

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NETBALL ASSOCIATION
LEAGUE INFORMATION / RULES/ GUIDELINES FOR ALL LEAGUES
July 2017

1. **GOVERNMENT**

The leagues are governed by the elected representatives of the County Committee together with the appropriate League Secretaries who have the power to:

- a) consider all applications for membership
- b) exercise their discretion should a new or reconstituted team be too strong for inclusion in the lowest division where they would normally be placed, or when the number of entries indicates a change in format would be beneficial.

No decision is taken without reference to the County Committee.

2. The number of divisions and league rules may be amended by the County Committee based on the previous season's results and after receipt of the entries for the forthcoming season.

3. The league shall be known as the Winter/Summer/Sunday/Junior/Youth league.

4. The leagues will be played at Nottingham University Samworth Academy (NUSA) on Saturday mornings or afternoons/weekday evenings/Sunday mornings, whichever is applicable.

5. All matches shall be played in accordance with the INF rules.

All teams entering any of the leagues must also adhere to the special conditions for that particular league.

6. No club can be accepted into any league unless the required entry fee/AENA affiliation/court fee and deposit (part returnable) are paid. Fees are to be decided annually.

7. **From the 2018/19 winter season the acceptance of any club into any league is on condition that at least one first affiliated member has a recognized umpiring qualification.**

8. Scoring will be:

- 5 points for a win
- 3 points for a draw
- 2 points for attaining a score within 5 goals of the winner's score.
(i.e. 16 – 20 = 2 points, 15 – 20 = 1 point)
- 1 point for attaining a score of 50% or more of the winner's score.

If a team defaults then that team will lose 5 points. The 5 points will be awarded to the non-defaulting team and the scoreline will be given as 30 – 0 to the non-defaulting team.

The defaulting team will lose £10 from their deposit for the first default and £20 for the second or third default. If any team defaults more than 3 times in any one season then their place in the league will be reconsidered by the Notts Netball Committee before the start of the next season.

9. Upon completion of the league, the top two teams from each division, where relevant, may be promoted to the division above and the bottom two teams in each division may be demoted to the division below. For the Saturday Winter League the two highest placed teams from Nottinghamshire in the premier division, who do not already play in the Regional League, will be eligible to play in the Qualifying Tournament for a place in the Regional League Division 3. If either of these two teams do not wish to go forward to the regional league then their place in the Qualifying Tournament may be offered to the next highest placed team.

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10. If any team chooses not to be promoted their membership of that league will be withdrawn.
11. If any team defaults on any league rule and their fault is proven, then 5 points may be deducted from their total points.
12. a) **Code of Conduct. All clubs must abide by the England Netball Codes of Conduct. (Clubs may develop their own, similar, code.). Any complaints regarding breaches of the codes must be notified, in writing, to the relevant League Secretary within 7 days of the fixture date.**
b) Any team breaking the rules three times may have their membership of that league withdrawn. The secretary of that league must have received in writing notification of the three defaults. Defaulting teams must be notified in writing of each default. After the third default and before membership of the league is withdrawn, the team have the right to appeal in writing to the League Secretary by the tenth day after the recorded delivery of the third default.

13. ADDITIONS TO THE IFNA OFFICIAL NETBALL RULES

- i) For NNA matches, no form of jewellery, including body piercings or body jewellery, may be worn. The only exception is a wedding ring, which must be securely taped. A medi-alert bracelet may be worn provided that it is securely taped over and poses no hazard to another player. Players who refuse to remove jewellery or piercings will be asked to leave the court. EN has produced Guidance notes concerning the wearing of gloves or hats for medical reasons or in extreme weather or climatic conditions. Gloves worn should be of plain, soft leather or microfibre (eg Neoprene), without externally sewn seams or any abrasive materials including fastenings. A hat, head covering or headband may be worn if the material used is soft and without embellishment and without any obvious loose fibres. (peaked caps or woollen hats are not allowed. Umpires are reminded that any gloves or hats worn must not present an obvious hazard to other players. Headscarves worn for religious reasons are permitted provided they are securely fastened and any loose ends are tucked in.
- ii) All clubs/players playing in County Tournaments or County Leagues outside their own county, but within the region, must pay the full appropriate county fee. This will exclude the proportion payable to AENA. This applies to ALL leagues.
- iii) Players wearing leg braces to protect previous injury or surgery and who are prepared to take the risk of playing may take the court, provide that the brace is adequately covered thus presenting no obvious risk to other players.
- iv) PREGNANCY Players may not participate after the 12th week of pregnancy. Umpires may not participate after the 20th week, but if they wish to do so, it is at their own discretion and they must accept full responsibility.
- v) ILLNESS/INJURY/BLEEDING England Netball Rule 9.3.1 applies here in its entirety. The important points are:
 - (i) 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)
 - (ii) The player concerned must leave the court within 30 seconds and receive any treatment off the court
 - (iii) Only primary care persons (IDENTIFIED BY AN ARMBAND) are permitted on court
 - (iv) Any blood on the ball or the court must be cleaned before play restarts and any blood-stained clothing replaced.
 - (v) During the stoppage both teams may make substitutions provided these are completed within the time allowed.
 - (vi) If no substitution is made the player or a substitute may subsequently, after advising the umpires, take to the court again in accordance with rule 9.3.1 (ix).In a tournament where no time is allowed for injuries, tournament rules should cover the possibility of a player bleeding. In these short matches it is not the intention to

penalise a team with an injured player. Umpires will need to be very aware of the time until the next interval, in order to keep a player on court, unless it is absolutely necessary to have the injury covered. A suitable dressing could be used to stem the flow until the next interval

14. MATCHES MUST START AT THE STATED TIME.

A team shall be required to take the court when requested to do so by the umpires at the start of the play or after an interval. If there are at least 5 players present, a team shall be required to take the court to start play. Players arriving after the start of the game are "late arrivals" and will be able to enter the game only as specified in AENA Rule 5. If the Centre is missing, one player shall move to that position.

In the event that there are fewer than 5 players present, the following procedure shall be used:

- i) At the beginning of the game: a maximum period of 5 minutes shall be allowed for at least 5 players, a scorer and a suitably qualified umpire to arrive. If at the end of this time there are fewer than 5 players plus a scorer and an umpire present then the game shall be awarded to the non-offending team. If during this time enough players arrive to take the court, i.e. 5, then a shortened game may be played. The number of minutes lost is to be taken off the first quarter of play. This should be noted by the umpires on the scorecards.
- ii) Before the end of an interval: the umpires shall instruct the teams to take the court 30 seconds before the end of an interval. If a team fails to take the court at the end of this time, the umpire shall give a 1 minute warning and require the team to take the court within that time. If the offending team fails to take the court within the final 1 minute warning, the game shall be awarded to the non-offending team. If both teams agree the match may continue as a "friendly" fixture.

15. a) Score cards will be provided and must be prepared prior to the match. Both captains and both umpires must sign both teams' score cards **after** the match. The fully completed cards must be sent to the relevant league secretary **within seven days of the fixture date by each team. Scores must also be texted to the relevant league secretary by each team immediately after the game.** Failure to do either of these may result in teams losing points. One point per game may be deducted for an incomplete score card or for failure to text.

b) A pre-match Checklist/Record of Injuries must be completed and signed by the umpires for every match. The sheet must then be returned to the relevant league secretary with the scorecard. Failure to return the checklist may result in the deduction of one point as these sheets are required for H & S records in case of injury.

c) Each team must provide a competent scorer, who must be aged 16 or over, to complete the scoring of the match, on the scorecard, under the guidance of the umpire. Any team arriving without a scorer must drop one of its players to take on that role. Scorers do not need to be affiliated to EN but the club concerned may be asked for identification/proof of age. (See rule 11)

16. Senior games to be of one hour duration, 4 x 15 minutes with 3 minutes intervals between quarters and 5 minutes at half time. (Except for the provision in rule 14 (i)) Junior league matches will be of 40 minutes duration, i.e. 4 x 10 minutes, unless stated otherwise on the league fixtures, with 3 minute intervals between quarters and 5 minutes at half time. When necessary the length of evening matches may be adjusted to take account of the requirements of the venue.

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17. Teams may enter in more than one league. Individual members of clubs may affiliate to a second choice club, to play within a league where her first choice club is a member but under no circumstances may play for both clubs within that league.
18. Any club not sending representatives to an AGM or other Clubs' Meeting called by the County Committee where their presence is requested, or whose representatives do not stay for the duration of the meeting will forfeit their entry into the league draw. **Clubs will also be fined £25.00 payable before the next season commences.**

19. PLAYERS

- a) Players must hold a current AENA affiliation card and carry it with them for all matches. Players must be affiliated to EN, and their affiliation confirmed and paid before playing in a league match.
- b) Any one player may not play for two different teams within a club against the same opposition
- c) Regional League players are defined to be those named by their club to be registered for a team playing in a division of a regional league during the current season.
- d) Regional League players can only play for one team within a club and that should be for a team in one of the highest two divisions in the league in which the club plays. i.e. either premier or division 1 in the Winter Saturday League, and division 1 or 2 in the Summer League. Any club that has teams only in divisions below the top two in a league are limited to at most 2 regional players who must play in the highest placed team only.
Any player who becomes a Regional player part way through the season, moving to a higher team within her club, will forfeit her original team place and be eligible only to play for the higher team in league matches. (If this player had been a starred player the original team will be able to choose another player to be starred.)
- e) Senior/junior players may only play in one session per league date.
- f) No more than two players from any one team may play for another team within that club within the same league competition. (This means the same two players for all or any match. Not two players one week and a different two players the next.)
- g) Any player may affiliate to more than one club but may only represent one club in any one league.
- h) All players in senior leagues must have attained the age of 14 years by 1st September of the start of the current winter season. (For younger players, who have attained the age of 13, a Level 2 coach or club Safeguarding Officer must complete an Age Banding Form and send it to the League Secretary with the entry form. On receipt of this form by the League Secretary the player is eligible to play). It is assumed that younger players will play in the Junior Leagues.
- i) Players in the NNA Junior youth league may NOT also play in a NNA Senior league, and players in a NNA Senior league may not also play in the NNA Junior league.

20. POSTPONEMENT **League matches may not be postponed for any reason.**

Exceptional circumstances will be given consideration by the County Committee, through the relevant League Secretary. Teams whose players include members of satellite/academy/NPL who may have alternative commitments on match days must ensure that their squads are sufficiently large to enable league matches still to take place. These commitments will NOT be treated as exceptional.

Postponed matches should be played within 4 weeks of the original date.

The match should be rearranged in agreement with the opposition and the court booked and paid for by the postponing team. These details should then be given, by the postponing secretary, to the opposition and to the appropriate league secretary.

Failure to comply with this regulation could result in the loss of points.

21. CANCELLATION/ABANDONMENT -

- a) Weather - matches can only be cancelled in the event of inclement weather at the discretion of the appropriate league secretary in conjunction with NUSA management. Matches which have started may be abandoned at the discretion of the umpires if the playing surface becomes dangerous or if there is a severe storm. It may be feasible to wait for up to 10 minutes, to see if the storm passes. If the court is then playable the match may continue if the umpires consider it reasonable.
- b) If for any other reason the match cannot continue and has to be abandoned, a written report should be submitted by the umpires to the relevant league secretary as soon as possible, and within 7 days of the match, stating at what stage the match was abandoned and giving all relevant details. The league secretary will then decide whether or not the game needs to be rearranged or whether the result should stand. The decision of the league secretary is final.

22. COACHING The “Bench” may consist of up to 4 officials, who must be affiliated members of England netball, together with the Primary Carer (identified by an armband) and any substitute players. They are allocated a space to stand at one end of the court, behind and to the right of the goalpost at the defending end at the start of the match. The “bench” may not move up and down the sidelines, nor along the goal lines outside court during play. They may coach only from their allocated area. Spectators/supporters may only encourage, not coach, and should be outside the court fencing. See Rule 13 re Primary Carers.

23. PLAYING UNIFORM Each club must register its uniform and colours prior to the start of the season. The INF rule on uniform states “registered playing uniforms, which shall include playing position initials shall be worn at all times.” They will normally include a skirt or dress. There is no intention to debar players from wearing tracksuits or other suitable clothing that reflect a club’s uniform and colours and these will normally be worn under a skirt. It is not intended to discourage people from playing, but 2 points may be deducted from a team/club whose players are not playing in their registered or correctly recognised uniform.

24. All clubs are advised in their own interest to take out insurance cover against accident/personal injury, loss or damage however caused, while participating in any of the leagues.

25. The taking of photographs or video-recording of players is not permitted at league matches or tournaments without the written permission of the NNA committee, through the relevant League Secretary.

26. UMPIRES

- a. Clubs will be required to register their own club’s umpires by filling in the appropriate form and returning it to the umpiring secretary when required to do so.
- b. Each team must provide an umpire who is both affiliated and qualified as stated in the league rules. A team arriving without an appropriately qualified umpire must drop one of its players to officiate – with the proviso that they are suitably qualified to do so.

- c. Umpires from another county who move into the Notts area and wish to officiate in the Notts Netball leagues must notify the Notts umpiring secretary of their intentions and provide evidence of their qualifications.
- d. All umpires must hold the relevant qualifications for the appropriate league/division in which they are officiating.
- e. Umpires must carry their own affiliation and qualification card at all times.
- f. If, during a match an umpire is injured and unable to continue, another umpire of equal or higher qualification may take over. If no suitably qualified replacement is available then the match cannot continue, and a written report should be submitted by the umpires to the relevant league secretary as soon as possible, and within 7 days of the match, stating at what stage the match was abandoned. The league secretary will then decide whether or not the game needs to be rearranged or whether the result should stand. The decision of the league secretary is final.

27. UMPIRE QUALIFICATION

- a) For Saturday League Premier division the umpire must be C*, B, or higher.
- b) For Saturday League divisions 1 and 2, Sunday League division 1 and **Summer League divisions 1, 2, and 3** the umpire must be C or higher
- c) For Saturday league division 3, Sunday league division 2 and **Summer League division 4** the umpire may be of "novice" status.
- d) For Junior Leagues the umpires should be of C or approved "novice" status. "Novice" umpires must be affiliated to EN and have attended a C award course within the 2 years prior to the start of the current season.
- e) Umpires under the age of 16 may not umpire adult fixtures.
- f) Umpires aged under 18 must be accompanied by a suitable adult who is not their parent.
- g) Umpires for NNA senior or junior league matches **MUST** have attended a NNA or EN Umpire Forum for the current season.

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