



South & West Dorset Netball League Rules September 2023



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 and named to the Team/Club playing in the SWDNL 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 International Netball Federation and League Rules. League Rules take precedence.

1.3 Teams with named players U18 to have registered a Club Safeguarding Officer with England Netball and to have completed EN online training or equivalent workshop.

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 match report 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 timekeeping, setting up and putting away equipment, information box and notice board. Please report to the Duty Committee Officer.
N.B. 'team duty' can be fulfilled by another member of the league outside the specified team.

3.1.1 All match report duties will be assigned to a court/match on the night.



3.2 Failure to supply this duty officer will **result in a loss of 5 points and a fine of £20.00** for each single occasion. Correspondence 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.

N.B Members have the right to appeal within 7 days of being issued the sanction as per Rule 2.1.

4. Players

4.1 The League is categorised as an 'Open league', with this, players must be of senior school age and have adhered to England Netball Age Band Guidance & Support by completing a 'Junior Readiness Form' in order to compete in the open age 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 roster shared with Fixtures Secretary prior to commencement of season.

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 One 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).

Requests to be received a minimum of 72hrs (3 days) prior to the 1st match the transferring player will play for their new team.

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 (i.e. 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 secretaries and umpires over 18 (parent contact details for those umpires U18) must be handed to the Fixtures Secretary before the start of each season. Those players U18 to be noted as U18 in the appropriate roster column.

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 (as per Rule 4.2).



5.2 Players 'registered' to the A^t team (in the case of a club consisting of 2 teams) and those registered to the A and B teams (in the case of a club consisting of 3 teams and so on) must be regular players within the League and must be members of England Netball. The Committee will monitor 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 B team has not played due to injury and wishes to transfer to the C 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 B team and providing the B 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 up' 3 matches per season, on the 4th time 'playing up' they remain in that team (with no further play ups for any club team permitted). For example a 'C' team player can play for the 'B' team twice, for the 'A' team once, and a 4th 'play up' to the 'B' team - they then remain as 'B' team player for remainder of season.

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 must take to 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 as per rule 5.10.

5.10 New Teams | Any new team entering the league is to submit a player list on their online entry form. The committee will determine the appropriate division for that team to enter based on recent playing experience of the players featured on the list.



6. Dress Code

6.1 Playing kit will be of the following - bibs, skirts/t-shirt or dresses/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), undergarments, which are only colours that reflect the registered colours of the playing team (applies to players 'playing up' within a club setting) and correct footwear (trainers). 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 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.

7.3 No matches to be played (including rescheduled matches) in the last 2 weeks of December, the first week of January or Maundy Thursday.

7.4 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.

7.5 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 on a date for the game to be replayed.

7.6 In the event of unforeseen weather conditions during match play, any umpire can call to hold time and bring together all controlling umpires to the timing area to discuss the



continuation of play (**this discussion is confidential between umpires only**). Each umpire will have one vote on whether play should continue or not. The majority rule, and in the event of a tied vote, the matches will be postponed. Any team/player who does not wish to continue, can make the personal decision to forfeit further involvement (if this results in the team being unable to take to the court, they will then concede the match). If the time is held in the final quarter and the decision is to postpone **or forfeit**, the scoreline for the match(es) will stand. (This process can occur as often as necessary throughout the fixture).

7.7 In the event of any matches abandoned as in 7.6 above or games cancelled by the committee due to bad weather will be played on the spare dates previously decided by the committee and as stated on the fixtures list. In the unlikely event that more than 1 fixture is cancelled per four weeks (with no free spare date), the rearranged games will be added to the end of the season, or as decided by the committee.

These dates will be decided according to bank holidays, availability of the facilities (matches to be played at Budmouth Academy, unless agreed as per rule 11.1. exclusive to Budmouth Academy courts), 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 & Match Duration**

8.1 The offending team must notify **the other team secretary, the umpires, the Umpiring Secretary and the Fixtures Secretary** **by 2pm on the day the game is scheduled**. 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. Team umpiring commitments still need to be fulfilled.

- 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 fully completed 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 – **The player concerned (injury/blood) must leave the court within 30 seconds** and receive any treatment off the court (International Netball Federation rule 9.3.1 applies). Only 2 minutes 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 the team's umpire leaves the team/league. ****The committee will review activity levels of team umpires and their overall contribution to league umpiring, making contact with any teams whereby levels are a concern.****

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. *In the event of the umpire being linked but a signed player to a team (club/family member), it would be appropriate to inform captains of the teams involved.

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 '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:

10.8.1 Failure to supply a suitably qualified umpire 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, or in the event of poor court facilities (e.g. lack of posts), a match is postponed, the following arrangements of the replay will apply:

- 11.1.1 A mutually convenient date/time is to be agreed by each team secretary and an email from each team secretary issued to the Fixtures Officer confirming this ***within 7 days*** of the cancelled fixture. (In the event of poor court facilities the umpires will also need to agree availability).
- 11.1.2 The match must be played at Budmouth Academy outdoor courts, unless an alternative venue is agreed by both the teams, umpires and committee.
- 11.1.3 Team secretaries will check court availability. The Fixtures Secretary will book the courts.
- 11.1.4 The match must be played by the following 3rd Wednesday, or the following Wednesday if the postponed match is within the last 2 weeks of the season. ***If no agreement*** is made, the match will be played on the following 3rd Wednesday, or the following Wednesday if the postponed match is within the last 2 weeks of the season.
- 11.1.5 If any team/umpire cannot play/officiate the match once agreed, points will be deducted in the normal manner (see Rule 8, 10.7 and 10.8).
- 11.1.6 Any matches arranged as a result of Rule 7.8 will take precedence over matches detailed in 11.1 above.

11.2 In the event of 11.1 not being met with both teams forfeiting a rescheduled date, 0 points will be awarded to both teams.

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 10 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.

13.2 Any player who incurs an injury during scheduled fixtures/competition/training is responsible for recording the incident and should report the incident to both Budmouth Academy Bookings email and England Netball (as it appears on their website). *Note – Budmouth Academy 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.

14.2 Officials are only allowed to umpire up to the end of their 12th week of pregnancy.

15. No Smoking Policy.

15.1 Budmouth operates a no smoking policy. NO SMOKING on any of the grounds: including e-cigarettes, vapes and elf bars.

THIS DOCUMENT OVERRIDES ALL OTHER DOCUMENTATION

SIGNED (League Chair):
Name:

DATE:

SIGNED (League Secretary):
Name:

DATE:

Note – highlighted text refers to most recent amendment.