Recognising and Celebrating *Diversity in Netball.*



Support Associations and Clubs to recognise, celebrate and embrace the cultural diversity of their communities through inclusive planning, meaningful celebrations and culturally responsive practices.

Recognising important cultural and community events demonstrates respect, strengthens relationships and helps create welcoming environments where everyone feels they belong.

WHY CELEBRATING DIVERSITY MATTERS

Community netball brings together people from many different cultural, linguistic, religious and social backgrounds. Creating an inclusive environment means recognising that people may experience and participate in sport differently based on their individual backgrounds, traditions and lived experiences.

Acknowledging and celebrating cultural diversity helps participants feel seen, respected and valued. It also provides opportunities for members to learn from one another, build stronger relationships and foster a greater sense of belonging within the netball community.

Importantly, celebrating diversity is not about recognising one culture over another—it is about creating opportunities for everyone to feel welcome and included.

BENEFITS OF CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Recognising significant cultural and community events can help your Association or Club to:

- Demonstrate a visible commitment to diversity and inclusion
- Create a welcoming and inclusive environment for participants and families
- Increase understanding and appreciation of different cultures
- Build stronger relationships with multicultural communities
- Encourage new participants and volunteers to become involved
- Improve planning by recognising important cultural and religious dates
- Strengthen community connections and member engagement
- Foster a greater sense of belonging for everyone involved

Recognising and Celebrating *Diversity in Netball.*



RECOGNISING CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY DATES

Being aware of important cultural and community events allows Associations and Clubs to plan activities, competitions and communications more thoughtfully.

Where appropriate, consider acknowledging significant dates through:

- Social media and website posts
- Club newsletters
- Welcome messages
- Cultural displays or decorations
- Community events
- Educational activities
- Themed training sessions or social gatherings
- Invitations for members to share their culture, traditions or experiences

Celebrations should be respectful, inclusive and, where possible, informed by members of the communities being recognised.

KEY CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY DATES

World Religion Day

Third Sunday in January

World Religion Day promotes understanding, respect and harmony between people of different faiths and beliefs. It provides an opportunity to acknowledge the diversity of religious traditions represented within your netball community.

Ideas for Associations and Clubs:

- Share messages promoting respect for all faiths
- Encourage members to learn about different religious traditions
- Reinforce your organisation's commitment to inclusion and respect

Lunar New Year

Occurs between 21 January and 20 February (date varies each year)

Lunar New Year is celebrated by many East and Southeast Asian communities and is one of the world's most significant cultural celebrations. Traditions often include family gatherings, cultural performances, food and community celebrations.

Ideas for Associations and Clubs:

- Share Lunar New Year greetings through club communications
- Decorate clubrooms with culturally appropriate decorations
- Invite members to share traditions and celebrations
- Recognise the event during training or competition

Recognising and Celebrating *Diversity in Netball.*



Harmony Week

17–23 March

Harmony Week celebrates Australia's cultural diversity and promotes the message that everyone belongs.

The week encourages communities to celebrate inclusion, respect and belonging regardless of cultural or linguistic background.

Ideas for Associations and Clubs:

- Encourage members to wear orange or multicultural colours
- Celebrate the diversity of your members
- Share stories highlighting different cultures represented within your club
- Host a multicultural morning tea or family event
- Promote messages of inclusion and belonging across club communications

Refugee Week

19–25 June

Refugee Week recognises the resilience, strength and valuable contributions of people from refugee backgrounds who have made Australia their home.

It provides an opportunity to celebrate diversity while raising awareness of the experiences many refugees have faced.

Ideas for Associations and Clubs:

- Share positive stories of inclusion and belonging
- Welcome new participants from refugee backgrounds
- Partner with local refugee support organisations where appropriate
- Reinforce that everyone is welcome within your netball community

Ramadan

Ninth month of the Islamic calendar (dates vary each year)

Ramadan is a significant month for Muslims and is observed as a period of fasting, prayer, reflection and community.

During Ramadan, many Muslims fast from dawn to sunset and may have changes to their daily routines, including eating, drinking and energy levels.

Ideas for Associations and Clubs:

- Be mindful of fasting when planning training, competition and events
- Where possible, offer flexible training times or opportunities to take breaks
- Avoid making assumptions and ask participants what support they may need
- Be respectful of prayer, fasting and other religious practices
- Share messages that promote understanding and respect for Muslim participants and families

Diwali

Usually celebrated in October or November
(date varies each year)

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is celebrated by millions of people around the world, particularly within Hindu, Jain, Sikh and some Buddhist communities. It is a time of celebration, family, community and the triumph of light over darkness.

Ideas for Associations and Clubs:

- Celebrate the cultural diversity of your netball community
- Share Diwali greetings through club communications
- Invite members to share Diwali traditions and celebrations
- Recognise Diwali through appropriate club activities or events
- Share messages promoting respect and inclusion for different cultures and faiths.

Recognising and Celebrating *Diversity in Netball.*



PLANNING INCLUSIVE EVENTS

When planning events or competitions, consider:

- Checking for major cultural and religious dates that may affect participation
- Consulting with community members about important celebrations
- Providing inclusive food and beverage options where possible
- Ensuring promotional materials reflect the diversity of your community
- Creating opportunities for members to share their cultures in ways they feel comfortable

Inclusive planning helps maximise participation and demonstrates respect for the communities your organisation serves.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Ask your Association or Club:

- Do our events reflect the diversity of our community?
- Are we aware of significant cultural and religious dates when planning our season?
- How do we celebrate and recognise the diverse backgrounds of our members?
- Are participants and families invited to share their cultures if they wish?
- Does our organisation demonstrate inclusion throughout the year, not just during special events?

PRACTICAL ACTIONS

- Develop an annual calendar that includes significant cultural and community dates.
- Acknowledge key multicultural celebrations through club communications.
- Encourage members to share their cultures and experiences in voluntary and respectful ways.
- Plan events and competitions with cultural and religious considerations in mind.
- Build ongoing relationships with local multicultural communities and organisations.
- Celebrate diversity as part of your everyday club culture, not only during special events.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Recognising and celebrating cultural diversity helps create welcoming, respectful and inclusive netball environments where everyone feels they belong. By acknowledging important cultural and community events and embedding inclusion into everyday club life, Associations and Clubs strengthen relationships, enrich the participant experience and better reflect the diverse communities they serve.