

L&SE REGIONAL LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS

1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

1.1 The Regional League shall be governed and managed by the Regional Management Board, which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to any sub-committee or individual(s).

1.2 The decisions of the Regional Management Board, or its nominee(s), in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the Regional League 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).

1.3 These rules and regulations shall be subject and secondary to the application of England Netball's rules and regulations, especially Playing Regulations 3.4 and 4.

1.4 It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players are conversant with the rules and regulations.

2. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Application for entry to the Regional League shall be open to any club or team which is affiliated to England Netball through a County Association, which has paid its subscription in this respect, and which is situated within the boundaries of a County Association which is a member of the Regional Association – unless otherwise agreed by the Regional Management Board.

2.2 Entry to the Regional League will be determined by the Regional Management Board at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the rules and regulations laid out herein, and having due regard to the playing standard of teams which wish to participate. In the same way, such casual vacancies as may appear from time to time will be addressed by the Regional Management Board in whatever way it sees fit.

2.3 The Regional Management Board may be entitled to charge an entry fee to the Regional League.

2.4 All teams entering the Regional League, who have junior members (U18s), must be actively working towards CAPS and achieve accreditation within 18 months of registration.

2.5 No club may enter more than one team in the Regional League.

2.6 By entering a team in the Regional League, clubs/teams agree that:

- They will abide by these rules and regulations
- They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the Regional League

2.7 In order to qualify to participate in the Regional League, a player shall be in membership of England Netball as a Registered Participant via one of the following qualifications:

- Through affiliation to a club or a County Association
- Through a Youth Club Membership
- Through a Young Persons Group Membership

2.8 All players must have their membership lodged with the England Netball Head Office, and their subscription paid, prior to their participation in the Regional League.

2.9 All players must be over 16 at midnight on 31 August/1 September prior to the commencement of the Regional Open League:

- All players under the age of 18 must carry with them some form of proof of age as random checks may be carried out.

2.10 No player U14 on midnight on 31 August/1 September prior to the commencement of the Regional League, can play in the Regional Open League without permission. U14s can play in the U16 Regional League with permission.

2.11 Pregnant league players may not take part in Regional League matches beyond the twelfth week of pregnancy.

3. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

3.1 Squad sheets must contain at least 12 players for each participating team and must be completed fully. Each team must then lodge the sheets with the Regional Unit at least fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the Regional League.

3.2 Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their squad registration list held by the Regional Unit.

3.3 Any additions to the squad sheets must be lodged with the Regional Unit by midnight on Tuesday prior to playing the fixture.

3.4 Once a player has played she cannot transfer to another club within the league during the course of the current playing season.

3.5 Each team may declare up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each match by completing a team sheet/result card.

3.6 Premier League Teams within the London & South East Region will be requested by the RMB to nominate their top 7 players' before the start of the season. Any player submitted as a top 7 premier league player cannot participate in or be a registered player of a Regional League team.

3.7 A player who plays up for 2 quarters or any part thereof on 3 occasions for a Premier League Team will on the fourth occasion become a permanent member of that premier team squad and may not play again in the Regional League.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

4.1 The Regional League will be contested between as many teams as shall be determined by the Regional Management Board from time to time. The number of teams will not normally be less than eight.

4.2 Each team in the Regional League will play the others twice.

4.3 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:

- 5 points for a win
- 3 points for a draw
- 2 points for within 5 goals
- 1 point for over 50% goals scored
- 0 for a loss

4.4 A Regional League table will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team. Where two teams are level on points:

- Goal difference shall be used to determine their relative positions, i.e., the team with the higher difference score over the course of the season shall take precedence
- In the event that goal difference does not differentiate between the teams, then goal average shall be applied. Goal average will be determined by dividing goals scored v goals against.
- In the event that goal average does not differentiate between the teams, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence
- Where one of the teams has its goal difference, goal average or total number of goals scored affected by cancellations, then the goals scored by and against defaulting team(s) shall be omitted from the calculations. For example, in the event that one team received 5 points for a cancelled fixture, then the goals scored by the other team against the offending team will not be included when its goal average or goal difference is calculated
- In the event that neither goal average nor goal difference nor goals scored can differentiate between the teams, the aggregate score in the match or matches played between them over the course of the season shall be calculated and precedence given to the winning team

- In the event that none of the above differentiates between the teams, the Regional Management Board, or its nominee(s), shall determine the means of differentiation

4.5 The team which finishes top of the Regional League at the end of the season will be the winners of the competition. They will be eligible for promotion to the Premier Division 2, and will contest a play-off involving other Regional League champions and Premier Division 2 clubs in accordance with Premier League rules.

4.6 At the end of each season, any team or teams which are based in the region in which the Regional League is played, and which are relegated from the Premier League Division 2, will be automatically included within the Regional League Division 1 for the following season.

4.7 At the end of each season, relegation will take place from the Regional League in accordance with procedures agreed between the Regional Management Board and the organising committees of the County League operated by the constituent County Associations. Any team relegated from the Regional League will participate in the following season in the County League operated by the County Association within whose boundaries it is based.

5 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

5.1 The winning team of the 1st division within the Regional League will be eligible to contest at a playoff for entry into Premier League Division 2. In the event of the winning team not being able to accept the nomination of the region for the playoffs, the next highest placed team able to accept the nomination will represent the region at a play off for the Premier League Division 2.

5.2 Teams 7 & 8 in Division 1 will normally be relegated to Division 2.

5.3 The winners of Division 2 will normally be promoted to Division 1.

5.4 Team 8 in Division 2 will be automatically relegated to appropriate County League. Team 7 in Division 2 will be eligible for a playoff with other County Champion teams for entry to the Regional League Division 2.

5.5 In the event that the promotion and relegation of clubs under rules 5.1 to 5.4 would materially alter the structure of the Regional League, the Regional Management Board will make arrangements for the structure of the league as it deems appropriate.

5.6 Trophies will be awarded to the winning teams of each division.

6. FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 Matches will be played at centrally agreed venues with adequate surrounds and ancillary facilities for approximately 30 participants, including changing and showering facilities for both sexes, unless otherwise agreed by the Regional Management Board.

6.2 The Regional Management Board in conjunction with the counties are responsible for arranging the venue, and for the cost of this.

6.3 All matches must be played on the weekend specified by the fixture schedule, and take place on the dates agreed by the Regional Management Board.

6.4 The start time of each match will be set and will not normally be later than 2:00 pm. Any dispute over start times will be determined by the Regional Management Board at its absolute discretion.

6.5 All teams will be responsible for arranging its own travel, and for the costs of this, and should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays. Any team which fails to present themselves at the agreed start time, will forfeit the match, and the non-offending team will be awarded the points as winners by default.

6.6 No team may postpone or cancel a fixture without the agreement of the Regional Management Board. Matches which are postponed due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances, e.g., flash flood, heavy snowfall, must be played as agreed by the Regional Management Board.

6.7 If a team cancels a match or fails to fulfil a fixture:

- The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points for the match, and the team which cancels will have five (5) league points deducted from their total
- The team which cancels may be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team and match officials have incurred, subject to the deliberations of the Regional Management Board

6.8 If a fixture is cancelled, it is the responsibility of the offending team to ensure that the Venue Co-ordinator, Regional Management Board, the opposition and both umpires are informed immediately the cancellation is known.

6.9 In the event that a match which is abandoned for any reason, e.g., because of serious injury, the result or re-playing of that match will be determined by the Regional Management Board in whatever means it deems appropriate.

7. MATCH REGULATIONS

7.1 All games shall be played to the IFNA Rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time, except where specific regulations may apply.

7.2 All matches shall be of one hour's duration (i.e., four quarters of 15 minutes each).

8. MATCH OFFICIALS

8.1 Each team will need to nominate **2** umpires who actively hold a Netball Europe 'B' Award or above. Once all nominations of umpires have been received, they will be placed into a pool and allocated to each fixture by the Regional Management Board, and their appointment will be notified to the teams in advance of the fixture.

8.2 The Regional Management Board shall be responsible for providing both named umpires with confirmation in writing of the fixture, its start time, and travel directions (including a map) at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the fixture.

8.3 The umpires' travel expenses will be a payment which shall be determined by the Regional Management Board in line with England Netball guidelines.

8.4 In the event that an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied:

- If another umpire of the appropriate standard is available then she/he will umpire the match
- Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire should be used
- The Regional Management Board must be informed immediately after the match.

8.5 In conjunction with England Netball, the Regional Management Board will have responsibility for procedures, which ensure that umpires conform to a standard of physical fitness, which allows them to keep pace with the speed and variability of the game(s).

8.6 Scorers will be required for all fixtures. Each team must provide a competent scorer who is preferably a qualified umpire.

8.7 Teams will be required to utilise the England Netball/IFNA Official Scoresheet / Scorecard

9. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

9.1 Both teams are required to complete the official result card after each match, including the names of each player and their affiliation number. The first named team on each fixture will be deemed to be the home team.

9.2 The official result card and scoresheet must be checked and signed by both captains and umpires and sent separately to the Regional Management Board to be received within three (3) working days of the match. The score for the match will not be registered until the result card has been provided and sent to the Regional Management Board with 3 working days.

10. QUERIES, COMPLAINTS & APPEALS

10.1 Any team or match official who intends to raise a query or complaint regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must inform their opponents and the umpires on the day of the match.

10.2 Any queries or complaints regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must be submitted in writing to the Regional Management Board within two (2) working days from the date of the fixture. Advance notice of such query or dispute should also be provided by telephone within 48 hours of the end of the fixture.

10.3 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 Regional Management Board, which will use best endeavours to determine the issue within ten (10) days of the fixture.

10.4 The Regional Management Board 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 Regional League. 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 will result in a deduction of 6 league points on each occasion
- The use of an unregistered or ineligible player or a player, who is under age without written permission from the National Performance Director, will result in a deduction of 5 league points
- Failure to play on more than one occasion may result in expulsion from the League. In the event of a cancellation or postponed fixture and this fixture has been rescheduled by the Regional Management Board, the offending team will be liable for any extra costs incurred.

(This rule to be applied with reference to rules 6.7, 6.8 & 6.9)

10.5 In the event that any team wishes to appeal against the decision of this sub-committee, it must notify the Regional Management Board within two (2) working days of receipt of the decision. In this event, the matter will be considered under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations 10 and 12, which allows for an Appeals Panel to be convened. The decision of the Appeals Panel will be final and binding on all parties. The Appeals Panel will have the power to:

- Endorse the decision of the Regional Management Board, and uphold any penalty imposed
- Endorse the decision of the Regional Management Board, and impose increase or decrease any penalty
- Overturn the decision of the Regional Management Board, and increase, decrease or remove any penalty imposed

10.6 Any team which wishes to appeal more generally against the governance and management of the Regional League by the Regional Management Board, or against specific decisions made by it, must also observe the procedures laid out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations 10 and 12.

10.7 Any teams which fails to observe the procedures laid out in the preceding clauses will invalidate their right to raise a query, complaint or appeal.

10.8 No team may claim victory by default in any match without first submitting itself to the procedures laid out in these rules and regulations.

10.9 Any complaint which does not concern the playing of a match and/or its result, but which is made in respect of a disciplinary offence, will be addressed in the first instance by an Investigation Committee convened under and acting in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations of England Netball. Such Committee shall have the power to refer the complaint to a Disciplinary Panel, which shall proceed in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations of England Netball.

11. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISOS

11.1 All clubs will be held responsible for their players, officials and spectators.

11.2 It is the responsibility of each team to provide adequate first aid cover for its players which shall also be made available to the match officials on request.

11.3 Clothing:

- No form of glove may be worn when playing netball. If gloves are required for medical reasons, the umpires may allow seamless leather gloves to be worn on production of an appropriate medical certificate, and provided that they are satisfied that any gloves worn do not present an obvious hazard to other players
- All jewellery must be removed when playing netball, and players wearing jewellery (including body piercing) will not be allowed on court. The following exceptions will apply:
 - Wedding rings may be worn, but must be taped
 - Medic alert bracelets may be worn, but must be secured in such a manner that they will not constitute a danger to an opponent, i.e., with clear tape, and in such a way that it cannot be removed/lifted off by any accidental contact
- If scarves or trousers 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