

Nottinghamshire Netball Association

Rules & Regulations, Information, Guidelines for The Winter League

September 2022



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1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 The league is governed by the elected representatives of the Nottinghamshire Netball County Committee together with the appropriate League secretaries who have the power to:
- a) consider all applications for membership
 - b) exercise their discretion should a new or reconstituted team be too strong for inclusion in the lowest division where they would normally be placed, or when the number of entries indicates a change in format would be beneficial. No decision is taken without reference to the County Committee
- 1.2 The number of divisions and league rules may be amended by the County Committee based on the previous season's results and after receipt of the entries for the forthcoming season
- 1.3 The league shall be known as the Winter League
- 1.4 The leagues will be played at Nottingham University Samworth Academy (NUSA) on Saturday afternoons
- 1.5 All matches shall be played in accordance with the INF Rules of the Game in force at the time. All teams entering any of the leagues must also adhere to the special conditions for that particular league. It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players are conversant with these Rules and Regulations.
- 1.6 All clubs will be held responsible for the overall conduct (behaviour, demeanour and actions) of all members associated with the club (players, officials and spectators) All Clubs must abide by the EN Codes of Conduct. (Any complaints regarding a breach of the codes must be notified, in writing, to the relevant League Secretary within 7 days of the fixture. Clubs may develop their own similar Code). See Appendix A – Codes of Conduct
- 1.7. GDPR - Data Protection: Any personal data provided by the clubs will be for NNA competitions only. It will be destroyed after the event and not shared with any third party
- 1.8. The acceptance of any club into any Nottinghamshire County Netball league is dependent upon at least one primary member holding a recognised umpiring qualification and being on the current list of eligible umpires
- 1.9 Any club entering more than 3 teams into the league should have at least 2 primary members holding a recognised umpire qualification and being on the current list of eligible umpires.

2. INTEGRITY CLAUSE

- 2.1 Any team who knowingly and deliberately provides false information regarding the identity of players at registration and the naming of players on team sheets will forfeit their deposit and may be expelled from the league. Disciplinary action may be taken against the club

3. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

3.1 TEAMS

- 3.1.1 Application for entry to the NNA County Leagues shall be open to any club which is an active club registered in the England Netball Membership system through the County Association, which has paid its membership in this respect, and which is situated within the boundaries of the County Association . All Clubs/Players playing in County Tournaments or County Leagues outside their own county, but within the region, must pay the full appropriate county fee. This will exclude the portion payable to England Netball. This applies to ALL leagues
- 3.1.2 No club can be accepted into any league unless and until the required England Netball Membership fee and deposit are paid. Fees are to be decided annually
- 3.1.3 By entering a team in a County League, clubs agree that:
- They will abide by these rules and regulations
 - They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the relevant league
 - They will participate in a sporting manner and play within the spirit of the game
 - They are bound by all the rules, policies, regulations and by-laws of England Netball, including the England Netball Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Regulations
- 3.1.4 All Clubs must register a minimum of 12 players
- 3.1.5 A club may enter more than one team into a league, but rules on player eligibility must be adhered to (See Rule 3.2.2)

3.2 PLAYERS & TEAM OFFICIALS

- 3.2.1 All Players, Umpires and Team Officials must be in membership of England Netball as a personal member having paid the full membership due and received confirmation of their membership in advance of playing or umpiring in a league match. Players/umpires must be members of the club they are representing in the League (unless a Guest Player). This ruling also applies to members of University/College teams who must have individual membership of England Netball. Scorers do not have to be members of England Netball
- 3.2.2 Teams may enter in more than one league. Individual members of clubs may be members of a second choice club, to play within a league where her first choice club is a member but under no circumstances may play for both clubs within that league (unless they are a guest player)
- 3.2.3 Regional League players are defined to be those named by their club to be registered for a team playing in a division of a regional league during the current season
- 3.2.4 Regional League players can only play for one team within a club and that should be for a team in one of the highest two divisions in the league in which the club plays. i.e. either premier or

Division 1. Any club that has teams only in divisions below the top two in a league are limited to a maximum 2 regional players who must play in the highest placed team only

Any player who becomes a Regional player part way through the season, moving to a higher team within her club, will forfeit her original team place and be eligible only to play for the higher team in league matches. (If the player is in the guest pool, they can now only guest in Premier or Division 1)

Teams must declare to the League Secretary all players who are registered to any Regional League Team

3.2.5 Senior/junior players may play in no more than 2 matches per league fixture date (1 for their club/team 1 as a guest player)

3.2.6 All players in senior leagues must have attained the age of 14 years by 1st September of the start of the current winter season. (For younger players who have attained the age of 13, by the 1st September of the start of the current winter season, a Level 2 Coach or Club Safeguarding Officer must complete an Age Banding Form and send it to the League Secretary with the entry form. On receipt of this form by the League Secretary the player is eligible to play). It is assumed that younger players will play in the junior leagues

3.2.7 All players named on the team sheet must be eligible to play

3.3 **Guest Players**

3.3.1 The use of Guest Players is permitted, following the below rules. Full Guest Player process can be found on the NCNA website.

- a The Guest Player has paid membership to England Netball (EN) and Nottinghamshire Netball for the current season
- b A maximum of 2 Guest Players per team per match
- c Regional players can only play as a guest player in Premier and Division 1 fixtures, regardless of what division they play in within the league
- d Teams must inform the Guest Players Administrator that they will be using a guest player, confirming the requesting team, opposition, division, date/time of match, Guest Player's name and EN Membership Number. This can be by text, WhatsApp or email, at least 2 hours before the game commences
- e The Guest Players Administrator will check membership numbers against submitted team sheets. Anyone not registered to a club/team, will need to be checked within Engage or proof of membership sent to the administrator
- f Guest players must be added to the scorecard and marked with a "Guest" by their name. The EN membership number must be provided, and the scorecard completed in full as expected.
- g Guest players can play in 1 game, per fixture date, as a guest player
- h Players who are over 18 can be a Guest Player for any team within the league. Under 18s can only be a guest player for the club with whom they have their primary membership
- i Playing kit can be different. Guest players should avoid wearing own club dress and preferably wear neutral / white T shirt over their dress or borrow kit from the team they are a guest for. Either way, the entire team needs to wear patch bibs or overhead bibs. There shall

not be any mixing of bib types or colours.

- J Anyone not using the guest players correctly, may be penalised by deduction of points or removal from using guest players. The League Secretary's decision is final.

4. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

- 4.1 Registration Team Sheets for each participating team must be completed fully for each player with their name and membership number and lodged with the relevant League Secretary prior to the commencement of the League
- 4.2 Teams may register as many players as they wish.
- 4.3 Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their Registration Sheet held by the League Secretary. Unless they use a guest player.
- 4.4 Any additions to the Registration Sheet must be lodged with the League Secretary prior to playing the fixture
- 4.5 Each team may declare up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each match by completing a scorecard. No names may be added once a match has started
- 4.6 Only players named on the Team Sheet at the beginning of the game will be allowed to play or sit on the team bench with the Team Officials

5. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

- 5.1 The County League will be contested between as many teams as shall be determined by the Competition TSG from time to time. The number of teams in each division will be decided by the League Secretary in the light of applications received
- 5.2 Teams in each division will play each other twice in the Winter Leagues and once in the Summer League, depending on entries received
- 5.3 The season's schedule of matches is to be organised with a fair allocation of starting times at the discretion of the League Secretaries
- 5.4 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:
- 5 points for a win
 - 3 points for a draw
 - 2 Points if within 4 goals eg. 50-46 = 2 points
 - 1 point if scoring 50% or more eg. 50-45 = 1 point
 - If a team defaults then that team will lose 5 points and 5 points will be awarded to the non-defaulting team
 - In the case of a defaulted match a score of 30 – 0 will be awarded to the non-defaulting team
- 5.5 A League table will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team.

Where two teams are level on points:

- Goal difference shall be used to determine their relative positions, ie. the team with the higher goal difference over the course of the season shall take precedence
- In the event that goal difference does not differentiate between the teams, then goal average shall be applied, ie. precedence will be given to the team with the greater average score, (goals for divided by goals against)
- In the event that neither goal difference nor goal average can differentiate between the teams, the aggregate score in the match or matches played between them over the course of the season shall be calculated and precedence given to the winning team.
- In the event that none of the above differentiates between the teams, the Competition TSG shall determine the means of differentiation

5.6 For the Winter League the two highest placed teams from Nottinghamshire in the premier division, who do not already play in the Regional League, will be eligible to play in the Qualifying Tournament for a place in the Regional League Division 3. If either of these two teams do not wish to go forward to the Regional League then their place in the Qualifying Tournament may be offered to the next highest placed team

6. FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 Fixtures will be played at NUSA where possible, or at another suitable venue if considered necessary by the League Secretary

6.2 Teams are responsible for arranging their own travel and the costs of this, and should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays

6.3 Each match will start at the indicated time on the fixture list.

A match can take place as long as;
Each team has at least 5 players, one of whom is the Centre
There are 2 suitably qualified umpires
There are 2 competent scorers

A team shall be required to take the court when requested to do so by the umpires at the start of the play.

Players arriving after the start of the game are “late players” and will be able to enter the game only as specified in INF Rule 9.2

In the event that there are fewer than; 5 players present (for each team), 2 suitably qualified umpires and 2 competent scorers, the game will be forfeited by the offending team. Umpires are to write details on the scorecard and Team Captains to advise the League Secretary. Points will issued/deducted in line with rule 5.4

The match can take place as a friendly if agreed by both teams.

- 6.4 All matches must be played on the date, and at the time and venue specified by the fixture schedule
- 6.5 Weather - Matches can only be postponed in the event of inclement weather at the discretion of the appropriate League Secretary in conjunction with NUSA Management. Matches which have started may be abandoned at the discretion of the umpires if the playing surface becomes dangerous or if there is a severe storm. It may be feasible to wait for up to 10 minutes to see if the storm passes. If the court surface is then playable the match may continue if the umpire(s) consider it reasonable. Postponed matches must be played at the venue, time and on the date re-arranged by the League Secretary
- 6.6 If a team cancels a match:
- The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points for the match, and the team which cancels will have five (5) league points deducted from their total
 - The team which cancels will be liable to pay court costs which may have been incurred
- 6.7 Consideration will be made by the League Secretary for a written request to cancel a match on the specified League Date. Where possible, a minimum of fourteen (14) days' notice should be given by the requesting team. The opposition must also agree to the postponement of a match. Postponed matches should be played within 4 weeks of the original date. The match should be rearranged in agreement with the opposition and the court booked and paid for by the postponing team. These details should then be given, by the postponing secretary, to the opposition and the appropriate League Secretary. Failure to comply with this regulation could result in the loss of points.
- 6.8 If for any other reason the match cannot continue and has to be abandoned, a written report should be submitted by the umpires to the relevant league secretary as soon as possible, and within 7 days of the match, stating at what stage the match was abandoned and giving all relevant details. The League Secretary will then decide whether or not the game should be rearranged or whether the result should stand. The decision of the league secretary is final
- 6.9 Any team that withdraws from the league may be liable to pay the cost of ALL REMAINING court fees

7. MATCH REGULATIONS

- 7.1 All games shall be played to the INF Rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time, except where specifically stated in these regulations
- 7.2 Senior games to be of one hour duration, 4 x 15 minutes with 3 minutes intervals between quarters and 5 minutes at half time.
- 7.3 Each team must provide a suitable match ball. The umpire will check both balls before the match and decide the match ball

8. MATCH OFFICIALS

8.1 UMPIRES

- 8.1.1 Clubs will be required to register their own Club's umpires by filling in the appropriate form and returning it to the League Secretary when required to do so
- 8.1.2 Each team must provide an umpire who is both a full Member of England Netball and suitably qualified to umpire the fixture. Once an umpire has started officiating a game, no changes are permitted to the umpires, except in line with rule 8.1.7.
- 8.1.3 Umpires from another county who move into the Notts area and wish to officiate in the Notts Netball leagues must notify the County Officiating Lead (COL) of their intentions and provide evidence of their qualifications
- 8.1.4 All umpires must hold the relevant qualifications for the appropriate league/division in which they are officiating
- 8.1.5 If challenged, umpires must be able to prove their England Netball and Nottinghamshire membership and level of qualification for the current season
- 8.1.6 Umpires must only undertake a maximum of 2 games on any league fixture date. This means that they may umpire 2 matches or play once and umpire once. Sanction for breaking this rule: removal of that umpire from the List of Eligible Umpires for the next 4 league dates
- 8.1.7 If, during a match an umpire is injured and unable to continue, another umpire of equal or higher qualification may take over. If no suitably qualified replacement is available, then the match cannot continue, and a written report should be submitted by the Umpires to the League Secretary, within 48 hours of the match, stating at what stage the match was abandoned. The League Secretary will then decide whether or not the game needs to be rearranged or whether the result should stand. The decision of the league secretary is final

Umpire Qualifications

- 8.1.i For Saturday League Premier division the umpire must be C*, B, or higher.
- 8.1.ii For Winter League divisions 1 and below (except as in 8.1.iii) the umpire must be C or higher
- 8.1.iii For the LOWEST division the umpire must have attended an England Netball Into Officiating Award OR C Award course and be actively working towards qualification within the required timeframe.
If there is a league with only 1 division, IO attendees **MUST** officiate all fixtures with their mentor present until they have been signed off. Umpires who have the IO Award may continue to officiate the lowest division only
- 8.1.iv Unqualified umpires who have attended a Netball Europe C Award course may umpire fixtures in the lowest 2 divisions in the Winter League **The requirement to work with an allocated mentor and be signed off as competent remains unchanged**

- 8.1.v “Novice” umpires must be Members of England Netball and have attended an IO or a C award course within the 2 years prior to the start of the current season
- 8.1.vi Umpires under the age of 16 may not umpire adult fixtures
- 8.1.vii Umpires aged between 16 and 18 are advised to be accompanied by a suitable adult who is not their parent
- 8.1.viii Umpires for NNA senior league matches MUST have attended a NNA or England Netball Umpire Forum for the current season and be included on the current Eligible Umpires list produced by NNAs COL

8.2 TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

- 8.2.1 Each team must provide a competent scorer, who must be aged 16 or over, to record scores on the scorecard, under the guidance of the umpire. Any team arriving without a scorer must drop one of its players to take on that role. Scorers do not need to be members of England Netball but the club concerned may be asked for identification/proof of age
- 8.2.2 Scorers may not coach or comment during the game. One scorer must call out the score after each goal
- 8.2.3 Timekeeping is the responsibility of the umpires. Timekeeping may be delegated to a suitably qualified person (who is over 16) if both umpires agree.

8.3 TEAM OFFICIALS

- 8.3.1 A team may have up to five (5) Team Officials. These will include a coach and at least one Primary Carer. Anyone wishing to be a Primary Carer for a club must be at least 18 years old and ideally first aid trained. They must all be members of England Netball, except the Primary Carer if they hold a First Aid or Medical Qualification

9. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

- 9.1 Both teams are required to complete an official Team/Result Scorecard and Pre-Match Checklist/ Record of Injuries Sheet (needed for H & S records) prior to each match, entering the names of each player
- 9.2 The two official Scorecards must be checked and signed by both captains. Umpires and all scorers must PRINT their names on the scorecards after the match
- 9.3 Photos of the completed Scorecard (both sides) and Pre-Match Checklist must be sent by each team to the League Secretary, via the WhatsApp Results Group by 7pm on the date the fixture is played. Any team which fails to do so will be penalized. Scorecards and Pre-Match Checklists may be kept by the team
- 9.4 Any Team representative not wanting to share their contact details via the WhatsApp Results Group must make this known to the League Secretary and agree how their Scorecard and Pre-Match list are to be received

10. COMPETITION REFEREES

- 10.1 The League Secretary has been appointed as Competition Referees by the Nottinghamshire Netball Association County Leagues. The Competition Referees will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising throughout the Competition including, but not limited to:
- 10.1.1 Altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary;
- 10.1.2 Determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction (including disqualification of any individual, player or team) as follows:
- 10.1.3 Determining if a player is ineligible. The use of an ineligible player will result in the offending team forfeiting the match. The offending team will forfeit its deposit. The offending team will also lose 5 points and 5 points will be awarded to the non-offending team
- An ineligible player includes:
- (a) an unregistered player
 - (b) a player whose name does not appear on the scorecard at the start of the match
 - (c) a player who is not a member of England Netball
 - (d) a player who is under age without submitting an age banding form
 - (e) a player who is named on scorecards for two teams on the same day
- 10.1.4 In the event that a team fails to play, the non-offending team will be awarded 5 points for the match and the offending team will have 5 points deducted from their total (failure to play is defined as not playing a game, without prior consent from the League Secretary and with the opposition and officials expecting that the game would be played). The offending team will also forfeit £10 from their deposit for a first offence and £20 for a second offence.
- 10.1.5
- (a) Not sending the photos of the Scorecard and Pre-Match Checklist through on the day - the fine will be the loss of 1 point
 - (b) Late or incomplete score sheet - the fine will be the loss of 1 point
 - (c) After the first offence for each of (a) – (b) each further offence will be the loss of 2 points
 - (d) Deliberately providing false information may result in expulsion from the competition
- 10.1.6 Instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour or behaviour that brings the sport into disrepute, including instances of Teams predetermining, or attempting to predetermine, the outcome of a Match and/or the Competition
- 10.1.7 Determine the score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstances.
- 10.1.8 If any team defaults on a league rule and their fault is proven, then up to 5 points may be deducted from their points total.
- 10.1.9 Any team breaking the rules three times may have their membership of that league

withdrawn. The secretary of that league must have received in writing notification of the three defaults. Defaulting teams must be notified in writing of each default. After the third default and before membership of the league is withdrawn, the team have the right to appeal in writing to the League Secretary by the tenth day after the recorded delivery of the third default.

10.1.10 Any matter not covered specifically within the Regulations

10.2 The League Secretaries may call upon, or delegate to, additional persons to assist with the Competition or consult with other persons prior to making any decision. However, the final decision and accountability for the decision will rest with the Competition Referees.

11. COMPETITION COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

11.1 All queries and complaints (a Complaint) should be directed to the League Secretary in the first instance, and these will be dealt with as follows:

11.1.1 Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant squad member or team official, must do the following:

- a) Inform their opponents and the umpires of their complaint
- b) Mark the Score Card with the words "Under Protest"
- c) Email the relevant League Secretary within 7 days, stating the reasons for the complaint and reference the date, time and court of the fixture
- d) Send the marked Score Card to the League Secretary, within seventy two (72) hours of the match
- e) The Competition Referees will decide what action should be taken

11.1.2 The Competition Referees will acknowledge receipt of the query or complaint and make a decision on the matter within seven (7) days of receipt of the query or complaint. The Competition Referees' decision in relation to decisions taken under clause 10.1.1 is binding apart from where parties to the complaint have the right to appeal the decision under Section 12 below

11.2 Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Competition by the Competition Referees or Technical Support Group, such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of the Nottinghamshire Netball Association in place at the time of the incident

11.3 Where the Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual Player or Team participating, volunteering or individual attending a match which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations. Such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the processes set out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations.

12. APPEAL OF COMPETITION REFEREES' DECISION

- 12.1 The decision of the Competition Referees in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with section 11.1.1 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:
- 12.1.1 If the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition; AND
- 12.1.2 If there has been a failure by the Competition Referees to follow or act in accordance with these Regulations and/or the Competition Referees reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact

These are the only grounds of appeal and any appeal must be submitted in accordance with the Appeals Process below.

- 12.2 An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the appropriate member of the appealing team to the NNA Secretary within 72 hours of receiving the decision, who will refer it to the NNA Disciplinary Secretary for consideration.

13. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISOS

- 13.1 No first aid will be provided by the League
- 13.2 It is the responsibility of each team to provide adequate first aid cover for its players and officials, and which shall also be made available to the match officials on request
- 13.3 All clubs are advised in their own interest to take out insurance cover against accident/personal injury, loss or damage however caused, while participating in any of the leagues

14. CLOSE RANGE PHOTOGRAPHY

- 14.1 The taking of photographs or video-recording of players is not permitted at league matches or tournaments without the written permission of the relevant League Secretary acting on behalf of NNA - Full photography policy will be distributed to all clubs before the start date of any NNA League
- 14.2 The Full NNA Photography Policy can be found on www.ncna.co.uk or by request from the League Secretary
- 14.3 Flash photography and live streaming are not permitted

15. HEALTH & SAFETY

a) Accident Reporting

Any accident occurring during a match should be recorded by the primary carer or team captain on the NNA Checklist and Record of Injuries Sheet and submitted to the League Secretary. An England Netball Accident form must be completed for all accidents and sent to England Netball. Alternatively an online form is available (<https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/membership/insurance/report-a-claim>)

All participants acknowledge that participating in the sport of netball involves a risk of personal injury and by taking part in a Nottinghamshire Netball Association League - whether as a player, team member, team official, other official or spectator - each participant does so at their own risk.

16. CLUBS MEETINGS

Any club not sending at least 2 representatives to an AGM or other Clubs' Meeting called by the County Committee where their presence is requested, or whose 2 representatives do not stay for the duration of the meeting will forfeit their entry into the league draw. Clubs will also be fined £25.00 payable before the next season commences. Any appeal against such a fine must be sent to the NNA Secretary within 7 days of the fine being imposed. An apology from a club will not be accepted.

17. DISCLAIMER

Nottinghamshire Netball Association will not be liable to any person, whether in contract, tort negligence or otherwise for any direct or indirect loss or injury of any nature, howsoever caused and howsoever arising from the matters covered by these Regulations, provided that nothing in these regulations exclude or restricts East Midlands Netball's liability for any personal loss or injury caused by East Midlands Netball's own negligence, the negligence of its employees, or for fraud.