

# West Norfolk Netball League Rules

## 2019 – 2020

(Updated January 2020)

Rules and regulations will be in accordance with INF Netball Rules and England Netball Code of Conduct. GDPR also refer

### 1. GAMES

- i. Games will be held on Tuesdays at KES commencing at 7pm, 8pm and 9pm with the home team being the first named
- ii. All team players will be on court for the start of play at the time stated as per fixture list. The time-keeper shall notify teams when there are thirty (30) seconds and ten (10) seconds remaining prior to the start of the game.
- iii. Score cards to be completed by each team legibly in pen as follows.
  - a. All details on front of card to be filled in
  - b. All players' names completed in full (no nicknames)
  - c. Guest Players annotated correctly as per WNNL rule 6.iii
  - d. All players that are in attendance and could take to court are to be annotated on the card, NOT JUST THE STARTING 7, before taking to the court
  - e. If any additions or deletions to names are required, teams must approach the umpires during quarterly breaks or immediately after the game. Any changes must be initialled by the umpires. NO AMENDMENTS will be made once cards have been posted in the box.

Persistent failure to complete the score cards correctly will result in points' deduction.

- iv. Team captains should toss for centre etc. before the start of the game and before going on court.
- v. If teams are not on court ready to play at the stated time then the non-offending team will be able to claim the winning points after 5 minutes has passed from the designated start time.
- vi. A team must take to the court if there are at least five (5) players present, one of whom must play centre.
- vii. No player arriving after play has started may replace a player who has filled the position of the late arrival; however, the late arrival may be used as a substitute or fill a vacant position (in accordance with Rule 9.2.(ii) INF Rules).
- viii. Umpires must be paid in cash prior to the start of each match.
- ix. Any person who is pregnant may continue to play or umpire in accordance with EN Domestic Rules' Guidance.
- x. Chewing gum must be removed before going on court. West Norfolk Netball League will not be held responsible if this rule is ignored.
- xi. Umpires must sign the card and decide on 1 player of the match per game
- xii. All matches will be 4 x 12 minutes with a 2-minute interval between quarters. There will be no added time due to injury.

### 2. EQUIPMENT & CLOTHING

- i. A set of bibs must be worn with playing positions visible and legible. No team may take to the court unless all players are suitably attired in accordance with INF Rule 5.1.1
- ii. No adornment that may endanger a player's safety shall be worn. For example, Alice Bands with teeth or butterfly hairclips - INF 5.1.1.iv)
- iii. No spiked footwear is to be worn.
- iv. All teams must be responsible for their own First Aid.
- v. The League will provide a match standard ball for each division. This must be used for all matches.

- vi. No jewellery (including body piercing) to be worn by any player except a wedding ring that must be securely taped - INF 5.1.1.(iv) (a)
- vii. Nails to be cut short and filed smooth. Acrylic nails may be worn as long as they are cut filed and smooth - INF 5.1.1.(iv) (c)
- viii. Hair must be suitably tied back - INF 5.1.1 (d)
- ix. Medical Alert Bracelets may be worn provided they are covered with tape - INF 5.1.1 (b)

### 3. TEAMS & TEAM CONTINUATION

- i. All new teams entering the League will go into the bottom division.
- ii. Where a team enters two or more teams in the League, each individual must be registered to a specified team and must play their first match for that team.
- iii. A player may transfer once per season but may not then return to the original team for the duration of that season. Transfer details must be received by both the Umpiring Secretary and the Affiliations Secretary at least one week before the player may take to the court for the new team.
- iv. NB - If the transferring player is also an umpire, their umpiring commitment to the original team takes precedence over playing for the new team.
- v. Infringement of rules ii) or iii) will result in a forfeit of the game.
- vi. Teams with the same colours - the home team, this being the team whose name appears first on the fixture list, stays in their original colours. The away team will have to change.
- vii. In order for a team to stay in their Division (in the case of Division 1 and Division 2 teams) there must be a minimum of 3 players from the previous affiliation year. If this is not the case, the team will be deemed to be 'new' and will be placed in the lowest Division.

### 4. PROMOTION & RELEGATION

At the end of each season teams will be promoted and relegated by referring to the League Table. The number of teams promoted/relegated will be governed by the following:

- i) Number of points
- ii) Goal difference
- iii) Number of games won

The number of teams eligible for promotion/relegation will be decided by the committee at the end of each season when the number of teams entering the following season is known.

### 5. DRUGS & ALCOHOL

- i. The use of drugs and alcohol will not be tolerated by the League for players or spectators, on or off the court. Any player suspected of being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol will be asked to leave the court by the umpire(s). Any spectators will be asked to leave the venue.
- ii. The league venue is a non-smoking area.

### 6. REGISTRATION & AFFILIATION

- i. Team Captains must inform the Affiliations/Registration Secretary of any newly affiliated members. Written evidence may be requested either in the form of the affiliation list or receipt from EN.
- ii. All players **that are not guest players (see 6.iii below)** must be individually affiliated with England Netball - affiliation provides insurance.
- iii. Guest Players  
In any netball year (Sept - Aug) a player may play for a maximum of 3 games as a 'Guest Player'. **A guest player must be registered to WNNL but is NOT affiliated to EN through Norfolk - she may be affiliated through another county or not affiliated at all.** Please note guest players are not insured, ref (ii) above. These players must be marked by annotating

GP (Guest Player) on the scorecard next to their name before handing the scorecard to the umpire. The Affiliation Secretary must be informed of a guest player's Date of Birth (**only 16yrs and over can play in WNNL**) via email by the next day. Once registered with a team, even as a guest, that player is deemed to be registered with that team for the season - Rule 3.iii may still apply.

- iv. **If a player is not affiliated with Norfolk and after the 3 guest games is subsequently found to have played again, 3 points will be deducted for that match. Any such player will not be allowed to take to court again until WNNL Affiliation Secretary has received proof of affiliation.**
- v. A team may field a maximum of two 'Guest Players' per match. 1 point will be deducted per match for every player over this number. A Guest player **is a player not affiliated to Norfolk** - see (iii) above. Any such player is still bound by EN Rules, the England Netball Code of Conduct, WNNL Rules and GDPR.
- vi. For clubs with 2 or more teams in the league, any player is allowed to play for their counterpart team ONCE per season. Any player that plays twice will be deemed to have moved from their original team to the counterpart team permanently. If the player then reverts to their original team 3 points will be deducted.

## 7. RETIRING FROM THE LEAGUE MID-SEASON

- i. Any matches played will be charged at the ruling match fee and umpiring fee rates
- ii. Any cancelled matches will be charged according to the rules (depending on notice given, etc)
- iii. Any *unplayed* matches, that is, matches which are still to be played upon receipt of clarification of the team's withdrawal will not incur a charge
- iv. As matches are paid for in advance the team withdrawing needs to negotiate with the Treasurer to ensure that funds are correctly settled
- v. Any monies owed by the withdrawn team will be payable to the League after 12 weeks. In the event that the whole sum is not paid by the team, such monies will be divided by the number of players registered to that team and each player will be responsible for their portion of the team debt
- vi. A player may not play for any other team until their portion of the debt has been paid. This could be calculated before the 12-week period stipulated above should the need arise
- vii. Any funds not claimed back from the League after 12 weeks will remain League funds

## 8. PAYMENTS

- i. All payments must be made by cheque or internet banking direct to the League Treasurer. **CASH WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED.** Cheques should be made payable to West Norfolk Netball League.
- ii. Score cards must be paid for in advance either for the season in full or by way of post-dated cheques.
- iii. Score cards will be issued on the understanding that teams follow the Treasurer's instructions regarding i and ii above.
- iv. Payment due dates (to use on the post-dated cheques) will be determined by the Treasurer; teams will be notified accordingly
- v. A point will be deducted for every week that payments are overdue.
- vi. Any outstanding monies will be invoiced and/or credited at the end of each season.

## 9. UMPIRING

- i. All teams must have at least 1 nominated umpire.  
NB - An umpire may only be the nominated umpire for one team.
- ii. The decision of the Umpire is final and given without appeal. Team captains may **ONLY** ask an umpire to clarify a rule at an interval. All umpires must be EN affiliated.
- iii. By the end of their first full year as league members, teams without qualified umpires must have 2 people actively learning, following attendance at a course. By the end of the second year out of the 2 people per team at least 1 person must be working towards an assessment (depending on availability of assessors).

- iv. If the umpire does not umpire her match (this includes lateness and non-attendance) her team will be deducted 2 points.
- v. If the umpire has agreed to umpire a match but then cannot it is the umpire's responsibility to contact the Umpiring Secretary.

## 10. DISCIPLINE

- i. Any players heard swearing at other players or umpires will automatically be warned.
- ii. If this continues and is heard again it will lead to an immediate 2 minute sending off (breaks not included). The player can only then return to court into the position she had left.
- iii. If the player returns and still persists in swearing, then the player will be banned for the rest of the match and the team will therefore have to play the rest of the match with only 6 players.
- iv. At the point of a sending off no changes to positions or substitutions may take place. The exception is the 'C' position. An ON-COURT player must take this position for the duration of the sending off. If the offending player returns to court within the same quarter she may only return to her ORIGINAL playing position. No changes may be made by the opposing team until an official break.
- v. Any violent conduct will result in the player concerned being sent off immediately and a ban for that player for the remainder of the season.
- vi. Abusive and dangerous play will not be tolerated
- vii. Warning Protocol instructions have been issued to all umpires
- viii. All persons present at WNNL venue are subject to WNNL rules and appropriate disciplinary action. Rule 17 'Miscellaneous' also refers and a notice to this effect has been prepared and laminated and is visible at the venue.

## 11. INFRINGEMENT OF LEAGUE RULES

Any team may make an official complaint by following the official grievance procedure. West Norfolk Netball League committee will deal with these complaints. The committee's decision will be final. The committee will deal with all infringements of the League rules.

## 12. CANCELLATIONS

- i. If a team cannot attend their fixture they need to inform the umpiring secretary and opposing team Captain by 7pm on the Monday before the match. 6 points will be awarded to the opposing team if a match is cancelled. The team cancelling will then NOT be responsible for any umpire's fees but WILL be responsible for the other team's court fees. These will be invoiced at the end of the season
- ii. Teams cancelling on Tuesdays will pay ALL fees - court and umpire. Invoices for court fees will be raised by the Treasurer; umpiring fees will be collected by the Umpiring Secretary.
- iii. A team failing to attend a fixture and failing to notify the opposing team and the umpiring secretary will have 2 points deducted and the opposing team will be awarded 6 points for the win. The offending team will have to pay the opposing team's match fees which will be invoiced at the end of the season. The umpiring fees will be collected by the umpiring secretary
- iv. No games are to be re-arranged except in circumstances under 12.v
- v. In the event of the League committee having to postpone a fixture, notice will be given as soon as possible. Such fixtures will be rearranged by the League Committee for a later date.

## 13. ABANDONED MATCHES

In the event of a game having to be abandoned - at the discretion of the umpires and in conjunction with the team captains - due either to serious injury where the player cannot be moved off the court or sudden, severe and persistent inclement weather conditions (NB - play MUST be abandoned at the first sign of lightning, this is not discretionary), the following will apply:

[www.westnorfolknetball.co.uk](http://www.westnorfolknetball.co.uk)

If three-quarter time has not been reached, the match will be rearranged (as per WNNL Rule 12.v), otherwise the score will stand.

#### 14. **SCORING**

Scoring will be as follows:

6 pts - Win	4 pts - Draw	3 pts - Difference of 5 goals
2 pts – 1/2 score	1 pt – less than 1/2 score	0 pts - Cancellation

#### 15. **INJURIES/STOPPAGES. (INF Rule 9.3)**

1 Umpires may hold time for injury/illness when called for at any time by an on-court player. Time is also held for blood, an emergency or other circumstances considered appropriate. The umpires decide when time is taken.

2 Injury/illness/blood

In extreme circumstances umpires may hold time without a request being made. (rule 9.3.1)

Following a request for time the player concerned **MUST** leave the court within 30secs and receive treatment off the court.

Any blood on the ball or court must be cleaned before play restarts and any blood-stained clothing replaced.

During stoppage time both teams may make substitutions and/or team changes however these must be made within the time allowed for the stoppage by the umpires.

If no substitution is made then play may resume with the position left vacant. If the player concerned is the Centre then a player must move to that position.

When the position is left vacant the player concerned or a substitute may, after informing the umpire, take to the court immediately after one of the following:

- a A goal has been scored (the player must play in the vacant position)
- b Stoppage for an injury/illness/blood
- c An interval

Umpires may hold time or extend an interval if considered appropriate (rule 9.3.2)  
Such examples are:

- a Emergencies such as **SERIOUS** injury/illness of a player, umpire, the equipment, court or weather
  - b retrieving the ball
  - c disciplining a player
- The umpires decide the length of stoppage time.

The team captain/representative/umpires must fill in the injury log book held by the umpiring secretary. Refer to Jo Walton if the need arises.

#### 16. **LEAGUE ORGANISED EVENTS & THE AGM**

All teams **MUST** send at least five (5) team members to the AGM. Committee members are included in this number. Any teams not complying with this rule will be deducted 1 point per absentee. The same will happen for League organised events where the number of expected participants may be set once the event has been organised.

17. **MISCELLANEOUS**

- i. All persons present at WNNL venues are subject to WNNL Rules.
- ii. The league venue is a dog free zone.
- iii. Filming/Photography - This is permitted subject to the prior agreement of attending umpires and team captains. The relevant log needs to be completed and signed by all parties before any filming/photography takes place - refer to Jo Walton. No images are to be used for social media postings.
- iii For safety reasons to allow umpires free access all around the court or players to keep the ball in play, all bags must be placed and people must stand away from the playing area and only at the entrance end of the courts.
- iv Should a matter arise which is not explicitly covered by these rules the Committee reserves the right to take action based on the merits of the matter. This includes using the West Norfolk Netball League Grievance Procedure where appropriate. Any team affected will be notified in writing by the Committee.
- v Where the rules of WNNL are silent on a particular matter, the INF Rules will apply.