



***Season Launch Address from the Vice President, Samm Davids
1st May 2024***

***“Three Cheers for the Opposition”
“Three Cheers for the Umpires”
“Three Cheers for Us!”***

We are all familiar with this chant, aren't we? This chant is common practice after every game, but do we really know why and what it means?

This chant is an act of gratitude and a sign of respect for all those people that make netball games happen. Thanks, and Respect for the other team for their performance, and sportsmanship they played against you, thanks and respect to the umpires and scorers for giving their time to officiate the game, without them the game wouldn't happen, and thanks and respect to your team mates who have to achieve a common goal that the whole team has committed to.

Last year a new category was added to the Netball QLD Awards that reflects this chant and so much of what we do here at Raiders weekly, on and off the court - the **Netball Respect Award**. This award recognises initiatives and ideas that help to foster a safe, fair and welcoming environment that ensures all netball participants fully enjoy their netball experience feeling protected and valued within their community.

Our very own President Julie Neisler was nominated for the first NQ Respect award in 2023. As a club we have reflected upon all of the things we do here as a club all day every day and we believe that we do embody the values of the respect award, and we also believe that as a Club Raiders does respect well, so well that it is the essence of our envious club culture. This year building on Julie's achievement as the head of our club, we would like you to 'Shine Bright, respect where you get your light to shine' as our 2024 season club motto.

When you wear the Raiders uniform, we want those stars that are printed on your uniform to shine, to show everyone else what Raiders can do on and off the court. Whether it's about going and thanking your parents for the opportunity to play at Raiders; washing your uniform each week, filling up your water bottles, buying you netball shoes, plaiting your hair, applying the sunscreen, making sure you get to your game on time.

Or thanking the staff at the Downey desk who take our registrations and organise all the teams from the clubs put them into divisions and do the draw or press the buzzer and time keep so you can play your game on time. The groundsman who keeps the courts clean, tidy and safe for you to play on.

Our uniform convenor who makes sure we have the stock to supply you with your uniform.

Our umpires who learn the new rules and are brave every time they blow that whistle during our games to teach us how to improve our game.

Your family and friends that cheer you on, or the boys who play to make our club inclusive.

Our coaches who dedicate their time to watch and then plan training programs to develop your playing ability and build a team spirit so you have a positive netball experience.

This amazingly dedicated committee who give their time voluntarily to make sure that the respect this club embodies is the essence of our club culture.

As Bec Bulley (former firebirds player and current coach of the firebirds) states:

'Culture is key, it eats strategy for breakfast. I think if you can develop a great culture that creates more success than any strategy or talent could'

Like the song R-E-S-P-E-C-T, is more than a facet of a netball game, it's about more than just winning games or scoring goals; it's about embodying the values of respect, sportsmanship, and integrity both on and off the court.

It encompasses so much more than just playing netball, so for 2024:

"Shine Bright: Respect Where You Get Your Light to Shine."