



**INTERNATIONAL
NETBALL
FEDERATION**

**INF Position Statement
Male Participation in Netball**

In accordance with discussion at Congress 2009 IFNA (now INF) considered its approach towards male participation in netball, consulted with Members in February 2010, and at Congress 2011. The INF Board has reviewed this statement in 2018 and now presents the following Position Statement:

INF Position Statement on Male Participation in Netball February 2018

INF will:

- continue to welcome the involvement of men in netball in a range of roles including as governors & administrators, coaches, officials, players, and spectators/supporters.

Governance & Administration

- INF is internationally recognised as the sole governing body of netball, including by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- In line with its Articles of Association INF formally recognises one (1) 'Regional Federation' per INF Region (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe & Oceania) and one (1) 'National Netball Association' as the 'sole controlling and governing body for netball in a country'. Therefore, constitutionally no other organisations may receive formal recognition from INF. As such any body representing men's or mixed netball is encouraged to engage with the relevant INF Members in line with the individual Member's constitution.
- INF Members will retain the right to decide their own position and guidelines on men's involvement in netball and mixed netball allowing flexibility for the decision to reflect population demographics and local situations in relation to capacity level, resource and relevant legislation or political direction.
- INF Members should only engage with organisations that are sanctioned by the respective INF recognised National Netball Association for international exchanges, games or any other activity.

Members will make the INF Secretariat aware of their position on male involvement in netball and mixed netball.

- The empowerment of women, including the engagement of women into leadership positions in sport will remain an INF priority, thereby contributing to addressing the existing global inequity in sport.

Coaching & Officiating

- INF and its Members will, first and foremost, seek to attract people with the appropriate skills to get involved in netball coaching & officiating regardless of their gender. However, an intention to address the inequity in numbers of females involved globally in coaching & officiating positions in sport as a whole, will also be a consideration when appointing to such positions.

Participation & Competition

- The published 'Rules of Netball' clearly state that the Game may be played by teams made up of players of the same gender or may be mixed (Rule 15.1 (i))

Individual Events will identify whether they are for same gender or mixed teams in their Event regulations.

- Netball is one of the few team sports to attract girls and women to participate in large numbers contributing to addressing the current global disparity in sports participation, with the resultant benefits on health and wellbeing. This sets netball apart from many other sports which are working hard to attract females. This is netball's unique selling point and is something that should be maximised.
- INF welcomes mixed netball as a growing recreational form of the sport.
- Members are encouraged to consider safety matters in the development of opportunities for mixed netball, taking into account the physical differences of men & women.
- Members are encouraged to consider the provision of modified games which allow for mixed participation and the development of core skills up to at least the under 11 age group.
- The primary focus at international level will remain 'female only' netball.

INF commits to:

- Work with Members and Regional Federations to gain an accurate and up-to-date picture of the netball participation demographic including how many men are actually involved in the game in a range of roles.
- Work with Members and Regional Federations to collate information on their position on men's & mixed netball and details of any organisation involved in the running of men's and mixed netball.
- Continue to proactively discharge its key role in empowering women through netball, including engaging more females in both sport and physical activity and in leadership positions.
- Assess the need for mixed netball competition for recreational purposes to be acknowledged in the Rules taking into account health and safety considerations.
- Review the position of INF in relation to men's netball and men's involvement in netball on a regular basis based on the information gathered and in consultation with its Membership.