

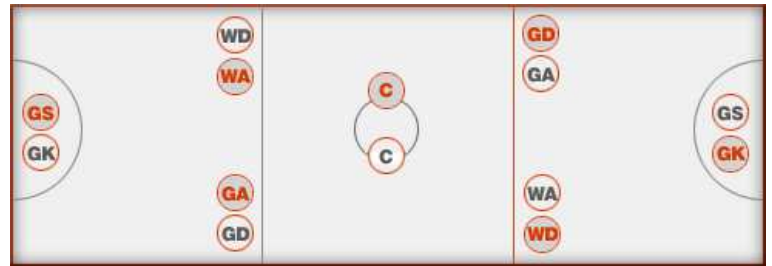
# Netball? What's Netball??

Netball is a very popular sport in Australia. It is mostly played by women and most girls start playing in primary school, although nowadays there are teams with both men and women with slightly different rules. Netball is a non-contact sport that is similar to basketball, and was actually invented as a female alternative to basketball!



The rules of Netball are very strict and the players are only allowed in certain areas of the court. There are seven players on a team, each wearing something called a 'bib' which has their positions written on it. The positions are GK (gold keeper), GD (goal defence), WD (wing defence), C (centre), WA (wing attack), GA (goal attack), and GS (goal shooter). The court is divided into thirds. They are called the defending third, the centre third and the attacking third.

**Here is a diagram of the court showing the different positions and where they are allowed to go.**



Some other rules are: defending players are not allowed to make physical contact with another player; they must also stand at least 90 cm (3 feet) away from the player with the ball; only the GS and the GA are allowed to score goals; and players are not allowed to 'travel' with the ball, in other words, they are only allowed to take one step after catching it.



Netball is also played at international level. The most important competition is the Netball World Championship. This competition is played every four years and the current champions are Australia! Another very important competition is The Commonwealth Games which is like The Olympic Games but only includes countries from the British Commonwealth.

If you want to learn more about this fun and exciting game, check out these websites!  
<http://www.netball.org/>  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DRbuzOJNKA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DRbuzOJNKA)