

Inclusive Kit Policy Guidance



Introduction

England Netball is unapologetically focused on women and girls, and on creating a game where they can belong, flourish and soar. We want netball to be a sport that celebrates difference, opens doors and removes the barriers that prevent women and girls from staying active throughout their lives.

The need for action is clear. According to Women in Sport, 64% of girls drop out of sport by the age of 16. Research by ASICS, in partnership with Inclusive Sportswear and Mind, also found that up to 70% of girls would be more likely to take part if they felt comfortable in their kit. Poorly fitting kit, fear of judgement and lack of confidence should never stand in the way of participation.

Why are we introducing a policy?

We want every woman and girl to step onto court feeling confident, comfortable and free to play as themselves. The dress will always be a proud and recognisable part of netball's story, but it should never be the reason someone feels they do not belong. By offering meaningful choice, we can widen access to the game, remove unnecessary barriers and help more women and girls stay and thrive within the sport they love.

As part of our Dedicated to Difference Action plan, we are committed to addressing the 'system.' This means that as society evolves, we do too.

To support this commitment, we are moving from Inclusive Kit Guidance to an Inclusive Kit Policy, giving clubs and leagues a clear, consistent framework to help more women and girls feel confident, comfortable and able to take part.

What does the policy say?

The policy provides players with the choice to decide upon the kit they will be most comfortable competing in. Specifically:

- 4.1 *Kit must be coordinated in colour with teammates. This does not mean all individuals have to wear identical garments, but they must be the same colour and different to that of the opposition.*
- 4.2 *Whilst permitted, a dress is not compulsory.*
- 4.3 *Loose or fitted items are permissible however loose clothing must not impact upon the safe participation of competitors and teammates.*
- 4.4 *The following are examples of permissible sportswear: dress, shorts, leggings, skort, skirt, t-shirt (long and short sleeve), vest. This list is not intended to be exhaustive.*

As a rule of thumb, as long as a team is wearing coordinated colours that are a different colour to that of the opposition, each player is free to choose from kit types, brands and fits. Equally, if a team simply chooses to wear bibs of the same colour that clearly differentiate them from the opposition, this would be fine.

What does the policy not say?

For the avoidance of doubt, kit is a matter of individual choice. Players do not need to wear identical items to their teammates (although the colours should be as similar as possible) or a specific brand.

The policy does not ban or restrict the use of dresses; players are still welcome to wear these if they choose to do so.

Similarly, the policy does not intend to remove club identity; we recognise the importance of pride in your club's badge. It is about giving choice to players to ensure they can participate and share in that pride with others.

Who does the policy apply to?

The policy is applicable at Regional League level and below. As the Competition Landscape Review is ongoing, we are not yet in a position to apply the policy to the Premier League and National Club Finals as it may require amendment soon after. We will therefore review this position at the end of the 2026/27 season to consider how best to implement the policy across the full competition landscape.

Starting from September 2026, we recommend that all clubs adopt the policy as part of their existing AGM/EGM and league regulation updates. For the 2026/27 season, we recognise that many leagues will already have completed this process and clubs will also have ordered kit. Therefore, compliance will be required from the beginning of the 2027/28 season. Early adoption is encouraged to provide ample time for clubs to consult with players.

Advice for Leagues

For ease, we recommend including the wording below within your league regulations. Please note, remember to remove any existing reference(s) to kit/uniform/teamwear within your regulations.

>Insert League< adheres to England Netball's Inclusive Kit Policy and associated Guidance. Players may choose kit at their discretion within the limitations defined by this policy.

Following the policy's implementation, it will not be permissible to mandate that dresses be worn in [Recognised and Authorised Activity](#) at Regional League level and below.

Advice for Clubs

Clubs play an important role in helping every woman and girl feel confident, comfortable and free to play as themselves. By supporting the Inclusive Kit

Policy, clubs can create a positive environment where players are able to choose kit that helps them take part without unnecessary barriers or judgement.

Teams should continue to wear coordinated colours or bibs that clearly distinguish them from the opposition, while allowing players to choose the styles and fits that help them feel comfortable and ready to play.

Although the policy applies to match play, clubs are encouraged to bring the same spirit of choice, belonging and inclusion into training environments too.

Where possible, clubs may also want to consider practical support, such as kit swap or donation schemes, to help reduce financial barriers and make it easier for more players to access kit that works for them.

What do clubs need to do to implement the policy?

We have announced the policy nearly a year before it comes into effect, giving clubs time to prepare and involve their members.

Before ordering kit for the 2027/28 season, clubs should speak to their members about the options they would like to have available.

If a club's choice of kit or supplier is limited, consider options that help meet different needs. For example, alongside dresses, clubs could offer vests or t-shirts that can be worn with shorts, skorts or leggings.

If kit is not being replaced for the 2027/28 season, consider and agree what will be used for players who would prefer an inclusive kit option. For example, netball bibs that match the team colours to be worn over t-shirts, vests, shorts and skorts etc.

Advice for Umpires

You've got options too! Your uniform just needs to be distinct in colour from the players. There's no rule saying you must wear white, especially not on your bottom half. Go for comfort, go for confidence. It is advisable that Officials agree the same colour to wear ahead of the match.

Feedback

We are committed to working with the netball community. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact belonging@englandnetball.co.uk