

South & West Dorset Netball League Rules 2015



1. Affiliation & Registration

- 1.1 Teams are to affiliate to England Netball prior to the start of the season. Each member must be affiliated to England Netball before competing for the first time (England Netball directive). In the event of a team playing an unaffiliated player, the non-offending team will be AWARDED THE GAME BY DEFAULT (an average of goals scored throughout the season will be added at the end of the season) and the offending team to lose 5 points. This will be policed by the Committee.
- 1.2 Matches to be played under England Netball and League rules. League rules take precedence.
- 1.3 Teams with named players U18 to have registered a Club Safe Guarding Officer with England Netball, to have complete EN online training or workshop (*Minimum £7.58p Online Costs to be subsidised by League*).
- 1.4 League fees must be paid by the date stated on the entry form, along with completed entry form and Code of Conduct Agreement, or that team will not be accepted for that season.

2. Complaints & Correspondence

- 2.1 Complaints and correspondence concerning all aspects of the League (including matches) are to be emailed to the Secretary (secretaryswdnetball@hotmail.co.uk), and within 7 days of the incident/match being played. Copies may then be forwarded to the relevant Committee Officer.

3. Duty

- 3.1 A team duty officer is to be supplied by teams as indicated on the fixture lists by the team name appearing in italics, bold and underlined. Teams highlighted in red on the Fixtures, are Duty Helpers and responsible for time keeping, setting up and putting away equipment, information box and notice board. Please report to the Duty Committee Officer.
- 3.2 Failure to supply this duty officer will result in a fine of £10.00; further non-fulfilment of duty within the same season will result in the loss of 5 points and an additional fine of £10.00 to the offending team. A letter from the Committee will be sent advising such to the team secretary. The team duty officer should report to the Committee duty officer at least 5 minutes before the game is scheduled to start. Duty dates can be negotiated with the Committee with prior agreement.

3.3 Fines will be invoiced immediately.

4. Players

4.1 Players must be of senior school age or of an age that is, or seen to be, responsible to play within the adult league.

4.2 A player automatically becomes registered for a team when she plays her first game for them, except in the case of a club.

4.3 Players may only register for one club in a season except as in 4.3.1. If a team completely withdraws from the league, players may transfer to another team without completing a transfer request.

4.3.1 1 transfer request per player per season is allowed with the consent of both team captains and the quorum of the Committee (i.e. 6 members at least).

4.4 A player registered for Team A may play for Team B or C etc., in any tournament. She will still be registered to Team A and a transfer request is not required (ie. teams may merge to form 1 team to play in a tournament if so required).

4.5 The names of players for each team and club, including phone numbers of all players over 18 and also Date of Birth of those players under 18, must be handed to the fixtures secretary before the start of each season.

5. Clubs

5.1 Club lists must be submitted prior to League commencement. If a teams' list for Clubs has not been submitted prior to the 1st match, then those players who have played the 1st match for each team of the Club will be deemed to be registered to that team for the season.

5.2 Players 'registered' to the 1st team (in the case of a club consisting of 2 teams) and those registered to the 1st and 2nd teams (in the case of a club consisting of 3 teams and so on) must be regular players within the League, and must be affiliated to England Netball. The committee have the right to police this and may choose to contact the club accordingly.

5.3 Clubs may apply to the committee to change registration of players to a different team within the club under exceptional circumstances e.g. a player who is registered to the 2nd team has not played due to injury and wishes to transfer to the 3rd team. The club must apply in writing to the committee, who may permit the transfer, circumstances permitting (i.e. the player has not played for the 2nd team and providing the 2nd team still have 7 registered players). Each request will be considered on an individual case.

5.4 A player of a club with 2 or more teams may play 3 matches per season for the 'A' team, on the 4th match she becomes an 'A' team player. 'A' team players may not play for any team below them. 'B' team players may not play for any team below them etc. A 'C' team player can play 3 times in total for either the 'A' or 'B' team, when on the 4th time of playing in either the 'A' or 'B' team she will deem to become a player of that team.

- 5.5 Clubs registered as above, in the event of the top team being unable to field a team, they MUST draw on their lower teams, as given to the Fixtures Secretary at the beginning of each season. No games therefore should be cancelled except the lowest team in their club if also playing at the same time. (A team may take the court if there are at least five (5) players present, one of whom must play Centre (refer England Netball Rule 21).
- 5.6 Clubs A, B and C teams etc, will be decided upon the prior season results, e.g. 'A' team in Division 2 cannot have a 'B' team in Division 1. If all teams are in the same division, this rule also applies to their final divisional place.
- 5.7 Players are not permitted to 'take the court' for more than one team per scheduled fixture timing (e.g. played first quarter for 2nd team and then switch over to the 1st team game being played at the same time for the 2nd to 4th quarters) but are able to compete during an 'early' and 'late game'.
- 5.8 **Failure to comply with 5.1 - 5.7 will result in 5 points being deducted from the team fielding the ineligible player and points of the game AWARDED BY DEFAULT to the non-offending team, along with goal average at the end of the season.**
- 5.9 Any team changing its name shall remain in the division the side is playing (subject to promotion and relegation) providing it retains a majority of registered players of the previous seasons. If a team splits exactly in half, the Committee will decide on the divisional placings of each team.
6. **Dress Code**
- 6.1 Playing kit will be of the following:- bibs, skirts, dresses, t-shirt, correct footwear (trainers), tracksuit bottoms and skirt, cycle shorts and skirt, (if a player forgets a skirt or a new player has not acquired one, she is not to be penalised), sweatshirt. Glasses may be worn, but must be secure. No bra tops. No gloves. No baseball caps. No hoodies. No sunglasses. Umpires may prevent players from taking the court in inappropriate dress.
- 6.2 Teams must propose intentions of new kit designs to League Committee before ordering and worn only on approval from the Committee made in writing. New teams entering the League will too have to seek approval on choice of kit design, to prevent colour clashes. The Committee may enforce additional measures should teams fail to adhere to this ruling.
7. **Matches**
- 7.1 Matches must be played on the date and time specified on the fixture list. All matches are to be played on the designated night as confirmed by Committee.
- 7.2 If 28 or less teams enter the season, the league will be played on one evening (Thursdays). If more than 28, the league will be split - Divisions Premier and 2 playing on Thursday/Divisions 1 and 3 on Tuesdays.
- 7.3 If a team knows in advance of fixture dates they are unable to comply with, please submit details in writing, to the Committee in advance of the fixtures being issued. The Committee

will endeavour to make alternative fixture arrangements if deemed appropriate.

- 7.4 No matches to be played (including rescheduled matches) in the last 2 weeks of December, the first week of January or the first week of Easter.
- 7.5 Prompt arrival on court must be maintained. Games must commence within 10 minutes of the stipulated time. For every minute a team is late, up to 10 minutes, a goal is added to the non-offending team's score (to be totalled at the end of the game). The remaining time of the match is to be played. E.g. offending team arrives at 6.50pm then the game will finish at the same time as other games, subject to injury time, the game would be 55 mins and the non-offending team would be awarded 5 goals at the end of the game for 5 mins late start.
- 7.6 Late arrivals addition - If there are mitigating circumstances for a team arriving later than the stipulated 10 minutes. The offending team may write to the Committee, where it shall be discussed as to whether a replayed game can take place. The non-offending team will give 2 dates to the offender to choose from. If no decision is made between both teams, then the Committee will decide a date for the game to be replayed.
- 7.7 Any matches abandoned legitimately by the umpire and/or Committee Duty Officer, up to any time before the start of the last quarter, shall be replayed.
- 7.8 In the event of any matches abandoned as in 7.7 above or games cancelled by the committee due to bad weather will be played on the dates previously decided by the committee and as stated on the fixtures list. The committee will aim to set the dates as shown in the table below. In the unlikely event that more than 1 fixture is cancelled per four weeks as shown in the table, the rearranged games will be added to the end of the season, or as decided by the committee.

| Week of Fixtures | Day to be Replayed |
|------------------|--|
| Week 1-4 | Monday of Week 5 |
| Week 5-8 | Tuesday of Week 9 |
| Week 9-12 | Wednesday of Week 13 |
| Week 13-16 | Monday of Week 17 |
| Week 17+ | Thursday of Week following the last game of the season |

These dates will be decided according to bank holidays, availability of the facilities, and any other external factors, and may be subject to change at the time of issuing the fixtures and at the committee's discretion.

8. Cancelled Matches

- 8.1 The offending team must notify the other team secretary, the umpires, the Umpiring Secretary and the Fixtures Secretary before the game is scheduled to commence, and before the players and umpires arrive for the match. The OFFENDING TEAM WILL ALSO HAVE TO ASSUME THE TEAM DUTY ON BEHALF OF THE NON-OFFENDING (OPPOSING) TEAM (IF A DUTY HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO THEM ON THE NIGHT OF CANCELLED FIXTURE). The non-offending team will be AWARDED THE GAME BY DEFAULT (an average of goals scored

throughout the season will be added at the end of the season). Re-scheduling of games is not permitted. Other team commitments still need to be fulfilled e.g. umpire, duty.

- 8.1.1 Each umpire, reporting for the match, having not been given prior notice is to be paid £10.00 by the offending team. Expenses of £10.00 to be paid to the non-offending team who has reported for the match within 7 days of scheduled fixture.
- 8.1.2 If the umpiring team fails to notify their umpire who was due to umpire on their behalf, then the umpiring team are to pay that umpire expenses of £10.00 within 7 days of scheduled fixture.
- 8.1.3 A valid reason not to be fined must be given in a letter of explanation to the Committee whose decision is final.
- 8.2 Team sheets must be handed in to the Committee Duty Officer at the end of the match. Persistent failure to comply will result in the deduction of 5 points from the offending team.
- 8.3 Duration of games will be decided before the start of each season and tournament by the Committee.
- 8.4 Scoring: Win = 5 points, Draw = 3 points. If within 5 goals or less of opponents score = 2 points, more than ½ opponents score = 1 point.
- 8.5 Injury Time – only 2 minutes is allowed per quarter for injury time. A maximum of 5 minutes will be added to the last quarter for injury time accumulated during the match. Injury occurring during playing injury period is awarded as stated (maximum 5 minutes per game).

9. Promotion & Relegation

- 9.1 In usual circumstances the top 2 and bottom 2 teams will be promoted and relegated unless the Committee deem this impractical, whereby the Committee shall decide. In the event of a tie the teams shall play-off to decide promotion/relegation, under the supervision of the Committee.

10. Umpires

- 10.1 Each team must have **two** active, affiliated umpires applicable with at least **one** to the standard required by division the team is participating in. Failure to do so will result in the team not being allowed to enter the League. New teams and newly promoted teams will be given 2 seasons to comply. Certain allowances will be made by the Committee i.e., if team's umpire leaves the team/league.
- 10.2 An umpire may not officiate for her registered team's match unless the allocated umpire fails to turn up and the opposing team agree.
- 10.3 If it becomes obvious an umpire is not sufficiently in control of the game, a Committee member shall have power to replace her/him with a qualified umpire providing this complies with 10.2.

- 10.4 Umpires who have had their preliminary or “C” award for more than 3 years, may be reassessed and if necessary recommended to attend a refresher course or provided with mentoring [England Netball & Netball Dorset directive].
- 10.5 The umpires’ decision as to whether the court is fit to play or not is final. On the occasion of a split decision the Duty Officer will have the casting vote. This will be decided at the fixture time of play.
- 10.6 If a team fails to supply an umpire and they are registered as a club, it is the responsibility of that club to provide an umpire of the relevant standard. This may result in drawing an umpire from a playing team.
- 10.7 Late umpires – An umpire is permitted to be 10 minutes late. If a stand-in umpire has taken to the court, the late arrival may take over umpiring after 10 minutes. If there is no umpire, the game can be re-arranged [see “Re-arrangement of Matches” below]. The stand-in umpire remains if the allotted umpire does not arrive. The allocated umpire’s team will lose 5 points. Subject to the Committee’s discretion. The lost time will be added to the final quarter. Duty Officer to be informed. If an umpire is more than 10 minutes late **10.8** applies.
- 10.8 Failure to supply a suitably qualified umpire without prior notice:
- 10.8.1 Failure to supply a suitably qualified umpire **without prior notice** will result in the deduction of 5 points from the offending team.
- 10.8.2 If the match is played with a substitute umpire (arranged on the evening by someone other than the offending team), the offending team must pay £20.00 to that umpire.
- 10.8.3 If the match is postponed, the offending team must supply both umpires and a timekeeper for the replay. £10 expenses must be paid to the other reporting umpire and £10 to each reporting team, **if communication regarding the enforced postponed fixture has not been received by those parties involved. *note removal of previous 9.9 and renumbering 9.10**
- 10.8.4 Any valid reason not to be fined must be in a letter of explanation to the Committee whose decision is final.
- 10.9 If a team gives an umpire a score of 4 or less, they must give a written report of the match to the Committee with the reasons for the low score.

11. Re-arrangement of Matches

- 11.1 If, as a result of 10.7 or 10.8, a match is postponed, or in the event of poor court facilities (e.g. lack of posts), a mutually convenient date/time is to be arranged between both team secretaries and the relevant umpires. Each team secretary and umpire is to confirm agreement of this date and time, with the Fixtures Officer within the following 7 days after postponement of the match. The match must be played at Budmouth Community Sports Centre, by the following 3rd Wednesday, or by the following Wednesday if the game is

postponed during the last 2 weeks of the season, and must be played at the original scheduled time. It is the responsibility of the team secretaries to ensure the courts are available. The Fixtures Officer will then book the court/s. If no agreement has been reached within 7 days, the match will be played on the 3rd Wednesday following the original postponement. If a team/umpire who has agreed to this date/time cannot then play/umpire the match, points will then be deducted in the normal manner (see 8, 10.7, 10.8).

12. Trophies

- 12.1 Sue Barras' Cup – to be decided annually on places of progress moved over a year.
- 12.2 Kelly Browne's Umpire of the Year Award – to qualify to enter this award scheme each umpire must umpire 7 games, therefore having 14 reports. Scores will be averaged out. Awards are subject to the Committee's discretion.
- 12.3 Bob Pitt's Player of the Year Award – as nominated by the umpires over a 12 month period.
- 12.4 Denise Camp Shield – fair play. Good conduct score to be used as part of the decision, overall decision at the Committee's discretion.
- 12.5 Louise Beals' Services to Netball Award – to be decided by the previous year's winner.
- 12.6 Players Player of the Year Award – as nominated by teams over a 12 month period.
- 12.7 Divisional Team Trophies – team awards will consist of 8 trophies. Teams may request up to 12 trophies to accommodate their full squad at no extra charge.

13. Liability & Injury

- 13.1 Teams should indemnify themselves against injury, loss or damage to personal property. The ENGLAND NETBALL cover incorporated with the affiliation is for 3rd party only, not personal cover.
- 12.1 Any player who incurs an injury during scheduled fixtures/competition/training should report incident to Budmouth Sports Centre, who are responsible for recording incident. *Note – Budmouth Sports Centre do not cover courtside first aid treatment and therefore teams assume duty of care regarding treatment of injuries.

14. Pregnancy Clause

- 14.1 Players who are pregnant forfeit the right to play netball. Failure to comply with this ruling will result in the deduction of 5 points from the offending team. Players may not return until after their 6 week check-up following the birth, or with written consent from their midwife or Doctor. Players are only allowed to umpire up to the end of their 20th week of pregnancy.

15. Raffle prize for Presentation Dance

- 15.1 Teams must provide a raffle prize of a minimum value of £10.00. Failure to do so will result in the team being invoiced for £15.00. All proceeds will go to that year's designated charity.

16. No Smoking Policy.

16.1 Budmouth operates a no smoking policy. NO SMOKING on any of the grounds - including e-cigarrattes.

THIS DOCUMENT OVERRIDES ALL OTHER DOCUMENTATION

SIGNED: DATE:

Name:

League Chair

SIGNED: DATE:

Name:

League Secretary

Note – highlighted text refers to amendments made 2015.

FINAL