 Years**

**Phase 1: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Phase 2: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

The 2025 representative season has come to an end!

Guided by dedicated coaches and with strong support from all our hard-working managers, it has been incredibly successful. We have every reason to be excited for a bright future of SSNA representative netball.

On a personal note, it has been an absolute pleasure meeting and supporting all players, coaches, managers and parents. I've been truly inspired by the extraordinary talent and growth of players across all areas and the remarkable knowledge of SSNA coaches.

SSNA constantly strives to provide pathways with valuable opportunities to ensure programs align with player needs. We are looking at updating our development programs to offer continuing netball education to additional players. Trials for selection of 2026 representative and development teams are now underway, along with appointments for team coaches and managers. Best wishes to everyone involved.

Di Ward  
Representative Liaison Coordinator.

**MOVED: Executive**  
**SECONDED: Judy MacLachlan**

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Apologies nil report as VP is overseas.

**MOVED: Eagles**  
**SECONDED: Executive**

**RETURNING  
OFFICER:**

**Constitution – attached**  
**To be discussed at the end of all motions**

**Menai Motions – attached**

Menai Club president Chris Newman provided information as to what has driven the motion from their club perspective

**Motion 1.2.and 3.** Menai believe that the teams who were a part of this “super grade” gained a lot from playing in the grade against the higher skilled teams. Menai would like to see this occur within the proposed age groups. As a result of what occurred this season with “super grades”. Suggestion for this to occur again for 12/13 years and then 14/15 years to form these super grades. It allowed a lot of teams to have a positive experience.

Comments from council meeting

Life member-many believed it is up to the grading committee to grade the teams on where they are best suited in terms of playing ability

Gymea-Some of the teams who came in 4<sup>th</sup> within the top age grades would not fare well in a “super grade”

Connells Point- We should also remember that bottom line these are all children and sometimes the pressure of a super grade could be too much.

**Motion 4** The website has been updated. Executive acknowledged that for the majority of 2025 the website has been down, but the website builder has recently completed the work and has migrated the information from old website to new website and Jenny, Nerida and Tammy can update the website throughout the year.

#### **Motion 6. Menai is willing to withdraw this motion**

**7.** Menai shared the experience of the 3 boys they have registered in winter teams and shared also that there were no complaints, concerns or issues and would like to see the association make it more accessible for boys to continue to play.

Mixed comments from the floor

Executives believe that within adhering to netball Australia’s policies that we would be discriminating against children based on gender if we do not include boys in winter competition.

Alison James-Comets has read the netball Australia policy and the sex discrimination act and feels it is not as clear as many believe. The sex discrimination act has a direct reference that in terms of sport when strength, stamina, physique of participants is relevant than it is not discriminatory to exclude specific genders in a competition.

**8.** It is again believed that the Grading Committee would be best positioned to action this and allocate teams on their playing ability into appropriate grades.

#### **Eagles Motions – attached**

**Eagles Club president Rowena Yule spoke to the meeting and answered any questions**

**Motion 1-** practical grading for 1 age group. From the 2025 season it was evident that practical grading of different age groups did not in fact support a more balanced competition.

**Motion 4**

Worry that leaving teams who are clearly struggling in a division until day 6 was not looking at the wellbeing of teams who are being beaten on large scales. Example of the 10's divisions earlier this season who after 7 games had only scored on average 5 goals each game. If it is clear, then regrading should occur earlier. Nerida stated that she believes the more rules we have the more difficult it is to make changes and correct mistakes. We want to grow our sport and have players enjoy the sport.

Motion 17: Clarification from Rowena that this is not for one off wet weather days to be called but rather for discussion of the season could be interrupted due to several wet weather days concurrently.

**BRNC – Motion – attached**

The inclusion of a social media role to be included within the constitution.

**Motions – Nerida Noble and Jenny Rees – attached**

**Borrowing Players policy**

Came out of many teams finding loopholes and playing 'only game' players as number 8 or even 9 for the team that day. Possibly not playing within the spirit of the game.

Connells point wanted to ensure that players returning from injury were still being considered as requiring additional measures. Executive agreed that this was still accounted for within the policy.

**2026 Nominations for Executive and Committees:**

2026 Executive nomination: -

President – Nerida Noble

Vice President – Anne Heptinstall

Secretary – Jenny Rees

Treasurer – Tammy Moussa

Umpires Convenor – Ashleigh Barnes

Tournament Convenor – Maureen Finch

Rep Liaison Officer – Cath Reynolds

Rep Liaison Officer – Di Ward – withdrawn

Coaching Co-Ordinator - Vacant

Registrar – Christine Magri

Registrar – Kim Scott

Non-Exec nominations: -

Returning Officer – Julie Norman  
Returning Officer – Maria Lynch  
Senior Grading Convenor – Julie Norman  
Junior Grading Convenor – Sheree Geddes  
Umpires Assistant – Zoe Tsimos

Sub Committees:

Tournament Committee – Alyssa Taylor  
Tournament Committee – Emma Paterson  
Finance Committee – Anne Heptinstall

Nominations for a coaching coordinator and registrar will be reopened and will close 2 weeks prior to AGM. Rest of subcommittee nominations not due until early 2026.

**Moved: Flames**  
**Seconded: BRNC**

**Council had a 5-minute break and resumed at 9:25pm**

### **Constitution**

Maria Lynch acknowledged that this revised Constitution is the result of the work of several people over 2 or more years. The goal was to move towards a document that has the minimum included so that in the future there will not be such a lengthy delay to update to be a genuine reflection of current times. Recommendations that most functioning/procedures be based within a policy which is simpler to change and to be voted on.

Maria acknowledges that there will be three different voting categories within the AGM

#1 things that **MUST** be changed due to updated policies/contradictions of netball NSW policy  
#2 Executive- the discussions around executive make up has been ongoing for several years and this has been addressed within the revised document  
#3 Functionality of the document and simplifying

Maria shared that there are 2 items that are missing from the constitution  
# The inclusion of Hybrid meetings

# Definition of the council

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

No

**NEXT DELEGATES MEETING:**

**MEETING CLOSED: 9:45pm**