

RULES CHANGES 2017-18

- 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.**

Self explanatory

- 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.**

The courts have been repainted to improve grip but footwear that is worn indoors or in dry conditions may not provide adequate traction in wet conditions.

- 1.10.2 A team registration sheet with at least seven players' names and signatures must be submitted to the registration secretary **electronically, and as an attachment (no photos)** by close of play on the first game of the season.

- 1.10.4 Additional players must submit documentation detailing their full name, specimen signature and England Netball affiliation number **electronically, and as an attachment** on or before the day of their first fixture.

Photos are difficult for the Registration Secretary to store and access – pdf format is preferred.

- 1.10.7 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). **Dormant players returning to play in their registered team do not need to be registered again.**

Dormant players remain registered in their original team until you tell the Registration Secretary otherwise.

- 1.10.8 A lower team player may be upgraded THREE times only during the season, on the FOURTH 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.

Just emphasising the rule, as some people were unsure.

- 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 (Division 6) 10.00am, 11.25am, 12.50pm and 2.15pm.

The controlling umpire is the one who controls the play in that half of the court where the ball is at the start or end of play.

- 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.

Penalty increased in response to request from clubs who have all their players and match officials in place only to be let down on the day.

UMPIRING

The committee announced at the 2015 AGM of the intention to take part in the County Umpiring Accreditation programme. A considerable number of changes were made to the League Rules, mostly concerned with umpiring and discipline:

1. Higher umpiring qualification for the Premier and Division 1 matches

2. Increasing fitness levels in line with EN minimum standards, and introducing fitness testing to all divisions in the league

Last season we began the implementation process.

First phase – who’s umpiring in our league? A record was kept of everyone that umpired in the League, and at what level they umpired. This information was passed each week to the County Umpiring Secretary who checked that umpires were affiliated, qualified, up to date with the latest rule changes, and more importantly, insured!

It was quite shocking to learn that there were a number of umpires that were out of time in terms of their course attendance date and theory test. This meant that not only were they ineligible to umpire, but the insurance cover of the other match participants was compromised. They have all been contacted now by the County Umpiring Secretary and advised of their options.

- 3.2 The minimum age for **unqualified** umpires is 18. However, umpires aged between 16 and 18 years of age, holding a C Award, can umpire any match according to the qualification required by the division but England Netball would recommend that they did not umpire “senior” matches. 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 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 to Middlesex County Netball Association.

England Netball ruling. *Unqualified umpires under 18 may only umpire in the Junior League. Umpires age 16 – 18 with a C Award may only umpire in the League with a suitable adult present throughout the match.*

3.3.1 **Premier Division**

Umpires in this division must have reached a minimum of level 6.1 on the multi stage fitness test and **have passed the B award pre-practical assessment.**

3.3.2 **Division 1**

Umpires in this division must have reached a minimum of level 6.1 on the multi stage fitness test and **have passed the B Award written assessment.**

The committee did not enforce the rule requiring minimum B Award in Premier and Division 1 because they were advised that there weren’t enough umpires available to allow the fixtures to take place. The information gathered disproves this argument. Last season there were 22 active umpires eligible to umpire in the Premier Division (5 A Award and 17 B Award). So the minimum requirement for B Award will now be enforced. The rule has been further refined to allow those umpires that have passed their B Award pre-practical assessment to officiate in the Premier Division (currently 2 umpires) without a mentor.

*To assist clubs for **2017-18 season only** - the committee has agreed to allow:*

Premier Division - 3 additional umpires who are on the B Award Mentoring Scheme, with or without their mentor

Division 1 – 6 additional umpires that have attended a B Award Course in the last 24 months, but who have yet to pass their B Award written assessment.

This makes a grand total of 27 umpires eligible for Premier Division, and 34 umpires eligible for Division 1. The names of eligible umpires will be circulated to the clubs.

3.3.3 **Division 2, 3 and 4**

Umpires in this division must have reached a minimum of level 5.1 on the multi stage fitness test and hold a minimum C Award.

The League Committee reserves the right to allocate umpires for the purpose of C Award assessment in any division up to, and including, Division 2.

Umpires that have passed the C Award pre- practical assessment may officiate in Division 3 without a mentor.

Umpires being mentored within the League Mentoring Scheme for their C Award may officiate in Division 4

Second phase – we need more C Award umpires! *Up to now the main focus has been to get more B Award umpires for the top 2 divisions. This season, the League and County Umpiring Secretaries will be concentrating on getting more C Award umpires. There will be an informal mentoring programme for umpires working towards C Award, run by the League but funded by the County. As there are different stages of competence, an Officiating Pathway has drawn up with approval of the County Umpiring Secretary. This will*

be sent out to all clubs. By the end of the season, we hope to have a list of eligible umpires for the whole league.

3.3.4. **Divisions 5 and 6**

Umpires in this division must have reached a minimum of level 4.1 on the multi stage fitness test and must provide proof of attendance at **C Award Course within the last 2 years.**

To assist clubs for 2017-18 season only - the committee has agreed to allow:

Divisions 5 and 6 - umpires who have attended an INTO Officiating Course in the last 12 months.

3.6.1. Any team that fails to provide an appropriately qualified umpire will have **FIVE** points deducted.

Penalty increased to 5 points. If you don't provide a suitably qualified umpire, you haven't fulfilled the fixture

3.6.2 TWO points will 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.

3.6.3 **If a replacement umpire with the required qualification and bleep test is found, and subsequently the allocated late arriving umpire is by the court ready within the first quarter, the replacement umpire will continue until the end of the first quarter and TWO points will be deducted.**

If your umpire is late, you lose 2 points. If the replacement umpire officiates the rest of the match, and there was no delay at the start, there would be no deduction (unless it's the umpire's 3rd match that day!).

3.7 Substitution of an umpire is only allowed when, due to illness or injury the allocated umpire **who is at the courts** 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.

Teams cannot arrive on court and say their umpire is sick or injured if they're not there! This is to cover teams whose umpire has been injured, or become ill, when playing or umpiring earlier that day.

3.8 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.

Although EN rules no longer require umpires to wear white clothing, the committee want to continue this local rule. Ugg boots, and the like, are not weather appropriate sports footwear for umpires.

3.9 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.**

The penalty originally proposed was 5 points but the committee agreed to review the penalty at the end of the season. At present, the 2 match rule only applies to the Senior League and doesn't take into account matches in the Junior League. It was agreed to monitor this over the coming season and see whether the rule needs to be tightened up to include both leagues next year.

6.2 Each player must print their **full** name and sign the reverse of the score cards. New Players (NP) and **all** Play Ups (PU) must be indicated in the appropriate column on the score card. Names and signatures of Play Ups should only added as the player takes the court as a crossed out player will be counted as a Play Up. Umpires must print their name, qualification and affiliation number on both score cards. Captains are responsible for the full completion of their team's score card i.e. team name, date, time, players' names & signatures, NP/PU, umpires' names & affiliation numbers and the correct final score that matches the other team's score card.

Still getting players just putting their first name only! Play Ups need to be marked to help administration.

8.4 **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**).

For information.