



Junior League

RULES & REGULATIONS

Season 2024-25

1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- a. The decisions of the Junior League Secretary (JLS), 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.
- d. Matches must be played according to World Netball rules, except where specifically stated in these rules.

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 shall charge an entry fee to the GJL. In addition, clubs shall be liable for court and umpiring costs.
- c. Clubs entering in the GJL agree that they will abide by these rules and regulations and will fulfil the costs and commitments of participation.
- d. All players must be Registered Participants of England Netball through affiliation to a club.
- e. All players must have their membership lodged with the England Netball Head Office, and their subscription paid, prior to playing in the GJL.
- f. 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 and under 14 on 31 August in the U14 section (school year 9)
 - over 14 but under 16 at midnight on 31 August to participate in the U 16 section (school years 10 & 11).

No player can play out of her age band unless they have complied with England Netball Age Banding Guidelines and completed the form which must be taken to the junior league matches. The form and guidelines are available on the EN web site

www.englandnetball.co.uk/support/support-for-organisations/leagues/competition-governance/

Exceptions are - 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. Each team shall register their playing squad prior to the seeding tournaments. Additional players may be added during the season but must be registered with the JLS before they take to the court.
- b. Once a player has been named on a squad sheet and has played, she cannot transfer to another club during 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
- c. Where two or more teams are entered from the same club in any age band, each squad except the lowest ranked team, shall name four players who cannot play down but can play in higher squads. The names of these four players shall be sent to the JLS prior to the first match of the season.
- d. Clubs with teams playing in the Regional junior league (U14 and U16) shall register their top seven players for each team with the JLS and these shall not be allowed to play in the Glos Junior League.
- e. Unnamed players can play down one squad. Unnamed players may play in a higher squad, but after playing x quarters in the higher squad must remain in that squad (*where $x = 25\%$ of total match quarters in the season*).
- f. Squads can be renamed after Christmas.
- g. Where two 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, or in the case of team names these shall be in alphabetical order.
- h. No player can play for more than one team on any given fixture date e.g. if an A & a B team are entered in the U14s league then they cannot play for both teams on the same date.

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. Seeding tournaments shall be held for all age groups prior to the start of the league season to determine divisions for the league in each age group if necessary. Entry into the seeding tournament is mandatory for all teams wishing to secure a place in the league.
- c. County Cup competitions (usually a tournament or play-off) for the U14 and U16 age groups will be held to determine the 3 top teams who shall enter the Netball South West Regional League seeding tournaments.
- d. 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
 - 1 bonus 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. The non-offending team shall be awarded 5 points.
If two teams have equal points goal average/goal difference/ most goals scored will be applied to determine the correct league position.

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 to be played indoors at a suitable venue which will be booked by the Junior League Secretary for pre-arranged dates and times.
- c. If a team concedes a match, they will be liable to pay the **total** court fees for the fixture.
- d. The Junior League Secretary will be responsible for producing the fixtures for the League.
- e. If a team withdraws from any fixture or tournament, then reasonable notice must be given to the organiser otherwise fees may be incurred (reasonable would mean at least 7 days' notice for the fixtures to be re-organised and clubs informed).

6. MATCH REGULATIONS

- a. All games shall be played to the current World Netball Official Rules of Netball, except as detailed below.
- b. Match times shall be as follows:
 - U16 matches - 4 quarters of 15 minutes, with intervals of 1 minute at quarter times and 3 minutes at half time,
 - U14/U13/U12 matches – 4 quarters of 10 minutes with intervals of 1 minute at quarter times and 3 minutes at half time.
- c. Set times have been allocated as per the fixture sheet and matches must be completed within these set time frames to avoid impacting on other matches.
- d. 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.
- e. Squad/results sheets for each participating team shall be presented at the score table prior to each league match.

7. MATCH/TEAM OFFICIALS

- a. Each team shall provide a qualified umpire, who is neutral (i.e. not a club member or associated with the club) for each of their matches. They may need to swap with an umpire on another court if necessary.
- b. Teams shall be responsible for payment of umpires' expenses.
- c. The umpire requirements are:
 - U16 Div 1 matches - C award umpire or higher
 - U16 Div 2/U14/U13/U12 matches – Into award (previously known as Beginner) or above
 - Umpires for U12 matches below Div 1 may be unqualified learner umpires if they have attended an Into Officiating course within the previous 12 months, have registered with the GCNA umpire mentoring group, and a mentor is available on the day.
- d. The organiser reserves the right to allocate unqualified/trainee umpires to matches for training/mentoring/assessment purposes.
- e. All teams are also required to provide a competent scorer for each match, and they shall sit together in a place designated by the umpires. A score flip-chart shall also be used to display the scores.
- f. All league matches shall be timed by the scorers, or a separate timekeeper if available.

- g. Each team must be always accompanied by a responsible adult (over 18 years old) and carry a first aid kit.

8. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

- a. Umpires and captains or coaches are required to sign both Results/Squad sheets to verify the final score
- b. The official Results/Squad sheets shall be completed by each team and signed by the captains and umpires and emailed to the Junior League Secretary on the day of the match date.
- c. It is the responsibility of all teams to submit their match results by text message or on the GCNA web site (www.glos-netball.org.uk) as detailed in separate instructions.
- d. League tables shall automatically be displayed on the web site for each age group.

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 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 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. For all matches it is imperative that teams keep to time and do not leave the court at the intervals.
 - g. Anyone wishing to take photographs must request permission from both teams and umpires, and their contact details recorded. It may be necessary to ensure that any athlete declared to be at risk is not photographed. It is the responsibility of team managers to monitor anyone taking photographs during their matches. Any person violating this rule and found to be photographing may be asked to leave the vicinity. Please advise all parents and supporters to avoid any embarrassment to them and the officials.
 - h. Gloucestershire Netball reserves the right to photograph and/or film any matches for publicity and marketing purposes. It is assumed that parental permission has been given for all U18s in your club to be photographed or filmed.
 - i. Gloucestershire Netball reserves the right to use any match for umpire assessment purposes.