

NORTH LONDON JUNIOR NETBALL LEAGUE

RULES 2017 – 2018

The North London Junior Netball League (hereafter to be known as the League) will be divided into four Divisions. The Divisions will be Under 12s, Under 13s, Under 14s and Under 16s.

1.0 TEAMS AND PLAYERS

- 1.1 No team may commence playing until the annual subscription is paid.
- 1.1.1 Only one team per club is permitted per division. However where a vacancy exists, a club may make a request for an additional entry. This may be permitted at the discretion of the League Committee.
- 1.1.2 Teams must appoint a team manager for each match.
- 1.1.3 Team managers must wear the club's colours.
- 1.1.4 Only team and match officials may remain inside the playing area during matches.
- 1.2 Prior to the start of the season all clubs shall put up a bond against cancelled/forfeited games. The penalty for not fulfilling a fixture shall be agreed at the AGM. All monies forfeited will go to the League Development Fund. Outstanding monies will be returned to the club at the AGM, or at the clubs request can be carried over for the following season's bond
- 1.3 Games will be played according to England Netball Rules and to England Netball Codes of Conduct for Athletes/Coaches/Umpires/Parents and Carers. Each club must confirm that the Codes of Conduct have been shared with all club members. Team Managers are responsible for the conduct of their team's players, officials and supporters on match days, and for the completion of any relevant paperwork from England Netball, Middlesex County and the League, including accident report forms.
- 1.4 All clubs and members shall comply with England Netball's 'Safe Guarding Young People in Netball' policy.
- 1.5 All clubs shall comply with the league's 'Photographic & Imaging' policy.
- 1.6 At the beginning of each season each team shall register its playing colours. No player shall be allowed on court unless wearing the registered playing colours. All players are responsible for ensuring that they wear suitable, weather appropriate footwear.
- 1.7.1 Jewellery / adornments and medic alerts: No piercings, or any item of jewellery, except a wedding ring and/or a medical alert or religious bracelet, shall be worn. Dermal piercings (that are located below the skin and cannot be easily removed) and flat religious bracelets (which are not to be removed for religious and / or cultural reasons) are to be suitably covered with padding / tape as necessary to prevent injury to others. If either or both are worn, each shall be taped. No adornment that may endanger player safety shall be worn.
- 1.7.2 Eyewear: If a player/coach/official has to wear glasses for medical reasons then she/he is fully insured from an EN point of view, but the glasses are not insured. Sunglasses should not normally be worn when participating in netball activities. However, sunglasses may be worn for genuine medical reasons when participating in recognised and authorised EN activities. If sunglasses are required for genuine medical reasons, then an appropriate medical certificate must be supplied to the committee.
- 1.7.3 All fingernails, natural and acrylic, shall be short and smooth.
- 1.7.4 No form of glove should normally be worn when playing Netball. In extreme weather or climatic conditions, or with a medical condition, gloves may be worn. If for medical reasons gloves are required, then on production of an appropriate medical certificate/letter, the committee will allow gloves to be worn. The player

should ensure that the gloves do not endanger other players' safety and the player must ensure that they have appropriate personal liability insurance. Gloves should be plain, soft leather or micro fibre (e.g. Neoprene) which are manufactured without seams (or with internally sewn seams) and have no abrasive materials including but not limited to zippers, Velcro, metallic or plastic fasteners. Umpires are reminded that they still need to be satisfied that any gloves worn do not present an obvious hazard to other players.

- 1.7.5 Hair should be suitably tied back whilst participating in Netball and any hair accessory that is used should not pose any risk to any individual.
- 1.7.6 Head Coverings: A player may wear a hat / head covering. They should ensure that the material used for the head covering is soft and without embellishments, which might constitute a danger to any other player on the court, and with potential flowing/flapping edges held securely around the neck or tucked into the shirt collar. It should be as neat and secure as possible. Headbands that meet the requirements as above should be allowed. Peaks, baseball or tennis type caps do not meet the requirements and are not allowed.
- 1.8 Medical aids: Players wearing medical aids to protect injury or post surgery and who are prepared to take the risk of playing, may take the court provided the medical aid is covered adequately thus preventing no obvious hazard to other players. Such players are advised to ensure that they have appropriate personal liability insurance coverage. Any medical aid must be approved by a qualified medical practitioner especially when returning to Netball from injury and have an appropriate medical certificate/letter. The medical aid must be 'flexible' form and not inhibit movement for the individual. The wearing of ankle braces do not apply to these medical aid guidelines therefore can be worn.
- 1.9 Pregnancy – EN recommends that individuals (player, coach, umpire) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidelines issued by EN. Neither EN, nor the club will be held liable for any pregnant individual participating in recognised and authorised activity should the expectant mother suffer a miscarriage or permanent damage to herself and / or unborn child as a result of participating. This guidance supersedes previous guidance that players, coaches, officials should only participate up until their 12th week of pregnancy.
- 1.10 Registration of players
- 1.10.1 Teams will be allowed an unlimited number of registered players in any one season, but a minimum of seven players per team must be registered with the Junior League Registration Secretary by Midnight on the Thursday before the first match of the season.
- To qualify to play in the appropriate Division, players must be Under 12/13/14 or 16 at 11.59pm on the 31 August prior to the start of the season. Players may play in a higher age band provided that a fully completed Age Banding Application Form is received by the Registration Secretary at the close of play on the day of their first game.
- 1.10.2 A team registration sheet with at least seven players' names and signatures must be submitted to the registration secretary by close of play on the first game of the season **electronically, and as an attachment (no photos)**
- 1.10.3 Additional players may be registered provided that notice is given to the Registration Secretary by Midnight on the Thursday before the match on Saturday. All registrations must be made via email to the Registration Secretary. Additional players must submit documentation detailing their full name, specimen signature and the England Netball affiliation number **electronically, and as an attachment** on the day of their first fixture.
- 1.10.4 Players must be registered in teams A or B at the beginning of the season. In the event of a player being promoted or having to withdraw, a replacement registration must be made so that the team maintains the minimum registration of seven active players per team throughout the season.
- 1.10.5 If a player hasn't played for 4 consecutive fixtures, they will be considered a dormant player and a replacement registration must be made immediately to maintain the minimum registration of seven active players per team. NB – Cancelled / forfeit games do not count towards the consecutive fixtures rule (for either of the teams involved).
- 1.10.6 A lower team player may be upgraded TWO times only during the season, on the THIRD occasion she is deemed to be a member of the team to which she has been promoted. She **may not** be further promoted or demoted.

- 1.10.7 A player registered in an older age group division at the start of the season is unable to play in a lower age group division.
- 1.10.8 A player may only play for one club in the league at any one time. Should a player wish to leave their original club and play for another club during the course of a season, they will need to be formally released by that original club. This release must be received by the Registration Secretary by Midnight on the Thursday before their first game for the new club.
- 1.10.9 Players who are over 14 at 11.59pm on the 31 August prior to the start of the season may also play in the Senior League for the club that they are affiliated with. If their club does not have a team in the Senior League, the player must affiliate as 2nd claim to the Senior League club.
- 1.10.10 Teams defaulting on any of 1.10.1 to 1.10.10 will have FIVE points deducted from their total.
- 1.11 Affiliation of players and umpires
- 1.11.1 All players and umpires must be affiliated with England Netball through their appropriate County. Clubs must submit a copy of the England Netball Club Roster to the Registration Secretary before the start of the season. Players or umpires may be added during the season but the club must confirm that they have been affiliated by re-submitting the England Netball Club Roster.
- 1.11.2. The League Committee reserve the right to undertake spot checks at any point during the season, to validate player registrations and umpire affiliations.
- 1.11.2 Teams found to use unaffiliated players or umpires will have FIVE points deducted from their total.
- 1.12 Primary Carer
- In the absence of a qualified primary carer, the person named to the umpires before the start of the match as the person responsible for dealing with injuries for the team must take responsibility for dealing with injured player/s.
- 1.13 Captains
- 1.13.1 Before the match starts, the two captains toss for choice of goal end or first centre pass and notify the scorers and the umpires of the result.
- 1.13.2 The captain has the right to approach the umpires during an interval for clarification of any rule. Any player/s for whom the clarification is relevant may accompany the captain
- 1.13.3 The umpires may request the captain to speak to any on-court player/s whose behaviour is causing concern
- 1.13.4 In the event that the captain is not on the court, an on-court captain will be advised to the umpires.

2.0 MATCHES

- 2.1.1 All matches shall be played on the pre-arranged dates and at the times and on the courts allocated. The first named team on the schedule is deemed to be the home team. The teams will toss to see which ball will be used throughout the match (the toss for the match ball is additional to the toss for the Centre Pass). The home team will toss the coin and the away team will call heads or tails. The team winning the toss will use their ball. The same match ball is used throughout a match. A spare ball must be at the official bench and the umpire may order its use in the event of damage to the match ball or blood on the ball. The umpires check all match balls before play starts.
- 2.2 In exceptional circumstances teams may submit a request for a change in fixtures e.g National or Schools tournament or club tour. Notification of the request to change must be received by the Fixtures Secretary by the 31st July. Any changes to fixtures will be at the discretion of the League Committee.
- 2.3 There will be central timing with a bell at the beginning and end of each game, but the **controlling** umpire's whistle will start and finish the game. The games are to start at 9.00am, 10.00am, 11.25am, 12.50pm and 2.15pm.

- 2.4 A team may claim points if their opponents do not have a minimum number of five players on court when the umpire's whistle signals the start of play. A player arriving late may only enter the game after a goal has been scored or immediately following an interval or at a stoppage for injury or illness.
- 2.5 A match can only be replayed in the event of bad weather. In the event of temporary bad weather during a match, the umpires will decide whether it is safe to continue play. The duty League Committee member will decide whether play will be resumed or the match is to be abandoned. Teams must remain at the ground until the decision has been announced.
- 2.6 If a match is abandoned, the League Committee will decide whether the scores are to stand or if the match is to be replayed. Rearranged matches will be played at the same time as the original fixture on one of the two allocated spare dates (any deviation to this will be at the discretion of the League Committee).
- 2.7 Teams cancelling or failing to fulfil a fixture must concede the points. Teams cancelling a fixture with prior notice (i.e. up to the Friday before the game) will forfeit **THREE** points. Those failing to fulfil a fixture without prior notice will forfeit **FIVE** points.
- 2.9 In the event of teams withdrawing from the League during the playing season, all previous matches and points are removed from the record.

3.0 MATCH OFFICIALS

UMPIRES

- 3.1 Each team must provide a suitably qualified umpire for their own match. Unqualified umpires must have attended an INTO Officiating Award Course in the last 12 months or a C Award course in the last 24 months.
- 3.2 The minimum age for umpires is **13 years old**. Umpires may not umpire matches for a higher age group than their own age.
- A club that supplies an umpire under 18 years old has a duty of care to the umpire and is responsible for providing a suitable adult for the duration of the match, i.e. club coach or safeguarding officer. Clubs that fail to provide a suitable adult to a junior umpire will be reported the Middlesex County Netball Association.
- 3.3 No match is valid or may be played without two suitably qualified umpires.
- 3.4 Umpires must ensure that the score card is fully completed and signed by all players before the start of any match. Substitutes must also sign the cards before they come on to court for the first time.
- 3.5 Any team that fails to provide an appropriately qualified umpire will have **FIVE** points deducted. **TWO** points will also be deducted for teams who do not have an umpire present and ready to start when the bell rings to signal the start of a match. Any team which fails to provide an appropriately qualified umpire for three or more games in a season will forfeit their position and will have to seek re-entry to the League for the following season.
- 3.6 Substitution of an umpire is only allowed when, due to illness or injury the allocated umpire cannot continue, or where a late arriving allocated umpire replaces a temporary umpire (appointed to cover in their absence). In all other instances a member of the League Committee must approve any change of umpire.
- 3.7 An umpire's clothing shall be white or cream in colour on the upper body. Umpires shall wear **suitable weather** appropriate sports footwear and clothing when officiating.
- 3.8 Umpires may umpire no more than two games on one day, preferably with an hour's break in between matches. Umpires may only umpire a third match in exceptional circumstances and with **the prior permission of the Duty League Committee member**. Playing umpires may play and umpire no more than three times on the same day. It is the responsibility of both the individual umpires and the clubs they are umpiring for, to comply with this rule. **Any breach of the 3rd game rule will result in the offending team being deducted THREE points.**

SCORERS

- 3.9 In addition to providing a suitably qualified umpire, all teams must provide a person to take and keep score for their match. The scorer must time the match, intervals and injury time.
- 3.10 Any team that fails to provide a scorer will have THREE points deducted. TWO points will also be deducted for teams who do not have a scorer present and ready to start when the umpire's whistle signals the start of play.

4.0 SUBSTITUTION AND TEAM CHANGES

- 4.1 As per England Netball rules.

5.0 STOPPAGES - INJURY/ILLNESS OR BLOOD

- 5.1.1 The umpires hold time for blood when noticed or for injury/illness when requested by an on-court player (in extreme circumstances the umpires may hold time without a request being made).
- 5.1.2 The player concerned must leave the court within 30 seconds and receive any treatment off the court. The timekeepers advise the umpires when 10 seconds remain.
- 5.1.3 Only primary care person/s are permitted on the court to assess the player's medical condition and to assist the player from the court.
- 5.1.4 In the event that the primary care person/s advise the umpires that the player concerned cannot be removed safely within 30 seconds, the umpires will extend the time for the player to leave court.
- 5.1.5 The umpires may authorise other persons (including team officials) to assist the player to leave the court if needed.
- 5.1.6 Any blood on the ball or the court must be cleaned before play restarts and any blood-stained clothing replaced.
- 5.1.7 During the stoppage both teams may make substitutions and/or team changes, provided these are completed within the time allowed for the stoppage by the umpires.
- 5.1.8 If no substitution is made for the injured / ill player, or for a player who is bleeding, play may resume with the position left vacant. If the player is the centre and no substitute is made, one player must move to play as centre to allow the match to continue.
- 5.1.9 If the position is left vacant the player concerned or a substitute may subsequently, after advising the umpire, take the court immediately after one of the following:
(a) A goal has been scored (in this case the player or the substitute must play in the position left vacant).
(b) A stoppage for Injury/Illness or Blood.
(c) An interval.
- 5.1.10 In the absence of a qualified primary carer, the person named to the umpires before the start of the match as the person responsible for dealing with injuries for the team must take responsibility for dealing with injured player/s. If an injured player is not able to be safely moved, player/s safety is paramount and common sense must be used.
- 5.2 Play may be stopped by the Umpires for an emergency relating to:
(i) the equipment, court, weather or interference by outside agencies
(ii) a player's person or clothing
(iii) Officials officiating at a match.

Umpires shall decide the length of the stoppage or whether the match should be abandoned.

- 5.3 In the event of a match being abandoned, a written report should be submitted by the umpires to the League Committee, who will then decide whether the match is to be replayed.

6.0 RESULTS

- 6.1 FIVE points will be awarded for a win, THREE for a draw, TWO if you are within 5 goals of winning team and ONE point for the losing side if they score more than 50% of the winning team's score.
- 6.2 Each player and both umpires must print their **full** name and sign the reverse of the score cards. Team Managers are responsible for the full completion of their team's score card i.e. team name, date, time, player's names & signatures, umpires' signatures with the affiliation number and the correct final score that matches the other team's score card.
- Teams defaulting on any of the above will have ONE point (per omission) deducted from the team's total.
- Team Managers must place the fully completed score cards in the box in the changing hut to be forwarded to the Registration Secretary. Teams failing to provide the score card will have FIVE points deducted for their team's total.
- 6.3 Results will be posted on the website. Any penalty adjustments will be made only after consideration by and confirmation of the League Committee.

7 GAME MANAGEMENT AND DISCIPLINE

7.1 SUSPENSION

The umpire will suspend a player following an official warning for foul play if the player continues to infringe the Rules. In the case of dangerous play or misconduct, a player may be suspended without an official warning if the umpire considers this action is justified.

- 7.1.1 The umpire advises the player of the suspension and signals to the official bench that the player has been suspended.
- 7.1.2 A player who is suspended must immediately leave the court.
- 7.1.3 While off the court the suspended player/s must stand to the side and away from the court and not impede any match official.
- 7.1.4 No substitute is permitted and the suspended player's position is left vacant unless this player is the Centre. In this case one player must move to play as Centre during the suspension.
- 7.1.5 The suspension period of 2 minutes begins when play recommences. Once the suspension period has been completed, the player is able to return to the court at the next break in play (after a goal is scored, during a stoppage or interval, when a sanction is award, a throw in or toss up taken).
- 7.1.6 The suspended player returns to the original playing position and any player who moved to play as Centre during the suspension returns to the previous playing position.
- 7.1.7 A suspended player may join the team during any interval that occurs during the suspension but must stand to the side and away from the court and not impede any match official when play resumes.
- 7.1.8 All associated paperwork to be completed by the Umpires and returned to the League Complaints Co-ordinator.
- 7.1.9 EN recommend that where a player receives 2 suspensions within the stated duration of the competition period or season, they shall be automatically banned from participating for the entirety of the next scheduled fixture. Where this suspension occurs on the final game of the competition, the ban will be in place for the next scheduled fixture of the same competition for the next period or season.

7.2 ORDERING OFF

The umpire may order a player off the court for serious misconduct or continued foul play. While this will normally follow a suspension or official warning this is not a prerequisite if the umpire considers such action is justified.

- 7.2.1 The umpire advises the player of the ordering off and signals to the official bench that the player has been ordered off.

- 7.2.2 The player must leave the field of play and takes no further part in the match.
- 7.2.3 No substitute is permitted and the player's position is left vacant for the remainder of the match. In the event that this player is the Centre, one player must move to play as Centre and the position of this player is left vacant for the remainder of the match.
- 7.2.4 All associated paperwork to be completed by the Umpires and returned to the League Complaints Co-ordinator.
- 7.2.5 Where a player is ordered off in any competition fixture, they shall be automatically banned from participating for the entirety of the next scheduled fixture within the competition. Where this ordering off occurs on the final game of the competition, the ban will be in place for the next scheduled fixture of the same competition for the next period or season.

7.3 DISCIPLINE OF TEAM OFFICIALS AND BENCH PLAYERS

During play teams officials and bench players must remain at the team bench, except that bench players may leave for a valid reason (such as to warm up).

- 7.3.1 During a match team officials and bench players may not:
- (a) Criticise the umpires or their decisions
 - (b) Use offensive, insulting or abusive language and / or gestures
 - (c) Use excessive noise or interruption
 - (d) Encourage foul play by on-court players
- 7.3.2 Either umpire may hold time and notify the person/s concerned regarding such behaviour The following progression of actions will normally be used:
- (a) Caution
 - (b) Official Warning
 - (c) Order the Person's removal from the playing enclosure.
- 7.3.3 An official warning may, if appropriate, be advised as applying to all team officials and bench players of the team concerned.
- 7.3.4 All associated paperwork to be completed by the Umpires and returned to the League Complaints Co-ordinator.
- 7.3.5 Where a Team Official or Bench Player has been ordered from the playing enclosure they shall be automatically banned from participating for the entirety of the next scheduled fixture within the competition. Where this ordering off occurs on the final game of the competition, the ban will be in place for the next schedule fixture of the same competition for the next period or season.

7.4 QUERIES AND COMPLAINTS

All queries or complaints regarding the playing of a match, the scoring and/or its result **MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING** to the League Complaints Co-ordinator within 72 hours.
nlnl.complaints@outlook.com.

- 7.4.1 Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a Match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant Team Captain/Official must do the following:
- (a) Inform their opponents and the Umpires of their complaint at the match.
 - (b) Mark the Score Card with the words 'under protest'.
 - (c) Submit the Score Card in the usual way.
 - (d) Submit the written complaint in full to the League Complaints Co-ordinator who will acknowledge receipt.
- 7.4.2 ALL complaints and disputes regarding 7.4.1 will be determined in the first instance by the League Committee, which will use its best endeavours to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.
- 7.4 The decisions made by the League Committee in relation to 7.4.1 are binding apart from where parties to the complaint have the right to appeal the decision under Section 8 APPEALS PROCEDURE.

- 7.5 Where a complaint relates to the administration of the league by the League Committee, such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of the Middlesex County Netball Association.
- 7.6 Where the complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual Player or Team participating, volunteering or individual attending a Match which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations, such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the processes set out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations.
- 7.7 Members who misuse social media by engaging in offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour and/or abuse or misuse of power that is meant to undermine, humiliate or injure the person on the receiving end will be referred to Middlesex County Netball Association.

8 APPEALS PROCEDURE

8.1 The decision of the League Committee in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with section 7.4.1 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

- 8.1.1 If the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition;
AND
- 8.1.2 If there has been a failure by the League Committee to follow or act in accordance with these Regulations and/or has reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact.

These are the only grounds of appeal and any appeal must be submitted in accordance with the appeals process set out below:

- 8.2 An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the Captain of the appealing Team to the Middlesex County Liaison Officer within 72 hours of receiving the decision, who will refer it to MCNA.
- 8.3 The appeal must be accompanied by a cheque for £100 (payable to MCNA) which will be returned if the appeal is upheld or if there are any other extenuating circumstances, a decision taken by the Competition Appeals Committee (9.4).
- 8.4 The MCNA will establish a Competition Appeals Committee which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected to the North London Netball League. One of those individuals will be appointed as the Chair.
- 8.5 The Chair of the CAC will send the appeal to the opposing Team and any other Team the CAC believe could be affected by the outcome of the appeal. These Teams will be permitted seventy two (72) hours, from the date the appeal notice is sent from the CAC to submit any evidence or submission that they wish the CAC to consider.
- 8.6 All submissions and evidence must be submitted in writing. The Chair of CAC will have the discretion to determine the process, procedure and direction of the appeal.
- 8.7 The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions.
- 8.8 The CAC will notify all the parties that made submissions and presented evidence of its decision and any penalties and sanctions imposed within twenty four (24) hours of it reaching its determination. The CAC shall have the discretion to publish the decision through whatever means it considers appropriate.
- 8.9 The CAC shall have the delegated power of the MCNA to make all decisions and impose and enforce any penalties and sanctions (including but not limited to, reprimands, the deduction of points, fines, suspensions and expulsions from the Competition) relating to the appeal.
- 8.10 The procedures set out in this section shall be governed by the Arbitration Act 1996 (the Act) and amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of Section 6 of the Act.
- 8.11 The parties also waive irrevocably their right to any form of appeal, review or recourse to any court or other judicial authority, or under England Netball's Disciplinary Procedures Manual or otherwise, insofar as such waiver may be validly made.

- 8.12 The seat of arbitration shall be England, the language used shall be English and the governing law of the regulations and these proceedings under Section 3 shall be English Law.
- 8.13 If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than provided for by this section, and all parties to the appeal consent, the timetable within which an appeal is raised, submissions made and the decision taken can be shorter than seventy two (72) hours stated in this Section. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised directions timetable which shall be binding on all parties.