



3 Counties Netball League

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3 COUNTIES NETBALL LEAGUE COMPETITION RULES

The League strives to be a friendly and welcoming place for players and umpires to develop. All games will be played in adherence to the current rules and directives of All England Netball Association (England Netball/EN) and the Hertfordshire County Netball Association (Hertfordshire Netball). All teams must abide by the Constitution and the Rules herein.

1. TEAM ENTRY

- 1.1 The League age brackets are in line with school ages, starting on 1st September and finishing 31st August.
- 1.2 The League is for school years 5-13 inclusive.
- 1.3 Depending on entries there may be multiple divisions in each age group or combined age groups.
- 1.4 A player may only be registered to play in one team in the League.
- 1.5 The following players are not eligible to play in the League as it is a development league: players who currently play, or have played during the current season, in performance league matches, for any of the following:
 - England Netball Satellite,
 - County Clubs, Leagues or Academies
 - Franchise Hub or Performance Pathway
 - Regional Division
- 1.6 Clubs must notify the League immediately if a player is selected to play in performance league matches for any of the above during the season, specify which performance team they have been selected by and specify which position(s) that player usually plays for that performance team.
- 1.7 Failure to notify the League will result in a 30 point deduction from that player's team for each match played thereafter, and a possible ban from all further matches for that player, at the Committee's discretion.
- 1.8 At the Committee's discretion, a player who has been selected to play for a performance team or Club in a performance league match, and competes in such a match for at least one quarter, may continue to play matches in the League until they have completed 12 quarters of court time for their performance team in Regional or equivalent matches (this period shall be referred to as "the Transition Period").
- 1.9 The League is to be notified in writing immediately that such a player has been selected, and in any event, before the next League match for that player, and if allowed by the Committee, that player shall be allowed to play no more than 2



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quarters, out of position, per match for their League team for the remainder of their Transition Period.

- 1.10 Out of position shall mean that if the player's usual position for their performance team is GK or GD, they should play C or WA, if they play GS or GA, they should play C or WD, and if they normally play WD, C or WA they should play GK or GS.
- 1.11 Failure to comply with 1.8 – 1.10, inclusive, will result in a 30 point deduction from that player's team for each occasion of infringement, and a possible ban from all further matches for that player, at the Committee's discretion.

2. TEAM REGISTRATION

- 2.1 Clubs must submit Team Registration Forms to the Committee, prior to the start of the season.
- 2.2 Team Registration forms include Player's details:
- Full name
 - Date of birth
 - England Netball Affiliation number
- 2.3 New players who are not registered to any other team in the League may be added to the original registration form at any point during the season. It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that any changes to that team registration form are notified immediately to the Secretary.
- 2.4 All players must be England Netball affiliated to the Club they are registered with.
- 2.5 The League reserves the right to complete random affiliation checks on all teams at any time.

3. MATCH DURATION & START OF PLAY

- 3.1 Teams must be accompanied by an EN DBS checked designated Coach/Team Manager.
- 3.2 Team Managers are responsible for ensuring players comply with playing regulations: i.e. checking nails, jewellery etc before start of play & umpires checks.
- 3.3 Teams should be warmed up and ready to take to the court immediately as the teams playing before have finished and left the court.
- 3.4 If a team is late and have not arrived by the end of the 1st quarter, the points for the win are awarded to the other team together with a score of 20-0 (10-0 for teams in years 5 and 6).
- 3.5 Teams should ensure they have tossed for first centre pass and informed the umpires before the start of their matches.



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- 3.6 All matches will be 40 minutes (4 quarters x 10 minutes). 60 minutes of court time is available within which to complete the match. Quarter time will be 2 minutes, half time will be 3 minutes.
- 3.7 There is no injury time - substitutions for injuries or utilising the 'Tactical Change' rule after a goal should be managed and made as quickly as possible. This is to allow maximum sharing of court time for teams. For more serious injuries, safety of the player(s) comes first and a sensible approach should be taken.

4. VERSATILITY GOAL DIFFERENCE

- 4.1 For years 7+ once a team reaches a margin of 20 goals (i.e. is 20 goals clear of their opponents) the winning team should move to versatility and have their players playing out of position, at the next quarter time break. For teams in year groups younger than year 7, the goal difference leading to versatility is 10.

- 4.2 At quarter time if a team is close to the relevant goal difference, please consider taking this opportunity to move to versatility at this point.

The versatility rotation is as follows:

GS/GA move to: C/WD/GD/GK

WA/C/WD move to: GS/GA/GK/GD

GK/GD Move to: GS/GA/C/WA

Please ensure that the players are moved to a position that they do not usually play, however if a GK sometimes also plays GS please move them to C/WA in the spirit of the game.

5. GENERAL MATCH PLAY RULES

- 5.1 Games will be played in adherence to the current rules and directives of England Netball) and Hertfordshire Netball. All teams must abide by the Constitution and the Rules herein.
- 5.2 No jewellery (except a covered Medi-Alert Bracelet) - see current EN Rulebook.
- 5.3 No taped earrings or body jewellery except daith piercings that must be taped and covered by a soft hair band on production of a medical certificate.
- 5.4 No Friendship Bracelets
- 5.5 Gloves can be worn on production of a medical certificate or at the discretion of the Committee due to severe weather conditions BUT the gloves worn must be in accordance with EN latest Domestic Guidance.
- 5.6 Headscarves can be worn for religious practice. It is the responsibility of the player and coach to ensure that the scarf is made from a soft, smooth material and is secured tightly WITHOUT the use of a pin, as this may cause injury.



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5.7 Players must wear appropriate clothing and trainers with support and grip. Players wearing jeans or fashionable footwear/plimsolls will not be allowed to play.

6. TEAM BENCH

6.1 A Maximum of 12 players is allowed on the team bench for a match.

6.2 Management staff allowed on the bench are limited to Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager and scorer.

6.3 No spectators are permitted to be court side during the match.

7. UMPIRING AND SCORING

7.1 Teams must provide an umpire and a scorer for each match – the umpire cannot score.

7.2 If the umpire provided is under 18 then the team/club are responsible for safeguarding regarding their umpire.

7.3 For all divisions, umpires need to have completed an IOA online course as a minimum and had plenty of umpiring practice at club training beforehand.

7.4 Umpires who umpire Year 9 matches and older must be IOA qualified or above or an experienced IOA learner getting ready for assessment and been observed and approved by the Umpiring Secretary. It is the responsibility of the team to ensure the umpire they provide is appropriately qualified.

7.5 Scorers must be aged 13+ and be positioned next to each other opposite the centre circle for the duration of the game and should call out the score at each centre pass. Umpires will check scores are correct after each quarter and advise on the next centre pass. Scorers should remain impartial and silent at all times during play.

7.6 Any disputes with the score should be first dealt with by the scorers and umpires or speak to a league official if one is readily available but if a decision cannot be made then both teams will need to inform the Committee within 24 hours of the match ending.

7.7 At the end of each fixture teams must ensure that the scorecard is submitted to the Fixtures Secretary however requested.

7.8 Each team should keep a copy of their score card in case of disputes.

7.9 It is the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that their players, parents, supporters, coaches and support staff respect the umpires both on and off the court and that all exchanges between their team and any other parties are in the spirit of the game.

7.10 The umpire's decision is final. Any questioning of the umpire's authority should immediately be referred to the Umpiring Secretary.



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8. FULFILLING FIXTURES

- 8.1 If a team is unable to fulfil a fixture, they should notify the Fixture secretary, Umpire Secretary and the team(s) they are scheduled to play by 4pm on the Friday before the match. The non cancelling team will be awarded the points for a win and a score of 20-0 will be awarded (10-0 for teams in years 5 and 6).
- 8.2 As a minimum requirement teams must have at least 5 players to take to the court before the match can commence. If a team borrows a player to meet this minimum requirement the borrowing rules take effect.
- 8.3 Any player who takes the court must be affiliated to England Netball without exception. If a team plays a non-affiliated player, they will be deducted 20 points for each occasion.
- 8.4 At the end of each season a team's ability to fulfil fixtures will be assessed by the Committee and this may affect their application for the following year.

9. BORROWING PLAYERS

- 9.1 As a friendly development league, players can help other teams as required to prevent matches being cancelled due to unavailability.
- 9.2 Borrowed players must be from the same year group as the team they are helping out, or from the year group below. Players must not play down into a Division or year group below. 5 points will be deducted for each occasion that a player "plays down".
- 9.3 A team may borrow up to 2 players for a fixture from another club or a maximum of 3 players from within their own club. Borrowed players must be clearly labelled on the score card with their original club named. 5 points will be deducted for each borrowed player per match over these limits.

10. REARRANGED GAMES & SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 All league games will go ahead except for:
 - Extreme weather conditions (decided by the Committee by 8am on the day of the match. A decision may be made later for later matches)
 - Matters outside league control i.e. unavailability of facilities.
- 10.2 If a match is stopped due to bad weather and more than half of that match has been played, then the score will stand. If less than half of that match has been played, then it will be rearranged and start from the beginning (0-0).
- 10.3 The League will aim to arrange fixture dates/ timings around clashes that they are aware of such as school holidays, exams, etc. However, it is the club's responsibility to make the Committee and Fixtures Secretary aware of any potential clashes for fixture consideration as soon as possible.



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10.4 The league reserves the right to change the time of fixtures as to give all matches the best chance of going ahead. For example, in January and February, gam matches may take place at 2pm instead. As far as possible this should be scheduled well in advance, but should a particularly bad patch of weather persist, the league may extend this period of moving fixture times.

11. COMPLAINTS, DISCIPLINARY POWERS AND PROCEDURES

11.1 The League adopts the England Netball Disciplinary Regulations which shall apply to and bind all Members and persons participating in activities controlled or sanctioned by the League. The Committee shall, in its discretion, report any known breaches of those regulations to England Netball.

11.2 The Committee shall appoint a Resolution Lead who will be responsible for:

- Facilitating local informal resolutions of complaints that fall outside of the jurisdiction of EN Disciplinary Regulations
- Keeping up to date with EN's Governance Toolkit, Code of Conducts, Feedback & Complaints, Safeguarding and other applicable policies
- Record keeping and reporting to the Committee on related complaint and disciplinary matters as they consider appropriate.

11.3 The Committee will handle all complaints using the following process:

- Stage 1 Informal Resolution – the initial point of contact will attempt to resolve the comment or complaint informally, if possible.
- Stage 2 Formal Resolution – If the complaint cannot be resolved informally, a formal complaint may be raised in writing and dealt with in accordance with the following provisions.

11.4 Stage 2 Complaints should be made in writing within 5 working days of the incident to the Committee by email to Secretary@3CNL.net who will refer the matter on to the correct Officer.

- All issues concerning umpires should be referred to the Umpire Secretary.
- All issues concerning League fixtures should be referred to the Fixtures Secretary.
- All issues regarding the conduct of an Officer should be referred to the Chairperson, or if the complaint is concerning the Chairperson then the complaint should be referred to the Vice Chair or another Officer.
- All issues regarding general conduct of players and spectators at matches, before and after, should be referred to the Vice Chair in the first instance.
- All safeguarding issues should be referred to the Safeguarding Officer

11.5 All Stage 2 complaints will be acknowledged in writing within 7 days of receipt by the Secretary.



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- 11.6 The Officer responsible will then conduct an investigation and provide an initial response in writing within 14 days of written acknowledgement. This initial response may provide a decision on the matter, or may provide a proposed course of action for further investigation, together with an estimate of the length of time required to reach a conclusion.
- 11.7 Reports may be requested from both umpires, team managers and the opposing team which will be considered by the Committee. The parties involved will be informed of the outcome within 7 days of the Committee reaching their conclusion. The Committee's decision shall be final.

12. DISCIPLINE

- 12.1 The League endorses the England Netball Code of Conduct/Disciplinary Policy: www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/about-England-netball/Netball_Code_of_conduct. Extracts for reference of the Code of Conduct for players, officials and coaches are on the EN website.
- 12.2 The Committee shall have the power to discipline in such a manner, as it sees fit, an individual or team that has been guilty of conduct considered by the League to be detrimental to the interests of the League or the name of netball. Written notice shall be given to teams or individuals involved in such instances.
- 12.3 Any physical or verbal abuse during a match from players, parents, supporters, coaches and support staff directed towards a match official or anyone associated with the League will be dealt with in accordance to the EN Game Management procedure and must be reported to a League Officer present on the day.
- 12.4 In extreme circumstances, the match will be stopped, and the offender immediately removed from the vicinity of the netball courts. Further action may be taken by the Committee at their discretion. This may include player/team suspension (up to 6 match ban), permanent expulsion or deduction of a minimum of 5 points. A written report will be requested by the Committee from the umpires and Clubs within 48 hours of the incident.
- 12.5 All other disciplinary matters not covered above will be dealt with at the Committees discretion.
- 12.6 The Committee shall have the discretion to award any appropriate sanction deemed necessary for breach or violation of any of the Rules contained within this document or the Constitution.

13. PHOTOGRAPHY CONSENT

- 13.1 All team managers should ensure that they have photography consent from the parents/carers of all their players. The League is to be notified if a player cannot be photographed so this can be respected.



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- 13.2 Anyone wishing to take photos or video footage on any League fixture date must seek permission from the Committee in writing in advance of the game. Filming and photography will only be permitted for the purpose of GCSE/A Level or equivalent coursework, and appropriate consent must be obtained in advance of the match from all players, team managers, umpires and other individuals to appear in the footage. This is in line with child protection guidelines.

14. CHANGES TO RULES

- 14.1 Any changes to these Rules may be made by the Committee by a simple majority vote, as long as those changes are in accordance with the England Netball and Hertfordshire Netball Rules in force at the time.
- 14.2 All changes will be communicated to all Members of the League as soon as practicable, and in any event, within 14 days of the date of the change.

15. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

- 15.1 Clubs are reminded that they are expected to abide by the England Netball Child Protection Procedures and Policies, Codes of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures, Hertfordshire County Netball Memorandum of Best Practice
- 15.2 Every Club must also:
- Supply a match ball (size 5)
 - Wear clearly marked bibs (and have an alternative set in case of colour clash)
 - Bring a fully stocked First Aid Kit to each fixture
 - Ensure their players wear suitable clothing and footwear
 - Remove all litter and lost property in their camp before leaving
 - Ensure all players and spectators are familiar with England Netball Rules
- 15.3 All Clubs must ensure that all spectators abide by the following code:
- Respect managers, umpires and players - both your own team and the opposition
 - There will be no offensive language, remarks or behaviour
 - No pets are permitted at the League
 - Adhere to the venue's policy of No Smoking or Vaping around the courts
 - No one on the courts other than players and permitted officials.
 - No unauthorised filming or photography of any players or spectators.
- 15.4 A breach of any rules not covered by a specific penalty will be dealt with at the discretion of the Committee.



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16. POINTS

16.1 The following points will be awarded for each game:

Result:	Points:
Win	5
Draw	3
Loss (within half score)	2
Loss (half or less score)	1

16.2 In the event of a tie on points at the end of the season the final positions will be decided as follows:

Ranked:	Condition:
1	Matches won
2	Goals scored
3	Goal difference
4	Goals for vs goals against



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SUMMARY OF PENALTIES

NOTE: Penalties are applied AFTER any match result has been recorded.

Rule Description		
Rule	Infringement	Penalty
1.6-1.10	Playing an unauthorised player	30 points per match or breach
8.3	Non EN affiliated player	20 point penalty per match
9.2	Player playing down a year group/division	5 point penalty per match
9.3	Borrowing more than 2 or 3 players	5 point penalty per additional borrowed player per match
12.4	Extreme misconduct of player	Minimum 5 point penalty