

# NORTH LONDON NETBALL LEAGUE

## LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

The North London Netball League (hereafter to be known as the League) will be divided into ten Divisions. The Divisions will be called Premier, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (Under 16), 8 (Under 14), 9 (Under 13), 10 (Under 12).

### **1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

- 1.1 The League shall be governed and managed by the North London Netball League Committee (the League Committee), which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to any sub-committee and/or individual(s).
- 1.2 The decisions of the League Committee, or its nominee(s), in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the 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 It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players and other club members are conversant with the following rules and regulations.
- 1.4 Prior to the start of the season all clubs shall put up a bond of £100 against cancelled/forfeited games. The penalty for not fulfilling a fixture shall be agreed at the AGM. (2018/19 season - £10 for the first game, £20 for each subsequent game cancelled by any team in the same netball club within divisions Premier to 6 [Div 7-10 £5/£10 respectively].) All monies forfeited will go to the League Development Fund. Outstanding monies will be returned to the club at the AGM, or at the club's request can be carried over for the following season's bond. Any outstanding monies owed by clubs at the end of the season need to be paid before the start of the following season.
- 1.5 All clubs and members shall comply with England Netball's 'Safe Guarding Young People in Netball' policy and the League's 'Photographic & Imaging' policy.

### **2. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY**

- 2.1 The League shall be open to any club or team which is affiliated to England Netball and Middlesex County (1st or 2nd claim), and has paid the appropriate subscriptions.
- 2.2 Entry to the League will be determined by the League Committee at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the rules and regulations laid out herein.
- 2.3 The Committee will charge an entry fee to the League, to be reviewed annually.
- 2.4 By entering a team in the League, clubs/teams agree that:
  - They are conversant with and will abide by these rules and regulations, the England Netball Codes of Conduct and the England Netball Disciplinary Regulations.
  - They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the League
- 2.5 In order to qualify to participate in the League, a player shall be female and be a member of England Netball as a Registered Participant for the club in question (1st or 2nd claim).
- 2.6 All players must have their membership lodged with the England Netball Head Office, their subscription paid and their payment cleared and marked 'active' on EN System, prior to their participation in the League.

2.7 In Premier through to Division 6 all players must be aged 14\* at midnight on 31 August prior to the commencement of the League. *\*This is official EN AB guidance for Adult play.*

2.8 TALENTED youngster(s) outside the Age Banding guideline in 2.7:

- A player who will be 14 during the season may play in Premier through to Division 6
- A player who is U14 on the date as defined in 2.7 may play in Division 7 (Under 16)
- A player who is U12 on the date as defined in 2.7 may play in Division 8 (Under 14)

A separate Age Banding Form must be completed for EACH ATHLETE, individually signed (no electronic signatures accepted), and submitted with their Registration to the Registration Secretary. Athletes should not take the court until notification has been received from the Registration Secretary that their Age Banding Form has been accepted.

2.9 No player who is U13 on the date as defined in 2.7 may play in the Premier through to Division 7 (Under 16).

2.10 The League Committee reserve the right to undertake spot checks at any point during the season to validate player registrations and umpire affiliations.

### 3. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS/SQUAD MEMBERS

3.1 A player may only play for one League Club in any one season except at the discretion of the League Committee. 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 ([registrations@nlnl.co.uk](mailto:registrations@nlnl.co.uk)) by midnight on the Thursday before their first game for the new club.

3.2 Players who play in the Super League, National Premier League or Regional League must be registered in a club's highest placed team in the League. Any exception to this is at the discretion of the League Committee.

3.3 Squad Registration Sheets must contain at least seven **active** players' names and signatures for each participating team. An electronic copy must be received by the Registration Secretary on the Thursday before the first match of the season.

3.4 To simplify affiliation checks, clubs must also submit their Club Roster Report (from the England Netball affiliation system) showing players flagged as 'active' for the current affiliation year on the Thursday prior to the first fixture of the League. Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their Squad Registration list held by the League Committee.

3.5 Additional players may be registered by email, attaching the new player's name, affiliation number and specimen signature, to be received by the Registration Secretary before midnight on the Thursday prior to playing the fixture. A new club roster must also be sent.

3.6 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.

3.7 For players registered in Premier through to Division 6: once registered, a player is eligible to play up THREE times for another of their higher club teams, 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.

3.8 For players registered in Division 7 (Under 16) through to Division 10 (Under 12): once registered, a player is eligible to play up TWO times for another of their higher club teams (either a higher club team within the same division, or a higher division [as long as the Talented Youngster guidelines in rule 2.8 are adhered to]), 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.

- 3.9 A lower team may only use ONE player (and not one who has previously been promoted in the same season) from a higher team on any one day, and no player may be demoted after the 11th fixture of the season (this also applies to those players changing clubs as per 3.1) unless at the discretion of the League Committee. A higher team player may only play for a lower team permanently.
- 3.10 The demotion and promotion rules apply to active and dormant registrations alike.
- 3.11 If a club needs to withdraw a team, the club may only withdraw their lowest placed team in the league. The players from the withdrawn team may continue to play in the league but must be re-registered in a higher team.

#### **4 STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE**

- 4.1 The League will be divided into Divisions of, normally, eight teams, the number of the Divisions depending upon the entry. The Divisions will be called Premier, 1, 2 etc.
- 4.2 Normally each team in a division will play each other twice, Divisions 7-10 may have a variation.
- 4.3 League points will be awarded as follows:
- 5 points for a win
  - 3 points for a draw
  - 2 points for within 5 goals (i.e. 40-36)
  - 1 point for over 50%
  - 0 for a loss
- 4.4 In the event that a game is cancelled, the non-offending team will be awarded 20 goals.
- 4.5 A League Table will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded. Where teams are level on points, positions will be decided on GOAL DIFFERENCE (goals for minus goals against). Failing that, GOAL AVERAGE (goals for divided by goals against) will apply. If there is still equality the League Committee will adjudicate.

#### **5 PROMOTION & RELEGATION**

- 5.1 The team gaining the highest number of points in their Division shall be adjudged the winner of the Division. The two teams gaining the highest number of points shall be promoted from each Division (with the exception of the Premier Division) and those two teams with the lowest shall be relegated (subject to 5.2 below).
- 5.2 Promotion and relegation shall be confirmed at the AGM and the League Committee shall have power to promote teams into different divisions if numbers drop in that division.

#### **6 FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS**

- 6.1 All matches **must** 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.
- 6.2 In exceptional circumstances teams may submit a request for a change in fixtures e.g. club wedding, 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.

- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 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 with an umpire's permission.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 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 allocated spare dates (any deviation to this will be at the discretion of the League Committee).
- 6.7 Teams cancelling or failing to fulfil a fixture must concede the points. It is the responsibility of the offending team to ensure that the Results/Fixtures Secretary ([results@nlnl.co.uk](mailto:results@nlnl.co.uk)) and the opposition are informed immediately.
- 6.8 Upon completion of promotion and demotion tables at the end of the season, any team which has cancelled and/or failed to fulfil three games or more will be dropped a division in the following season. Any team in Division 6 which has cancelled and/or failed to fulfil three games or more will be demoted to the bottom of the waiting list.
- 6.9 In the event of teams withdrawing from the League during the playing season, all previous matches and points are removed from the record.

## **7 MATCH REGULATIONS**

- 7.1 All games shall be played to the INF 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 duration (i.e. four x 15 minutes), **apart from Division 6 and Division 10 which shall be of 40 minutes duration (i.e. four x 10 minutes).**
- 7.3 Half time interval will be 5 minutes, quarter time intervals will be 3 minutes.
- 7.4 Before a match starts a team must identify to the umpires who is the on-court captain and who is responsible for managing injuries to players in their team if no suitably qualified Primary Carer is present with their team.
- 7.5 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. The umpires may request the captain to speak to any on-court player/s whose behaviour is causing concern.
- 7.6 **Stoppages: Applied to All Divisions**  
All stoppages will be 30 seconds (the umpires may extend that time if considered appropriate). The player must leave the court within 30 seconds. They can either be substituted or the team can play with 6 and the player once fit and ready can come back on court after a goal, at another stoppage for injury/illness or blood or the next interval, whichever comes first.

- 7.7 Team Benches: Premier Division and Division 1 only.  
The Team Manager and Coach as a minimum, will be located in the area between Courts 8 and 9, adjacent to the Scorers/Timekeepers. All other spectators will be located on the side opposite the Team Bench.

## 8 MATCH OFFICIALS

- 8.1 Each team must provide a suitably qualified and affiliated umpire for their own match.
- 8.2 The minimum age for umpires is 13 years old in Divisions 7-10. Umpires may not umpire matches for a higher age group than their own age. The minimum age of unqualified umpires in Prem-Division 6 is 18 years old.
- 8.3 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 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.
- 8.4 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.
- 8.5 Umpires must have reached the minimum of level on the multi stage fitness test for their division within 6 weeks of the start of the season and evidence of same provided to the League's Umpiring Secretary. New umpires to the League must provide evidence prior to umpiring.
- 8.6

Division	Minimum Umpiring Award	bleep test level
Prem	Passed B award pre-practical assessment	6.1
1	B award theory test	6.1
2	C award	5.1
3	Passed C award pre-practical assessment	5.1
4	Mentored within League Mentoring Scheme	5.1
5-6	Attended an Into Officiating Award Course in the last 12 months or a C Award course in the last 24 months	4.1
7-10	Attended an Into Officiating Award Course in the last 12 months or a C Award course in the last 24 months.	

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

- 8.7 Umpires must conform to the standards of physical fitness set out above. However, if age, injury, illness or pregnancy is likely to affect the umpire's movement and positioning to the detriment of the game, they will be required to withdraw from officiating.
- 8.8 No match is valid or may be played without two suitably qualified umpires.
- 8.9 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.
- 8.10 Any team which fails to provide an appropriately qualified umpire for three or more games in a season will be dropped a division in the following season.
- 8.11 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.

8.12 Umpires may umpire no more than two games on a fixture date, 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 Committee member**. Playing umpires may play and umpire no more than three times on the same day - they must umpire before they play or have a match length rest period before umpiring. It is the responsibility of both the individual umpires and the clubs they are umpiring for, to comply with this rule.

8.13 In addition to providing a suitably qualified umpire, all teams must provide a person to take and keep score for their umpire. The scorer must time the match, intervals and injury time.

## 9 RESULT CARDS

9.1 Both teams are required to complete and sign official Result Cards for each match.

9.2 Each player must print their **forename and surname** and sign the reverse of the score cards. New Players (NP), all Play Ups (PU) and Play Downs (PD) must be indicated in the appropriate column on the score card. Names and signatures of Play Ups should only be added as the player takes the court as a crossed out player will be counted as a Play Up.

At the end of the match the umpires must print their name, qualification and affiliation number on both score cards.

The captains are responsible for the full completion of their team's score card i.e. team name, date, time, players' names & signatures, NP/PU/PD, umpires' names, qualification & affiliation numbers and the correct final score that matches the other team's score card.

9.3 Captains must place the fully completed score cards in the box in the changing hut to be forwarded to the Registration Secretary.

## 10 LEAGUE ADJUDICATION

10.1 The Committee will have the power to determine the penalty to be imposed on teams and players who are in breach of the Rules and Regulations regarding the playing of matches in the League. Such penalties may include reprimands, the deduction of league points, fines, suspensions and expulsion from the competition, except as specified below:

- The use of an unaffiliated, unregistered or ineligible player – deducted FIVE points
- Failure to provide a suitably qualified or eligible umpire – deducted FIVE points
- Failure to provide a scorer – deducted THREE points
- Late cancellation of game (**on the day**) – deducted FIVE points
- Early cancellation of game (**24 hours' notice**) – deducted THREE points
- **Failure to notify Fixtures Secretary of cancelled game – deducted TWO points**
- Umpiring third game without committee permission – deducted THREE points
- Late scorer (when umpire's whistle starts play) – deducted TWO points
- Late umpire – deducted TWO points for teams who do not have an umpire present and ready to start when the bell rings to signal the start of a match but have found a temporary umpire with the required qualification and bleep test to umpire until the late allocated umpire arrives. If the replacement umpire needs to umpire more than one quarter, FIVE points will be deducted
- No Result Card – deducted FIVE points
- For each error on the results card – deducted ONE point

## 11 COMPETITION REFEREE

11.1 The Competition Referee for the League will be the Chair of the North London Netball League.

11.2 The Competition Referee will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising throughout the League including, but not limited to:

- Altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary;
- Determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction as detailed in 10 LEAGUE ADJUDICATION.
- Instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour or behaviour that brings the sport into disrepute, including instances of Teams predetermining, or attempting to predetermine, the outcome of a Match and/or the Competition;
- Determine the score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance;
- Any matter not covered specifically within the Regulations.

11.3 The Competition Referee may call upon, or delegate to, additional persons to assist with the League or consult with other persons prior to making any decision. However the final decision and accountability for the decision will rest with the Competition Referee.

## 12 LEAGUE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

12.1 All queries and complaints (a Complaint) MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING to the **League Complaints Co-ordinator** ([complaints@nlnl.co.uk](mailto:complaints@nlnl.co.uk)) within 72 hours.

12.2 Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a Match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant Squad member or Team 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.

12.3 ALL complaints and disputes 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.

12.4 The decisions made by the League Committee in relation to 12.2 are binding apart from where parties to the complaint have the right to appeal the decision under Section 13 APPEALS PROCEDURE.

12.5 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.

12.6 Where the Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual Player or Team participating, volunteering or an individual attending a Match, or making an inappropriate comment about a fellow player, coach, official, volunteer or the governing body which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations (including through the use of social media technology), such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the processes set out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations.

12.7 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.

## **13 APPEALS PROCEDURE**

13.1 The decision of the League Committee in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with section 12 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

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

13.2 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.

13.3 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.

## **14 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

14.1 Team Managers/Captains will be held responsible for their players, officials and spectators.

14.2 It is the responsibility of each team to provide adequate first aid cover for its players and officials, the name of the Primary Carer shall be made available to the match officials on request.

14.3 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.

14.4 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.

14.5 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 playing. 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. This rule applies only to players; coaches and match officials may wear sunglasses.

14.6 All fingernails, natural and acrylic, shall be short and smooth. If their fingernails conform to this rule then they can participate, whether their nails are square or round. Please beware that should a player be wearing Acrylic nails which do not conform to the above, then they should not participate according to the rule. If the player's Acrylic nails do conform to the rule, and they subsequently suffer damage to their nail(s) then, they participate at their own risk and they would not be covered by any England Netball Insurance.

14.7 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.

- 14.8 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.
- 14.9 In order to encourage increased participation in sport, with sensitivity to religious practices and cultural differences, together with the safety of all participants: 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.
- 14.10 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' and not inhibit movement for the individual. The wearing of ankle braces does not apply to these medical aid guidelines therefore can be worn.
- 14.11 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.