



League Rules

A GENERAL

1. Matches must be played according to AENA rules.
2. No team may take the court with fewer than five players and each team must provide a qualified umpire.
3. The Umpiring Secretary reserves the right to use any League fixture for testing of umpires for an AENA award.
4. League fixtures must be played on the afternoon (i.e. from 11.00 am onwards) of the date specified by the League Secretary. Earlier fixtures for that date may be played by mutual agreement only.
5. League fixtures to commence at a date agreed by the Executive but not before the third Saturday in September.
6. Both home and away fixtures against the same opposition must be played as separate games.
7. Clubs with two or more teams in the same division must list their teams in priority order and appoint named players accordingly. (e.g. Cheltenham Ladies = 1st Team, Cheltenham Stars = 2nd Team).
8. The home team must inform the visiting team of the match arrangements, AT LEAST 8 DAYS BEFORE (FRIDAY) the match, and receive acknowledgement. Matches can be played prior to the date specified if MUTUALLY CONVENIENT.
9. The League Secretary must be informed of any rearranged fixture.
10. The game must start within 15 minutes of the time specified by the home team, even if this means a team playing without 7 players. If a team does not appear at the proper venue within these 15 minutes the opposing team may claim the points.
11. a. (i) Each club team shall declare up to twelve players, a captain and an umpire prior to the start of each League Match, by clearly printing their names and affiliation numbers on a result sheet. Club teams may only use those players whose names appear on the result sheet.

(ii) The result sheet shall be completed as per the instructions supplied with the sheet.

(iii) The declared result sheet shall be handed to the Official Scorer, who may be the Umpire, prior to the start of the Match. Umpires should then check both cards for errors and amend as necessary.

- b. After the game has finished Captains and Umpires must sign their names on both result sheets.
- c. The result sheet represents the official score of the match and once this has been signed by both Captains and Umpires no complaint can be lodged. Captains and Umpires must check the final score is correct.
- d. Each team is responsible for entering the match result, **both**:
 - (i) on the GCNA web site, by 18.00 on the Monday following the fixture, **and**
 - (ii) by submission of the completed result sheet to reach the League Secretary within 28 days. If only one fully signed result sheet is received by the League Secretary this will be recorded as the result.

In the event of extreme technical difficulties, an e-mail, telephone call or text message may be acceptable. If a club has no means of submitting a result electronically, a specific arrangement shall be made with the League Secretary.

12. a. The points system shall be:

- 5 points awarded to the team winning the match.
- 5 points to the team conceded to.
- 5 points awarded to the team playing a team who commit an infringement in that match (goals remain as played).
- 3 points awarded to each team for a draw.
- 2 points awarded to the team losing by less than 5 goals.
- 1 point awarded to the losing team if their score is more than 50% of the opponent's goals.
- 0 points awarded for a loss of 50% or less of the opponent's score.
- 3 points for a team conceding a match.
- 3 points for an infringement of a League Rule (goals remain as played).

Where an infringement of a League Rule occurs, the result of that particular game will be null and void and any points awarded to either team, in respect of that particular game, will be taken away. Points as detailed above will then be awarded.

b. Treatment of points/goals for conceded games:

- Team who concede the match -3 Points
- Team who are conceded to 5 Points awarded immediately

At the end of the half-season to which the match relates goals will be awarded, based on that half season, as follows:

Goals (for and against) will be calculated to establish the average for this team for that half of the season.

e.g. a team having 420 goals for and 189 goals against from 8 played matches will have:

- a goal average for of 52.5 (*rounded up to 53*)
- a goal average against of 23.6 (*rounded up to 24*)

These two averages will be added to the existing goals to give a total for the nine matches for that half of the season of 473 goals for and 213 goals against.

A new column (C2) will be inserted into the divisional table showing how many matches have been conceded in that half of the season, i.e. goals yet to be calculated.

13. The Executive Committee shall determine entry fees.
14. Any queries regarding these rules and fixtures must be sent in writing to the League Secretary.
15. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS THE RIGHT TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION.

B PLAYERS ELIGIBILITY

16. Only players registered with AENA and affiliated to a GCNA League Club will be eligible for these matches. Players may affiliate to more than one Club, but must specify their FIRST CLAIM Club. A Player must be affiliated to the Club she is playing for prior to the match. *An e-mail from AENA confirming a player's registration will be acceptable as proof of affiliation.*
17. A player is not allowed to play for more than one Club against the same opponent.
18. Clubs entering more than one team in the League must submit the names of the **4 best players** from each team, except their lowest team, to the League Secretary. Players of **equal calibre** to the 4 best players, although not, regularly available, **should be additional named players** for their first team. These four named players must not play for other teams of a lower standard in their Club (e.g. named players from Team B can play for **their A team but not for their C team**). The list of named players must be submitted to the League Secretary before the third League fixture game, and can be revised for the second half season's fixtures by means of resubmission before the first game of the second half-season.
19. Any unnamed players may only play one team below.
20. No player can play more than one scheduled League game on one day. When a match fixture has had to be rearranged, it may not include any players who were involved in any games played on the original fixture date.
21. All players shall be 14 years of age or over (as at 1st September in the year of registration) to play in the League however, if there is an exceptionally talented young player permission may be sought from the Executive Committee for her to play.
22. All clubs playing in Division 1, all junior clubs, and adult clubs who run junior sections, shall have attained, or be registered for a CAPS award or Sport England's Club Mark (or equivalent form of accreditation), and shall attain the award within 24 months.

C UMPIRES

- 23 a) An AENA qualified umpire must be provided for all matches as per the league fixture sheets. The minimum qualifications are listed below:
 - i) Division 1 - C+ award
 - ii) Division 2 & 3 – C award (including Preliminary)
 - iii) Divisions 4,5,6,&7 – Beginners award
- b) Central Venue umpires are the responsibility of the club listed for the umpiring fixture and must be NEUTRAL for the fixture. If an umpire does not turn up for a match and an

alternative cannot be found within the required 15 minutes, the club responsible for providing an umpire for the fixture shall be penalised with a league infringement.

24. Umpires must be able to produce their Umpiring Award.
25. AN UMPIRE SHALL NOT BE A SUBSTITUTE PLAYER.
26. New Clubs joining the League are allowed to use non-qualified umpires, if necessary, for the first half of the season only. Thereafter they must provide a qualified umpire. Preference will be given by the Executive to help these Clubs obtain their qualifications.
27. Umpires shall be entitled to claim travelling expenses for each individual match, at current AENA rates and these expenses shall be agreed prior to the start of each match.
28. Division 1, 2 and 3 games (at central venue) shall have two scorers who shall sit or stand together in a suitable place near the court and record the scores and centre passes (full guidance is published separately).

D POSTPONEMENTS/ABANDONMENTS

29. All matches will played on the dates specified in the fixture list and may only be postponed for the following reasons:
 - a. Bad weather games must not be postponed until a maximum of 24 hours before and the League Secretary informed.
 - b. Higher Netball commitments involving 2 or more players from a Club. Permission must be obtained from the League Secretary.
30. If a match, once started, has to be abandoned, the time left to play and the score at the time of the abandonment must be noted by the Umpires. If the match is able to be restarted and finished in the time available, this must be done. If the match is unable to **continue the** score at the time of the abandonment shall stand as the final score unless less than 30 minutes playing time had been completed. In this case, the match must be rearranged notifying the League Secretary. If bad weather persists, the Umpires in consultation with the Captains should decide to abandon the game.
31. A Club wishing to withdraw a Team from the league at anytime must withdraw from the lowest division.

E PENALTIES

32. ANY TEAM FAILING TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE LEAGUE RULES WILL BE LIABLE TO A PENALTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH A12.
 - a. If a club is to concede a match this must be their lowest divisional team or lowest team as stated in A7.
 - b. If a team concedes more than 3 League Matches they will be fined, the amount to be determined by the Executive Committee, for each match conceded thereafter.
 - c. A team who has conceded more than 4 League Matches in a season may be refused re-entry to the League the following season. The Executive Committee reserves the right to make the final decision on such matters.

- d. A minimum of 24 hours must be given in the event of a game being conceded, should this not happen the offending Club/Team is liable for any expenses the non-offending Club/Team may incur.
33. The Executive Committee shall take appropriate disciplinary action against any individual or team found to have brought the game of Netball into disrepute.

F PREGNANCY REGARDING PLAYERS & UMPIRES

34. Pregnant Players may not take part in any games beyond the 12th week of pregnancy.
35. Pregnant Umpires may not officiate at any game beyond the 20th week of pregnancy.

G VENUES

36. All clubs shall ensure that there are accessible, open and working toilet facilities at their home venue for matches.