

CLUB AMALGAMATION/MERGER INFORMATION

Christchurch Netball Centre is recommending that netball clubs with 3 or less teams should seriously look at amalgamation or commence working on processes to grow and maintain the level of membership required to remain financially sound, viable and successful.

Clubs with 1 or 2 teams should look around and consider making approaches to other more stable/medium sized clubs with a view to coming under their umbrella or a complete merger/amalgamation. Options could be to amalgamate **or** consider including a primary school often with 1 or 2 teams and merge them into a current club which ensures feeder for players when leaving school, and also assists with funding as having a link with a school is a positive benefit for funding proposals and promotion of youth opportunities in sport.

In 2011, CNC had 5 clubs with only 1 team each (16 clubs including Primary teams).

Amalgamation/merger is **NOT** about curbing opportunities for players, but to make clubs think hard about their future.

Things to be taken into consideration are:

- volunteer base
- player base
- ability to ensure players are given the best opportunities available,
- ensure coaches are upgraded, remain enthusiastic and ,
- Club personnel are not stretched to ensure all commitments and requirements of the Centre and other organizations are maintained.

Positive reasons for amalgamation for clubs:

- Geographical location – sharing of suburban and/or school courts
- Chance of bringing teams up into higher grades
- Link with primary and/or secondary school as a feeder of players into club (secondary schools who are not already a club or fielding teams in competition).
- More chance of interchange of players between teams
- Sharing of coaching resources – more people to assist, learn from, share ideas
- Easier to fulfill Centre umpiring requirements with more people involved
- Administration tasks and costs cheaper for bigger club – more people available to share some of the tasks
- Safer practices regarding financial systems.
- Could integrate uniforms to come up with new uniform for new club, or
- Chance to upgrade existing uniforms, (Centre would permit 2 years for clubs amalgamating to continue using existing uniforms until amalgamation settled by negotiation)
- New club – new name – new identity
- Funding agencies – larger share of \$\$ when requesting funding – more people involved in the club
- Less likelihood of small clubs folding

Positive reasons for amalgamation for Centre:

- Less Club liaison work for volunteers
- Less administration costs of getting information to clubs
- Bigger clubs likely to be Internet accessible, using website for information and email for club information

Negative reasons for amalgamation for Club:

- Temporary loss of club identity and possibly name
- Loss of some documented history
- Possible cost of new uniform purchase (Pub Charity funding would cover this)
- Need to set up strong financial administrative arrangements – documentation
- May take more than one season to complete – ongoing work

Negative reasons for amalgamation for Centre:

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It is proposed that clubs affiliated with the Centre shall not ever drop to lower than 3 teams at any one time (unless there are exceptional circumstances).

Christchurch Netball Centre has expertise and knowledge available and is willing to support and assist clubs with taking first steps, can facilitate discussions between clubs, review constitutions/rules and work with you to ensure a good decision is reached for all.

Sport Canterbury has a delegated person responsible to assist Clubs maintain strength and viability – ‘Club Mark’ officer Lorraine McLeod Lorraine@sportcanterbury.org.nz can be contacted at Sport Canterbury. Assistance is available on strategies to ensure your club remains strong, has a sound base, remains financial and viable and is able to be run efficiently.

Another source of information for running clubs and ensuring good sound structures/processes are in place is the Sparc New Zealand website <http://www.sparc.org.nz/en-nz/communities-and-clubs/Toolkit-for-Clubs/Running-your-Club/Committees-Roles-and-Meetings/>

For further information please contact Netball Manager on netballchch@xtra.co.nz