TO ALL SACRED HEART NETBALL PLAYERS AND PARENTS

You may have heard or been made aware, that there have been some new and exciting changes in the pipeline for Sacred Heart Netball, and each of these changes is due to the new way of organising and co-ordinating all sporting groups that fall under the Sacred Heart Banner.

Sacred Heart Netball teams are mainly comprised of our primary school students, students who have moved onto high school and students and adults who have some sort of connection or affiliation with Sacred Heart School. They have always been co-ordinated and run by enthusiastic parents but as life moves on, often so do they, which leaves the question of who is going to step up and how can we consistently promote growth and development of our sport, our coaches and children.

In most cases, netball is organised and run by becoming an incorporated club – this would mean that we would need a full committee, a constitution, an ABN and a massive commitment from many people. As a single stream school and a small community this is really not a feasible option for us.

The solution to this, with the help of Mr George Firms, Principal of Sacred Heart School, has been the development of a completely unique group, comprised of parents who are invested in continuing and promoting Sacred Heart Sports. This group will represent and support each of our sports groups – netball, hockey and basketball. This unique structure suits our small community very well. This group is working hard to set in place procedures, policies and documentation that will encourage any parents, old and new, who are interested, to become involved easily and supports consistent long-term planning and management of the sports.

This group has been named the SACRED HEART SPORTS TEAMS ADMINISTRATION GROUP and is comprised of the following parents:

Faith Cruskall
Deanne Brock
Deanne Parker

Each sport will have two co-ordinators. Your netball co-ordinators are Shannan Jones and Deanne Parker.

Some of the tasks that have been completed or are on the way to completion are:

- Writing and dissemination of cohesive policies and procedures
- Timetabling of key dates for all sports
- Registration paperwork that provides all information required for team nomination as well as important information to help coaches with duty of care. This will be accessible to parents and carers online as well as hard copy.
- Setting up a database that enables quick and easy communication with all players and parents
- The availability of the payment of fees via EFTPOS and direct debit
- Direct debit invoice payments
- Grievance and resolution adjudication
- Fundraising, grants and sponsorship coordination
We are still in the early stages of development but we are very positive that the formation of this group will:

- Improve communication between parents – coaches – managers – coordinators – the overarching Association and bodies. This will allow all participants to be aware of all opportunities that their sport can offer
- Give our children access to uniforms through a uniform pool and equipment that is kept updated
- Ensure the growth and development of all players and volunteers – including encouragement of players to participate in mentoring, coaching and umpiring roles

Some Netball FAQ’s

1. Why are the netball fees more expensive this year?
   As a group, and with the support of Mr Firns, we have decided to add $25 to the EHNA fees this year – this takes us in line with the majority of clubs in the Association and because of this we will be able to supply to each team with:
   - A set of match bibs. Please note current ones are obsolete.
   - 3 training balls
   - A quality game ball
   - A ball bag
   - Coaches handbook to enable coaches to record all information during the game and
   - A first aid kit etc
   Any remaining monies will be used to reinvest in netball by way of clinics for our coaches, volunteer police check for our managers and coaches and development of our players.

2. Why do we need to change the way we run netball?
   A major goal of any sporting group should be to aim for a culture and environment that embraces change and is ever striving for the most positive and uplifting experience for our most important people – our players. Netball Australia has implemented new rule changes that are focused on streamlining game play, promoting good sportsmanship and keeping the sport moving forward – what a great culture to adopt within our own teams.

3. Why are we changing the uniform?
   Dresses have become the most common uniform worn by most netballers, with our older players in particular preferring dresses. No team will be compelled to change their uniform, if by team consensus they do not want to. The decision will have to be unanimous, rather than a majority, however everyone should be aware that by the 2017 season all teams will be in dresses.
   Sacred Heart Netball has approval by EHNA for a new netball dress in our team colours of navy blue and white. Teams are asked to make their decision ASAP. The season starts in 8 weeks and there is a 6 week lead time on uniforms.
   Teams will be given the option of:
   - Buying the uniforms outright and if after the season the dress becomes too small, Sacred Heart Netball will buy the dress as a second hand item to be utilised in the uniform pool, provided it is in good order
   - Actively seeking sponsorship to purchase uniforms.
     If you find a uniform sponsor, those funds will be used to purchase your teams uniforms.
     The sponsor’s logo would go onto the bibs not the dresses
   - Wait for fundraising and grant procurement and get uniforms when the uniform pool is established.
   Uniforms will be ordered and distributed only after the confirmation of one of the above options
   The uniform change over, as an entire team group, does not have to be immediate as we have permission from EHNA to transition over the season
4. Aren’t dresses more expensive?
Dresses are costed at $59.00 each, so they are on par with the cost of the current netball uniform and skirt. We are working towards having all teams supplied with uniforms from a club run uniform pool. Each season, players will be able to hire uniforms with the cost being comprised of a bond component and an amount that will be charged as hire. The hire amount will cover ongoing maintenance and replacement costs, therefore being a self-supporting system. This is a method that many clubs use to supply their uniforms to their teams and it certainly is a cost saving for families when children grow as fast as they do.

5. So what will our boys wear if the girls are in dresses?
There are a matching set of shorts and shirts to the dresses made by the same manufacture so the boys will able to wear a uniform that corresponds with the rest of their team. These will also be part of the uniform pool.

6. How will teams be decided and graded?
Grading is determined by EHNA, with clubs being able to put their recommendations and requests at time of registration. This is done in accordance with Netball Australia standards. Teams will be decided by the Sacred Heart Sports Administration Team and Netball Coordinators. If you have any special requirements, please email or attach concerns or requests with your registration.

7. What if I don’t want to pay the extra fee on top of the EHNA fee?
The extra fee is non-negotiable, however we understand that it can become an added burden for families so people who anticipate that this will be a problem are asked to contact the Netball Coordinators.

Please keep in mind that these changes are for the benefit of our Sacred Heart Netball and our children. The SACRED HEART SPORTS TEAMS ADMINISTRATION GROUP encourages all parents, players and coaches to direct all questions or requests to the Netball Coordinators. If in the event of needing additional clarification please then speak to either Deanne Brock, Faith Cruskall or Deanne Parker.

Looking forward to a fantastic 2016 netball season.

Regards,
SHSTAG Team.