

# **NSW Regional U14 & U16 League** **Rules and Regulations 2022-2023**



## **1 ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

- 1.1 The Under 14 and Under 16 Regional Junior League (“the League”) shall be governed and managed by Netball South West’s Competition and Events Working Group (CEWG) through the Junior League Coordinator.
- 1.2 The decisions of the CEWG, in respect of these Rules and Regulations (“the 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 The Regulations shall be subject and secondary to the application of England Netball’s rules and regulations in respect of qualification for the National Clubs finals.
- 1.4 It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players are conversant with the Regulations.
- 1.5 Entry to the League assumes that all players and officials from the club have agreed to comply with the Regulations.
- 1.6 The authorised representative for each team shall sign the League Code of Conduct form to confirm that all players, officials, spectators, and parents have been informed about the Code of Conduct and agree to comply.

## **2 PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY**

- 2.1 Application for entry to the League shall be open to any club team, which is a member of England Netball through a County Association, which has paid its membership in this respect, and which is situated within the boundaries of a County Association, and which is a member of the South West Regional Association.
- 2.2 Their entry eligibility shall have been determined by the competition structure for that County who shall nominate their top two teams. Only one team per club shall be eligible to enter the seeding tournament.
- 2.3 At the discretion of their County Association, teams qualifying for the League may continue to play in their county competition but, on all occasions, the League fixtures shall take priority over county league fixtures.
- 2.4 Entry to the League will be determined by the CEWG at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the Regulations and having due regard to the playing standard of teams which wish to participate. In the same way, such casual vacancies that may appear during the playing season will be addressed by the CEWG in whatever way it sees fit.
- 2.5 Clubs entering the League agree that they are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the League including entry fee, deposit, court, umpiring and travel costs
- 2.6 All players shall be full members of England Netball through membership of a Club, and all their fees paid, prior to their participation in the League.
- 2.7 All U14 players must be over 11 but under 14 at midnight on 31 August/1 September 2022 (Normal School years 7-9) to participate in the League. Anyone under the age of 11 is unable to compete in the League.
- 2.8 All U16 players must be over 13 but under 16 at midnight on 31 August/1 September (Normal School years 10 & 11) to participate in the League. Players under the age of fourteen (14) must have completed the Age Banding Consent Form and submitted this to the CEWG. Anyone under the age of 11 are unable to compete in the League.

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- 2.9 England Netball recommends that individuals (Player, Team Officials & Match Officials) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidelines issued by itself.

The England Netball Personal Accident insurance cover excludes any loss or expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage, or any consequence thereof. If for example, a member who is pregnant is involved in an accident not related to the pregnancy, subject to the conditions of the policy, the relevant benefits would be payable. However, if any situation (such as hospitalisation) was prolonged as a direct result of pregnancy, pregnancy complications or even early childbirth, then this portion of any claim is not covered.

## **3 REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS**

- 3.1 Each participating team shall register players' names, EN ID numbers and dates of birth to the Junior League Coordinator at least seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the League. Any additions must be lodged by email with the Junior League Coordinator prior to playing a fixture. N.B. It is advised that additional players are registered before 12 noon on the Thursday before a fixture in order that any member checks can be carried out.
- 3.2 Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their squad registration list held by the Junior League Coordinator. A team may register up to three (3) secondary club players in their squad; all others must be Primary members of the club. The secondary club players shall not play for another team in the League during the season. For duty of care reasons, a minimum of 9 players must be available and on the team sheet for each fixture.
- 3.3 Once a player has been named on a squad sheet and has played, she cannot transfer to another club during the current playing season. Consent to a transfer may be given by CEWG in unusual or exceptional circumstances where written request is made by the player and clubs involved. All correspondence on player transfer must be copied to all concerned.
- 3.4 Notwithstanding the clauses above it must be noted that the National Club Finals Regulations state 'If a Player was not named on the Squad Registration Sheet for the final feeder competition prior to the National Finals, the Club must provide evidence that the Player has played for the Club prior to the date of the final feeder competition. Failure to provide evidence will result in the player being ineligible. If the player was on the Squad Registration Sheet for another Club in the feeder competition, this would also make them ineligible'

## **4 STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE**

- 4.1 The league shall comprise two divisions in both age groups. Seeding tournaments to determine the composition of each division shall be held by the CEWG prior to the start of the season.
- 4.2 At the end of the normal league season in each group, the top 4 teams in Division 1 shall play-off to determine the top 2 teams who shall progress to the National Club finals.
- 4.3 The composition of Division 2 in each age group shall comprise those teams not qualifying for Division 1 and at the discretion of the CEWG, teams from counties who may be invited join Division 2. This may be split into North and South sections depending on numbers, and to minimise travel. At the end of the normal league season there shall be playoffs between the top 2 teams from the North and South sections to determine overall winners.
- 4.4 Clubs will be awarded league points as follows:  
5 points for a win  
3 points for a draw  
2 points for a losing team scoring within 5 goals of the winner's score  
1 point for a losing team scoring more than half the winner's score

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- 4.5 League tables for each division shall be compiled by the CEWG based on the points awarded to each team. Where two or more clubs are level on points:
- Goal average shall be used to determine their relative positions, i.e., the team with the higher average score over the course of the season shall take precedence
  - If goal average does not differentiate between the teams, then goal difference shall be applied, i.e., precedence shall be given to the team with the greater difference between goals scored and goals conceded
  - If goal difference does not differentiate between the teams, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence
  - Where one of the teams has its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals scored affected by cancellations, then the goals scored by and against defaulting team(s) shall be omitted from the calculations. For example, if one team received points for a cancelled fixture, then the goals scored by the other team against the offending team will not be included when its goal average or goal difference is calculated
  - If neither goal average nor goal difference nor goals scored can differentiate between the teams, the aggregate score in the match or matches played between them over the course of the season shall be calculated and precedence given to the winning team
  - If none of the above differentiates between the teams, the CEWG, shall determine the means of differentiation

## **5 FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS**

- 5.1 Division 1 fixtures shall be a combination of home/away and central venue matches. Division 2 matches shall be home and away fixtures only.
- 5.2 The home team shall be responsible for booking the designated venue and shall bear the cost.
- 5.3 The CEWG shall be responsible for organising the central venue fixtures. Venue costs may be passed on in full to the participating teams.
- 5.4 Matches shall be played on an indoor court with adequate surrounds and surface, and changing and showering facilities for both sexes, unless otherwise agreed by the CEWG
- 5.5 The facility must provide adequate run-off space and location for a Technical Officials table. There shall also be provision for the score to be displayed and an audible signal (e.g. hooter) to the umpires for the end of each quarter.
- 5.6 All league matches must be played on the Sunday dates specified in the fixture schedule. Match start times shall be between 10.30 am and 14.30 pm, except for central venue matches. Courts must be available for warm up a minimum of 30 minutes prior to match start time. Venue facilities must be available to travelling teams a minimum of 40 minutes before match start times
- 5.7 The home team shall contact their opponents at least 7 days before each fixture to confirm venue location and times.
- 5.8 All teams shall be responsible for arranging their own travel and covering the costs of travel. Teams must allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays. Any team which fails to arrive on time must take the court within 15 minutes of the agreed start time. If court bookings prevent the match being completed, the result and a report on the amount of time played should be submitted to the CEWG who shall decide if the result as far as played should stand, or if the late team should forfeit the match. Any team arriving more than 15 minutes after the agreed start time shall be liable to forfeit the match, and the non-offending team shall be awarded the points as winners. Teams who are delayed for any reason must contact the home team to warn of their late arrival.
- 5.9 No team may postpone or cancel a fixture. Matches may be postponed only by the CEWG due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances, e.g., flash flood, heavy snowfall, road traffic accident. Postponed matches shall be rescheduled by the CEWG.

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- 5.10** If a team fails to play a match, the non-offending team shall be awarded five (5) league points for the match. The team that fails to fulfil a fixture may forfeit some or all its deposit and may be liable to pay any costs that the non-offending team, match officials and CEWG have incurred, subject to the determination of the CEWG.
- 5.11** If a match is abandoned or not completed for any reason, e.g., because of serious injury, the outcome of that match shall be determined by the CEWG having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.
- 5.12** In the event of a clash of kit colours, the away team (at a central venue this is the second named team) shall change their bib colour which must achieve significant difference (i.e. not a reversal of the same colours). Both teams are reminded to check their opposition's playing colours prior to the fixture.

## **6 MATCH REGULATIONS**

- 6.1** All matches shall be played to the World Netball Federation Rules of the Game and England Netball Domestic Guidance currently in force in England at the time, except where specifically stated in these league regulations.
- 6.2** All matches shall be of 40 minutes duration (i.e., four (4) quarters of (10) minutes each, 3 minutes between quarters and 5 minutes at half time)
- 6.3** Each club must register its playing kit and bib colours with the Junior League Coordinator prior to the commencement of the League. In the event of a clash of colours the team deemed to be the away team shall change colour. The final decision will rest with the umpires/match referee. Any change shall include the wearing of overhead bibs of a significant colour difference to differentiate the teams from one another.
- 6.4** A squad /match score sheet shall be provided by the home team, completed by both teams and placed on the Technical Officials' table prior to the start of the match.
- 6.5** Each team must declare their Team Officials i.e. Coach, Manager, Captain and up to three (3) other personnel one (1) of whom MUST be a Primary Care person who is qualified to diagnose and treat injury and/or illness (for example Certificated First Aid course / Doctor or Physiotherapist) and is a full member of England Netball, together with the team sheet of up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each match. The Team Officials, together with up to five (5) players not on court, will constitute the Team Bench.

## **7 MATCH OFFICIALS**

- 7.1** Each team shall be responsible for providing an umpire for each match whether the match is home or away. Umpires shall be full members of England Netball and their qualifications shall be:
- Division 1 umpires shall hold a Europe Netball B award as a minimum but may hold a C award and be actively working towards their B award if approval has been granted by their County Officiating Lead. (The approval process for C awards requires being witnessed officiating by a B award umpire or B award mentor, and permission sought and granted in advance by the CEWG). All Division 1 umpires shall have achieved a fitness level of 6.1 on the Multi-Stage Fitness Test in September and January and submitted evidence of this to the CEWG.
  - Division 2 umpires shall hold a Europe Netball C award qualification as a minimum, and preferably have met the same fitness criteria.
- 7.2** Each team shall be responsible for paying their umpire's travel expenses.
- 7.3** If an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied:

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- If another umpire of the appropriate standard is available, then she/he may umpire the match providing that both teams agree to the replacement
- Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire should be used providing that both teams agree to the replacement
- The CEWG must be informed immediately after the match to determine the validity of the result of the game.

The team responsible for providing an absent or unsuitable umpire shall be liable for all expenses incurred by the league, both teams and all officials. If the match must be rearranged, that team shall also be responsible for all expenses and the provision of a venue and of all the officials. Teams whose umpires are repeatedly absent or unsuitable shall be penalised.

- 7.4** The CEWG reserves the right to use any fixture for mentoring, pre-assessing, or assessing of umpires. The originally allocated umpires shall stand down, and each team shall be required to pay a maximum of £25 for umpire expenses.
- 7.5** Scorers and timekeepers (Technical Officials) shall be required for all fixtures. Each team shall provide a non-participating (i.e., not a listed playing squad member) competent scorer and a timekeeper. All Technical Officials shall sit together in a location directed by the umpires, and this shall constitute the Technical Officials' Bench. They are responsible for keeping the correct score, match time and injury times, not the umpires. It is recommended that they are full members of England Netball.

## **8 REGISTRATION OF RESULTS**

- 8.1** On completion of the match the team sheet/score card deposited at the Technical Officials Bench at the start of the match shall be fully completed with the result, checked, and signed by the scorers, both captains and umpires. The home team (first named team at central venues) shall be responsible for emailing a photograph of, or posting, the completed result sheet in accordance with the instructions on the sheet, to be received by the Wednesday following the match.
- 8.2** The result of each match must be entered by both teams on the relevant page of the NSW web site no later than 18.00 on the Monday after the fixture. Instructions for the on-line submission of results shall be published separately. N.B Failure to register results by the deadline constitutes a breach of these rules and may incur sanctions.

## **9 QUERIES, COMPLAINTS & APPEALS**

- 9.1** Any club or match official who intends to raise a query or complaint regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must inform their opponents and the umpires on the day of the match.
- 9.2** Any queries or complaints regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must be submitted by email to the Junior League Coordinator within two (2) working days. The 'NSW Disputes Form' is to be used for such complaints.
- 9.3** All queries, complaints and disputes regarding the playing of a match and/or its result shall be determined in the first instance by a sub-committee convened by the CEWG, which shall use best endeavours to determine the issue within 10 days of the fixture.
- 9.4** The CEWG shall have the authority to determine the penalty to be imposed on teams and players who are in breach of the Regulations regarding the playing of matches in the League. Such penalties include reprimands, the deduction of league points, fines, suspensions, and expulsion from the competition, except as specified below:
- The use of a player who is not an EN member will result in a deduction of three (3) league points
  - The use of an unregistered player to a team's Squad list or a player, or who is under age will result in a deduction of two (2) league points
  - Failure to play on more than one occasion may result in expulsion from the League.

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- 9.5** If any club wishes to appeal against the decision of this sub-committee, it must notify the CEWG within two (2) working days of receipt of the decision. In this event, the matter will be considered under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations, which allows for an Appeals Panel to be convened. The decision of the Appeals Panel will be final and binding on all parties. The Appeals Panel shall have the authority to:
- Endorse the decision of the CEWG, and uphold any penalty imposed
  - Endorse the decision of the CEWG, and increase or decrease any penalty imposed
  - Overturn the decision of the CEWG, and increase, decrease or remove any penalty imposed
- 9.6** Any club wishing to appeal more generally against the governance and management of the League by the CEWG, or against specific decisions made by it, must also observe the procedures laid out in the current England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations or Complaints Procedure (howsoever named)
- 9.7** Any club which fails to observe the procedures laid out in the preceding clauses will invalidate their right to raise a query, complaint or appeal.
- 9.8** No club may claim victory by default in any match without first submitting itself to the procedures laid out in these rules and regulations.
- 9.9** Any complaint which does not concern the playing of a match and/or its result, but which is made in respect of a disciplinary offence, will be addressed in the first instance in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations or Complaints Procedure (howsoever named) of England Netball.

## **10 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISOS**

- 10.1** All teams shall be held responsible for their players, officials, and spectators.
- 10.2** It is the responsibility of each club to provide adequate first aid cover for its players and officials, which shall also be made available to the match officials on request.
- 10.3** Any team who knowingly and deliberately provides false information regarding the identity of players when registering or naming players on team sheets will forfeit their deposit and may be expelled from the competition and disciplinary action may be taken against the club.
- 10.4** Any person wishing to engage in any video, zoom or close-range photography should request permission from both team managers/coaches present at the match, or the tournament referee at central venue matches before carrying out such photography. The umpires shall also be notified.
- 10.5** To help promote and evaluate Netball South West activities, there may be video filming and photography at some events which may be used in publicity materials e.g., leaflets, newsletters or on official websites. Following Sport England advice NSW will ensure that images are not accompanied by names or other details that could identify individual children or young people. The authorised representative for each club is to complete the 'photography permission' form included as part of the U14RL+U16RL entry form.