

REGIONAL LEAGUE

RULES & REGULATIONS 2026-2027



OVERVIEW

The Netball South West regional league is a league competition organised by Netball South West to enable clubs to compete against each other to determine regional winners, whilst encouraging participation and development in netball through an open, fair, progressive, and transparent league structure.

These regulations set out below outline the rules and regulations ('the regulations') which govern the operation of the regional league.

The regional league is part of a league pyramid structure that sits between England Netball's national premier league and leagues in member counties in the South West.

The winner of the highest division of the regional league shall go forward to the England Netball premier league play-off's (unless they already have a team competing in the league). If that club is already represented in the England Netball premier league, the next highest team in the division who is not represented will go forward to the play-offs.

The regulations must be followed by all teams, players, officials, spectators and administrators in the management, administration, and operation of the regional league. All clubs shall be responsible for their players, officials and spectators and their conduct

1 STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

- 1.1 The regional league has three divisions, RL1, RL2 and RL3 (the latter being sub-divided into North and South parallel sub-divisions). Each division will be contested between as many teams as determined by the organisers from time to time. The number of teams will not normally be less than eight (8), or more than twelve (12).
- 1.2 In each division each team shall play each other twice.
- 1.3 The team which finishes top of RL1 at the end of the season shall be the champions of the competition. They may then be eligible for promotion to the England Netball premier league structure in accordance with the rules of the England Netball premier league competition prevailing at the time. If the top finishing team is not eligible, the next eligible team shall be nominated instead to go to the national premier league play-offs.
- 1.4 At the end of each season, any team or teams which are based in the NSW region, and which are relegated from England Netball premier league structure, shall be allocated a place in RL1 for the following season.
- 1.5 At the end of each season, promotion and relegation shall take place between all three divisions in accordance with procedures agreed by the organisers. Under normal circumstances, the intention is that:
 - 1.5.1 the 2 bottom placed teams in RL1 are relegated to RL2
 - 1.5.2 the top 2 teams in RL2 to be promoted to RL1
 - 1.5.3 promotion and relegation between RL2 and RL3 North/South sub-divisions will depend on the geographical location of the relegated RL2 teams and may need be determined by a play-off competition at the end of the season.
- 1.6 The organisers reserve the right to change the number of teams in promotion and relegation places in the event of circumstance outwith their control but will make every endeavour to notify teams with adequate advance notice.

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- 1.7** At the end of each season, relegation/promotion will take place between the RL3 divisions, and the constituent county leagues in accordance with procedures agreed by the organisers and the county associations. It is usual that the bottom placed team in both RL3N and RL3S shall be relegated to the relevant county leagues. The second from bottom team of each and one nominated team from each of the county leagues (usually the winner of the highest league) shall compete in a play-off tournament, with the winners and runners-up gaining promotion into either RL3N or RL3S. The relegation/promotion and format of the play-offs may need to be varied depending on, inter alia, how many teams are nominated by the county associations. The play-off rules and player eligibility shall be determined by the CEWG.

2 ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- 2.1** The Netball South West regional league shall be organised, governed and managed by the Regional Management Board (RMB), with powers and authority delegated to its Competition and Events Working Group (CEWG), also known as the Competition Technical Support Group (TSG).
- 2.2** The decisions of the CEWG, in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the regional 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).
- 2.3** These rules and regulations shall be subject and secondary to the application of England Netball's rules and regulations, and World Netball Rules of the Game.
- 2.4** It is the responsibility of all team managers, coaches and captains to ensure that all Participants are conversant with the rules and regulations and the England Netball and Netball South West's codes of conduct.
- 2.5** GDPR – Data Protection: Any personal data provided by the clubs will be used for this event only. It shall be destroyed after the event and not shared with any third party.
- 2.6** Prior to the start of the regional league, the CEWG shall announce the following:
- 2.6.1** the competition referee (normally the CEWG lead); and
 - 2.6.2** the person appointed to receive appeals of the decisions of the competition referee, as outlined in Section 7.
- 2.7** County leagues (or other mechanisms used by the counties) that feed into the regional league playoffs are the responsibility of the county netball associations. These competitions may have different regulations to those set out in this document.
- 2.8** Teams shall be responsible for ensuring that they are familiar with local league rules and regulations which may impact the movement of players between regional league and local league squads.
- 2.9** The CEWG reserves the right to use any regional league fixture for mentoring, pre-assessing or assessing of umpires. Both teams shall be notified in advance if the match is to be used for assessment of umpires.

3 PRE-COMPETITION MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

3.1 Team entry and eligibility

- 3.1.1** Entry to the regional league shall be open to any club which is an active club registered on the England Netball membership system, and which is situated within the

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boundaries of a county association which is a member of the regional association - unless otherwise agreed by the regional management board. Applications will only be considered from teams who do not play in any other regional league.

- 3.1.2** Entry to the regional league shall be determined by the regional management board at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the rules and regulations laid out herein, and having due regard to the playing standard of teams which wish to participate. In the same way, such casual vacancies as may appear from time to time will be addressed by the CEWG in whatever way it sees fit.
- 3.1.3** No club may have more than three teams participating in the regional league structure and shall not have 2 teams in the same division.
- 3.1.4** Each team shall pay an entry fee, which shall be determined at the start of each season. A deposit of £100 shall be paid by each team; this is retained as indemnity against a team cancelling any of their fixtures, withdrawing from the league during the season or serious rule infringements. The deposit shall be refunded when a team leaves the NSW Regional League structure under the normal processes of promotion or relegation. In addition, clubs shall be liable for umpiring costs as set out in the entry particulars.
- 3.1.5** By entering a team in regional league clubs/teams agree that:
 - 3.1.5.1** they are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the Regional League.
 - 3.1.5.2** they shall fulfil their obligations and responsibilities set out in the regulations including providing an umpire where necessary.
 - 3.1.5.3** they are bound by the competition regulations
 - 3.1.5.4** they are bound by all the rules, policies, regulations, and by-laws of England Netball, including the England Netball and NSW Codes of Conduct and Disciplinary Regulations, as may from time to time be in force.
 - 3.1.5.5** They shall participate in a sporting manner and play within the spirit of the game.
 - 3.1.5.6** Should a nominated team decline to go to the England Netball premier league playoffs then their inclusion in the regional league the following season shall be reviewed. Possible sanctions may include relegation to their county league.
- 3.1.6** All players must have their full membership recorded on the England Netball online ENgage system, and their subscription paid, prior to their participation in the Regional League, as detailed below. Each player shall declare which is their Primary Club on their ENgage account.
- 3.1.7** All players must be able to provide proof of membership to England Netball and their club as random checks may be carried out.

3.2 Player/Team Official eligibility

- 3.2.1** Any club who knowingly and deliberately provides false information regarding the identity of players when registering players or naming of players on team sheets may be expelled from the competition. They shall forfeit their entry fee and league deposit and disciplinary action may be taken against the club.
- 3.2.2** To participate in the regional league, all players and coaches must be a member of England Netball and a member of the club, as a personal adult/junior member having paid the full membership fee due and received confirmation of their membership before taking to the court.
- 3.2.3** All players must be over 14 years of age at midnight on 31st August prior to the commencement of the regional league unless they have completed the age banding

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consent form and submitted it with the squad registration form. The Consent form and guidance is here:

www.englandnetball.co.uk/support/support-for-organisations/leagues/competition-governance/

- 3.2.4** England Netball recommends that individuals (player, coach, umpire) if pregnant, should only participate in accordance with the current England Netball guidance. Please see England Netball insurance FAQs
- 3.2.5** The NSW Regional League is in the female category as per the England Netball Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy. Only individuals who meet the eligibility criteria shall be included on the squad registration sheet as a player. For information on eligibility based on gender, please visit section 7 (Female Category) of the England Netball Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy:
<https://help.centre.englandnetball.co.uk/wiki/spaces/EKC/pages/370802697/Gender+Eligibility+and+Participation+Policy+and+Documents>
- 3.2.6** In line with the England Netball guidance for the national premier competition, it is recommended 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 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,

3.3 Registration of squads

- 3.3.1** Initial squad sheets for each participating team must be completed fully for each player and lodged with the CEWG at least 5 days before the first match of the season via the Regional Office by email to:
emily.lemoir@netballsouthwest.co.uk and lesley.thomas@netballsouthwest.co.uk
- 3.3.2** Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their squad registration list held by the regional office.
- 3.3.3** A team may register up to three (3) players who are not primary club members in their squad; all others must be primary club members. No player playing in another NSW regional league team or in any other region's regional league may participate in the NSW regional league. Players playing in the national premier league may not participate in the regional league once they have played 25% (18 quarters) of the available quarters at the higher level, whether for a team in their own club, a team in another club or another team playing in a different region, unless in exceptional circumstance and if permission has been granted by the CEWG. Clubs also with teams in the national premier league shall lodge their premier league squad registration sheets with the CEWG at the start of the season and update them when player registrations are amended.
- 3.3.4** Any additions to the squad sheets must be lodged with the CEWG prior to playing the fixture via the Regional Office
emily.lemoir@netballsouthwest.co.uk and lesley.thomas@netballsouthwest.co.uk

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N.B. It is advised that additional players are registered before 12 noon on the Thursday before a fixture in order that membership checks can be carried out.

- 3.3.5** 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 the CEWG in unusual or exceptional circumstances, such as a house move or relocation to another area, where written request is made by the player and clubs involved, and all correspondence on player transfer having been copied to all concerned.
- 3.3.6** Clubs which have a team also participating in a connected league i.e. England Netball's National Premier League, or NSW RL1, RL2 or RL3, must abide by the principle of having separate squads. The following provisions will control the movement of players.
- 3.3.7** The open age regional league and junior regional leagues are considered two distinct competitions. To allow player progression, players can play for a different club in the senior (open) leagues to the club they play for in the junior leagues.
- 3.3.8** The top RL squad must identify a minimum of six (6) tied players. None of these players shall be permitted to play in a lower team from that club in the regional league structure. Non-tied players will be allowed to play in a lower team from that club. Clubs also with Premier League teams shall identify their top six tied players in this squad to the CEWG prior to the start of the season.
- 3.3.9** Any player will be able to play in a higher squad within the regional league up to a maximum of 25% (18 quarters) of available quarters. Thereafter they will be tied to the higher level and identified as a permanent member of that squad and will not be able to play down again.
- 3.3.10** If a tied player is released from the higher squad for reasons of injury the club must seek permission of the CEWG for them to play in the lower squad.
- 3.3.11** No player contracted to a NSL franchise (excluding NextGen and National Performance League squads) may play in the regional league, except in exceptional circumstances, and then they must have prior consent of the CEWG.
- 3.3.12** In the event of end of season play-offs being required to resolve promotion or relegation issues, the eligibility of players in each team shall be covered by the rules in Section 3.
- 3.3.13** Only players who have taken to the court (played at least one (1) quarter) during the course of the season (prior to the cutoff date to be advised) shall be eligible to compete for their registered team in the national premier league and regional plays offs.

3.4 Competition venues

- 3.4.1** Matches shall be played on a home and away basis at a venue approved by the CEWG. 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. The CEWG reserves the right to organise some fixtures at neutral venues and shall be responsible for booking the venues.
- 3.4.2** Matches shall be played on an indoor court suitable for regional league netball, with adequate run-off, sunken posts if possible, and with changing and showering facilities for all genders, unless otherwise agreed by the CEWG. Before their first home match home teams shall send in a video to the CEWG of a walk-round of the perimeter of the court (clearly showing run-off, posts, obstructions, etc).

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- 3.4.3** All venues must be geographically within the Region unless otherwise agreed by the CEWG.
- 3.4.4** Where fixtures are Home & Away the home team is responsible for arranging the venue, and for the cost of this.
- 3.4.5** Where a venue has a suitable balcony/viewing gallery no spectators shall be allowed courtside.

3.5 Accidents

- 3.5.1** If an accident occurs at any match where a player, coach, official (umpire, technical official or team official), spectator or staff member is injured, the accident reporting procedure should be followed as detailed on <https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/membership/insurance/report-a-claim/>

This procedure should be followed for ALL injuries and accidents where the game is stopped for longer than 30 seconds, regardless of whether medical treatment is given.

4 FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Competition Scheduling

- 4.1.1** The home team shall be responsible for booking the designated venue and shall bear the cost. For neutral venues organised by the CEWG, venue costs may be passed on in full to the participating teams.
- 4.1.2** Match start times shall be between 10.30 and 15.30 unless permission has been granted by the CEWG. Changing and toilet facilities shall be available 60 minutes prior to the match start time and the court must be available to players at least 30 minutes prior to the match start time.
- 4.1.3** All matches must be played on the dates specified in the fixtures schedule, commencing between the times specified, unless agreed otherwise by the CEWG.

RL1 matches - Sundays.

RL2 matches – Saturdays.

RL3 matches – Saturdays or Sundays. The home team shall decide on which day they plan to play their fixtures (which do not have to be same day throughout the season) and these shall be published to all teams before the start of the season.

N.B. Teams may find that their usual match day has been changed to accommodate teams from Jersey having to play two matches during a weekend.

- 4.1.4** It shall be the responsibility of the teams to provide to the CEWG full details of their fixture venue and timings at least 21 days prior to the start of the season. The home team shall email re-confirmation of the fixture, start time and postcode to the away team and to both umpires at least ten (10) days prior to the fixture. Any alterations due to exceptional circumstances must also be notified to them and to the CEWG who will determine details of any rearrangement.
- 4.1.5** All teams shall be responsible for arranging its own travel, and the costs of this, and shall allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays. Any team which fails to arrive on time must take the court within 10 minutes of 5 members of the squad arriving, and in any event 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. The CEWG shall decide if the result as far as played should stand, or if the late team should forfeit the match. Any team arriving

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more than 15 minutes after the agreed start time shall forfeit the match, and the non-offending team shall be awarded the points as winners by default. Teams who are delayed for any reason must contact the home team to warn of their late arrival.

4.2 Postponements

- 4.2.1** No team may postpone or cancel a fixture without the agreement of the CEWG which will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Matches which are postponed due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances, e.g., flash flood, heavy snowfall, must be rearranged to the first available reserve date. Injuries, illness (including covid-19), pregnancy, England Camps, NPL fixtures or county play days, school fixtures, non-affiliated/other netball competitions do not qualify as unforeseen circumstances.
- 4.2.2** It is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that the CEWG, the opposition and both umpires are informed immediately the postponement or cancellation is known.
- 4.2.3** If a team fails to play a match:
- The non-offending team shall be awarded five (5) league points for the match, and the team which cancels shall have five (5) league points deducted from their total.
 - The team which cancels shall be fined £100, in addition to forfeiting their £100 league deposit, and shall be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team and match officials have incurred, subject to the determination of the CEWG.
- 4.2.4** If a match is abandoned for any reason, e.g., because of serious injury, the result of that match will be determined by the CEWG, having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.

4.3 Match rules and format

- 4.3.1** All games shall be played to the World Netball Rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time, except where specific regulations may apply.

4.4 Match timings

- 4.4.1** All matches shall be of one hour's duration (i.e., four quarters of 15 minutes each).
- 4.4.2** All matches shall have an interval of five (5) minutes at half time, and intervals of three (3) minutes at quarter and three-quarter time.

4.5 Kit and equipment

- 4.5.1** Where a clash of colours is deemed likely by the umpires, the home team (or first-named team) shall arrange a change of bibs to mitigate the colour clash to the satisfaction of the umpires.
- 4.5.2** Both teams are responsible for providing a suitable match ball which shall be supplied to the score table before the start of the match. The umpires shall decide which ball is to be used for the duration of the match.
- 4.5.3** The home team shall provide a hard copy of the Game Management (Discipline) Form on the technical officials' table for completion in conjunction with the umpires. Completed forms shall be submitted to the CEWG as instructed on the form.
- 4.5.4** The home team shall provide a hard copy of the pre-match check sheet on the technical officials' table for the umpires to follow before the match starts. The first-named umpire is responsible for completing an online submission of the checks on the YesRef

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platform after the match. If there are any significant issues which are likely to impact the safety of the participants and/or the standard of play, then the match shall not go ahead and the CEWG shall be notified immediately. The home team may be subject to sanctions.

4.5.5 The home team shall provide a hard copy of the running A4 score sheet for each match and ensure that their scorer is competent to complete this.

4.5.6 It is the responsibility of each team to provide an adequate first aid kit for its players and officials, which shall also be made available to the match officials on request.

4.6 Match Officials

4.6.1 Umpires shall be appointed by NSW and shall be selected from its pool of approved umpires in accordance with the current regional umpire criteria (approval and development of umpires). **Minimum** umpire qualification requirements are:

RL1 – Talent Identified Europe Netball B award, and when required, umpires who are aspiring to be recognised as a Talent Identified B Award.

RL2 - Current Europe Netball B award or actively working toward B award with a pass in their written paper, approved by their County Officiating Lead (COL) and endorsed by their County Lead mentor.

RL3 – Current Europe Netball C award who is actively working towards the B award and is approved by the COL and endorsed by their County Lead mentor

4.6.2 All umpires officiating in the regional league shall be required to maintain a level of fitness and competency that is appropriate for the type of matches being umpired. If an umpire is observed by a suitably qualified Officiating Assessor or an approved Officiating Mentor who expresses concerns about their fitness, they shall be required to successfully complete a suitable fitness test (e.g. MSFT Level 6.1 or equivalent) before they can umpire any further regional league matches. If an umpire is observed by a suitably qualified Officiating Assessor or an approved Officiating Mentor who expresses concerns about their competency the CEWG reserves the right to remove the umpire from the list of Regional League appointed umpires.

4.6.3 All teams shall pay an equal sum into the Umpire Expenses fund. The amount and frequency shall be determined by the CEWG prior to the start of the season, to cover all potential costs of umpire travel during the season.

4.6.4 Where possible an umpire should only umpire one Regional Game (of any type) per day. If there is a need for them to umpire two games in one day, there should be a minimum of a one-hour break between the finish of the first game and the start of the second game.

4.6.5 If an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied:

4.6.5.1 If another umpire of the appropriate standard is available, then they shall umpire the match.

4.6.5.2 Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire should be used.

4.6.5.3 If the appointed umpire arrives late and the game has already commenced, the umpire that started the game will continue for the entire duration of the match.

4.6.5.4 The home team must inform the CEWG immediately after the match.

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4.6.5.5 Replacement umpires who may be a coach are not allowed to coach during the match or at intervals.

4.6.5.6 A replacement umpire must be an active member of England Netball as listed on the ENgage system.

4.6.6 Both umpires together shall conduct pre-match checks before the start of each match (see Rule 4.5.4). It is the responsibility of the first-named umpire to submit the report using the online YesRef platform.

4.7 Technical Officials

4.7.1 The technical officials are the scorers and timekeepers and shall constitute the officials bench.

4.7.2 The technical officials do not need to have an EN membership and cannot hold any other role on match day.

4.7.3 Each team **MUST** provide a competent scorer, who is either an umpire, technical official or a person with a working knowledge of scoring. Scorers will be required for all fixtures.

4.7.4 The home team **MUST** provide at least 1 timekeeper for each match played. The timekeeper(s) **MUST** have a working knowledge of the World Netball rules currently in force.

4.7.5 If agreed in writing (email is sufficient) between both teams, the home team can provide all Technical Officials for a fixture.

4.7.6 Technical officials must record all game management events on the game management sheet, which must be verified by the umpires.

4.7.7 At least one of the scorers shall use a running A4 score sheet to record the score (scorers to decide which).

4.7.8 Technical officials must remain neutral, may not coach or comment during the game and have no other involvement during the match.

4.7.9 Scorers and timekeepers may not be members of the squad named for that match and must officiate for the whole game.

4.7.10 At least one of the technical officials must be at least 18 years old.

4.8 Team Officials

4.8.1 A team may have up to five (5) team officials. These shall include at least a UK Coaching Level 2 coach and a primary care person, both of whom must hold full membership of England Netball.

4.8.2 A primary care person:

- a) must be qualified to diagnose and treat injury or illness with a minimum of a first aid qualification (copy of first aid certificate to be available at each match).
- b) must wear primary carer identification.
- c) is permitted on the court during a stoppage for injury/illness of a player or blood issues.
- d) must advise the umpires if a player is too ill/injured to be removed from the court within 30 seconds and/or if assistance is required.

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4.8.3 Team officials may be fewer than specified and may therefore undertake several duties. However, primary care person/s must not also be players, and it is preferable that they do not hold any other role.

4.8.4 The team officials and up to five (5) players not on court shall constitute the team bench.

4.8.5 The team bench shall be situated as specified by the umpires

4.9 Scoring

4.9.1 Teams 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.

4.9.2 A results table will be compiled based on the points awarded to each team. Where teams are level on points:

- a) Goal average (goals for divided by goals against) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) If goal difference does not differentiate between the teams, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored for shall take precedence.

4.9.3 Where one of the teams has its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals scored affected by conceded fixtures, then all goals scored by and against conceding team(s) in all fixtures shall be omitted from the calculations of both teams level on points. Except where one of the teams level on points is the conceding team, at which point they assume a goal average of 0 and will be the lowest ranked team of those level on points

4.9.4 If neither goal average nor goal difference nor goals scored for 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.

4.9.5 If none of the above differentiates between the teams, the CEWG shall determine the means of differentiation.

4.10 Registration of results and match squads

4.10.1 Prior to the start of each match, each team shall complete the match squad sheet with names of players and team officials.

4.10.2 The team sheet shall list the names of up to twelve (12) players. The team sheet shall be supplied by the home team and shall be lodged with the technical officials' table prior to the match commencement. Both teams shall also submit their squad list using the online system (as instructed separately). The team officials together with up to five (5) players not on court will constitute the team bench and must not include spectators.

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- 4.10.3** On completion of the match the team/score sheet deposited at the technical officials bench at the start is to be fully completed with the result, this is then the official result sheet.
- 4.10.4** The official result sheet must be checked and signed by both captains and umpires and submitted to the CEWG immediately following the match, by both teams in accordance with the instructions on the sheet.
- 4.10.5** The result of each match must be submitted by **both** teams Immediately after the match using the current online system (instructions issued separately).

5 COMPETITION REFEREE

- 5.1** As set out above, a competition referee shall be appointed by the CEWG (usually the CEWG lead). A different competition referee may be appointed for the regional league play-offs.
- 5.2** The Competition Referee shall have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising throughout the Competition including, but not limited to:
- 5.2.1** altering or amending the playing schedule, as necessary.
 - 5.2.2** determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction, including, but not limited to:
 - 5.2.3** The use of a player without an active England Netball Membership in a fixture or fixtures will result in a deduction of three league points, but the result of the fixture shall still stand.
 - 5.2.4** The use of an unregistered player or a player who is underage without written permission from the Competition Referee shall result in a deduction of three league points, but the result of the fixture or fixtures will still stand.
 - 5.2.5** If a team concedes a fixture (see Section 4.2) the non-offending team shall be awarded five points for the match and the conceding team will have five points deducted from their total.
 - 5.2.6** Conceding on more than one occasion (i.e., two or more league fixtures) will result in expulsion from the League.
 - 5.2.7** Failure to provide technical officials as required will result in a 1 point deduction for the offending team. If the home team had agreed in writing to provide all technical officials, and does not, they will be deducted 1 point.
 - 5.2.8** Disqualification of any individual Player or Team.
 - 5.2.9** Adjudicating 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.
- 5.3** Maintaining and being responsible for a confidential competition referee logbook, where appropriate.
- 5.4** Determining the score should any match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance.

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- 5.5** Enforcing the decision by any medical advisor, including, but not limited to England Netball's appointed doctor or physiotherapist, regarding the participation of a player and whether they are able to start the match, or continue to play.
- 5.6** Determining any matter not covered specifically within these regulations.
- 5.7** The competition referee may call upon, or delegate to, additional persons to assist with the competition 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.

6 COMPETITION COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- 6.1** All queries and complaints ("a complaint") shall be directed to the competition referee in the first instance, which shall be dealt with as follows:
- 6.2** During the regional league competition stage, where the complaint relates to the playing of a match, the scoring and/or its result, immediately after the match the team manager or coach shall:
 - a) Inform their opponents and the umpires of their complaint.
 - b) Mark the scoresheet with the words "Under Protest."
 - c) Email a copy of the marked scoresheet to the competition referee on the day of the match, along with an explanation of the issue in full.
- 6.3** The competition referee shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint and decide on the matter within seventy-two (72) hours of receipt of the complaint. The competition referee's decision in relation to decisions taken under clause 6.2 is binding apart from where parties to the Complaint 'have the right' to appeal the decision under Section 7 below.
- 6.4** Where a complaint relates to the governance or administration of the competition by the competition referee, such complaints will be dealt with under the complaints procedure of England Netball.
- 6.5** Where the complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual player or team participating in, or a volunteer or individual attending a match, which could be considered as a disciplinary offence under England Netball's disciplinary regulations, such complaint will be dealt with in accordance with the processes set out in England Netball's disciplinary regulations and should be referred to the Disciplinary Secretary of England Netball.

7 APPEAL OF THE COMPETITION REFEREE'S DECISION

- 7.1** The decision of the competition referee in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with section 6.1 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:
- 7.2** If the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the competition; AND
- 7.3** If there has been a failure by the competition referee to follow or act in accordance with these regulations and/or the competition referee reached a decision based on an error of fact.
- 7.4** These are the only grounds of appeal, and any appeal must be submitted in accordance with the appeals process set out below.

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- 7.5** An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the team manager of the appealing team to the regional management board within seventy-two (72) hours of their receiving the decision of the competition referee.
- 7.6** The appeal shall be accompanied by an online bank transfer of £100 which shall be returned if the appeal is upheld or if there are any other extenuating circumstances. The competition appeals committee ("CAC") shall decide whether the extenuating circumstance warrant the payment being returned.
- 7.7** The regional management board shall establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected with the competition. One of those individuals will be appointed as the chair.
- 7.8** The chair of the CAC will give notice of the appeal to the opposing team and any other team the CAC believe could be affected by the outcome of the appeal. These teams will be permitted seventy-two (72) hours, from the time that the appeal notice is sent from the CAC to submit any evidence or submission that they wish the CAC to consider.
- 7.9** All submissions and evidence must be submitted in writing. The chair of CAC will otherwise have the discretion to determine the process, procedure, and direction of the appeal.
- 7.10** The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy-two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions.
- 7.11** The CAC will notify all the parties that made submissions and presented evidence of its decision, and any penalties and sanctions imposed within twenty-four (24) hours of it reaching its determination. The CAC shall have the discretion to publish the decision through whatever medium it considers appropriate.
- 7.12** The CAC shall have the delegated power of England Netball to make all decisions and impose and enforce any penalties and sanctions (including but not limited to; reprimands, the deduction of points, fines, suspensions, and expulsions from the competition) relating to the appeal. There is no further right of appeal on this decision.
- 7.13** The procedures set out in this Section 7 shall be governed by the Arbitration Act 1996 (the Act) and amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of Section 6 of the Act.
- 7.14** The parties also waive irrevocably their right to any form of appeal, review or recourse to any court or other judicial authority, or under England Netball's disciplinary procedures manual or otherwise, as far as such waiver may be validly made.
- 7.15** The seat of arbitration shall be England, the language used shall be English and the governing law of the regulations and these proceedings under Section 7 shall be English Law.
- 7.16** If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than provided for by this Section 8, and all parties to the appeal consent, the timetable within which an appeal is raised, submissions made, and the decision taken can be shorter than the seventy-two (72) hours stated in this Section 8. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised directions timetable which shall be binding on all parties.
- 7.17** To adhere to the timescales, set out in this Section 7, all communication will take place via email. However, England Netball recognises that a considerable element of the sport is delivered through volunteers and therefore flexibility may be required when applying timescales. If the appropriate authority, investigation, disciplinary or appeals panel fail to adhere to the timescales set out in the disciplinary regulations it will not

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invalidate the disciplinary procedures, and only unreasonable delays could be used as grounds of appeal. All parties connected to the complaint, or the respondent must comply with the time scales set out in these Regulations.

8 SANCTIONS

8.1 Player suspensions

Where a player receives 2 suspensions in the regional league season, they shall be automatically banned from participating for the entirety of the next scheduled fixture. Where this suspension occurs on the final match of the competition, the ban will be in place for the next scheduled fixture of the same competition for the next period or season. All associated paperwork to be completed and returned to the CEWG.

8.2 Player ordering off

Where a player is ordered off in any regional league 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 match of the competition, the ban will be in place for the next scheduled fixture of the same competition for the next period or season. All associated paperwork to be completed and returned to the CEWG.

8.3 Team sanctions

- Team conceding a match – 5 points deduction, and 5 points awarded to non-offending team. Conceding team may also be fined £100 plus forfeit of their league deposit and be liable for court hire costs and match officials' expenses if already incurred.
- Playing an ineligible player - 3 points deduction.
- Playing an unregistered/unaffiliated player – 3 points deduction.
- Home team's failure to provide fixture re-confirmation at least 10 days prior to match – 1 point deduction.
- Failure to submit match results online by deadline – 1 point deduction.
- Failure to submit match sheets by deadline – 1 point deduction.

Other sanctions may be necessary if not covered by the above rule breaches.