

OPEN MASTERS GAMES

ABU DHABI 2026

NETBALL



Updated: November 28, 2025

1. General Information

1.1. Governance

The Competition shall be played in accordance with the rules of the U.A.E Netball Federation as approved by the Open Masters Games Abu Dhabi (OMGAD) Committee.

1.2. Eligibility

The age of the youngest registered team member determines which age category the team will compete in and for the Games, your age is determined as of 31 December 2026. For example, if you are 40 years old as of 31 December 2026, you can participate in both competitive and recreational categories, provided there are no scheduling conflicts.

Competitors can participate in up to two teams in the netball competition (in different age categories) provided they are registered with each team.

Teams must register a minimum of seven players. Teams are permitted to have a maximum of 10 players registered on the score sheet in any one match, however a maximum of 15 team players can be registered. A maximum of four team support staff (coach, manager, trainer, etc.) and one umpire may register with a team.

All players must be registered participants in the OMGAD. Accreditation checks will be carried out prior to all matches.

Health Declaration

Athletes should carefully evaluate whether their physical condition is suitable for participating in the competition. If they suffer from cardiovascular or other diseases that make them not suitable to engage strenuous exercise, seeking doctor's advice is recommended to evaluate whether they can safely participate in OMGAD events.

1.3. Dates¹

February 12 Thursday	February 13 Friday	February 14 Saturday

¹ Reduced to a three day schedule (27/10)

1.4. Venue

Abu Dhabi Cricket & Sports Hub, Khalifa City A

2. Competition Information

2.1. Disciplines, Events & Grading

Grade	Category	
	Gender	Age
Competitive	Female	30+, 35+, 40+
Recreational		30+, 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+

Where possible all age categories will be graded. The competition will be divided into two grade categories: competitive and recreational. Teams must indicate their grade at the time of registration based on the following definitions.

- **Competitive:** This category is for teams who have three members who regularly compete in a competition of high standard and/or who compete in masters/special events or regularly compete in a domestic competition.
- **Recreational:** This category is for teams whose members play on a social/non regular basis. These teams may have a few members who are not currently involved in competitive netball.

The OMGAD reserves the right to move teams between grades.

2.2. Format

All teams will be placed into pools and play teams within their pool to determine the positions. Crossover matches will be held, if there are enough entries, to decide the placings for finals. Teams can expect to play one or two games per day.

2.3. Schedule

A detailed schedule will be developed throughout 2025.

2.4. Rules

Teams playing ineligible players will be penalised four points for every game in which the ineligible player participates. The player concerned will be banned from further participation in the netball competition.

2.5. Determining Places

Points will be awarded as follows for preliminary matches. Refer below for information regarding finals.

- Win, four points
- Draw, two points
- Forfeit, four points
- Loss, zero points

Please note that additional time will not be played at the conclusion of a drawn preliminary match.

Finals teams will be determined by points and percentages.

The goal average for each team shall be decided as follows: Total number of goals scored by the team divided by the total number of goals scored against the team, multiplied by 100 and divided by the actual number of matches played by the team.

2.6. Substitutions

Unlimited substitutions are permitted excluding drawn finals. Refer to final's information below.

2.7. Finals

Finals structure will be conducted at the conclusion of the preliminary rounds. The number of points gained during the round robin shall determine teams qualifying for finals. In the event of teams being equal on points, positions shall be determined by the percentage of goals scored for and against.

Players must participate in two games to be eligible to play finals for their team. No late registrations will be accepted going into finals.

Drawn Finals

The below process will be followed if there is a tie at the end of a final

- There is a one-minute break during which there may be substitutions and/or team changes.
- If at the end of one minute it is still tied, two five-minute halves will be played.
- At the end of the first five minutes, teams simply change ends and there is no substitution or team changes allowed.
- If at the end of the second five minutes the scores are still level, then the play continues until one team has a two-goal advantage. There will be no substitutions or change of end.

3. Technical Details

3.1. Technical Delegate

A Technical Delegate, endorsed by the Organising Committee, will be announced in the final version of the guide. The Technical Delegate, or a nominee, will oversee the implementation of all specific rules and requirements at the Games.

3.2. Other Technical Details

Scorer

Every team is to provide a scorer for each game. This person can be an unused player or team official. The scorers from each team must sit together and use the score sheet provided. Scorers must record the position played by each player. The scoresheet provided will be considered the official scoresheet and only information recorded on the official scoresheet will be accepted. The winning team must deliver the scoresheet to the netball event office immediately after the game.

4. Equipment & Uniform

4.1. Equipment

- Game balls will be provided for competition.
- Teams are advised to bring their own balls for training.
- Teams are advised to bring their own water bottles and strapping tape.
- Individuals are responsible for the safekeeping and storage of their own equipment.

4.2. Uniform

- All teams are required to wear appropriate uniforms. All competitors on the same team must wear team uniforms of the same colour.
- All teams should have two sets of competition positional bibs (dark and light). The first team listed on the schedule will be designated as the home team, the second team listed on the schedule will be designated and the visiting team.
- In the event of two teams wearing similar colour positional bibs, the first named team shall change positional bibs.

5. Awarding

5.1. Medals

The top 3 athletes will be awarded the gold medal, silver medal and bronze medal respectively.

5.2. Ceremonies

- In OMGAD2026, athletes are individuals and represent themselves. National flags and anthems will not be included in medal ceremonies.
- The medal ceremony will be held after each final.
- The medal ceremony will be conducted in Arabic and English.

6. Protests and Appeals

6.1. Protests

- Competition-related disputes and protests shall be handled according to rules and related regulations of the international association of the sport. If there are no rules regarding such disputes and protests in place, the competitor may first make verbal protest and submit written protest to OMGAD within 30 minutes after the end of a contest.
- No protest can be lodged by any team members or staff against a judging (scoring) decision during the competition period.

6.2. Appeals

- Based on the principle of trust, the Organizer will not take the initiative to review the grade of athletes upon registration. Matters regarding athlete qualifications and grades should be submitted to the Organizer with relevant supporting materials before the Games or when the fact occurs. The complaint will be handled in accordance with the rules and relevant regulations of international sports federations and relevant regulations.
- Applications that are not submitted within the stipulated time or with incomplete materials will not be accepted.

7. Doping Control

7.1. Regulations

- Doping Control should be conducted in accordance with WADA World Anti-Doping Code (<https://www.wada-ama.org/en>) and International Masters Games Association (IMGA) Anti-Doping Rules (<https://imga.ch/masterssports/anti-doping>).
- Participants are deemed to have agreed to be subject to doping control procedures in accordance with the International Masters Games Association Anti-Doping Rules upon entry to the competition. Participants must obey antidoping rules and conduct themselves in a considerate manner.

8. Updates

The final version of the competition guide will be released by December 15th. Important additional information, including the sports schedule, will be available at that time. In the meantime, please address all inquiries to: sports@omgad2026.ae