

Dear Mum and Dad
(and all the people who come to watch me play)

Did you know that I play sport to have fun, and be active and healthy?

At 8 years old, the Modified Netball Rules are there to help me learn the game in a supportive environment.

There is a lot to learn: How to catch, how to pass, where to go on the court. Not to step, not to stand too close, not to dive on the ball.

Even though there are many rules, the coaches and the umpires are not going to make it too hard – in fact they are going to “bend” the rules to make the game move along and make sure that both teams get a good turn. You might think they are biased, but they are not, they are trained to coach and umpire this way.

Can you help us too?

We need to be able to hear the umpire and our coach. That is really hard when everyone else is yelling instructions to us.

Maybe if all the spectators can just cheer when our team *or the other team* does a good pass, or an intercept, or shoots a goal?

All the kids will be so happy if you just clap and smile and enjoy watching us improve.

Winning is not important to us at this stage. I am here learning to play and enjoy netball. At the same time I am making friends in my team, in my club and with all the other kids on the court. I am learning to be a good sport!

One day when I am big and playing for Australia we can all take it a bit more seriously!

Until then, thanks for being my biggest fan.



Hi Mum and Dad
(and all the people who come to watch me play)

Now half way through the season – how do you think we are going?

Some of us will be getting really good by now, and others will still be running around the court and doing cartwheels when we are not so busy with the ball.

I want to thank you for remembering that I am only 8, and that I am here to learn the game. Yes, I like winning, but I really just want to play with my friends and have fun.

You will see how the umpires are levelling the game by being harder on the better players – this is so we can get ready to play the full rules up at Bellingara. Please remember, the umpires are not biased. They are trained to keep the game moving even if it means *bending* the rules.

Don't forget, we need to be able to hear the umpire and our coach so we can learn the calls. So we are hoping that you can just cheer when our team *or the other team* does a good pass, or shoots a goal? Clap, smile, and enjoy watching us improve.

Thanks for bringing me every week.
I love netball!

