

VNL Trials – Athlete Education – Season 2022

The following document outlines key information about the Victorian Netball League (VNL) selection process. Details regarding trial processes and signing policy is included. Please read carefully before deciding on which club/s to trial at and signing on for the 2022 season.

The VNL is Victoria's premier netball competition that runs over 18-rounds plus finals. The season generally begins in March/April and runs through to August/September. Matches are predominantly held on a Wednesday evening with a number of weekend home games. It is important to note that all divisions play through school holiday periods and clubs will often begin pre-season training in November and continue train throughout December and January.

Player Re-Signing Period – Current VNL Athletes

8th September – 16th September 2021

The re-signing period is for 2021 VNL athletes who wish to recommit to their club for the 2022 season if they are offered a position. Athletes may only re-sign to their 2021 club and cannot sign to a new club during this period. All current permanent athletes (19&Under and Open) may re-sign during this period if they are offered a position.

The 2022 re-signing period begins 8th September and closes 16th September. All athletes who are offered a position and wish to re-sign during this period must sign and return a Standard Player Agreement to their club as well as complete the Online Player Registration form.

Clubs are not permitted to approach potential athletes outside of their 2021 playing squad during this period. No offers can be made (either verbally or in writing) to anyone outside of the club regardless of if they have previously played VNL or not. If you are approached by a club before the re-signing period ends, please inform the VNL Competition Manager in writing to stacey.oneill@netballvic.com.au.

Player Recruitment Window

17th September 2021 – 21st January 2022

Clubs may recruit and sign athletes (current VNL – own club or other club and non-VNL) to fulfil Squad Lists.

Trials may be held up until 31st October. Athletes are encouraged to trial at as many clubs of their choosing, as they wish.

If an athlete is successful in trialling for a club, they will be offered a 2022 playing position. To commit to this offer, athletes must sign and return a Standard Player Agreement to their club and complete the Online Player Registration form.

No 19&Under athletes are permitted to be offered a playing position until all 10 VNL clubs have held their trials 19&U trials. The earliest date a 19&Under player can be offered a position is 1st November 2021.

Athletes aged 19 and under may accept an offer to play in an Open Squad (Division One or Championships teams) during the Player Recruitment Window (before 1st November).

It is important for all athletes to be aware of their right to trial at clubs, and not accept an offer until they feel comfortable in doing so. Club coaches and officials are strictly not permitted to put pressure on an

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athlete to make a rushed decision. Athletes are to accept an offer and sign a Standard Player Agreement only when they feel they have made an informed decision.

The Player Recruitment Window will close 21st January 2022. Clubs are required to submit their final squad lists by this date.

Recap of dates

8th September – 16th September 2021 – Player Re-Signing Period (current VNL Athlete)

17th September 2021 – 21st January 2022 – Player Recruitment Window

17th September – 30th October 2021 – Trial Period

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens at VNL trials?

All clubs run trials differently however the general process is as follows.

- All athletes must register to trial before the trial date. This is vital as there is a large amount of administration required to operate trials.
- If you are injured or unwell and cannot attend a trial, you must inform the club in writing as soon as possible.
- On arrival, athletes will check in and often be numbered.
- Clubs will pre-prepare match play runs with athlete names/numbers. Clubs may also modify or create runs on an ad hoc basis during the trial.
- Athletes should be given the opportunity to trial in two match runs per trial session.
- Clubs may undertake some skill-based training during trials to assess athletes' coachability and skill level.
- At the conclusion of trials, athletes will be informed of when to expect an outcome email.

How old do I have to be to attend VNL trials?

Any female aged 15 or over (as at 31st December 2022) may trial for a VNL club.

Only athletes aged 19 or under (as at 31st December 2022) may trial for a 19 & Under Squad position.

Athletes aged 19 or under may trial for an Open Squad.

What is a Standard Player Agreement?

A Standard Player Agreement (SPA) is an agreement between an athlete and a VNL club that commits that player to be a part of the club's 2022 squad. A player may only sign one SPA for the 2022 season.

What is the Online Registration Form?

The Online Registration form is a requirement of Netball Victoria which informs the League that a player has committed to a club for the 2022 season and is registering their details. This form must be completed after a SPA has been signed. This form does not exempt the player from registering for a

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2022 Netball Victoria membership. All VNL athletes must be a current financial NV member (valid 1st January 2022 through to 31st December 2022).

When do I need to register for a Netball Victoria membership?

All athletes are recommended to have a current financial membership from when they start training. Memberships for 2022 will be available October/November 2021.

What happens if a club approaches me or verbally offers me a playing position before the Player Recruitment Window?

If a VNL club approaches you or verbally offers you a 2022 playing position before 17th September, you must notify the VNL Competition Manager in writing at stacey.oneill@netballvic.com.au.

What is the best club for me?

A resource has been adopted from Netball Australia's High-Performance team and Wellbeing staff; Selecting a Club – An Athlete Resource which is designed to assist you in selecting the right club for you. The resource is available at: <https://vic.netball.com.au/trial-information/>

Points to remember:

- Trial at as many clubs as you would like – don't feel pressured to trial at a particular club
- A verbal agreement to play for a club in 2022 does not commit you to that club
- Do not sign a contract until you have trialled at all clubs you are interested in
- As per the Player Recruitment Window, clubs can only provide you with information regarding trailing before 17th September, and cannot offer you a playing position
- 19&Under - Female athletes are not to sign to a club until all clubs have held their trials