

# NETBALL NEW ZEALAND

## ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR SPORT RAGE

Netball in New Zealand relies heavily on the goodwill of our Volunteer Coaches, Umpires and Bench Officials. An increase in incidents of inappropriate and abusive behaviour, known as sport rage, is leading to a decline in those willing to Volunteer. In addition sport rage impacts on others' enjoyment, risks players and officials safety, and tarnishes the game's reputation. Whatever the form, and wherever it takes place, sport rage is not acceptable in netball.

To ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all participants, Netball New Zealand is adopting this Zero Tolerance Policy for Sport Rage from participants, parents/guardians and spectators.

Sport Rage is any inappropriate or abusive behaviour that involves harassing, demeaning or belittling others. It includes:

- persistently or willfully questioning or challenging the rulings of Umpires or Bench Officials;
- berating or abusing Umpires or Bench Officials;
- berating or abusing Players or Coaches;
- berating or abusing other parents/guardians or spectators;
- displaying conduct which is inappropriate in a sporting environment.

Any participant, parent/guardian or spectator who feels the need to display this behaviour will be asked to leave the immediate vicinity instantly. No warning need be given and failure to leave when asked will result in a Centre representative taking appropriate action to ensure the safety of other participants, parents/guardians and spectators.

A participant, parent/guardian or spectator who has been asked to leave an event or immediate venue vicinity may be banned from attendance at future games or requested to attend a hearing. All appeals against bans under this policy should be directed to the Executive Committee at the Christchurch Netball Centre or in the case of regions to the Regional Manager. Repeated inappropriate behaviour by a participant, parent/guardian or spectator may impact the playing future of the participant.

Participants, parents/guardians or spectators who would like to offer feedback or seek clarification on officiating issues should direct their feedback through their Coach, Club Secretary, Centre or Region. A 'protest' procedure is in place and implemented by Christchurch Netball Centre.

This policy does not intend to stifle or diminish healthy supportive cheering or the ability of players or spectators to enjoy netball. Rather it seeks to ensure a safe competitive environment for all participants including officials and other spectators.

This policy supplements the Netball New Zealand General Code of Conduct and Ethics and Harassment Free Regulations for Netball New Zealand Members and the Secondary and [Junior Schools Policies](#),

([http://www.mynetball.co.nz/component/docman/doc\\_download/10-nnz-junior-netball-policy-2008.html](http://www.mynetball.co.nz/component/docman/doc_download/10-nnz-junior-netball-policy-2008.html)) which uphold the same "no tolerance policy" for inappropriate and abusive behaviour.

**As adopted by Christchurch Netball Centre - 2010**