

## **READING & DISTRICT NETBALL LEAGUE**

### **SATURDAY & MIDWEEK – LEAGUE RULES 2014/2015**

#### **Fixtures**

- 1 Matches will be played at a central venue.
- 2 Play will be in accordance with the current AENA rule book (revised 2011) except that there will be no stoppage time for injury.
- 3 Matches will be controlled by a central timekeeper but play will start and finish on the umpires' whistles. Saturday matches take place over 4 quarters of 15 minutes and Midweek matches over 4 quarters of 10 minutes.
- 4 The first named team on the fixture list will be regarded as the home team and therefore will be responsible for initiating the toss. In the event that both teams' bibs are too similar it is the obligation of the away team to change bibs.
- 5 In the event of matches having to be called off due to inclement weather, the Committee reserves the right to reschedule fixtures on alternative days as specified by the Committee. Normal cancellation rules will then apply (see rules 11 & 12).

#### **Late arrivals / number of players**

- 6 Teams and umpires should be ready for the 10am/11:30am/7:30pm/8:30pm start as per the fixture list.
- 7 A bell will be sounded 5 minutes before the start of play at which time the team captains must present players to the umpires for nail/jewellery checks.
- 8 A team may take to court with no fewer than 5 players registered to play for that team. Teams may then borrow 2 players to make up a team of 7 players if they are unable to field a team from their own registered players (please refer to Rules 23 – 29 for guidance on penalties applicable to borrowed players).

**Substitutions may be made but 5 registered players from that team must remain on court at all times.**

- 9 Teams or their umpires who are unable to take to court on time will forfeit one goal per minute or part thereof. Elapsed time should be agreed by both captains and umpires before the game commences. The goals will be added at the start of the game (i.e. 4 minutes late means the starting score will be 4-0). Scorecards may need to be adjusted to reflect the first centre pass. The opposing team will be expected to be available for the **first quarter** of the match after which the game will be awarded to them.

**Seek clarification from a committee member if in any doubt.**

Where a game is forfeited in this way, the "winning" team will receive 5 points and 30 goals (Saturday) or 5 points and 20 goals (Midweek). The "losing" team will have 30 goals (Saturday) or 20 goals (Midweek) against them.

### Scorecards

10 It is the team captain's responsibility to make sure that the scorecard and match report are completed fully and handed in at the end of the match:

- The correct and full team name has been entered at the top of the scorecards
- All players have printed and signed the scorecard, prior to taking to court, in the same way they signed their registration sheet.
- Borrowed players have printed, signed and **noted their team name**
  - **NOTE: It is assumed if a borrowed player / substitute has signed the match card then they have played in the match.**
- Both umpires have **signed** their names
- Both scorers must write their **team name only** on the scorecard
- The name of the opposition player of the match has been printed
- The match score has been recorded correctly on both match report and scorecard
- The opposition team sportsmanship award has been circled.
- **A match report is completed on at least one teams' card**
- When scorecards used are not those pre-written and provided by the committee, it is the **team captains' responsibility** to ensure that date, division, time and court number are correct **and both team names are written in full**
- Cards must be handed in prior to leaving the courts

Teams who fail to comply will have 1 point deducted for each infringement.

### Match postponements / cancellations

11 Fixtures may be postponed under the following circumstance only:

**Unsafe Playing Conditions** - the decision to play/postpone matches will be taken by the Committee as early as possible on the day. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THEALE CENTRE. In the event of postponement the Fixtures Secretary will contact Division Reps who in turn will contact Club Secretaries. Postponed matches will be played at a date fixed by the Committee. Teams that cancelled prior to the Committees decision to postpone will be offered the chance to replay.

#### **Adverse weather conditions during a fixture**

- a. If a **match umpire** is not willing to continue the match in adverse weather conditions, they may stop the match. If one match is stopped, **all matches played at that time are also stopped** (by ringing the bell).
- b. If a **team** is not willing to continue, they may appeal to their match umpire, with whom the final decision lies. If the match umpire agrees to stop the match, then all matches played at that time are also stopped (as above).
- c. Matches may also be stopped by a committee member who does not feel it safe to continue. If this happens, all matches played at that time are also stopped (as above).

**If matches are stopped in the first half, the committee will re-arrange all fixtures.**

**If matches are stopped in the second half, the half time score will stand as a result and the match will not be re-arranged.**

- 12 Teams who are unable to fulfil a fixture for other reasons must advise **all** of the following by 6pm on the evening of a midweek fixture or by 8.30am on the morning of a Saturday fixture:
- Division Rep (who should notify the Fixtures Secretaries & Publicity Officers)
  - Opposing Team (who should inform their own umpire)
  - Team umpire (or umpiring secretary where a match is used for training purposes)
  - Teams responsible for Scoring your match

**The fixture will be deemed as forfeited. Where a game is forfeited in this way, the 'winning' team will receive 5 points and 30 goals (Saturday) or 5 points and 20 goals (Midweek). The 'losing' team will have 30 goals (Saturday) or 20 goals (Midweek) against them.**

**Failure to notify all the parties by the above deadline will incur an additional 1 point deduction.**

**NOTE: TEAMS WHO CANCEL MUST PROVIDE 2 SCORERS FOR THE OPPOSITE MATCH.** Failure to provide two scorers will incur a five point deduction.

### **Umpiring – See also separate section on Umpiring**

- 13 All umpires for RDNL fixtures must be approved/graded by the RDNL Umpiring Secretary. If a team chooses a qualified umpire (AENA/FENA) from outside RDNL it is up to that team to provide proof of that umpire's qualification prior to taking to court. Evidence must be shown and reviewed by the Umpiring Secretary/Umpiring Administrator or another committee member in their absence.
- 14 Each team is responsible for providing an umpire for its own matches. Teams may swap umpires but must ensure that the umpire is graded to umpire in the appropriate Division. Where a team has to drop a player in order to provide an umpire for a match, they must also be of the appropriate grade for that division.
- 15 An umpire is an official of the match as deemed by the AENA rulebook. An umpire may only be substituted in the event of injury or illness and must subsequently take no further part in the match in ANY CAPACITY.

**Teams who fail to supply an umpire of an appropriate grade will forfeit the game. Where a game is forfeited the 'winning' team will receive 5 points and 30 goals (Saturday) or 5 points and 20 goals (Midweek). The 'losing' team will have 30 goals (Saturday) or 20 goals (Midweek) against them.**

- 16 Where an umpire fails to honour their commitment, the affected team should notify the Umpiring Secretary in writing within seven days.

## **Scoring**

- 17 Teams will be expected to provide a scorer for the match being played at the opposite time. **Where there is not a match playing at the opposite time a rota will be drawn up and provided to teams.**

**It is the scorers' responsibility to ensure that both match cards record the same result.**

**Scorers are officials of the game and must ensure that they conduct themselves accordingly.**

Once a game has started, a scorer **cannot** be used as a substitute player, even in the event of an injury. If a scorer is substituted before the start of the game it is the responsibility of the scoring team to ensure a replacement is provided.

**Scorers must write their team name only on the score card**

**Teams who fail to supply a scorer will be deducted 5 points. Teams who fail to provide two scorers (in accordance with Rule 12) will be deducted 5 points.**

## **Registration of players**

- 18 All teams must affiliate their players with England Netball online at the beginning of the season and prior to taking to court.

An RDNL player registration sheet should be completed for each team and handed in to the Div Reps on or before the first game of the season. All sections must be completed.

Please note: Netball ID is the membership number supplied by England Netball & can be obtained via your online club login. This is also printed on the membership cards supplied with the Netball Magazine.

A printout of proof of each player's affiliation should be emailed to the Midweek/Saturday Fixtures Secretary or submitted at the beginning of the season along with the RDNL player registration sheet. An affiliation list can be downloaded via your England Netball online club login.

If a player is 2<sup>nd</sup> Claim (i.e. affiliated to England Netball via another league/team) then proof of affiliation must be obtained and submitted prior to taking to court from the player/1<sup>st</sup> Claim club.

- 19 **Any player wishing to play in both Saturday and Midweek Leagues must register separately in each league and must be affiliated to England Netball, Berkshire & South Region. Separate registration sheets & affiliation copies are required for each league.**

- 20 Additional players who wish to register after the start of the season **must** complete the RDNL additional player registration sheet. All sections must be completed. This should be **personally handed** in along with a print of their proof of affiliation to the Division rep/Committee member **before** they take to court. The RDNL netball box is not considered an appropriate drop off for these official forms.

For insurance purposes a player must not take to court without having submitted the required documentation as above. If they do take to court they will be treated as an illegal player.

The RDNL registration sheets will have been emailed to your team secretary. A copy is also available to download from the RDNL website or in the RDNL netball box at Theale.

- 21 Additional players may be affiliated online at any time throughout the season. Due to insurance regulations, full affiliation payment should be paid.** The RDNL registration sheet must be completed before taking to court and handed to a committee member. Proof of affiliation must be provided to RDNL via a printout from the online list.

In addition RDNL fees for 2014/15 are £20 per club of up to 20 players and £20 per 20 players thereafter. These fees will be due in the first half of the season and thereafter as and when the club exceeds 20 players.

- 22 Players wishing to change teams must notify the Fixtures Secretaries and Chair in writing or by e-mail to re-register. At least 7 days notice must be given and acknowledgment should be received from the committee before taking to court. The player should submit a new player registration form to the Fixtures Secretaries.**

- a) Any player that has already participated in an RDNL fixture may not re-register for a team in a lower division.
- b) Any new player (not already affiliated to EN) who wishes to take part in the RDNL Summer league/Tournament will not be covered by EN insurance and should therefore take advantage of the **Taster affiliation rate** where possible. Please refer to the England Netball website under 'membership'.

**Teams who field an unregistered player will have 5 points deducted and will forfeit the match in which the unregistered player played.**

Where the game is forfeited the 'winning' team will receive 5 points and 30 goals (Saturday) or 5 points and 20 goals (Midweek). The 'losing' team will have 30 goals (Saturday) or 20 goals (Midweek) against them.

### **Borrowing from a team perspective**

- 23 Teams must not borrow a player from another team if their own registered players are on the sideline available to play.**

*This rule will be kept under continual review by the committee throughout the season.*

A team may borrow players in the following way:

Saturday Div 1 & 2 - teams may borrow from a team in any lower Saturday Division as many times as they wish. They may also borrow across from a team in the same division on **three** occasions.

Saturday Div 3 – teams may borrow from any other Saturday Division 3 team as many times as they wish.

Midweek Div 1, 2 & 3 - teams may borrow from a team in any lower Midweek Division as many times as they wish. They may also borrow across from a team in the same division on **three** occasions.

Midweek Div 4 - teams may borrow from any other Midweek Division 4 team as many times as they wish.

**Please ensure all players are aware of rule 26.**

24 Saturday League teams may not borrow players registered only for the Midweek League.

25 Midweek League teams may not borrow players registered only for the Saturday League.

**Teams who borrow on more than the permitted number of occasions will forfeit the match and will have 5 points deducted.**

**Where the game is forfeited the 'winning' team will receive 5 points and 30 goals (Saturday) or 5 points and 20 goals (Midweek). The 'losing' team will have 30 goals (Saturday) or 20 goals (Midweek) against them.**

**Borrowing from a player's perspective**

26 The conditions for individuals playing for other teams vary as follows:

Players registered for Div 1 Saturday/Midweek may play across for another team in Div 1 a maximum of **three** times.

Players registered for Div 2 Saturday / Div 2 & 3 Midweek may play across in the same division and may also play for a team in a higher division a maximum of **three** times. That is to say they can play across in the same division on **three** occasions or they can play for a team in a higher division on **three** occasions or a combination of the two but no more than **three** times.

Players registered for Div 3 Saturday / Div 4 Midweek may play for any other team a maximum of **three** times.

**Players and teams should keep an accurate record of when they play for other teams.**

27 If playing for another team, **players must note their own team name on the scorecard alongside their printed name.**

28 Under no circumstances may any player play for a team in a lower division.

- 29 It is the responsibility of team captains and players to ensure that Rules 23 - 29 are not violated. **If clarification of any rule is required please seek advice from a committee member.**

**It is not the responsibility of any of the committee to notify a team as to when they are close, or have even exceeded, the maximum number of borrows; it is solely the responsibility of the team/individual player.**

Teams fielding an illegal player\* (from an inappropriate division or who has already played for other teams more than the permitted number) will have 5 points deducted and will forfeit the match in which the illegal player played.

Where a game is forfeited, the "winning" team will receive 5 points and 30 goals (Saturday) or 5 points and 20 goals (Midweek). The "losing" team will have 30 goals (Saturday) or 20 goals (Midweek) against them.

*\*An illegal player will be suspended for three matches following notification from the committee. This will be carried over to the next season if necessary. The suspension applies within the league in which the infringement was committed i.e. if the illegal play occurs in the Midweek League then the suspension for 3 matches will apply to the Midweek League matches only.*

### **League positions / results**

- 30 New teams entering the RDNL will normally be placed in the lower Divisions but the Committee reserves the right to waive this rule.
- 31 Promotion and relegation will take place within the League, at the Committee's discretion.
- 32 Match points will be awarded as follows -:
- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| Win  | 5 points |
| Draw   | 3 points |
| Lose (Goal difference is equal to or less than 5 goals)                      | 2 points |
| Lose (If the losing team achieves 50% or more of the winning team's score)   | 1 point  |
| Lose (If the losing team achieves less than 50% of the winning team's score) | 0 point  |
- 33 In the event of a tie on points within any Division, goal difference will determine final League positions. If goal difference is tied then goals scored will be the deciding factor.

### **Withdrawal from the league**

- 34 Teams who wish to withdraw from the League should notify the Chairman and the Secretary.
- 35 Should a team withdraw in the first half of the season, all points and goals will be deleted from league results tables. Should a team withdraw during the second half of the season, results of matches played in the first half of the season will stand and only the points and goals from second half matches will be deleted.

## **Complaints**

- 36 Complaints of any nature must be submitted in writing to the RDNL Secretary and Chair within 7 days of an incident. Complaints will be dealt with at Committee level initially and interested parties may be invited to state their case as deemed necessary.

Outcomes of complaints may be reported to AENA at the Committees discretion

**The Committee reserves the right to impose fines or match suspensions on teams or individuals as a result of complaints made to the committee. The Committee's decision is final.**

## **Health & Safety**

- 37 All players must be 14 years of age or over.
- 38 Ladies may not play or umpire after their 12<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy.
- 39 All visible body jewellery (including tongue studs) must be removed before taking to court. Wedding rings may be worn but must be covered by tape/plaster to the satisfaction of the umpire.
- 40 Medic Alert Bracelets may be worn if secured in such a manner that it will not constitute a danger to an opponent, with clear tape.
- 41 Hats, gloves, alic bands, sweatbands, haircombs, sunglasses and friendship bands are not allowed to be worn during play.
- 41a However, gloves and sunglasses (in rule 41) may be worn for **genuine medical reasons** when participating in recognised and authorised EN netball activities. If sunglasses/gloves are required for genuine medical reasons, then an appropriate medical certificate must be supplied to the appropriate RDNL Fixtures Secretary at the beginning of the season or when the player registers. A copy of the medical certificate should be available to be shown to the match umpire if requested.
- If a player/coach/official has to wear glasses for medical reasons then she/he is fully insured from an EN point of view. But, if the glasses become damaged due to a netball accident then these are not insured.
- 42 Headscarves worn for religious or cultural reasons may be worn during play if the material is soft, without embellishments which might constitute danger and with potential flowing/flapping edges held securely around the neck or tucked into shirt collar.
- 43 EN Rule 1.4.5 clearly states that fingernails shall be short and smooth. If acrylic fingernails conform to this rule then they can participate, whether their nails are square or round.

Please beware that should a player be wearing Acrylic nails which **do not conform** to the above, then they should not participate according to the rule. If the players Acrylic nails **do conform** to

the rule, and they subsequently suffer damage to their nail(s) then, they participate at their own risk and they would not be covered by any England Netball Insurance.

- 44 Any supports, strappings and braces must be covered to the umpire's satisfaction so as not to pose any danger to other players.
- 45 The chewing of any substance, e.g. gum, by any player or umpire is forbidden during play due to the risk of blockage of the airways in the event of accident/injury.
- 46a In the event of an injury, both umpires should consult with the injured player to agree what action should be taken. If in any doubt about the extent of an injury the player should not be moved until expert medical help arrives. No additional playing time will be allowed for time lost dealing with an injury. A committee member should be alerted to the situation and if the game is unable to continue the Committee will then decide upon any further action at a later date. Umpires and captains need to ensure the scorecards adequately reflect the incident.
- 46b In the event of an accident, the player/team captain should complete an Accident Report Form and send a copy to England Netball. A copy should also be retained by the club/team. The forms are available on the England Netball website and via a link on the Rules & Insurance page on the RDNL website; copies are also available in the green RDNL box.
- 47 If a player is cut or grazed during play, the following must be adhered to:
- The umpire must advise the player to leave the court or a player must advise the umpire and leave the court.
  - The wound must be cleaned and adequately covered to the satisfaction of the umpire.
  - Bloodstained clothing must be cleaned or replaced.
  - The ball and court must be cleaned if necessary.
  - The player must only return to the game if the umpire is satisfied that the above has been actioned.
- 48 If an umpire is injured during play, he/she must leave court to attend to the injury immediately. Play will stop until the umpire is able to return or a suitably qualified replacement is found. No extra time will be played as a result of stoppage time. Time loss should be recorded on the scorecard.
- 49 Due to insurance regulations, the preparation of netball courts is the sole responsibility of Theale Green Recreation Centre and should not be attempted by RDNL members. Any problems with court preparation should be reported to your Division Rep.

**First Aid is available from the Centre; however it is recommended that teams supply their own basic first aid kit.**

**An emergency telephone is available at Theale Green Recreation Centre.**

## **General**

- 50 All players are required to wear a netball skirt/dress. Players who are not wearing a suitable skirt/dress will not be allowed to take to court.

- 51 Parents who bring their children to matches are responsible for their children's behaviour **at all times.**
- 52 Please note that ball games may not be played alongside courts whilst matches are in progress.
- 53 Venue rules state that smoking is prohibited on all netball courts and by the court entrance.
- 54 Venue regulations do not allow for any pets on site and the riding of bikes, skateboards, scooters and roller-skating are prohibited on the hard court area.
- 55 Every team is required to send 2 representatives to the League's AGM. Saturday League and Midweek League are deemed separate. Players may not represent more than one team or league.

**Teams who fail to do so will be fined £25.**

**Teams who continually fail to provide 2 representatives at AGM's will not only be fined but also jeopardise their entry into the league.**

- 56 All medal winners must attend the AGM to collect their awards.

Should medal winners fail to attend the AGM, medals will be withdrawn, except in extenuating circumstances, if notified to the Committee in writing 7 days before the date of the AGM.

- 57 Affiliated members of RDNL must not use Social Media technology to bring the game into disrepute or make an inappropriate comment about a fellow athlete, Coach, Official, volunteer or the National Governing Body.  
**Anyone who fails to adhere to the above rule may receive a suspension; the Committee reserves the right to decide the number of matches for which a player may be suspended.**

- 58 Any published guidance regarding codes of conduct issued by AENA, Netball South, Berkshire Netball and/or the RDNL, are to be adopted by all RDNL members with immediate effect. It is the responsibility of the team contact in receipt of these publications to ensure that all team members are sighted and adopt the code of conduct immediately. The RDNL Committee cannot be held responsible for failing to notify all RDNL members of these publications in the event that a breach occurs. Any breach reported to the RDNL Committee, if submitted in accordance with rule 36, will be investigated by the RDNL Complaints committee.

**Team captains are responsible for ensuring that all team players, their umpires and scorers are familiar with all the above rules and the penalties which may be incurred if they are violated.**

### **Equality Statement:**

No participants or volunteers will receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, gender, parental or marital status, language, nationality, sexual preference, social class, colour, race, ethnic origin, religious belief, political belief or disability or will be disadvantaged by conditions or requirements, which are not relevant to performance.

**Child Protection Policy:**

RDNL follows EN guidance on safeguarding and protecting young people in Netball by creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment for all young people to play netball.

## READING & DISTRICT NETBALL LEAGUE

### PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF RDNL RULES 2014/2015

#### Fixed Penalties

Rule	Violation	Penalty
9	5 registered players or umpire not available for the start of a fixture	One goal per minute (or part thereof) will be awarded to the opposing team.
	5 registered players or umpire not available after first quarter	Match will be forfeited*.
10	Incomplete scorecard/failure to hand scorecards in at the end of the match	Teams who fail to comply will have 1 point deducted for each infringement.
12	Failure to notify all parties of a cancelled fixture	Match will be forfeited* and the offending team will have an <b>additional</b> point deducted.
12	Failure to provide 2 scorers for the opposite match	Teams who fail to provide two scorers will be deducted 5 points.
13-16	Failure to supply an umpire of the appropriate grade	Match will be forfeited*.
17	Failure to supply a scorer	Teams who fail to supply a scorer will be deducted 5 points.
18-22	Fielding a non-registered player	Match will be forfeited* and the offending team will have an <b>additional</b> 5 points deducted.
23-29	Illegal player – borrowing from an inappropriate division or borrowing a player who has already played for other teams the permitted number of times	Match will be forfeited* and the offending team will have an <b>additional</b> 5 points deducted. Player will be suspended for 3 matches.
23-29	Team borrowing more than the permitted number of times	Match will be forfeited* and the offending team will have an <b>additional</b> 5 points deducted.
37-45, 50	Player not adhering to Health & Safety rules.	Player will not be allowed to take to court.
55	Failure to send 2 representatives to the AGM	Team will be fined £25.
56	Failure of medal winners to attend the AGM	Withdrawal of medals except in extenuating circumstances if notified to the Committee in advance.
57	Inappropriate comments made on Social Media forums	Maximum penalty: player/s suspended

**\*Where a match is forfeited the 'winning' team will receive 5 points and 30 goals (Saturday) or 5 points and 20 goals (Midweek). The 'losing' team will have 30 goals (Saturday) or 20 goals (Midweek) against them.**

#### Discretionary Penalties

The RDNL Committee reserves the right to impose fines or match suspensions on teams or individual players as a result of complaints made to the Committee or who violate rules on more than one occasion.

**The Committee's decision is final.**

## UMPIRING

### **Rules**

Umpires are reminded all RDNL games are played to IFNA rules (2011). Umpires should also be aware of 'local' RDNL rules.

### **Approved Umpires**

Clubs entering the RDNL Saturday and Midweek leagues are to supply their own umpire. All umpires are required either to hold an All England qualification or to have been assessed or graded by the RDNL Umpiring Secretary.

If your team umpire does not appear on the approved umpire list, please contact RDNL Umpire Secretary, otherwise he/she will not be allowed to umpire in RDNL. Teams who use an unapproved or inappropriately graded umpire will be penalised.

### **Scorers**

Each team has to provide a scorer for each game either before or after they play. Any team failing to supply a scorer will have points deducted.

### **Umpire Training**

Umpire assessments and training will take place across all divisions of the Midweek league, during the winter season. A schedule of matches being used from training purposes will be issued in advance to all teams involved. On rare occasions it may be necessary for the Umpiring Secretary to swap umpires between matches on the day. The co-operation of all teams and umpires in accommodating these changes is appreciated.

During the course of the season we will also be running practical sessions at weekends. To help our umpires gain maximum benefit from this training it is essential that we have teams/players to come along and play some games in the afternoons. In the past, support for these courses has been disappointing so if your team is approached to participate in this training, please do try to help.

### **Umpire Testing**

As in previous seasons, in recognition of its good standards of play and organisation, RDNL may be asked by Berkshire Netball Association to provide matches suitable for AENA umpire tests. This may result in the Umpire Secretary having to ask teams to play at different times to those published in the fixture list. Again, advanced notice will be given and the co-operation of teams involved is appreciated.