

NEWBURY NETBALL LEAGUE R U L E S

IT IS THE DUTY OF THE TEAM SECRETARY TO ENSURE THAT ALL TEAM MEMBERS KNOW THESE RULES

1. GOVERNING RULES

- 1.1 Play shall be in accordance with the current England Netball (EN) Rules.
- 1.2 All teams shall play in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Newbury Netball League (NNL) and the NNL Rules.
- 1.3 A team shall consist of no less than 5 players.
- 1.4 All players shall wear suitable clothing, including top, netball skirt or netball dress, suitable trainers and matching bib.

2. EN AFFILIATION AND NEWBURY NNL REGISTRATION

- 2.1 Minimum age for players is rising 14 prior to 31 December of the current season.
- 2.2 All players must be affiliated to EN and registered to NNL prior to taking to the court.
- 2.3 EN affiliation and resubmissions must be completed by 1 September each year. Confirmation of affiliation must be submitted to the Fixtures Secretary prior to the start of the first game of the Winter season. Failure to affiliate will result in a deduction of 3 points and a penalty fine of £10.
- 2.4 Teams must register with NNL before the start of the Winter season and can register up to 14 players.
- 2.5 Players can be registered during the course of the season by giving the Fixtures Secretary or a Committee Member a completed registration form, together with a fee of £2.00 and abide by Rule 2.3 above. Failure to do so will result in the offending team being deducted 3 points and a penalty fine of £10.
- 2.6 Teams can only register new players prior to the last 4 remaining games as per the latest version of the League Fixtures.
- 2.7 A team must take to court with a minimum of 5 registered Newbury Netball League players present.
 - 2.7 (i) In a Club Structure - A team may guest one club member (from within their own Division) twice and one player from a lower Division twice or guest 2 players from a lower Division twice.
 - 2.7 (ii) In a Team Structure - Premier and Division 1 can guest a maximum of 2 players from a lower Division twice. Division 2 may guest from across their Division a maximum of 2 players, twice.
- 2.8 If a team has a player who becomes pregnant, sustains a long term injury which prevents them playing for the remainder of the season or moves out of the area and their registration is full, they may apply in writing to the Chair of the Committee to register another player. This only applies up to the last 4 remaining games as per the latest version of the League Fixtures.
 - 2.8 (i) A Team/Club can only use a Guest player if they cannot field 7 registered players from their own squad. Should a registered player turn up late, then the Guest player must leave the court at the next goal scored and the registered player must take up that position. The Guest player will have

been deemed as a "Guest" player.

- 2.9 If a Club (two teams or more) disbands and they have another team in a higher Division they cannot play up unless the registration quota is not full (i.e. 14 players). They may however register for another team if their team disbands in the first half of the season. Players from a higher Division team cannot play down.
- 2.9 (i) If a team does disband, then all games played will become null and void and the League Table adjusted accordingly.
- 2.10 Teams playing unregistered or suspended players will be fined £10.00, lose any points gained and a minimum of 25 goals or greater goal difference will be awarded to the opposition.

3. TRANSFERS

- 3.1 Transfers can only be affected at a fee of £10.00 and provided an application in writing is made to the Chair of the Committee by the person wishing to transfer, giving 10 days notice to where they wish to transfer and the team they are transferring from. Such applications could not be affected unless there were more than four scheduled matches remaining from the latest fixture list for the team to which the transfer was being made.

4. TIMING

- 4.1 Matches shall consist of 4 x 15 minute quarters. There will be a maximum of 3 minutes interval after the first quarter and third quarter and a maximum of 5 minutes after the second quarter (half time).
- 4.2 The games will be centrally time, but the start and finish of each quarter will be controlled by the umpires whistle.
- 4.3 Teams should be ready to play at the time on the fixture list and therefore should arrive at least 10 minutes early.

5. LATE ARRIVALS

- 5.1 Teams not on court and ready for start of play will incur a goal a minute penalty, providing their opponents have fielded a team of not less than 5 registered players and are on court, in position and ready to play. If the team has still failed to take to court after 15 minutes from start of play, they will forfeit the match and the points. The non-offending team will be awarded 25 goals plus 3 points.

6. UMPIRES

- 6.1 There must be 2 qualified umpires per match. All teams must have 2 suitably qualified umpires on their registration form when entering the League.
- 6.1 (i) Failure to supply a qualified umpire will result in the offending team being fined £15.00 and deducted 3 points, other than in extenuating circumstances and with prior agreement of the Committee.
- 6.1 (ii) If a designated umpire fails to arrive, the teams will wait 10 minutes after informing the timekeeper of the situation. After 15 minutes, if the umpire has still not arrived, the match will be abandoned and will be played at the discretion of the Fixtures Secretary. The umpire in question must advise the Committee of the exact circumstances as to her/his non arrival and appropriate action will be taken by the Committee.
- 6.2 Umpires cannot be changed during the match unless an injury occurs to one of them. However, if there is no available umpire then the game will be abandoned and replayed at the discretion of the Fixtures Secretary. Captains and umpires must inform the Fixtures Secretary.

- 6.3 Umpires protocols must include checking that all players have short & smooth nails, are not wearing sharp adornments or any item of jewellery. The only pieces of jewellery allowed is a wedding ring, which must be taped and a medical alert bracelet/necklace, which must be securely fastened and covered with clear/see through tape.
- 6.3 (i) The wearing of gloves and hats is not allowed. At the request of the umpire, any player wearing either must produce a signed written letter from their Doctor explaining the reasons why they should be allowed to do so. Gloves must be smooth and seamless.
- 6.4 The decision of the umpires is final and will not be questioned during play. Queries or complaints should be made discreetly via the Captains only during one of the intervals to the Umpires.
- 6.5 **DISCIPLINE** - It is the responsibility of every Umpire to be aware of the Discipline Rules as per the EN Rule Book (ie. Section V, Rule 19 (Responsibility of Players and Team Officials), Rule 20 (Warning, Suspension and Ordering Off) and Rule 21 (Failure to Take to Court) Umpires wishing clarity of any of these rules should consult with the Umpiring Secretary.
- 6.6 Should a game become uncontrollable for whatever reason and after the umpires have warned player(s), captain(s) and team(s) and there has been no change, the match maybe abandoned only after consultation with a least 2 designated Committee members. The penalty for an abandoned match due to such behaviour will be dealt with accordingly by the Committee.

7. **FIXTURES**

- 7.1 No fixtures will be rearranged without the permission of the Committee.
- 7.2 If a team cancels a match, they will be required to reimburse their opposition the cost of their court fees. The non-offending team will be awarded 3 points and 25 goals.

TEAMS ARE REMINDED THAT ALTHOUGH THEIR MATCH IS CANCELLED THEY STILL HAVE TO FULFIL THEIR UMPIRING/SCORING COMMITMENTS. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL INCUR A £15.00 FINE.

- 7.3 If a team cancels more than 2 games, that team may be suspended for the rest of the season and may not be allowed to re-enter the league the following season. They will also forfeit their deposit. The Committee will decide on the allocation of points.
- 7.4 In the event of severe weather conditions, all efforts will be made to inform teams, at least by 6pm the day before, that fixtures are to be postponed. However should unexpected weather occur on the day, a decision will be made by a Committee Member present, to ensure maximum safety of players and umpires.

8 **SCORING AND SCORECARDS**

- 8.1 All players must print and sign their name in full on the scorecard prior to taking to the court. Names of substitutes should also be printed and a tick placed against them if they play. It is the responsibility of the each team to ensure that the scorecard has been completed properly, at the end of the game. Failure to do so will result in a one point deduction.
- 8.1 (i) Substitutes cannot play for more than one team at the allocated time.
- 8.1 (ii) Guest players should be identified by a 'G' next to their name and their details, including team name entered in the Guest Section of the scorecard.
- 8.2 Teams will confer to decide best player on the opposing team and the captains will complete the cards.
- 8.3 Umpires will score for fair play.
- 8.4 Only designated scorecards to be used unless bad weather, whereby wet weather cards should

be used and submitted with the designated scorecard.

- 8.5 There shall be two scorers for each game, standing and working together. They shall record goals scored (numerically) for each team as they occur and call the score accordingly. They shall only call the centre pass if appealed to by one of the umpires.
- 8.6 Failure to provide a Scorer will result in the offending team being deducted one point unless agreed otherwise by a member of the Committee on the day of the game.

IF ANY TEAM IS GIVEN 2 OR LESS FOR FAIR PLAY, THE UMPIRES WILL HAVE TO ADVISE THE COMMITTEE IN WRITING OF THEIR REASONS WHY

9. LEAGUE POSITIONS

- 9.1 Promotion/Relegation will be affected from winter to winter. Summer netball format and Divisional format will be decided by the Committee.
- 9.2 If at the end of the Winter league season teams finish on equal points, positions will be determined by goal difference. If still equal, the team with the most wins will be positioned highest.
- 9.3 The top two teams in each Division will be promoted. Depending on the teams entering the following season, and to balance the Divisions, relegation of teams will be determined at the discretion of the Committee.

10 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 10.1 Any player who is seen to be bleeding **MUST LEAVE THE COURT IMMEDIATELY** and address the wound before returning to the court. Blood stained clothing must be changed or cleaned as well as the ball and court, if necessary. At the umpires discretion a 2 minute blood injury time will be allowed to deal with the situation. This time will not be added on at the end of the relevant quarter. The player will not be allowed to return to court until after a goal has been scored or during an interval or when an injury has occurred.
- 10.2 Players must not play after their 12th week of pregnancy and umpires after their 20th week.
- 10.3 If a player is injured on court, play will be stopped at the discretion of the umpire for 2 minutes. If the injury appears to be serious, the player must not be moved. If the injury occurs prior to the 4th quarter, the game will only be abandoned with agreement between the umpires and the two team captains. If the injury occurs during the 4th quarter, and the game is abandoned, the score at that time will stand. First Aiders should identify themselves to the Committee.

11 AGM COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS

- 11.1 All teams must send at least two representatives to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in addition to Committee Members. Failure to do so will result in a £10.00 fine, payable before the start of the following winter season. Failure to do that will result in a 3 point deduction until the fine is paid.
- 11.2 Comment and complaints should be submitted, in writing to the Chair of the Committee, within 7 days of the incident. In the case of complaints, interested parties may be invited to comment if necessary. The Committee will endeavour to keep all parties involved informed of their proceedings and decisions.
- 11.3 Teams and players violating the rules will be penalised at the Committee's discretion.