



**Gloucestershire  
Netball**

# **GCNA Junior League RULES & REGULATIONS**

**Season 2011 - 2012**

## **1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

- a. The decisions of the Junior League Secretary, in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the GCNA Junior league (GJL), which is not provided for below, shall be considered final and binding on all parties (subject to the right of appeal which is specifically provided for under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations).
- b. These rules and regulations shall be subject and secondary to the application of England Netball's rules and regulations.
- c. It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players are conversant with the following rules and regulations.

## **2. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY**

- a. Application for entry to the GJL shall be open to any club, which is affiliated to England Netball through GCNA.
- b. GCNA will charge an entry fee to the GJL. In addition clubs will be liable for court and umpiring costs as set out in the entry particulars.
- c. In order to qualify to participate in the GJL, clubs shall either be accredited under England Netball's CAPS scheme, or registered at the commencement of the season in which they enter the league and working towards their CAPS. Clubs must have achieved their CAPS accreditation within 18 months of the registration.
- d. Clubs entering in the GJL agree that they will abide by these rules and regulations and will fulfil the costs and commitments of participation.
- e. A player must be a Registered Participant of England Netball through affiliation to a club.
- f. All players must have their membership lodged with the England Netball Head Office, and their subscription paid, prior to their participation in the GJL, which normally starts on the last Sunday in September.
- g. To participate in the different age banded sections of the GJL, all players must be:
  - over 11 but under 12 on 31 August in the U12 section (school year 7)
  - over 12 but under 13 on 31 August in the U13 section (school year 8)
  - over 13 but under 14 on 31 August in the U14 section (school year 9)
  - over 14 but under 16 on 31 August in the U16 section (school years 10 & 11)No player can play out of her age band without prior permission from the Junior League Secretary (see Appendix: Age Banding Rules) except in the case of U13 players, who may play in an U14 squad. Mixed teams of U12s and U13s may play in the U13 section and an U12 player may play up into a U13 squad as a reserve on the day.

## **3. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS**

- a. Squad sheets for each participating club must be completed fully for each player and presented to the officials at the first fixture date for each age band.
- b. Clubs may only use those players whose names appear on their squad registration list held by the Junior League Secretary.
- c. Any additions to the squad list must be lodged at least 2 days prior to playing the fixture.

- d. Once a player has been named on a squad sheet and has played she cannot transfer to another club during the course of the current playing season. Consent to a transfer may be given by the Junior League Secretary in unusual or exceptional circumstances where written request is made by the player and both clubs involved.
- e. Each club may declare up to **12 players** prior to the start of each **fixture date** by completing a squad sheet.
- f. Where **2 or more teams** are entered from the same club in any age band, each squad will **name 5 players** who cannot play down, but can play in higher squads. Unnamed players can play down one squad. Unnamed players may play in a higher squad, but after playing three times in the higher squad must remain in that squad.
- g. Squads can be renamed after Christmas.
- h. Where **2 or more teams** are entered from the same club in an age band, these teams must be declared in **order of merit** i.e. A, B, C etc.

#### 4. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

- a. The GJL will consist of as many clubs/teams/age bands as determined by the Junior League Secretary. Each team will play each other once or twice in the relevant age band depending on the number of teams entered.
- b. Tournaments will be held for U12, U14 (includes U13 squads) and U16 age bands.
- c. Players entered in the tournaments are to remain in their nominated squads, as results from the tournaments may be required to determine which teams play in the Regional competitions.
- d. In the U16 section, **the 2 top teams from the U16 tournament will enter the Regional League**. Players will be nominated in October to start playing in the regional league in November.
- e. A player who plays in the U16 Regional League is **not allowed** to continue to play in GJL.
- f. The two top teams from the U14 section will progress to the U14 regional Tournament.
- g. Two squads from the same club cannot be entered into the Regional Competitions unless there are exceptional circumstances. The final decision will be made by the GCNA executive through the Junior League Secretary, after receiving written evidence.
- h. If a club has more players after the start of the season and wish to enter another team, the club should approach the Junior League Secretary who will be able to determine whether there is a vacancy after Christmas. Any team entering after Christmas will not be eligible to score league points but the results of matches will be posted on the website, except for U16 section which is divided into two separate competitions, County Cup and U16 League.
- i. Teams will be awarded points as follows:
  - 5 points for a win
  - 3 points for a draw
  - 2 points for a losing team scoring within 5 goals of the winner's score (U16 only)
  - 1 point for a losing team scoring more than half of the winner's score

- 0 points for a loss
  - Teams will be deducted 3 points for conceded matches or rule infringements. If two teams have equal points goal average/goal difference/most goals scored will be applied to determine the correct league position.
- j. The GJL tables will be compiled by the Junior League Secretary and posted on the junior section of GCNA website [www.glos-netball.org.uk](http://www.glos-netball.org.uk).

## 5. FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS

- a. All fixture dates are set at the beginning of the season and matches must be played at the set time and date.
- b. The matches are played indoors at Bentham on a Sunday morning on average at monthly intervals.
- c. Matches will begin from 9:30 and usually finish around 13:30.
- d. If a team concedes on a fixture date, 3 penalty points will be deducted from the team's points. The non-offending team will be awarded 5 points. The **total** court fees for the fixtures must be fulfilled by the club conceding.
- e. The Junior League Secretary will be responsible for producing the fixtures for the League.

## 6. MATCH REGULATIONS

- a. All games shall be played to the current IFNA Official Rules of Netball.
- b. U16 matches shall be of 20 minutes duration (i.e. 2 halves of 10 minutes each) with 1 minute breaks and 3 minutes between matches. The top two teams will be nominated for the Regional Competition and the league will continue with the remaining teams.
- c. U14 matches will be 10 minutes each way, 1 minutes half time and 3 minutes between matches. All teams will play each other twice to determine the top 2 teams that will enter the regional tournament.
- d. U13 matches will be 10 minutes each way, 1 minutes half time and 3 minutes between matches. All teams will play each other twice.
- e. U12 matches will be 10 minutes each way, 1 minutes half time and 3 minutes between matches. All teams will play each other twice.
- f. The Junior League Secretary will advise clubs if the length of matches are changed due to circumstances e.g. number of teams, court availability etc.
- g. An allowance for normal injury time will be implemented in the U16 fixtures. There will be no injury time in other age groups so that an injured player must leave the court for attention as soon as possible and be substituted or return to her position when fit. Play will be stopped by the umpires in the case of a serious injury.

## 7. MATCH/TEAM OFFICIALS

- a. Each team must provide a **qualified umpire** and cover the umpire's expenses.
- b. C award and above is required for U16 and preferable for U14. U16 teams are also required to provide a scorer for each match.
- c. Matches will be centrally timed.

- d. Umpires and captains or coaches are required to sign the scorecard to verify the final score.
- e. Each team must be accompanied by a responsible adult (over 18 years old) at all times and carry a first aid kit.

## **8. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS**

- a. An official result sheet will be completed for each fixture date by the Junior League Secretary.
- b. The Junior League Secretary will post the results on the GCNA website. A league table will be created.

## **9. QUERIES, COMPLAINTS & APPEALS**

- a. Any team official who intends to raise a query or complaint regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must inform the nominated league official, the opposing team and the umpires on the day of the match.
- b. Any queries or complaints regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must be submitted in writing to the Junior League Secretary within two (2) working days.
- c. All queries, complaints and disputes regarding the playing of a match and/or its result will be determined in the first instance by a sub-committee convened by the Junior League Secretary, which will use best endeavours to determine the issue within ten (10) days of the fixture.
- d. The Junior League Secretary will have the power to determine the penalty to be imposed on teams and players who are in breach of these rules and regulations regarding the playing of matches in the GJL. Such penalties will include reprimands, the deduction of league points, fines, suspensions, and expulsion from the competition, except as specified below:
  - The use of an unaffiliated player/umpire will result in a deduction of 3 league points.
  - The use of an umpire who is not registered on the GCNA Active Umpire List will result in a deduction of 3 league points.
  - The use of an unregistered player or a player, who is under age for the age group (without permission), will result in a deduction of 2 league points.
  - Failure to play on more than one fixture date may result in expulsion from the League. If a team cancels, the offending team will meet any costs incurred by the non-offending club.

## **10. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISOS**

- a. All clubs will be held responsible for their players, officials and spectators.
- b. It is the responsibility of each club to provide adequate first aid cover for its players and officials, which shall also be made available to the match officials on request.
- c. All jewellery must be removed when playing netball, and players wearing jewellery (including body piercing) will not be allowed on court.
- d. No adornment that may endanger player safety shall be worn. If scarves need to be worn because of religious practices, the player and the coach must ensure that the material used for the head covering is soft, without embellishments which might constitute a danger, and with potential flowing/flapping edges held securely around

the neck or tucked into the shirt collar as neatly and securely as possible. No other form of headwear may be worn.

- e. All clubs should ensure that players' nails are cut short and smooth, so that no time is lost when umpires check nails.
- f. It is imperative that teams keep to time and do not leave the court. Drinks should be placed neatly together at one end of the court without causing an obstruction for the umpire.
- g. Anyone wishing to take photographs must register his/her name and address at the official table. An '*Authorised Photographer*' stick-on label will be supplied. Any person violating this rule and found to be photographing will be asked to leave. Please advise all parents and supporters of this rule to avoid any embarrassment to them and the officials.

## APPENDIX: AGE BANDING RULES FOR GCNA JUNIOR LEAGUE

### Local Leagues/Tournaments/Regional Leagues

- Teams play within age group as stated in paragraph 2.g.
- Mixed U12/13 teams may play in U13 section.
- An U12 player may play in an U13 team if that team was short of players on the day.
- Teams must be made up of players within age group unless it has been agreed that a player can move up an age group. An identified player, who has been assessed against set criteria by a Player Assessment Group (see below), can play up one age group i.e. U12 up to U14 and U14 up to U16
- Once a player has played for an age group they must stay in that age group and not play for any other team of a different age group.

### Assessment of Players

Clubs, who think they have a player capable of playing for an older age group at junior level, must initially make contact with Junior League Secretary, to co-ordinate any assessment that is required.

If the player has been identified within the Excel Framework (i.e. Satellite, County, T & P Academies), the player's Academy coach plus one of the regional Coaches or Scout must advise their approval to the Junior League Secretary. At least one of the coaches must be independent of the player's club. Assessment can be made on a fixture day.

Otherwise a talented player, who has not been identified in the Excel Framework, may be assessed by two independent coaches on a fixture day. Clubs must contact the Junior League Secretary in advance, to co-ordinate the player's assessment. This applies to an U12 player being recommended to play in the U14 section and an U14 player being recommended to play in the U16 section.

**A Player Assessment Group** will be established consisting of 3 coaches from the following group:-

Regional Development Coach  
Regional Excel Coach  
Regional Head Scout  
County Academy Coaches  
Satellite Academy Coaches

The coaches must have attended Talent Identification Workshops and shall be independent of the club asking for the player to be assessed.

The Junior League Secretary will co-ordinate the assessment and the group will change depending on the player requiring assessment.