

RULES FOR WINTER YOUTH LEAGUE 25/26

1. REGISTRATION AND FEES

- 1.1 All fees and dates for payment will be set annually by the Committee.
- The registration fee for teams to ensure a place in the League must be paid **31ST October.**
 - Court fees will be payable bi-annually by each Club participating in the League in accordance with the facility's fees set by Colchester City Council. Payments will be by the end of the first and second half of the winter league. Any request for fees must be paid on presentation of a CNL invoice.
- Penalty*
Failure to comply with Rule 1:
Any club/team with outstanding monies at the end of a season will be refused entry into the League for the following season until those outstanding fees are paid.
- 1.2 All clubs, players, umpires, and other officials that are participating in the Colchester Youth Netball League must be members of England Netball and their relevant County Netball Association each year. All participating members (players, coaches, umpires and officials) should be a full adult or junior member. All non-participating members (committee members, general helpers for example) should be social and supporting members
- 1.3 All clubs are responsible for ensuring their players, umpires and other officials that are participating in Colchester Netball League each year are members of England Netball by the first game played. All participating members (players, coaches, umpires and officials) should be a full adult or junior member. All non-participating members (committee members, general helpers for example) should be social and supporting member. All umpires and Umpires in Training should be registered with the League Umpiring Secretary
- 1.4 It is the responsibility of the clubs to ensure participants are members of England Netball
- 1.5 A club is classified as one team or more.
- 1.6 A player may only play for their registered club in a League Match. You may not play for any other club under any circumstances.
- 1.7 A player within a club can play within their age group pool or play up for an older age group they cannot play for a younger group.
- 1.8 If players are regularly playing in the Adult League, they should only play in the youth league in exceptional circumstances (e.g. team short of players) and should NOT be playing regularly in both leagues
- 1.9 A player may change clubs at any time during the season but must notify the league organisers that they have changed clubs.

2. MATCH RULES

- 2.1 All matches will be played in accordance with the INF Rules of Netball (Change to World Netball – Rules of Netball 2024 with the exception of:
Local rules will be applied according to the competition provided (all winter and summer leagues, knockout cup (if relevant) and tournaments and depending on facilities and resources available. This will apply to specifically, but not exclusively to:
- a) Rule 1 - Technical Specifications
 - b) Rule 2 – Time
 - c) Rule 3 – Team
 - d) Rule 4 - Match Officials
 - e) Rule 5 – Technical and Event Officials
- 2.2 Each team will play all other teams within their division on a home and away basis at the central venue notified by the Committee. In the event these arrangements become unavailable the Committee may substitute other venues or league formats.
- 2.3 Any teams withdrawing from the League before the end of the season will have all their match results expunged. All outstanding fees must be paid in full.
- 2.4 If a team contravenes more than one rule within a fixture, the Committee, at their discretion, will decide the appropriate penalty.

3. MATCH TIMES

- 3.1 Matches will take place commencing at 6.30pm. 7.30pm or 8.30pm on a Thursday at a central-venue location
- 3.2 Duration of the matches will be 4 x 10 minutes for all divisions, but again will depend on facility availability or circumstance, at the discretion of the committee.
- 3.3 These matches will be controlled by central timing starting and finishing each quarter on a hooter.
- 3.4 Teams shall change ends after each quarter.

4. CANCELLATIONS

- 4.1 Matches will be cancelled or postponed only under the direction of the Committee for extenuating circumstances. The Committee will rearrange and confirm CNL WhatsApp/ email
- 4.2 Notification of a cancellation for any other reason must be communicated via the Youth League Managers WhatsApp group asking for conformation. Each team must also notify their umpire of the cancellation.

Penalty: Cancellation of a fixture will result in:

- *the offending team will pay their own and opponents court fees*
- *the non-offending team will have five points and +10 goals awarded*

- 4.3 If there are extenuating circumstances that occur on the night (e.g. traffic issues) that leads to a cancellation by one or both teams, both teams or the offending team can appeal for a rearrangement of the fixture, which will be considered by the committee. This must be sent to the Youth League Secretary within 48 hours of the fixture, or else will not be considered and the penalty applied as above ..
- 4.4 Any game played as a friendly match, due to the inability to comply with League rules, will not be included as an official fixture but the above penalty will be applied.

5. ABANDONMENT

- 5.1 It is the responsibility of both umpires to ensure that the full four quarters is played. The decision to abandon a game in extenuating circumstances will be made by the two officiating umpires in consultation with the league organisers on the night. A

decision regarding replaying the abandoned fixture will be at the discretion of the Committee after all events have been considered.

5.2 If a match does not start or is not played in full that is called off **by both teams** (without the agreement of the umpires and league organisers) this will be deemed null and void and will not be replayed and no points or goals will be awarded to either team.

5.3 If a match does not start or is not played in full that is called off by **one of the teams** (without the agreement of the umpires, other team and league organisers) the match points and goals will be awarded to the non offending team. The team that called off the match will pay for both team's court fees

6. RESULTS

6.1 **Both teams** will provide an umpires scorecard card for ALL matches.

6.2 On completion of the match, the umpires should agree the scores and then the umpire to print their names on the scorecard to verify the score. They should also write on Player of the Match for each team.

6.3 **Both teams** are responsible for returning the completed scorecard, by either placing it in the CNL post-box on the night or adding to the CNL WhatsApp Group if not posted, it is responsibility of teams to ensure the scorecard has the correct scores on them.

6.4 Points will be awarded as follows:

- 5 for a win
- 3 for a draw
- 2 if the losing team loses by 5 goals or fewer
- 1 for a loss with 50% or more goals
- 0 for a loss of less than 50%

7. UMPIRES

7.1 All umpires (both qualified and Umpire in Training) **MUST** be members of England Netball for the current season before they can officiate in the Colchester Youth Netball League. Any umpire not registered as a player with a team in the Colchester Youth Netball League must notify the Officiating Lead of their EN membership number and whether they are members independently or through a club, and if so, the name of the club. *Add Please note to comply with the England Netball Insurance policy the following applies*

7.2 Umpires will be defined as the following:

- Unqualified – those who have not yet attended an England Netball IO Course. Please note these unqualified umpires will not be insured under the England Netball insurance policy.
- Umpire in Training – those who have attended an England Netball IO Course and actively working towards their IO assessment.
- Qualified – those who have obtained either their IO, C, B or A Award.

7.3 In accordance with England Netball Insurance Policy, an “Umpire in Training” will be covered by EN Insurance as long as:

- The co-umpire is qualified (See above definition).

- There is a qualified umpire, mentor or assessor present at the match in case of need.

7.4 Qualification of umpires:

Year 6 age group and below

Each team, as a minimum, will provide an umpire who has had some initial training within their club at club training, and who's club has deemed them competent to umpire, this for this age group only. The officiating lead will also undertake informal observation of these new umpires. They can also appoint both qualified umpires (IO, C, B or A Award) and IO Umpires in Training.

Year 7/8 age group

Each team, as a minimum, will provide an umpire that is either qualified (IO, C, B or A Award) or an IO Umpire in Training or an unqualified umpire that has been observed and approved by the Officiating Lead or qualified mentor and is either booked on to an IO course or has registered their interest to EN to attend an IO Course.

Year 9 and above age group

Each team, as a minimum, will provide an umpire that is either qualified (IO, C OR B) or an IO Umpire in Training.

7.5 Netball recommends that umpires, if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidelines issued by EN.

Neither England Netball, nor the club will be held liable for any pregnant individual participating in recognised and authorised activity should the expectant mother suffer a miscarriage or permanent damage to herself and / or unborn child as a result of participating. The England Netball Personal Accident cover will not provide any benefit for injury, loss or expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage or any consequence thereof. For example, if an 'Insured Person' who is pregnant is involved in an accident (not pregnancy related) and suffers a broken leg then, subject to claims validation, England Netball would pay any broken bones benefit, the Hospital Confinement benefit and Temporary Total Disablement benefit due under the Personal Accident Insurance Policy resulting from this injury. However, if the absence or hospital stay is prolonged as a direct result of pregnancy, pregnancy complications or even early childbirth then this would not be covered. The England Netball insurance scheme is provided as a Membership benefit and ensures that EN Members (referred to in the Liability insurance documents as 'Registered Participants') and in the Personal Accident documents as an 'Insured Person' are covered for Liability and Personal Accident Insurance, at the level of cover applicable to their category of membership. This document is intended as a guide only - full terms and conditions apply as detailed in the England Netball insurance policy documents, in association with England Netball's current Memorandum, Articles, Regulations and Policies. These documents are available to individuals on request by email or can be downloaded by every member on the downloadable documents in Engage.

- Please note this guidance supersedes previous guidance that players, coaches, officials should only participate up until their 12th week of pregnancy.
- Currently: Health & Safety. In the interest of fair play/sportsmanship, an umpire who appears to be at a later stage of gestation may be requested by the Committee to refrain from umpiring any remaining fixtures

- 7.6 In accordance with the Rules of Netball Match officials Rule 4.2. The umpires wear clothing that is distinct from the teams' playing uniforms and suitable sports footwear.
- 7.7 All teams must offer their umpire a minimum of £10.00 per match
- 7.8 Scorers are recommended for all games to add in umpire development
- 7.9 Umpire Assessments - Throughout the season matches will be required for umpiring assessments. The Officiating Lead will select appropriate matches for the assessment to be completed on. In the interest of development, teams are encouraged to support these requests. Teams participating in any assessment fixtures are responsible for paying umpire or umpires being assessed as usual. Scorers will also need to be appointed for these assessments.
- 7.10 England Netball's recommendations regarding the age limits for younger umpires are as follows:
- Minimum age for the England Netball into Officiating Award and Netball Europe 'C' Award is 13 years old.
 - Minimum age for taking the Netball Europe 'C' Award practical assessment is 14 years
 - If they pass the Netball Europe 'C' Award Practical Assessment, they receive accreditation as a NE 'C' Award umpire but the following restrictions apply until they reach their 16th Birthday:
 - They may only umpire matches up to U17 level
 - They may not umpire matches with over 18's participating
 - They may not umpire mixed sex matches

8 SCORERS

- 8.1 Any person may act as the scorer for an umpire. They do not have to be a qualified umpire and could be a team member, a parent or spectator. Scorers may be replaced during the game, i.e., if a substitute player starts as the scorer but is then required to play, another scorer may take their place.
- 8.2 Scorers will stand at a place designated by both umpires. Scorers will record each goal scored on their score-pad.
- 8.3 At quarter and half times, the scorers will advise the umpires which team has the first centre-pass of the next quarter. At the end of the match, the scorers will advise the umpires of the final score.

9 MISCELLANEOUS

- 9.1 New and/or redefined teams entering the League may be assessed and shall be placed in a division at the discretion of the Committee.
- 9.2 The Committee reserves the right to refuse entry into the League of any team/club
- 9.3 A breach of the rules not covered by a specific penalty will be dealt with at the discretion of the Committee.
- 9.4 In the event of a colour clash the away team is responsible for a change of bibs.

- 9.5 If there is a conflict of interest, e.g., you are a committee member and your team is involved, another of the Committee members will be asked to mediate.
- 9.6 Teams must not call the central venue facility regarding a netball query, as the Netball League only hires out their facilities. A member of the Committee should be contacted.
- 9.7 Any person wishing to use video or photographic materials must have permission from the teams concerned in advance of the proposed match.
- 9.8 All teams must carry a first aid kit, including ice packs, and should only contact the Sports Centre in the event of an emergency. In the case of an accident an accident form should be completed and sent to the League Secretary (accident forms can be found on the website)
- 9.9 All team members to remove their litter from the courts, including bottles.
- 9.10 Teams should not congregate in the Sports Centre corridor.
- 9.11 Spectators are not permitted to enter the court area during play, and refrain from making adverse comments in respect of players or umpire or they may be asked to leave.
- 9.12 Smoking (including the use of electronic cigarettes, etc.) is not permitted on any part of the Central Venue Premises.
- 9.13 In accordance with the central venues policy, dogs are not permitted on any part of the premises.

10 Safeguarding for Under 18s

- 10.1 All teams that have U18's included should have a safeguarding policy and designated club safeguarding officer so that any safeguarding issues can be reported to and can be followed up. There is plenty of guidance on the England Netball website if unsure. The league will only inform EN if notified by a team/umpire/coach/parent of an incident, they will not investigate as this needs to be young person led through their club safeguarding officer.
- 10.2 Any person wishing to use video or photographic materials must read The England Netball Taking and Use of Photographic and Recorded Images of Young People Guidance, and must have permission from the teams concerned at least two days in advance of the proposed match, via the CNL WhatsApp group. They will not be granted permission on the night

11 Weather policy

In case of ice, snow, extreme wind and rain and if cancelled by sports centre, teams will be notified by 6pm and games will be rearranged where possible but if unable to rearrange will be null and void fixtures for that night.

If the sports centre gives the go ahead for games to take place the fixtures officers will inspect the courts and inform the Team Managers if games will take place by 6pm. If no, games are cancelled the sanction applies as above, or, if yes, the games will go ahead and teams do not wish to play and cancel games, the usual cancellation rule will apply.

If the games are abandoned either during or before the second fixtures due to worsening weather, the abandonment rules will apply, the exception being when abandoned / cancelled by committee members where games will be rearranged during the season where possible, but if unable to rearrange will be null and void fixtures for that night

(Please note that it may be difficult to contact teams for second fixtures if above applies so you may not be informed before you arrive at venue).