

## **NORTH WEST LONDON NETBALL LEAGUE - LEAGUE RULES 2018**

The North West London Netball League will be divided into 3 Divisions consisting of 4 teams. Divisions will be called 1, 2 and Junior

### **TEAMS**

1.1 No team may commence playing until the season's registration fee is paid.

1.2. 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.

1.3 All clubs and members shall comply with England Netball's 'Safe Guarding Young People in Netball' policy.

1.4 North West London Netball League will take photographs and videos including participants. These will solely be used for marketing purposes and communication of the success of the league and netball teams. Should participants not wish North West London Netball league to photograph or video them, they should make this known to the netball league in writing to the email address [nwlondonnetballleague@gmail.com](mailto:nwlondonnetballleague@gmail.com).

Photography or videography by anyone other than league officials; participants, family/friends and coaches, must be done so with prior agreement from the teams who will be captured. If an individual or team state they do not wish to be photographed or videoed then this must be respected and adhered to.

1.5 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.

1.6.1 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 are worn, each shall be taped. No adornment that may endanger player safety shall be worn.

1.6.2 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 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.

1.6.3 All fingernails, natural and acrylic, shall be short and smooth.

1.6.4 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.

1.6.5 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.

1.6.6 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. 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.

1.7 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.

1.8 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. The league shall not 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 per team in any one season, but a minimum of seven players per team must be registered with the Registration Secretary by midnight on the Thursday before the first match of the season. For the Adult division players must be aged over 14 at 11.59pm on the 31st August immediately prior to the start of the season or under 15 at 11.59pm on the 31st August for the Junior league. Players aged under 14 may play in the adult league provided that a fully completed Age Banding Application Form is received by the Registration Secretary prior to their first match.

1.10.2 Additional players may be registered provided that notice is given to the Registration Secretary by Midday on the day of the match. All registrations must be made via email to the Registration Secretary.

1.10.3 Additional players must submit documentation detailing their full name, and the team they wish to join, on or before the day of their first fixture.

1.10.4 Players must be registered in teams A, B, C, D, etc. 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 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.

1.10.6 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 unless at the discretion of the Committee. A higher team player may only play for a lower team permanently.

1.10.7 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.

1.10.8 Teams defaulting will have FIVE points deducted from their total.

1.10.9 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.

### **1.11 Affiliation of players**

1.Players are not required to be affiliated

### **1.13 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.

### **1.14 Captains**

1.14.1 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.

1.14.2 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

1.14.3 The umpires may request the captain to speak to any on-court player/s whose behaviour is causing concern

1.14.4 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 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 will with the league coordinator 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. club wedding, club tour. Notification of the request to change must be received by the Fixtures Secretary within one week of the publication of the league fixtures. Any changes to fixtures will be at the discretion of the League Committee.

2.3 Each game will be controlled by umpire's whistle to start and finish the game.

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.

2.8 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.

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. The League will provide a suitably qualified umpire for all matches.

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.

3.3 Trainee umpires must provide proof of having attended a C Award Course within the last 24 months before undertaking any umpiring duties.

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 Substitution of an umpire is only allowed when, due to illness or injury the allocated umpire who is present at the court, 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.

3.6 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.

### **SCORERS**

3.10 All teams must provide a person to take and keep score for their umpire. The scorer must time the match, intervals and injury time.

3.11 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 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.

Teams defaulting on any of the above will have ONE point (per omission) deducted from the 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.

## **7.0 PROMOTION / DEMOTION**

7.1 The team gaining the highest number of points in their Division shall be adjudged the winners of the Division. The two teams gaining the highest number of points shall be promoted from each Division and those two teams with the lowest shall be relegated (subject to 7.3 below).

7.2 In the event of two teams being equal on points at the end of the season, promotion and relegation will be decided on goal difference.

7.3 Promotion and relegation shall be decided at the AGM and the League Committee shall have power to promote teams into different divisions if numbers drop in that division.

## **8 GAME MANAGEMENT AND DISCIPLINE**

### **8.1 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.

8.1.1 The umpire advises the player of the suspension and signals to the official bench that the player has been suspended.

8.1.2 A player who is suspended must immediately leave the court.

8.1.3 While off the court the suspended player/s must stand to the side and away from the court, alongside the scorers, but must not impede any match official.

8.1.4 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.

8.1.5 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 awarded, a throw in or toss up taken).

8.1.6 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.

8.1.7 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.

8.1.8 All associated paperwork to be completed by the Umpires and returned to the League Complaints Coordinator.

8.1.9 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.

## **8.2 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.

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

8.2.2 The player must leave the field of play and takes no further part in the match.

8.2.3 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.

8.2.4 All associated paperwork to be completed by the Umpires and returned to the League Complaints Coordinator.

8.2.5 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.

## **8.3 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).

8.3.1 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

8.3.2 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.

8.3.3 An official warning may, if appropriate, be advised as applying to all team officials and bench players of the team concerned.

8.3.4 All associated paperwork to be completed by the Umpires and returned to the League Complaints Coordinator.

8.3.5 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.

#### **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  
[nwlondonnetballleague@gmail.com](mailto:nwlondonnetballleague@gmail.com)

8.4.1 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 written complaint in full to the League Complaints Co-ordinator who will acknowledge receipt.

8.4.2 ALL complaints and disputes regarding 8.4.1 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.

8.4 The decisions made by the League Committee in relation to 8.4.1 are binding apart from where parties to the complaint have the right to appeal the decision under Section 9 APPEALS PROCEDURE.

8.5 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.

8.6 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.

8.7 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.

#### **9 APPEALS PROCEDURE**

9.1 The decision of the League Committee in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with section 8.4.2 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

9.1.1 If the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition; AND

9.1.2 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.