

30 September 2019

Northern Marvels and Northern Comets National Netball League (NNL) Team Update

1. Purpose

This document outlines the changes to the structure and management of the Northern Comets NNL team and the process for selecting both the Northern Comets and the Northern Marvels NNL team management and player groups, effective from Monday 30th September 2019 and in effect until advised.

2. Background

For the past three years Netball Northern Zone (Zone) have governed and operated two NNL teams, known as the Northern Marvels and the Northern Comets. Furthermore, the Zone, through the Northern Zone Elite Performance Programme (NZEPP) have underpinned the performance programming for the coaches, managers and athletes of both these teams. This situation is no longer financially viable for the Zone, so, from September 30th 2019 the Northern Comets will be governed and managed by the New Netball Team Limited (NNTL) - Northern Stars ANZ Premiership team.

3. What does this mean?

- The Northern Stars will govern and operate the Northern Comets. The Northern Stars may operate an associated performance programme for all those involved with the Northern Comets.
- The Northern Zone will govern and operate the Northern Marvels and the NZEPP performance programme, for all those involved with the Northern Marvels.
- Athletes will be selected from the catchment areas as described in Appendix A and by Figure 1.
- Training Partners (TPs) will be available for selection in the first instance to the NNL team aligned to the ANZP team they are contracted to (e.g., Northern Stars TPs will be available in the first instance to be selected for NNL for the Northern Comets; and Northern Mystics TPs will be available in the first instance to be selected for NNL for Northern Marvels). If for any reason the NNL team does not select that athlete, then they are part of the player pool and can apply for a release if required as per the process outlined in Section 9.
- Apprentice Training Partners (ATP): ATPs will be selected from within their designated catchment area as described in Appendix A and by Figure 1.

4. Selection Process

The aim of both ANZP teams is to select the best players in the Northern Zone for their performance programmes and NNL teams. Therefore, for the 2019-2020 season the following guidelines are in effect.

- a. A minimum of 80% of each NNL squad based on the maximum number of athletes as per the NNL rules will be selected from the pool of players from within each area as designated by Appendix A and Figure 1. For the avoidance of doubt this is the maximum number of athletes allowed for entry as per NNL rules.
- b. Release: Any player wanting to be released from one of the designated areas to be selected for the other designated area must apply to their own area for a release. There are two opportunities (see appendix A) for this to occur, however neither team will consider more than 20% of their final squad coming from released players.
- c. This selection process will be reviewed after the final NNL squads are selected and named.

5. Geographical split

The Zone has been split into two specific areas. See Appendix A - Figure 1. This delineation was determined by natural waterways and main roads which separate the South and South East areas from the Central, West and North of Auckland. Northern Comets will select their squad from athletes who reside south of this line. Northern Marvels will select their squad from athletes who reside north of this line. The defining factor in terms of which squad an athlete is eligible to trial for, will be determined by their residential address as at 1 November 2019 and the line separating the respective areas.

6. Trial Management and Administration

The Northern Zone will oversee the appointment of the Team Management and athlete selection for the Northern Marvels. NZEPP positions will be offered after this process.

The first squad trial is on Saturday November 2nd, 2019 and the trials are Open to anyone residing in the Marvels catchment area.

The Northern Stars will oversee the appointment of the Team Management and athlete selection for the Northern Comets.

A selection of core players residing in the designated area and identified as potential members of the Northern Comets 2020 squad will be contacted by the Northern Stars by Monday 30th September. These players will begin training on Monday 4 November. A wider group of athletes will be contacted and advised on training programmes to prepare them for NNL Northern Comets trials in late January, early February. The Northern Comets core players are not guaranteed a position in the final 2020 Northern Comets squad.

7. School aged athletes

School aged athletes may trial for the NNL teams after the NNL Head Coach has completed a formal process using the following analysis:

- The athlete is ranked 1 or 2 in the position for which they are being considered.
- The coach identifies athlete readiness through investigating the athlete's personal situation across all developmental areas and from a holistic position. This includes:
 - Discussion with the social support systems and structures of the athlete;
 - Preparation of a staged talent development plan for the athlete which is consistent with the findings from the coach's investigation.

8. Squad numbers

Final NNL squad size is yet to be confirmed by the Netball New Zealand NNL competition rules for 2020. The 2019 competition rules allow selection of up to 16 athletes. Squads may include athletes who require an exemption from Netball New Zealand to play in the National Netball League. Northern Zone, Northern Stars, and Northern Comets will apply for exemptions on a case by case basis. If an exemption is not granted, the Head Coach of the squad affected can select another athlete from the pool of non-selected NNL trialists of either Northern Marvels or Northern Comets.

9. Release criteria

A maximum of 20% of each squad (for this purpose based on maximum number of athletes within the final squad as per NNL rules) may come from releases. There are two grounds for release and an application must be initiated by the athlete, and be made to the squad in the area they reside:

1. To occur before trials: A release is sought for logistical and location bound purposes which may be determined by the athlete's place of study or work regularly being attended.
2. To occur after the final squads are selected: A release is sought because an athlete has trialed in their area and not been selected; and they perceive a playing opportunity in the other squad.

Releases will be considered in line with the NNL competition rules, in particular Rule 3.1, 3.3 and 3.4. See Appendix B for NNL eligibility Rules 2019.

10. Replacement athletes in either Northern Comets or Northern Marvels

The NNL Head Coaches will as a first priority look at athletes who have trialed for either squad and not been selected in the final squad. If an athlete is selected from this pool the squad selecting her will notify the other squad in advance and follow the rules stipulated in Rule 3.5 of the NNL competition rules. See Appendix B for NNL eligibility Rules 2019.

11. Disputes

11.1 In the event of any dispute arising between the parties which is related to the terms of this agreement, the parties shall negotiate in good faith, and failing that, if mutually agreeable, to mediate the dispute to endeavor to reach a settlement.

11.2 In the event that the dispute is not resolved by clause 11.1 within a reasonable period of time, the dispute shall be determined by arbitration under the Arbitration Act 1996 according to the substantive laws of New Zealand.

11.3 If clause 11.2 applies, each party shall meet their own costs, and there shall be one arbitrator who shall be appointed by mutual agreement between the parties, and failing that, appointed by the President of the Auckland District Law Society, and the decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on the parties.

12. Conflicts

Where this document may conflict with other key documents, those documents will prevail. This would include but not limited to the NNZ Constitution and Regulations, ANZP Competition Rules, NNL Competition Rules and applicable collective employment agreements.

APPENDIX A

Delineation of areas

Northern Comets	Northern Marvels
South of Manukau Harbour Inlet Neilson St Onehunga South Eastern Highway The Hauraki Gulf Inlet between East Tamaki, Howick and Bucklands Beach, with Glen Innes, Pt England and Glendowie resting to the North.	North of Manukau Harbour Inlet Neilson St Onehunga South Eastern Highway The Hauraki Gulf Inlet between Glen Innes, Pt England and Glendowie, with East Tamaki, Howick and Bucklands Beach, with resting to the South.

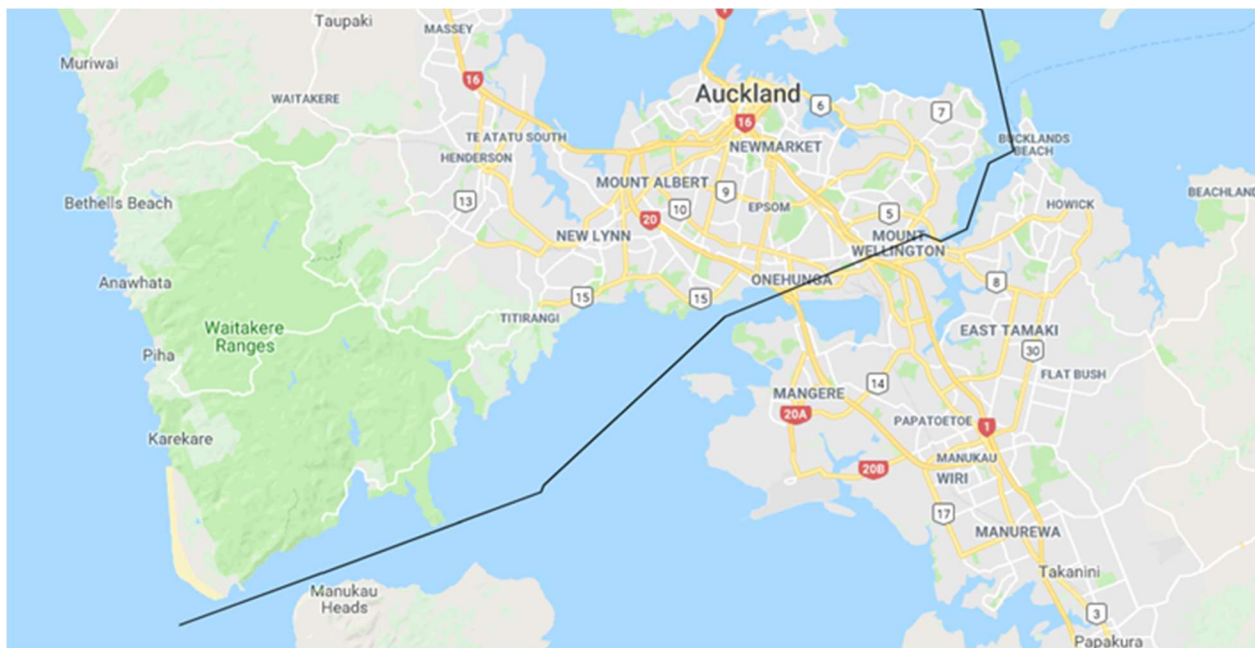


Figure 1 – Geographical delineation of the Northern Comets and Northern Marvels catchment areas

APPENDIX B

Eligibility and Selection

These Eligibility criteria form part of the Competition Rules and are fully enforceable by NNZ

3.1 Selection of Players to Teams

3.1.1 The Eligibility Criteria have been developed to not only meet the objectives detailed in Rule 1.1 but to ensure that Zones and Players clearly understand an individual's eligibility status for the NNL. This is so that each Team has the best opportunity to field a competitive team and each Player has the best development and competition opportunities. By confirming eligibility for Teams at an early stage, Zones can invest in conditioning and other sports science programmes with the assurance that players are eligible for the NNL.

3.1.2 The Eligibility Criteria recognize that:

- (i) Players in New Zealand may move from one Zone to another Zone for reasons which may include but are not limited to; work, study, family or personal relationships.
- (ii) Players' long-term development and playing opportunities are paramount and good management plans and programmes to support this are critical.

3.3 Eligibility for Selection

3.3.1 Subject to Rule 3.3.3 to be eligible for selection in any Team for any League Season, a player must:

- (i) be a member of Netball New Zealand in the twelve (12) months prior to the commencement of the National Netball League; and
- (ii) be a member of the Zone of the NNL Team in the year of competition for that NNL Team; and
- (iii) be resident in the Zone of the National Netball League Team for the duration of the NNL Competition; and (iv) be eligible and available for selection as a NZ National Team Player for teams which may include but are not limited to; Under 21, NZ "A" and/or the Silver Ferns. (v) Players who are attending Secondary School in the year of competition are eligible for selection by a Zone for a NNL Team subject to meeting the criteria in Appendix 4 of these rules. For the avoidance of doubt, a Secondary School player may not be selected until NNZ has confirmed that the criteria in Appendix 4 have been met.

3.3.2 To be eligible for selection as a New Zealand National Team Player a player must meet the international eligibility rules as specified by the International Federation of Netball Associations (INF) and as outlined in NNZ policies. Athlete eligibility status must be determined and provided to NNZ by a date nominated by NNZ.

3.3.3 Zones may apply to the National Netball League Committee to grant an exemption for individual athletes as part of their Team as per the process outlined in Appendix 2 of these Rules.

3.3.4 In determining such application, the NNL shall take into consideration such matters as it considers appropriate, which may include but are not limited to:

- (i) whether there are other players available who meet the criteria in Rule 3.3.1 and who could perform at a comparable and competitive level from within the Zone and/or NZ;
- (ii) whether the player will benefit positively through development, play or other opportunities;
- (iii) the desire to develop Player and positional depth in the respective Zone or for NZ;
- (iv) whether approving an ineligible Player will enhance the strength of the Team making the application;

- (v) whether approving an ineligible Player will enhance the League.
- 3.3.5 The decision of the National Netball League Committee shall be final.
- (i) In granting Exemptions to the Eligibility criteria as set out in Rule 3.3.1 and in relation to the process in Rule 3.3.3.
- 3.4 Selection Process – Zone National Netball League Squad
- 3.4.1 For each year that a Zone is entitled to field a team in the League, the Zone must, by the date specified by NNZ provide in writing to NNZ as the Zone National Netball League Squad the names of up to sixteen (16) non-ANZ Premiership contracted players to play in the NNL.
- 3.4.2 Each Player must enter into a Standard Player Agreement with that Zone covering the relevant League Season prior to notification of that Player as a member of the Team to NNZ.
- 3.4.3 If a Zone is requesting an Exemption for player/s named in the Zone National Netball League Squad they must submit this request when the Zone NNL Squad is submitted.
- 3.4.4 Within 48 hours of receipt of the names of players, NNZ will circulate to all Zones the players notified in accordance with Rule 3.4.1, including any player/s for whom an exemption is being sought by the Zone.
- 3.4.5 Where an Exemption for a player is declined the Zone may submit a replacement player.
- 3.4.6 All players are subject to meeting the eligibility requirements and/or the approval of NNZ where required prior to playing in a National Netball League match.
- 3.4.7 Only the players named in this squad will be eligible to play in the NNL, except where replacement player rules are invoked.
- 3.4.8 At no time the total number of players in the squad can exceed the number that was registered.
- 3.5 In Season Player Eligibility
- 3.5.2 Replacement Players: There are circumstances that may necessitate the Team applying for a Replacement Player.
- (i) Temporary Replacement Player Reasons for which a Team may apply for a Temporary Replacement Player include but are not limited to;
 - (a) In the event of injury and/or illness to a Player;
 - (b) Where a Player requires a release to fulfil her obligations as a NZ National team Player during the League Season;
 - (c) For other reason(s) acceptable to NNZ including but not limited to injury, bereavement, work commitments, illness of a dependent, or sitting an exam;
 - (d) Where a Player has exceeded the provision for playing time across the ANZ Premiership and/or the National Netball League within a 12 hour period [Ref: Rule 5.2]
 - (ii) Permanent Replacement Player Reasons for which a Team may apply for a Permanent Replacement Player include but are not limited to;
 - (a) The Player is no longer available to play for the Team due to serious injury, illness, bereavement, pregnancy, moving overseas or work commitments, or for other reason(s) acceptable to NNZ.
 - (b) Where a Player requires a release to fulfil her obligations as a NZ National team Player during the League Season;