

REGIONAL PREMIER & CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS



Your Competition Referees are

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1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

1.1 The Regional Leagues shall be governed 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 (Competitions).

1.2 The decisions of the Regional Management Board, or its nominee(s), in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the Regional Leagues 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).

1.3 These rules and regulations shall be subject and secondary to the application of England Netball's rules and regulations, especially Playing Regulations 3.4 and 4.

1.4 It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players are conversant with rules and regulations.

THESE RULES APPLY TO THE NW REGIONAL PREMIER AND CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUES 2016-2017 ONLY.

2. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Application for entry to the Regional Leagues shall be open to any club or team which is affiliated to England Netball through a County Association, which has paid its subscription 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.

2.2 Entry to the Regional Leagues will be determined by the Regional Management Board - TSG at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the rules and regulations laid out herein. In the same way, such casual vacancies as may appear from time to time will be addressed by the Regional Management - TSG in whatever way it sees fit.

2.3 The fee will be determined by the NWRB – TGS (Competitions).

2.4 No club may enter more than one team in the Regional Premier League however the Regional Championship can have more than one club team as this is our development league.

2.5 By entering a team in the Regional League, clubs/teams 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 Regional League
- Participate in a sporting manner and play within the spirit of the game

2.6 In order to qualify to participate in the Regional League, a player shall be in membership of England Netball as a Registered Participant via one of the following qualifications:

- Through affiliation to a club or a County Association
- Clubs/players must be able to produce current EN ID at fixtures

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2.7 All players must hold a current England Netball Affiliation, with registration to the club they are playing for in the Regional League (s).

2.8 All players must be over 14 at midnight on 31 August/1 September prior to the commencement of the Regional League(s). EN age banding rules apply. A copy of any permission should be emailed to nwcompnetball@gmail.com with team registration. All players must carry with them some form of proof of age as random checks may be carried out.

(see <http://www.englandnetball.co.uk/competitions> for more info and the form)

PENALTY FOR NOT ADHERING TO 2.7 or 2.8 – 3 POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED

2.9 Pregnant players may not take part in Regional League(s) matches beyond the twelfth week of pregnancy.

2.10 The Championship will contain 2 sections up to a max 11 teams per section. (Qualification where possible from a county league (such as Cheshire do) and/or by open entry with allocation of 4 teams per County). Note this year competition has been expanded due to popular demand.

2.11 The Premier will contain a maximum of 10 club teams, with the winner representing the NW in the EN Prem 3 play offs on an annual basis. Entries are via previous participation plus qualification from Championship league with final decision on entries made by the NW Competition TSG.

3. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS AND UMPIRES

3.1 Squad sheets for each participating team must be completed fully for each player and lodged with the Regional Management Board - TSG at least THREE (3) days prior to the commencement of the Regional League(s) (via email to nwcompnetball@gmail.com).

3.2 Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their squad registration list held by the Regional Management Board - TSG.

PENALTY – 2 POINTS DEDUCTED FROM ANY TEAM USING AN UNREGISTERED PLAYER (PER PLAYER)

3.3 Any additions to the squad sheets must be lodged with the Regional Management Board - TSG at least TWO days prior to playing the fixture (via email to nwcompnetball@gmail.com).

3.4 A player can only be registered on a maximum of 2 squad sheets across Senior Regional Competition but **NOT** play in the same section.

3.5 Each team may declare up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each match by completing a team sheet/result card.

3.6 Only players who have been recorded as having taken the court on Regional League(s) Netball Results Sheets in rounds prior to the Regional Play Offs for that season may play in the Play Offs -at least 5 rounds in the Championship and 10 rounds in the Premier.

3.7 Any player within their club who is selected for a super league team may play in the regional league up to the start of the super league. Once the super league season starts, a player may continue to play in the regional leagues if this is the highest competition that club plays in.

PENALTY – 2 POINTS DEDUCTED FROM ANY TEAM USING AN SUPERLEAGUE REGISTERED PLAYER AFTER THE SUPERLEAGUE HAS STARTED WHEN THEY HAVE A TEAM PLAYING IN A HIGHER COMPETITION (PER PLAYER PER MATCH)

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3.8 A player may only take the court in one Regional match per weekend (this being made up of up to 4 quarters across all Regional competition).

PENALTY – 2 POINTS DEDUCTED FROM BOTH TEAMS IF A PLAYER TAKES THE COURT FOR TWO TEAM FOR MORE THAN ONE MATCH OVER A WEEKEND.

3.9 A club must ensure that all umpires they utilise within the Senior Regional league is suitably qualified (see section 7) and that they have registered with the NW Officiating Officer via email mary.slade@netballnorthwest.co.uk

4. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

4.1 The Regional League will be contested between as many teams as shall be determined by the Regional Management Board – TSG from time to time. The number of teams will not normally be less than eight, or more than ten in any division.

4.2 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:

- 5 points for a win
- 3 points for a draw
- 2 points if within 5 goals of the winners' score – i.e. 50-46 = 2 points, 50-45 = 1 point
- 1 point for more than 50 per cent of the winners' score
- 0 points for a loss

4.3 A Regional League table will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team. Where two teams are level on points:

- Goal average 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
- 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
- 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
- Where one of the teams has its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals scored affected by cancellations, then the goals scored by and against defaulting team(s) shall be omitted from the calculations. For example, in the event that one team received 5 points for a cancelled fixture, then the goals scored by the other team against the offending team will not be included when its goal average or goal difference is calculated

4.4 The competition format will be determined by the TSG and revised dependant on the number of entries and is subject to change on agreement of the TSG for Competition. The format will be provided at the start of every season.

The Championship for 2016-2017 will consist of 2 sections playing each other once over 9/10 rounds.

The Premier for 2016-2017 will consist of up to 10 teams playing each other home and away over 18 rounds.

4.5 The team which finishes top of the Premier at the end of the season will be the winners of the competition. They will be eligible for entry to the EN Prem 3 play offs.

4.6 At the end of each season, any team or teams which are based in the region in which the

Regional League is played, and which are relegated from EN Prem 3, will be automatically included within the Regional Prem League for the following season.

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Please NOTE: Only one team per club may enter the Prem and therefore any development teams in the Championship will not be eligible to play in the Play offs. The next highest team will then be invited to play in the Play offs. If a Prem 3 team is relegated to the Regional Prem and that club already has a team in the Regional Prem, only one team from that club may take part in the Prem and the other team will be invited to play in the Championship.

4.7 The play off format is detailed in section 10 for 2016-2017 and details the new format for 2017 league.

4.8 At the end of each season, relegation may take place from the Regional League in accordance with procedures agreed between the Regional Management Board - TSG. Any team relegated from the Regional League will participate in the following season in the County League operated by the County Association within whose boundaries it is based if available. Similarly each county may nominate a team to contest a play off for entry into next season's Regional League if required.

5. FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 All matches will be played on an indoor court with adequate surrounds and ancillary facilities for approximately 30 participants, including changing and showering facilities for both sexes, unless otherwise agreed by the Regional Management Board - TSG.

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

5.3 The home team is responsible for providing hospitality for both teams, umpires and officials in the form of suitable refreshments served in a timely fashion after the match.

5.4 The home team must provide their opponents with confirmation in writing of the fixture, its start time, and travel directions (including a map) at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the fixture. *(Can all teams please register their venue and fixture dates with the nwcompnetball@gmail.com prior to the first fixture).*

5.5 All matches must be played on the weekend specified by the fixture schedule, and take place on either a Saturday or a Sunday, unless otherwise agreed by the Regional Management Board - TSG.

5.6 **The start time of each match** will be mutually agreed between the teams, but will not normally be later than 3:00 pm. Please discuss firstly with your opposition if this is not possible. Any dispute over start times will be determined by the Regional Management Board – TSG at its absolute discretion.

5.7 The away team will be responsible for arranging its own travel, and for the costs of this, and should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays. Any team which **fails to arrive within 30 minutes after the agreed start time** will forfeit the match, and the non-offending team will be awarded the points as winners by default. The match should be played and the final decision will be left to TSG.

5.8 No team may postpone or cancel a fixture without the agreement of the Regional Management Board - TSG. Matches which are postponed due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances, e.g., flash flood, heavy snowfall, must be played before the next scheduled fixture date unless otherwise agreed by the Regional Management Board - TSG.

5.9 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 two (2) league points deducted from their total
- **The team which cancels may be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team has incurred,** subject to the determination of the Regional Management Board – TSG

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- **Any fees must be paid by liable teams before the end of the season. If these are not paid prior to applications going out, that team's entry will not be accepted until the payment issue is resolved.**

5.10 If a fixture is postponed or cancelled, it is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that the Regional Management Board – TSG and the other team are informed immediately the postponement or cancellation is known. Each team is responsible for notifying their officials, venue etc

5.11 In the event that a match which are abandoned for any reason, e.g., because of serious injury, the result of that match will be determined by the Regional Management Board - TSG, having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.

6. MATCH REGULATIONS

6.1 All games shall be played to the IFNA Rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time, except where specific regulations may apply.

6.2 All matches shall be of one hour's duration (i.e., four quarters of 15 minutes each Intervals of 2 mins at quarter times, 5 mins at half time).

7. UMPIRES & SCORERS

7.1 PREMIER - Umpires must hold a current Netball Europe Umpire 'B' Award or **above**.

CHAMPIONSHIP - Umpires must hold a current Netball Europe Umpire 'B' Award or **above or have been successfully assessed as competent by the county umpiring secretary to apply for a 'B' Award Test**.

All umpires must be registered with the umpiring secretary via nwcompnetball@gmail.com prior to officiating on a game.

PENALTY – 2 POINTS DEDUCTED

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

- If another umpire [*of the equivalent standard*] is available then she/he will umpire the match
- Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire should be used
- The Regional Management Board – TSG must be informed immediately after the match.

7.3 All umpires to register their Bleep Test Results with Mary Slade and for B's, with England Netball as per the requirements laid down by the England Netball Officiating Manager. Only those B's with valid forms will be used at Semi and Finals stages of the League.

7.4 Scorers will be required for all fixtures. Each team must provide a competent scorer.

7.5 Each team should ideally provide a timekeeper for each match played. Failing this, it will be the responsibility of the home team to provide a timekeeper, who will be responsible for timing the match.

7.6 **Umpires must be involved in no more than two** Regional League matches in any one day ie either as a player or as an umpire, except at the discretion of the NW Officials. Permission to be sort via email to mary.slade@netballnorthwest.co.uk .

8. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

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8.1 The home team is required to complete official result sheet after each match, including by entering the names of each player.

8.2 The official result sheet must be checked by scorers and signed by both captains and umpires and the top copy emailed to nwcompnetball@gmail.com and to the opposition (for their records) to be received within four (4) working days of the match. *NO PAPER COPIES ACCEPTED. Please put the name of the game and date in the subject matter of your email starting with the competition eg U14 Blackpool v Capricorn 11/10/14 or Champs Trafford Y v Chester 27/9/14 or Prem Chester v Bramhall 27/9/14.*

8.3 Both teams are to register the score via text to **07516 804278** on the same day as the match.

Please use the following format U14Blkpool v Caps 40 – 40 from Gabs Blkpool or Champs Traff Y v Chester 50-50 from Barbara Chester

9. QUERIES, COMPLAINTS & APPEALS (Please note this section to be updated during the season)

9.1 Any team which intends to raise a query or complaint regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must inform their opponents on the day of the match.

9.2 Any queries or complaints regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must be submitted in writing to the Regional Management Board – TSG within two (2) working days. Advance notice of such query or dispute should also be provided by telephone within 48 hours of the end of the fixture.

9.3 All queries, complaints and disputes regarding the playing of a match and/or its result will be determined in the first instance by a sub-committee convened by the Regional Management Board – TSG, which will use best endeavours to determine the issue within ten (10) days of receipt of the complaint.

9.4 The Regional Management Board - TSG will have the power to determine the penalty to be imposed on teams and players who are in breach of these rules and regulations regarding the playing of matches in the Regional League. Such penalties will include reprimands, deduction of league points, fines, suspensions, and expulsion from the competition, except as specified below:

- The use of an EN unaffiliated player will result in a deduction of 3 league points
- The use of an unregistered player or a player, who is under age without written permission from the Regional Talent Coach, will result in a deduction of 3 league points
- Failure to play on more than one occasion will result in expulsion from the League. If a team cancels, the offending team will meet any costs incurred by the non-offending team.

9.5 In the event that any team wishes to appeal against the decision of this sub-committee, it must notify the Regional Management Board - TSG within two (2) working days of receipt of the decision. An Appeals panel will be convened and consist where possible of persons from neighbouring regions. The decision of the Appeals Panel will be final and binding on all parties. The Appeals Panel will have the power to:

- Endorse the decision of the Regional Management Board – TSG, and uphold any penalty imposed
- Endorse the decision of the Regional Management Board – TSG, and increase or decrease any penalty imposed
- Overturn the decision of the Regional Management Board - TSG, and increase, decrease or remove any penalty imposed

9.6 Any team which wishes to appeal more generally against the governance and management of the Regional League by the Regional Management Board - TSG, or against

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specific decisions made by it, must also observe the procedures laid out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations 10 and 12.

9.7 Any teams which fail to observe the procedures laid out in the preceding clauses will invalidate their right to raise a query, complaint or appeal.

9.8 No team may claim victory by default in any match without first submitting itself to the procedures laid out in these rules and regulations.

9.9 Any complaint which does not concern the playing of a match and/or its result, but which is made in respect of a disciplinary offence, will be addressed in the first instance by an Investigation Committee convened under and acting in accordance with in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations of England Netball. Such Committee shall have the power to refer the complaint to a Disciplinary Panel, which shall proceed in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations of England Netball.

9.10 Any team wishing to video record a RL match must give the opposing side, team officials and match officials at least 5 clear days notice prior to the game to allow for all parental permission, required under the duty of care, to be obtained. All permissions must be in written form and signed by all contacts.

A match official/team official who wishes to video record must also go through the same procedure.

9.11 ALL CLUBS WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OVERALL CONDUCT OF THEIR PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND SPECTATORS.

9.12 ITS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH TEAM TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FIRST AID COVER FOR ITS PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS, WHICH SHALL ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MATCH OFFICIAL ON REQUEST.

9.13 The NW TSG for competition may review and amend these regulations if England Netball amends the Premier League Regulations for 2016-2017 following changes communicated by England Netball.

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10. Play off's and 2017 Competition Format - Champs

The entry to Div 1 and Div 2 will be by results in 2017, with places 2-4 in Section A and B forming the top 6; 5thA v 6thB and 5thB v 6th A will play off for the 9th and 10th slot. Note the 1st and 2nd slot will be the result of the Prem play off - top 2 in each section will also play off against the bottom 2 of the Prem to decide on the promotion to the Prem, with the remainder falling into Div 1. (See diagram)

If NW P1 is promoted, then 3 will go up in both sections.

Only one team per club allowed in Prem 1 and Champs Div 1 – if multiple entries requested for Div 2, committee would decide based on demographics of entrants.

Only Senior clubs allowed entry into Senior Champs (noted that U16 teams / players may participate within age banding rules and for personal development) but Junior Clubs have access to their own competition, namely the NW Regional Junior League.

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Summary of 2017 Comp

2017			
	Prem	Champs Section A	Champs Section B
	1st	1st	1st
	2nd	2nd	2nd
	3rd	3rd	3rd
	4th	4th	4th
	5th	5th	5th
	6th	6th	6th
	7th	7th	7th
	8th	8th	8th
	9th	9th	9th
	10th	10th	10th
EN Play offs	1st Prem = EN Play offs		
NW Prem Play offs	9th & 10th Prem & 1st A, 1st B		
NW Div 1 Play offs	5thA v 6thB & 5thB v 6thA		

Start of 2018			
Prem		Champs Div 1	Champs Section B
1st		1st	1st
2nd		2nd	2nd
3rd		3rd	3rd
4th		4th	4th
5th		5th	5th
6th		6th	6th
7th		7th	7th
8th		8th	8th
Top 2 (or 3 if promotion to EN Prem) of NW Play off		9th	9th
		10th	10th

2019			
Prem		Champs Div 1	Champs Section B
1 st		9th	9th
2nd		10th	10th
3 rd		3rd	3rd
4th		4th	4th
5th		5th	5th
6th		6th	6th
7th		7th	7th
8th		8th	8th
1st		1st	9th
2nd		2nd	10th

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The Play off Finals will be the following fixtures:

Court 1	Court 2
9P v 10P	1A v 1B
5A v 6B	9P v 1A
10P v 1B	6A v 5B
9P v 1B	10P v 1A

Exact regulations including match length to be confirmed before the event.