

# REGIONAL PREMIER & CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS



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## Overview

The Regional League is a league competition organised by the North West region of England Netball to enable clubs to compete against each other and determine regional winners. It also aims to encourage participation and development in netball through an open, fair, progressive and transparent league structure.

The details set out below outline the rules and regulations ('The Regulations') which govern the operation of the Regional League.

The Regulations must be followed by all teams, players, officials, spectators and administrators in the management, administration, and operation of the Regional League.

It is the responsibility of the club, not the North West regional competition group, to ensure that all players, coaches, officials and relevant parties within the team are fully conversant with these regulations.

The winner of the highest division of the Regional League, or the highest placed eligible team should the winners already have a team in the England Netball Premier League, will be the club/team that goes forward to the England Netball Premier League Playoffs. There is a separate set of competition rules/regulations for the play-offs provided by England Netball.

Any team who fails to compete in the Premier League Playoffs will be removed from the competition structure completely and be required to re-enter at the bottom level of the Regional League.

## **1. Competition Structure**

1.1 The competition shall be known as the Regional League and shall comprise of the following divisions:

- Division 1 (formerly NW Premiership) - 10 teams with 9 home and 9 away games
- Division 2 (formerly NW Championship 1) - 13 teams with 6 home and 6 away games
- Division 3 (formerly NW Championship 2) - 13 teams with 6 home and 6 away games
- Division 4 (formerly NW Championship 2) - 13 teams with 6 home and 6 away games
- Division 5 (formerly NW Championship 2) - 13 teams with 6 home and 6 away games

1.2 The team which finishes top of Division 1 at the end of the season will be Division 1 Champions and, if eligible, will represent the Northwest in England Netball Premier League Playoffs.

1.3 The team which finishes top of Division 2 will be Division 2 Champions. Playoffs will determine promotion and relegation to and from Division 1 and Division 2 – ***please see NW Regional League Division 1-2 playoff format document***. (NB: this could change if a team withdraws/is excluded part way through the season).

1.4 The teams in positions 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in Division 2 will be relegated to Division 3.

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1.5 The team which finishes top of Division 3 will be Division 3 Champions. The top two eligible teams (who do not have a team in Division 2), will be promoted to Division 2. No team placed fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) or below will be eligible for promotion. In this instance only the team finishing bottom (13<sup>th</sup>) of Division 2 will be relegated to Division 3. (NB: this could change if a team withdraws/is excluded part way through the season).

1.6 The teams in positions 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in Division 3 will be relegated to Division 4.

1.7 The team which finishes top of Division 4 will be Division 4 Champions. The top two eligible teams (who do not have a team in Division 3), will be promoted to Division 3. No team placed fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) or below will be eligible for promotion. In this instance only the team finishing bottom (13<sup>th</sup>) of Division 3 will be relegated to Division 4. (NB: this could change if a team withdraws/is excluded part way through the season).

1.8 The teams in positions 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in Division 4 will be relegated to Division 5.

1.9 The team which finishes top of Division 5 will be Division 5 Champions. The top two eligible teams (who do not have a team in Division 4), will be promoted to Division 4. No team placed fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) or below will be eligible for promotion. In this instance only the team finishing bottom (13<sup>th</sup>) of Division 4 will be relegated to Division 5. (NB: this could change if a team withdraws/is excluded part way through the season).

1.10 The teams in positions 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in Division 5 will be relegated from the Regional League.

1.11 Two teams will be admitted to Division 5 for the following season via a tournament which will take place in early September 2025. Teams from the clubs relegated will not be eligible for this tournament.

**1.12. The number of teams admitted to the Regional League may vary subject to teams withdrawing or being excluded from the league.**

1.13 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. Any new clubs will only be allowed to enter as a new team in Division 5 even if it consists of players from another club previously playing in a higher division.

1.14 If a team leaves or is removed from the league, 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.

## **2. Organisation and Administration**

2.1 The Regional League shall be governed and managed by the Regional Management Board (RMB), which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to any sub-committee or individual(s).

2.2 The decisions of the RMB, or its nominee(s), in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the Regional League, which is not provided for below, shall be considered final and binding on all parties (subject to the right of appeal which is specifically provided for under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations).

2.3 These rules and regulations shall be subject and secondary to the application of England Netball's rules and regulations, especially World Netball Rules of the Game.

2.4 It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all Participants are conversant with the rules and regulations and the England Netball Codes of Conduct.

2.5 General Data Protection Regulation: Any personal data provided by the clubs will be used for this event only. It will be destroyed after the event and not shared with any third party.

2.6 Prior to the start of the Regional League, the league administrators shall announce the following:

- a) the Competition Referee; and

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- b) the person appointed to receive appeals of the decisions of the Competition Referee, as outlined in Section 7.

## 3. Pre-Competition and Management Administration

### Team Entry and Eligibility

3.1 Application for entry to the Regional League shall be open to any club which is an active club registered on the England Netball membership system, 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. Applications will only be considered from teams who do not play in any other regional league.

3.2 Entry to the Regional League will be determined by the Regional Management Board at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the rules and regulations laid out herein, and having due regard to the playing standard of teams which wish to participate. In the same way, such casual vacancies as may appear from time to time will be addressed by the Competition TSG in whatever way it sees fit.

3.3 A club may have a maximum of 4 teams in the Regional League; however, they may not have 2 teams in the same division.

3.4 The Region is entitled to charge an entry fee to compete in Regional Leagues, this must be paid in full within the permitted timescales to be eligible.

3.5 By entering a team(s) in the Regional League clubs/teams agree that:

3.5.1 they are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the Regional League.

3.5.2 they will fulfil their obligations and responsibilities set out in the Regulations including providing an umpire where necessary.

3.5.3 they are bound by the Competition Regulations

3.5.4 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.

3.5.5 They will participate in a sporting manner and play within the spirit of the game.

3.5.6 If they qualify for the Premier League Play-off, they will attend.

### 3.6 Player/Team Official Eligibility

3.6.1 Any club who knowingly and deliberately provides false information regarding identity of players when registering players or naming of players on team sheets will forfeit their entry fee and may be expelled from the competition. Disciplinary action may be taken against the club.

3.6.2 To qualify to participate in the Regional Leagues, all players and coaches must be a member of England Netball as a personal adult/junior member having paid the full membership fee due and received confirmation of their membership in advance of submitting the Registration Form (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:

3.6.2.1 Through membership to a Club

3.6.2.2 Through membership directly to England Netball

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3.6.3 All Players must be over 14 years old as at 23.59 on 31<sup>st</sup> August immediately prior to the commencement of the Regional League playing season unless they have completed the age banding consent form and submitted it with the Squad Registration Sheet. All players under the age of 18 must carry proof of age (and age banding consent if applicable) as random checks may be carried out.

3.6.3.1 Proof of age comprises of one or more of the following:

- copy of birth certificate
- copy of passport
- copy of medical card
- copy of a driver's licence

3.6.4 It is recommended that an adult who holds an England Netball DBS and safeguarding qualification be present at any matches where players are aged 17 and under for safeguarding purposes.

3.6.5 The Regional League is a competition for females only. Only female participants can be included on the team registration sheet as a player. For information on eligibility based on gender, please visit the [Trans inclusion guidance here](https://www.englishnetball.co.uk/document/trans-inclusion-guidance/) :(<https://www.englishnetball.co.uk/document/trans-inclusion-guidance/>)

3.6.6 England Netball recommends that individuals (player, coach, umpire) if pregnant, should only participate in accordance with the current England Netball guidance. Please see England Netball Insurance FAQ

### 3.7 Registration of Squads

3.7.1 Participating teams must complete a Squad Registration Sheet fully listing each player (in alphabetical order) including membership numbers, date of birth and England Netball National Prem club if applicable. These need to be lodged with the TSG by email to [nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com) by 30th August 2024.

3.7.2 Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their Squad Registration Sheet held by Northwest Netball

3.7.3 Any additions to the Squad Registration Sheets must be lodged, with Northwest Netball by 17:00 hours on the Thursday prior to the fixture weekend. These additions must be made by email to [nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com) clearly stating in the subject field if it is Division 1 to 5, and the version e.g. V2, V3 etc. Additional registration of players will not be accepted after 17:00 on:

- Division 1 – 16th January 2025;
- Division 2 – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025;
- Divisions 3 – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025; and
- Divisions 4 & 5 - 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025

3.7.4 Once a player has been named on a Results Sheet they cannot play for another Regional League team/club. Please see Rule 3.10 for transfer requests.

3.7.5 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 submit it to the Officials Bench; this must be done fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time.

3.7.6 Players registered for this Regional League may only play for one club.

3.7.6.1 To allow player progression, players can play for a different club in the senior leagues to the club they play for in the junior leagues.

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3.7.7 A player and/or team cannot participate in more than one Region's Open Regional League or competition, within the same season.

3.7.8 A player that is also registered to an England Netball National Prem squad can only play a maximum of 25% of the available quarters in the National League Competition (18 quarters or part thereof). Once a player has exceeded this, they are deemed ineligible to play in the Regional League and tied up to the Premier League team for the remainder of the season. Any player who plays in a Regional League fixture after playing in 25% of quarters in the England Netball Premier League will be sanctioned in line with these regulations (see rule 5).

**NB: If a Regional Nomination has a player that has played for a Premier League Netball team during that season, they will not be eligible to play for the Regional Nomination during the Premier League Playoffs unless they have de-registered from the Premier League Netball Team before 23:59 on the Thursday prior to Premier League Netball Round 12 and they have played 17 quarters or less of premier league netball.**

3.7.9 A player registered to a team in the Regional League can only play a maximum of 25% of the available quarters for a team in a higher league (18 quarters or part thereof in Division 1 or 12 quarters or part thereof in Divisions 2-5). Once a player has exceeded this, they will be ineligible for the lower team and will be tied to the higher team for the remainder of the season. Any player in breach of this will be sanctioned in line with these regulation – see Rule 5.

3.7.10 No player, once registered with a Super League team, may play in the Regional League. Any player in breach of this will be sanctioned in line with these regulations - see Rule 5).

3.7.11 Overseas players on an international sports person visa are NOT permitted to play in the NW Regional League; individuals who have indefinite leave to remain or are seeking asylum in the UK are permitted to play in the NW Regional league. Any player in breach of this will be sanctioned in line with these regulations - see rule 5.

3.7.12 International players are not permitted to play in the NW Regional League. Any player in breach of this will be sanctioned in line with these regulations - see rule 5.

3.7.13 National Prem players are not permitted to play in Divisions 2 to 5. Any player in breach of this will be sanctioned in line with these regulations - see rule 5.

3.7.14 Only players who have taken to the court (played at least one (1) quarter) by 16th January 2024 will be eligible to compete for their registered team in the Regional League Play-offs.

### 3.8 Competition Venues

3.8.1 All fixtures MUST be played on an indoor court, made of an adequate playing surface (preferably wooden sprung) with adequate surrounds; if not sunken posts, the posts should be securely fixed to the floor with post protectors as standard.

3.8.2 All venues should have ancillary facilities for approximately 30 participants, including changing and showering facilities for both teams and officials.

3.8.3 The home team is responsible for arranging the venue, and for the cost of this.

3.8.4 Prior to each match, on the day of the fixture it is the responsibility of the home team, together with the opposition to conduct a risk assessment using the standard form provided. To complete the form the home team will consult the umpires after they have done their checks.

3.8.5 Where a venue has a balcony/viewing gallery no spectators will be allowed courtside.

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3.8.6 Umpires will undertake pre-game checks to ensure the game is safe to play. It is within their jurisdiction to not allow a game to go ahead and move or remove spectators from courtside. 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](mailto:nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com).

3.8.7 Where venues are deemed unsuitable, by the officials, for the fixture on the day, one of the following will apply:

3.8.7.1 Rearrangement played as an away fixture, and the original home team incur all costs.

3.8.7.2 Home team concedes the fixture.

3.8.8 Each court will have home and away benches where coaches, substitutes and team officials must sit. An official table area will be provided where the scorers and timekeepers of both teams must be situated throughout the match.

3.8.9 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 TSG at email address [nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com)

## 3.9 Accidents

3.9.1 If an accident occurs at any match where a player, coach, official (umpire, Technical Official or Team 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/>. This procedure should be followed for ALL injuries and accidents where the game is stopped for longer than 30 seconds, regardless of whether or not medical treatment is given.

## 3.10 Player Transfers

3.10.1 Players may request a transfer between Regional Clubs under the following conditions:

- a) Players may ONLY transfer provided the transferring player has taken to the court in less than 12 quarters of the Regional League games;
- b) The request will be made in writing to the TSG by email to [nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com) with both clubs copied into the correspondence;
- c) Players cannot start playing for the new team until confirmation that the transfer is complete and has been received from the TSG; and
- d) Players will not be allowed to transfer to another club after 17.00 on:

- Division 1 – 16th January 2025;
- Division 2 – 23rd January 2025;
- Divisions 3 – 30th January 2025; and
- Divisions 4 & 5 - 6th February 2025

## 4 Fixture Arrangements

### 4.1 Competition Scheduling

4.1.1 All matches MUST be played on either the **Saturday or Sunday** of the specified published fixture dates.

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4.1.2 The start time of each match will be no earlier than 10:00 or later than 15:00. Any dispute over start times will be determined by the Competition Referee. This can be extended to 09:30 to 15:30 start if both teams agree. In exceptional circumstances the League Administrator may, with the agreement of both teams, permit a start time outside 09:30-15:30.

4.1.3 The home team must provide, via email, re-confirmation of the fixture, its start time and travel directions (including postcode) at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the fixture. Any alterations due to exceptional circumstances must be notified to the Competition Referee and TSG who will determine details of the rearrangement.

4.1.4 The away team will be responsible for arranging its own travel and the cost of this. The away team 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:

4.1.4.1 Inform the opposing team and umpires as soon as they are aware of a delay.

4.1.4.2 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 15 minutes of the agreed start time.

4.1.4.3 Any team taking to the court more than 15 minutes after the agreed start time will concede the match, save in exceptional circumstances, where the Competition Referee may permit a start time more than 15 minutes after the agreed start time.

4.1.4.4 Advise the league administrator by indicating on the Results Sheet under the comments section.

4.1.5 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.

### 4.2 Postponements

4.2.1 No team may postpone, cancel or rearrange a fixture without the agreement of Northwest Netball, through the Competition Referee or their nominee(s). In the event of extreme or unforeseen circumstances, e.g., flash flood, heavy snowfall, the team affected by the circumstances, must inform Northwest Netball, their opponents, and the umpires of the situation. Northwest Netball should be contacted by email at [nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:nwnetballcompetition@gmail.com). Failure to inform Northwest Netball, will result in the affected team conceding the fixture. Matches that are postponed in these circumstances must be played before the next scheduled fixture date unless otherwise agreed by the Competition Referee, or their nominee(s). Injuries or illness (including COVID-19 related illness), pregnancy, England Camps, NPL fixtures, county days, school fixtures and other netball competitions do not quantify as unforeseen circumstances. 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, or their nominee(s), at its absolute discretion.

4.2.2 If a team cancels/concedes a match:

4.2.2.1 The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points for the match. The team which conceded will have five (5) league points deducted from their total.

4.2.2.2 The team which cancelled/conceded may be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team or have incurred.

4.2.3 If a fixture is postponed or cancelled, it is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that the TSG, opposition and both umpires are informed immediately the postponement or cancellation is known.

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4.2.4 In the event that a match is abandoned for any reason, (e.g., because of serious injury), the Competition Referee, or its nominee(s), having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended will determine the result or rule the match should be replayed.

## 4.3 Match rules and format

4.3.1 All Matches 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.

4.3.2 Where a player receives three (3) suspensions within the playing season of the competition, they shall be automatically banned from participating for the entirety of the next competition match. Where this suspension occurs on the final match of the competition, the ban will be in place for the next scheduled competition match for the next season.

4.3.3 If the player receives any further suspensions within the playing season of the competition, they shall be automatically banned for two (2) competition matches, commencing from the next scheduled competition match.

4.3.4 Where a player is ordered off in any competition match, they shall be automatically banned from participating for the entirety of the next competition match. Where this ordering off occurs on the final match of the competition, the ban will be in place for the next scheduled competition match for the next season.

4.3.5 Where a Team Official or bench player has been ordered from the playing enclosure they shall be automatically banned from participating for the entirety of the next competition match. Where this ordering off occurs on the final match of the competition, the ban will be in place for the next scheduled competition match for the next season.

## 4.4 Match Timings

4.4.1 All matches shall be of one hour's duration (i.e., four quarters of 15 minutes each)

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

## 4.5 Kit and Equipment

4.5.1 Where a clash of colours is deemed likely by the umpires the home team shall arrange a change of bibs to mitigate the colour clash to the satisfaction of the umpires.

4.5.2 Both teams are responsible for providing a suitable match ball which should be supplied to the table before the start of the match. The Umpires will decide which ball will be used for the duration of the match.

4.6 Match Officials – Please see NW Regional Umpire Criteria and List of Approved Umpires.

## 4.7 Technical Officials

4.7.1 The Technical Officials are the Scorers and Timekeepers and shall constitute the Officials Bench.

4.7.2 The Technical Officials do not need to have an EN membership and cannot hold any other role on match day

4.7.3 Each team must provide a competent scorer, either an umpire, technical official or a person with a working knowledge of scoring. Scorers will be required for all fixtures.



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4.7.4 The home team must provide at least 1 timekeeper for each match played.

4.7.5 If agreed in writing (email is sufficient) between both teams, the home team can provide all Technical Officials for a fixture.

4.7.6 Technical Officials must record all game management on the Running Score Sheet and Result Sheet which must be verified by the umpires.

4.7.7 Technical Officials must remain neutral, may not coach or comment during the game and have no other involvement during the match.

4.7.8 Scorers and Timekeepers may not be members of the squad named for that match and must officiate for the whole game.

## 4.8 Team Officials

4.8.1 A team may have up to five (5) Team Officials. These will include a coach and at least one Primary Care person. All Team Officials must hold appropriate membership to England Netball.

4.8.2 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) should wear Primary Carer identification.

c) is permitted on the court during a stoppage for injury/illness of a player or blood issues

d) 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

4.8.3 Team Officials may be fewer than specified and may therefore undertake several duties. However, primary care person/s must not also be players and it is preferable that they do not hold any other role.

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

4.8.5 The Team Bench will be situated as agreed with the Umpires.

## 4.9 Scoring

4.9.1 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 within 5 goals of the winners' score – i.e., 50-46 = 2 points, 50-45 = 1 point

d) One (1) point for a loss with more than 50 per cent of the winners' score

e) Zero (0) point for a loss with 50 per cent or less of the winners' score

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4.9.2 Regional League tables will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team. Where teams are level on points:

- a) Goal average (goals for divided by goals against) shall be used to determine their relative positions, i.e., the team with the higher average score 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 that gained the most points.

4.9.3 In the event that none of the above differentiate between the teams, the Competition Referee or its nominee shall determine the means of differentiation.

4.9.4 Where one of the teams 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.

### 4.10 Registration of Results

4.10.1 For all Regional League matches the Result Sheet and Running Score Sheet must be used and completed fully, checked by scorers, and signed by scorers, umpires, and captains.

4.10.2 ONLY the home team is required to submit the match day Score Sheet. A high-quality scan/photo should be sent by email to [nwnetballresults@gmail.com](mailto:nwnetballresults@gmail.com), **opposition and the NW Officiating Lead, Chris McCall ([nwofficiating@gmail.com](mailto:nwofficiating@gmail.com))** within twenty-four (24) hours of the match. (NO Running Score Sheet is required.)

4.10.3 A copy of the official Result Sheet and/or the Running Score Sheet may be requested by Northwest Netball from either the home or away team if there are any issues with the copy sent to Northwest Netball.

4.10.4 The winning team must message their match result via WhatsApp directly to Northwest Netball within two (2) hours of the end of the match to 07795257837 using the following format:

- League: eg Division 2
- Date of Fixture:
- Home Team and Score
- Away Team and Score
- Your Name

### 5 Competition Referee

5.1 As set out above, a Competition Referee will be appointed by the regional league administrators. The regional league administrators may appoint a separate Competition Referee solely for the Regional League Play-offs.

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5.2 The Competition Referee will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising throughout the Competition including, but not limited to:

5.2.1 altering or amending the playing schedule, as necessary.

5.2.2 determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction, including, but not limited to:

5.2.3 The use of a player without an active England Netball Membership in a fixture or fixtures will result in a deduction of three league points, but the result of the fixture will still stand.

5.2.4 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 three league points, but the result of the fixture will still stand.

5.2.5 Any player exceeding 25% of the allowed quarters at a higher level will result in a deduction of three league points per player per fixture, but the result of the fixture will still stand.

5.2.6 The use of an international, NSL or overseas player on an international sports person visa will result in a deduction of three league points per player per fixture but the result of the fixture will still stand.

5.2.7 The use of a National Prem player for Division 2 to 5 fixtures will result in a deduction of three league points per player per fixture but the result of the fixture will still stand

5.2.8 In the event that a team concedes a fixture (see Rules 4.2) the non-offending team will be awarded five points for the match and the conceding team will have five points deducted from their total.

5.2.9 Conceding on more than one occasion (i.e., two or more league fixtures) will result in expulsion from the League. Any team excluded from a league for conceding two or more fixtures will not be allowed to participate in the Regional League the following season - will miss the 2025/26 – but will be allowed to enter the qualifying tournament held in early September the following year.

5.2.10 Disqualification of any individual Player or Team.

5.3 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.

5.4 Maintaining and being responsible for a confidential Competition Referee Logbook, where appropriate.

5.5 Determining the score should any match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance.

5.6 Enforcing the decision by any medical advisor, including, but not limited to England Netball's appointed doctor or physiotherapist, regarding the participation of a player and whether they are able to:

5.6.1 Start the match.

or

Continue to play.

5.6.2 determining any matter not covered specifically within these Regulations.

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5.6.3 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.

## 6 Competition Complaints Procedure

6.1 All queries and complaints (“a Complaint”) should be directed to the Competition Referee in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows:

6.2 During the Regional League Competition stage, 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 Match.
- 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.

6.3 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 6.2 is binding apart from where parties to the Complaint ‘have the right’ to appeal the decision under Section 7 below.

6.4 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 England Netball.

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

## 7 Appeal of the Competition Referees Decision

7.1 The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a Complaint submitted in accordance with section 6.1 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

7.2 If the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition; AND

7.3 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 on the basis of an error of fact.

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

7.5 An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the Team Manager of the appealing Team to the Community Competition and Events Manager within seventy-two (72) hours of their receiving the decision of the Competition Referee.

7.6 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.

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7.7 The NW Chair 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. The CAC will usually but not exclusively be three members of England Netball's Executive Team.

7.8 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.

7.9 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.

7.10 The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy-two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions.

7.11 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.

7.12 The CAC shall have the delegated power of England 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.

7.13 The procedures set out in this Section 7 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.

7.14 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, as far as such waiver may be validly made.

7.15 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 7 shall be English Law.

7.16 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.

7.17 In order to adhere to the timescales, set out in this Section 7, all communication will take place via electronic mail to the contact held on England Netball's administration system for the Competition, which is confirmed in the Registration Pack at the start of the season or if this is left blank, the contact provided to on ENgage. It is the participating Teams' responsibility to ensure that these contact details are kept up to date.

### 8 Miscellaneous

8.1 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.

8.2 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.

8.3 These Regulations shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law.

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8.4 Any questions regarding these Regulations can be addressed to the Competition Referee via the league administrators:

- Jane Moodie (janesnetball4all@gmail.com)
- Pat Evans (patevans57@msn.com)
- Phil Thomas (philnthomas@sky.com)
- Jane Chisnall (cjchiz@blueyonder.co.uk)

8.5 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 Northwest Netball website.