

NORTH WEST REGIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS



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1. Overview

- 1.1. The North West Regional Junior League (NWRJL) is a regional league competition organised by the Technical Support Group (TSG). Its purpose is to enable clubs to compete against each other to determine an U14 and U16 regional winner and runner up, who will be allocated a place in the England Netball National Club Finals. It will also encourage participation and development in netball through an open, fair, progressive, and transparent league structure.
- 1.2. These regulations set out below outline the Rules and Regulations which govern the operation of North West Netball and must be followed by all teams, players, officials, spectators and administrators in the management, administration, and operation of the NWRJL.
- 1.3. The Regulations must be followed by all teams, players, officials, spectators and administrators in the management, administration, and operation of the NWRJL.
- 1.4. It is the responsibility of the club, not North West Netball, to ensure that all players and relevant parties within the team are fully conversant with these regulations.
- 1.5. U14/U16 1st to 4th placed play-offs will take place on Sunday 7th April 2024 at MMU. Only players who have taken to the court (played at least one (1) quarter) in the regional premier league will be eligible to compete for their registered team in the play-offs.
- 1.6. U14 National Club Finals will take place on 25th & 26th May 2024 at English Institute of Sport Sheffield, Coleridge Road, Sheffield, S9 5DA.
- 1.7. U16 National Club Finals will take place on 27th & 28th April 2024 at Beacon of Light, Stadium Way, Monkwearmouth, Sunderland SR5 1SN.

2. Competition Structure

- 2.1. The competition shall be known as the North West Netball Regional Junior League (NWRJL) and shall comprise of the following leagues:
 - (a) U14 Premiership (8 teams)
 - (b) U16 Premiership (8 teams)
- 2.2. The top four teams in the U14 and U16 Premiership League at the end of the season will progress to the NW Regional Play Offs. Following play offs (7th April) the U14/U16 clubs which finish in 1st place will become the NW Premiership Champions and will progress, with the team which finish in 2nd place to the England Netball National Club Finals. There is a separate set of competition rules/regulations for the National Club Finals.

- 2.3. A club may change its name during the season; however, their England Netball membership number must remain the same to not be considered a new club.
- 2.4. If a team wishes to leave its place at any time during the season, the position remains empty for the remainder of the season and all results removed from the results table against all teams.

3. Competition Organisation

- 3.1. The competition and all rights and properties associated with it shall be owned, controlled and managed by the Regional Management Board, which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to any sub-committee or individual(s) i.e., TSG.
- 3.2. North West Netball is responsible for the organisation and management of the NWRJL.
- 3.3. Prior to the start of the NWRJL, North West Netball shall announce the following:
- 3.3.1. The Competition Referee.
- 3.3.2. The person appointed to receive appeals of the decisions of the Competition Referee, as outlined in Section 8.
- 3.4. North West Netball may alter the named Competition Referee during the competition and will, through its best endeavours, inform all participating teams if an alteration is made.

4. Competition Referee

- 4.1. As set out above, a Competition Referee will be appointed by North West Netball for the NWRJL.
- 4.2. The Competition Referee will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising throughout the competition including, but not limited to:
- 4.2.1. Altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary.
- 4.2.2. Determining if there has been a breach of the regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction, including but not limited to:
- (c) The use of a player without an active England Netball membership in a fixture or fixtures will result in a deduction of 3 league points, but the result of the fixture will still stand.
 - (d) The use of an unregistered player or a player who is underage without written permission from the Competition Referee will result in a deduction of 3 league points, but the result of the fixture or fixtures will still stand.
 - (e) Any player under the age of 16 years, playing in more than two regional games (junior or senior) per weekend will result in two points deducted per player per fixture; but the result of the fixture will still stand.
 - (f) If a team concedes a fixture (see Section 6.1) the non-offending team will be awarded 5 points for the match and the conceding team will have 5 points deducted from their total.
 - (g) Conceding on more than one occasion (i.e., two or more league fixtures) will result in expulsion from the league.
- 4.2.3. Adjudicating 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.

- 4.2.4. Maintaining and being responsible for a confidential Competition Referee Logbook, where appropriate.
 - 4.2.5. Determining the score should any match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstances.
 - 4.2.6. Determining any matter not covered specifically within these Regulations.
- 4.3. The Competition Referee 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 Referee.

5. Pre-Competition Management and Administration

5.1. Team Entry and Eligibility

- 5.1.1. All clubs who enter the NWRJL must be an active club registered on the England Netball Membership system (ENgage), through a County Association, which has paid its membership fees in this respect, and which is situated within the boundaries of a County Association which is a member of the Regional Association – unless otherwise agreed by the Regional Management Board - TSG.
- 5.1.2. North West Netball is entitled to charge an entry fee to compete in the NWRJL and this must be paid in full within the permitted timescales for a team to participate. The fee will be determined by the NWRB – TSG.
- 5.1.3. By entering a team into the NWRJL, clubs/teams agree that:
 - (a) They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the NWRJL.
 - (b) They will fulfil their obligations and responsibilities as set out in these regulations.
 - (c) They are bound by the competition regulations; and
 - (d) 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, as may from time to time be in force.

5.2. Player/Team Official Eligibility

- 5.2.1. To be eligible to participate in the NWRJL, all players must hold an active membership with England Netball via ENgage and be linked to the club they are playing for in the NWRJL. The appropriate membership fee must be received by North West Netball in advance of submitting the Squad Registration Sheet or not less than four (4) days before taking to the court after the season has started. Individuals may register on the England Netball membership system via one of the following routes:
 - 5.2.1.1. Through membership to a Club.
 - 5.2.1.2. Through membership directly to England Netball.
- 5.2.2. All U14 players must be over eleven (11) years of age and under fourteen (14) years of age as at 11:59pm on 31st August prior to the commencement of the NWRJL. Anyone under the age of 11 is unable to compete in the competition.
- 5.2.3. All U16 players must be over thirteen (13) years of age and under sixteen (16) years of age as at 11:59pm on 31st August prior to the commencement of the

NORTH WEST REGIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS



NWRJL. Players under the age of fourteen (14) must have completed the Age Banding Consent Form and submitted this alongside the squad registration sheet.

5.2.4. Proof of age may be requested at any time comprises of one or more of the following:

- (h) Copy of birth certificate.
- (i) Copy of passport.,
- (j) Copy of medical card.

5.2.5. The NWRJL is a competition for female players and as such, only female participants can be included on the team registration sheet as a player.

5.2.6. England Netball recommends that individuals (players, coaches and umpires) if pregnant should follow their guidelines. Please see <https://netballher.co.uk/pre-and-post-natal/active-pregnancy-101/>

5.2.7. The England Netball Personal Accident insurance cover excludes any loss or expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage, or any consequence thereof, if, for example, a member who is pregnant is involved in an accident not related to the pregnancy, subject to the conditions of the policy, the relevant benefits would be payable. However, if any situation (such as hospitalisation) was prolonged as a direct result of pregnancy, pregnancy complications or even early childbirth, then this portion of any claim is not covered.

5.3. Registration of Squads

5.3.1. Participating teams must complete a Squad Registration Sheet fully listing each player (in alphabetical order) including membership numbers and date of birth. These need to be lodged with the TSG by email to nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com by 17.00 on 18th January 2024.

5.3.2. Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their Squad Registration Sheet held by North West Netball (see Section 4.2.2 (b) for the penalty for breach of this).

5.3.3. Any additions to the Squad Registration Sheets must be lodged, with North West Netball by 17:00 hours on the Thursday prior to the fixture weekend. These additions must be made by email to nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com clearly stating in the subject field if it is U14/U16 Premiership/Championship and the version e.g., V2, V3 etc. Additional registration of players will not be accepted after 17:00 on 14th March 2024.

5.3.4. A player can only be registered to and play for ONE club across the NWRJL.

5.3.5. A player is **NOT** allowed to transfer to another club/team prior to the start of the NWRJL fixtures if they have participated in the Qualifying Tournament (14th January 2024) or if they have participated in regional fixtures for another region.

5.3.6. Each team may declare up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each match by completing a NW Regional League Result Sheet and submitting it to the Officials Bench; this must be done fifteen (15) minutes prior to the stated start time for the match.

5.4. Competition Venues

- 5.4.1. It is the responsibility of the home team (the team named first as per the fixture schedule published by North West Netball) to conduct a risk assessment of the venue, using the standard issued form, prior to each match and ensure that the umpires countersign this document. Umpires will undertake pre-match checks to ensure the match is safe to play; it is within their jurisdiction not to allow a match to go ahead, if not deemed safe to do so.
- 5.4.2. In instances where risks have been identified, a copy of the risk assessment should be sent to the TSG at email address nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com.
- 5.4.3. For all incidents on or off the court at a match an England Netball Accident Report Form must be completed, and a copy sent to the NW Netball by email to nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com.

5.5. Accidents

- 5.5.1. If an accident occurs at any match where a player, coach, match or technical official, spectator or staff member is injured, the accident reporting procedure should be followed as detailed on <https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/membership/insurance/report-a-claim/>.
- 5.5.2. This procedure should be followed for ALL injuries and accidents, regardless of whether medical treatment is given.

6. Competition Scheduling

6.1. Competition Format

- 6.1.1. All U14/U16 Premiership fixtures will take at central venues (at the start time as per the fixture schedule) and MUST be played on the following dates:

21st January 2024
Leigh Sports Village, Sale Way, WN7 4JY

4th February 2024
Edge Hill University, St Helens Road, Ormskirk, L39 4QP

18th February 2024
Wright Robinson Sports College, Manchester, M18 8XJ

25th February 2024
Wright Robinson Sports College, Manchester, M18 8XJ

3rd March 2024
Edge Hill University, St Helens Road, Ormskirk, L39 4QP

17th March 2024
MMU, Platt Lane Sports Complex, Yew Tree Road, Fallowfield, M14 7UU

24th March 2024
University of Central Lancashire, Fylde Road, Preston, PR1 2HE

- 6.1.2. Each team in the NWRJL will play each other once.
- 6.1.3. All teams will be responsible for arranging their own travel to fixtures and the cost of this. Teams should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays. If a team is delayed in arriving for a fixture, the following protocol must be observed:

NORTH WEST REGIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS



- (a) Inform the opposing team and umpires as soon as they are aware of a delay.
- (b) Any team which fails to arrive on time must take the court and be ready to play as soon as possible and in any event within twelve (12) minutes of the agreed start time. Teams should be given a minimum of five (5) minutes for players to warm up to prevent injuries and this should be started as soon as there are five (5) players present.
- (c) Any team taking to court more than twelve (12) minutes after the agreed start time will concede the match.

6.1.4. No team may play a match with less than five (5) players; any team with less than five (5) players will automatically concede the game.

6.1.5. No team may postpone or rearrange a fixture (including time and venue changes from the fixture schedule published by North West Netball) without the agreement of the TSG, through the Competition Referee. In the event of extreme or unforeseen circumstances (e.g., flash flood, heavy snowfall, etc.) the team affected by the circumstances must inform North West Netball, their opponents, and the umpires of the situation. North West Netball should be contacted in writing by email to nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com for all these issues. Failure to inform North West Netball will result in the affected team conceding the fixture.

6.1.6. Matches that are postponed in these circumstances must be played before the final fixture date, unless otherwise agreed by the North West Competition TSG. Injuries, pregnancy, England Camps, NPL, inter-county play days, school fixtures, non-affiliated netball competitions or other netball commitments do not quantify as unforeseen circumstances, and in these instances failing to fulfil the fixture will result in the affected team conceding the match. The primary responsibility for rescheduling such fixtures shall reside with the home team, and any dispute over rescheduling shall be determined by the Competition Referee.

6.1.7. In the event of a game being conceded:

- (a) the non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points for the match, and the team which conceded will have five (5) league points deducted from their total; and
- (b) the team which conceded may be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team has incurred, subject to the determination by the Competition Referee.

6.1.8. If a match is abandoned for any reason (e.g., because of serious injury), the result of that match will be determined by the Competition Referee, having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.

6.2. Match rules

6.2.1. All fixtures shall be played in accordance with the World Netball Rules of the Game currently in force at the time of the relevant match, except where specifically stated in these Regulations.

6.3. Match Officials

6.3.1. Teams must provide their own umpires from the approved 'List of Approved Umpires'.

NORTH WEST REGIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS



6.3.2. All umpires MUST hold a current England Netball membership and be included on the 'List of Approved Umpires'.
(Weekly checks will take place and two (2) points per match will be deducted for using an umpire not named on the 'approved list')

6.3.3. Umpires must hold at least C Award qualification to umpire junior regional league games:

6.3.4. In the event that an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied:

(c) If another umpire of the appropriate minimum standard is available, then they will umpire the match.

(d) If the appointed umpire arrives late and the game has already commenced, the umpire that started the game will continue for the entire duration of the match.

(e) If any of the above arise, TSG must be informed in writing, by email, to nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com, immediately after the match.

6.3.5. Any concerns about umpires should be emailed to Chris McCall at nwofficiating@gmail.com.

6.4. Technical Officials

6.4.1. The Technical Officials are the Scorers and Timekeepers. The two (2) scorers and the two (2) timekeepers shall between them constitute the Officials Bench.

6.4.1.1. Each team must provide a competent scorer; scorers will be required for all fixtures.

6.4.1.2. Each team must provide a timekeeper for each match played.

6.4.1.3. If agreed between both teams, the home team can provide all Technical Officials for a fixture.

6.4.2. Scorers are required to utilise the Result Sheet and Running Score Sheet for their matches.

6.5. Team Officials

6.5.1. A team may have up to five (5) Team Officials; these will include a coach and at least one primary care person.

6.5.2. A primary care person:

(a) Must be qualified to diagnose and treat injury or illness with a minimum of a first aid qualification (copy of first aid certificate to be made available at each match).

(b) Is permitted on the court during a stoppage for injury/illness of a player or blood issues.

(c) Must advise the umpires if a player is too ill/injured to be removed from the court within 30 seconds and/or if assistance is required.

6.5.3. Team Officials may be fewer than specified and may therefore undertake several duties.

NORTH WEST REGIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS



6.5.4. The Team Officials and up to five (5) players not on court shall constitute the Team Bench.

6.6. Match Timings

6.6.1. All matches shall be of 48 minutes duration (4 quarters of 12 minutes each).

6.6.2. All matches shall have an interval of 5 minutes at half time, and intervals of 3 minutes at quarter and three-quarter time.

6.7. Scoring

6.7.1. Teams will be awarded league points as follows:

- (a) Five (5) points for a win.
- (b) Three (3) points for a draw.
- (c) Two (2) points for a loss if within 5 goals of the winner's score, e.g., 50-46 = 2 points, 50-45 = 1 point.
- (d) One (1) point for a loss if more than 50 per cent of the winner's score' e.g., 50-26 = 1 point, 50-25 = 0 points
- (e) Zero (0) points for any other loss.

6.7.2. North West Netball junior league tables will be compiled based on the points awarded to each team. Where teams are level on points:

- (a) Goal Average shall be used to determine their relative positions, i.e., the team with the higher Goal Average over the course of the season shall take precedence.
- (b) In the event that Goal Average does not differentiate between the teams, then Goal Difference shall be applied, i.e., precedence shall be given to the team with the greater difference between goals scored and goals conceded.
- (c) In the event that Goal Difference does not differentiate between the teams, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence.
- (d) In the event that neither Goal Average nor Goal Difference nor goals scored 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 team whose scores were greatest.
- (e) In the event that none of the above differentiates between the teams, the Competition Referee shall determine the means of differentiation.

(Note - Where one of the team has its Goal Average, Goal Difference or total number of goals scored affected by conceded fixtures, then all goals scored by and against conceding team(s) in all fixtures shall be omitted from the calculations of both teams level on points. Except where one of the teams level on points is the conceding team, at which point they assume a goal average of 0 and will be the lowest ranked team of those level on points.)

6.8. Registration of results

- 6.8.1. For all NW Regional League junior matches the Result Sheet and Running Score Sheet must be used and completed fully, checked by scorers, and signed by scorers, umpires, and Coach.
- 6.8.2. ONLY the home team (or the team named first as per the fixture schedule published by North West Netball) is required to submit the match day Score Sheet. A high-quality scan/photo should be sent by email to nwnetballresults@gmail.com – and opposition – within twenty-four (24) hours of the match. (NO Running Score Sheet is required.)
- 6.8.3. A copy of the official Score Sheet and/or the Running Score Sheet may be requested by North West Netball from either the home or away team if there are any issues with the copy sent to North West Netball.
- 6.8.4. The winning team must message their match result via WhatsApp directly to North West Netball within two (2) hours of the end of the match to 07795257837 using the following format:
- League: e.g., U14 Premiership
Date of Fixture
Home Team and Score
Away Team and Score
Your Name

7. Competition Complaints Procedure

- 7.1. All queries and complaints ('a Complaint') should be directed to the Competition Referee in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows:
- 7.1.1. 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 Scoresheet with the words "Under Protest".
 - (c) Send the marked Scoresheet to the Competition Referee, within seventy-two (72) hours of the fixture.
 - (d) Attach a letter to the Scoresheet to explain the issue in full to the Competition Referee.
 - (e) The Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken.
- 7.1.2. The Competition Referee will acknowledge receipt of the query or Complaint and make a decision on the matter within seventy-two (72) hours of receipt of the query or Complaint. The Competition Referee's decision in relation to decisions taken under clause 7.1.1 is binding apart from where parties to the Complaint have the right to appeal the decision under Section 8 below.
- 7.2. Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Competition by the Competition Referee, such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of the North West Region.
- 7.3. Where the Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual player or team participating in, or a volunteer or individual attending a Match, which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations, such Complaint will be dealt with in accordance with the processes set

NORTH WEST REGIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS



out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations and should be referred to the Disciplinary Secretary of England Netball.

8. Appeal of Competition Referee's Decision

- 8.1. The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a Complaint submitted in accordance with section 7.1 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:
- 8.1.1. If the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition; AND
- 8.1.2. If there has been a failure by the Competition Referee to follow or act in accordance with these Regulations and/or the Competition Referee reached a decision based on an error of fact.

These are the only grounds of appeal, and any appeal must be submitted in accordance with the appeals process set out below:

- 8.2. An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the Team Manager of the appealing Team to the Competition Referee within seventy-two (72) hours of their receiving the decision of the Competition Referee who will refer it to the Chair of North West Netball at nwnetballchair@gmail.com.
- 8.3. The appeal shall be accompanied by a cheque for £100 which shall be returned if the appeal is upheld or if there are any other extenuating circumstances. The Competition Appeals Committee ("CAC") will decide whether the extenuating circumstance warrant the cheque being returned.
- 8.4. The Chair of North West Netball will establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected to the Competition. One of those individuals will be appointed as the Chair.
- 8.5. The Chair of the CAC will give notice of the appeal to the opposing Team and any other Team the CAC believe could be affected by the outcome of the appeal. These Teams will be permitted seventy-two (72) hours, from the time that the appeal notice is sent from the CAC to submit any evidence or submission that they wish the CAC to consider.
- 8.6. All submissions and evidence must be submitted in writing. The Chair of CAC will otherwise have the discretion to determine the process, procedure, and direction of the appeal.
- 8.7. 8.7 The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy-two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions.
- 8.8. The CAC will notify all the parties that made submissions and presented evidence of its decision and any penalties and sanctions imposed within twenty-four (24) hours of it reaching its determination. The CAC shall have the discretion to publish the decision through whatever medium it considers appropriate.
- 8.9. The CAC shall have the delegated power of North West Netball to make all decisions and impose and enforce any penalties and sanctions (including but not limited to reprimands, the deduction of points, fines, suspensions, and expulsions from the Competition) relating to the appeal. There is no further right of appeal on this decision.
- 8.10. The procedures set out in this Section 8 shall be governed by the Arbitration Act 1996 (the Act) and amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of Section 6 of the Act.

**NORTH WEST REGIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE
RULES & REGULATIONS**



- 8.11. The parties also waive irrevocably their right to any form of appeal, review or recourse to any court or other judicial authority, or under England Netball's Disciplinary Procedures Manual or otherwise, insofar as such waiver may be validly made.
- 8.12. The seat of arbitration shall be England, the language used shall be English and the governing law of the regulations and these proceedings under Section 8 shall be English Law.
- 8.13. If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than provided for by this Section 8, and all parties to the appeal consent, the timetable within which an appeal is raised, submissions made, and the decision taken can be shorter than the seventy-two (72) hours stated in this Section 8. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised directions timetable which shall be binding on all parties.

9. Miscellaneous

- 9.1. England Netball and North West Netball will not be liable to any person, whether in contract, tort (including 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 excludes or restricts England Netball's liability for any personal loss or injury caused by England Netball's own negligence, the negligence of its employees, or for fraud. If any of these Regulations are held by any competent authority to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of the Regulations shall not be affected thereby.
- 9.2. These Regulations shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law.
- 9.3. Any questions regarding these Regulations can be addressed to the Competition Referee, Pat Evans.
- 9.4. North West Netball reserves the right to amend these Regulations each year in advance of the Competition and such amendments will take effect from the first date of publication of the completed amended procedure on the North West Netball website.