



## League Rules 2017 - 2018

### A – GENERAL

1. Matches shall be played according to INF and England Netball rules and adhere to England Netball policies and rule directives
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 pre-assessing or assessing of umpires
4. League fixtures must be played on the date specified on the fixture card. Central venue matches will run from 9.30-5.00. Home & away matches will run from 10.30am onwards. Earlier times for home & away fixtures may be played by mutual agreement only
5. League fixtures to commence at a date agreed by the Management Group
6. A match consists of four quarters, each of 15 minutes playing duration, with an interval of 3 minutes between the first-second and third-fourth quarters. The half-time interval is 5 minutes
7. Both home and away fixtures against the same opposition must be played as separate games
8. Clubs may have no more than 2 teams in a division. Where a team should be promoted to a higher division already containing 2 teams from the same club, this team shall be held in its current division and the next team qualifying shall be promoted instead
9. Clubs with multiple teams in the same division must list their teams in priority order and appoint named players accordingly. (e.g. Gloucester Ladies A = 1st Team, Gloucester Ladies B = 2nd Team)
10. The home team must inform the visiting team of the match arrangements AT LEAST 8 DAYS BEFORE (Friday) the match, and receive acknowledgement. Fixtures can be played prior to the date specified if mutually convenient, except for Central Venue fixtures which must be played on the GCNA published dates (unless League Rule D32 applies). Not relevant for central venues
11. The League Secretary must be informed of any rearranged fixture
12. Central venue and non-central venue games shall start at the specified time. If 5 players are available to take the court the game will commence immediately. Where a delay has occurred in starting the game the detail should be noted on the results sheet. Teams who are repeatedly late shall be penalise
13. For each League match:
  - a) Each club team shall declare up to twelve players, (including a captain), up to 5 team officials, and an umpire, prior to the start of each League Match, by clearly printing their names and affiliation number on a result sheet. Club teams may only use those players whose names appear on the result sheet. If players named on the sheet it will be assumed that they have played this match. Only players and team officials named on the team sheet are allowed courtside at central venue
  - b) The result sheet shall be completed as per the instructions supplied with the sheet



- c) 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
- i. After the game has finished Captains and Umpires must sign their names on result sheet
  - ii. 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
  - iii. Each team is responsible for entering the match result, **both**:
    - a) on the website by 18:00 on the day of the fixture, **and**
    - b) by submission of the completed result sheet to reach the League Secretary within 7 days. If only one fully signed result sheet is received by the League Secretary this will be recorded as the result

14. Where a club has no means of submitting a result sheet electronically a specific arrangement shall be made with the League Secretary

15. The points system shall be:

- a) For all matches:
  - 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
  - 0 to -5 points for an infringement of a League Rule. The Adult Working Group will apply a penalty which is proportionate to the rule break

Where an infringement of a League Rule occurs which directly impacts the result of the game, the result of that particular game shall 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:

Points will be awarded as detailed above. At the end of the season goals will be awarded, based on the season, as follows:

Goals (for and against) will be calculated to establish the average for this team for the season. e.g. a team having 420 goals for and 189 goals against from all 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 season of 473 goals for and 213 goals against

The column (C2) in the divisional table shows how many matches have been conceded in that half of the season, i.e. goals yet to be calculated

16. The Management Group shall determine entry fees



17. Any queries regarding these rules and fixtures must be sent in writing to the League Secretary

18. THE MANAGEMENT GROUP HAS THE RIGHT TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION

## **B - PLAYERS ELIGIBILITY**

19. Only players registered with England Netball 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 England Netball confirming a player's registration will be acceptable as proof of affiliation

20. A player is not allowed to play for more than one team against the same opponent unless it is an upwards movement ie B team to A team

a) Clubs entering more than one team in the League must submit the names of 4 core players from each team, except their lowest team, to the League Secretary

b) These four named players must not play for other teams of a lower standard in any Club

c) All named players must play in more than 50% of matches for their team. An additional player must be named as soon as it is noticed that a named player is unable to fulfill their playing commitment e.g. due to injury, pregnancy, leaving a club

d) The list of named players must be submitted to the League Secretary before the third League fixture game. In exceptional circumstances, revisions to named players may be requested to the League Secretary (in writing) stating the reason for the revision (i.e. a player being out for the rest of the season). The League Secretary will review the request and reply granting or denying permission to make such a change

e) Any player that has played 16 or more quarters in Regional League 1, 2 or 3 cannot play in any GCNA competition in that season

f) Any player who has played in the EN National Premier league cannot play in any GCNA competition in that season

g) If there is a bye situation in any division and where there are two teams representing a single club within that division, a team list of up to 12 players for each team is to be submitted to the League Secretary by the third match of the winter season. These lists to clearly indicate which team is designated the A team and B team. These lists will become fixed for the purpose of bye matches throughout the season. Transfer of players between these team lists will not be allowed when bye matches are scheduled. Only in exceptional circumstances will any player transfer between A and B teams be allowed in bye match circumstances and only with prior notification and permission (Rule 20d)

21. Any unnamed players that have played 16 or more quarters for a particular team may then only play one team below. (e.g. if an unnamed player in the 2nd team is selected to play for the 1st team for 16 or more quarters, they cannot subsequently play for the 3rd team that season). If this player 2nd affiliates to another Club, she can only play "down" as low as that for her 1st claim team

22. 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



23. 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 Management Group for her to play

24. All clubs playing in the top 3 divisions who have 1 or more U18 player, 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**

25. Teams shall provide a suitable umpire for all matches as per the league fixture sheets.

- a) The responsibility of providing umpires is as follows:
  - i. Central Venue – the teams listed as providing the umpires shall provide a neutral umpire.
  - ii. Non-central venue – the teams playing the match shall each provide an umpire.
- b) If a suitable umpire does not arrive or an umpire becomes injured, then another umpire shall be found. The order of precedence for a replacement umpire shall be:
  - i. a suitably qualified neutral umpire, then
  - ii. a suitably qualified non-neutral umpire, then
  - iii. the next most qualified umpire
- c) Details of what has happened and the names of all umpires shall be noted on the result sheet.
- d) The team responsible for providing an absent or unsuitable umpire shall be liable for all expenses incurred by the league, both teams and all officials. If the match has to be rearranged, that team shall also be responsible for all expenses and the provision of a venue and of all the officials. Teams whose umpires are repeatedly absent or unsuitable shall be penalised.

26. Umpire eligibility is defined as follows:

- a) Umpires shall meet the minimum qualification for the division:
  - i. Top division – B Award, or C Award that has been approved by the Umpiring Secretary
  - ii. Next 3 divisions – C Award
  - iii. Lower divisions – Into Officiating Award (or equivalent), or non-qualified umpire in training if approved by the Umpiring Secretary
- b) Umpires shall be affiliated to England Netball and registered with the Umpiring Secretary. Proof of qualification is required
- c) Umpires shall conform to the requirements for competency and physical fitness set by the Officiating Working Group, to ensure that they can keep pace with the speed, variability and standard of games. Umpires not conforming to these requirements shall be withdrawn from the register of umpires
- d) Umpires shall not umpire more than two matches in the same day, unless previously approved by the Umpiring Secretary
- e) An umpire shall not be a substitute player

27. Umpires are entitled to claim expenses for travel and subsistence from the teams playing in the match. These shall be agreed prior to the start of the match



28. The Umpiring Secretary reserves the right to use any league fixture for pre-assessing or assessing of umpires
29. Other match officials – Central venue games shall have two match officials, one provided by each playing team. These match officials shall be responsible for scoring and timing the match. They shall be suitably competent and follow the guidance published by the Officiating Working Group

## **D - POSTPONEMENTS/ABANDONMENTS**

30. All matches shall be 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 team. Permission shall be obtained from the League Secretary and shall be requested at least 14 days prior to the arranged fixture
- c) Any team requesting a rearrangement will be liable for:
  - i. all initial venue costs are paid as usual
  - ii. costs for the new venue will be paid by the rearranging team
  - iii. umpires will be paid for by each team as usual
- d) The rearranged game shall be played at a time / date / venue to be specified by the opposition

31. 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 except when less than 30 minutes playing time had been completed. In this case, the match must be rearranged notifying the League Secretary

32. Club wishing to withdraw a Team from the league at anytime must withdraw from the lowest division

## **E - PENALTIES**

33. ANY TEAM FAILING TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE LEAGUE RULES WILL BE LIABLE TO A PENALTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH A14:

- a) If a club is to concede a match this must be their lowest divisional team or lowest team as stated in A8
- b) If a team concedes more than 3 League Matches they will be fined, the amount to be determined by the Adult Competition Group, 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 Management Group 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

34. The Adult Competition Group shall take appropriate disciplinary action against any



individual or team found to have brought the game of Netball into disrepute

## **F - PREGNANCY**

35. All participants shall follow the England Netball guidance on pregnancy

## **G - VENUES**

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