

REGIONAL SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP & PREMIER LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS



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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 SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP AND PREMIER LEAGUES 2013 – 2014 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

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- Clubs/players must be able to produce current EN ID at fixtures

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 16 at midnight on 31 August/1 September prior to the commencement of the Regional League(s). Any talented U16 player may be used SUBJECT TO written permission from Regional Talent Coach and/or County Academy Coach. A copy of this permission should be forwarded to the NW Regional Office with team registration. All players must carry with them some form of proof of age as random checks may be carried out.

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 10 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)

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. 2013 entry by invitation (the previous Northern League clubs from the NW plus top 4 regional teams).

3. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

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 the NW office).

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 the NW office).

3.4 A player can only be registered on a maximum of 2 squad sheets across Senior Regional Competition.

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 Senior Regional match per weekend.

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

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 2013-2014 will consist of 2 sections playing each other once over 9 rounds.

The Premier for 2013-2014 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.

The winners of the 2 sections of the Championship will play against the bottom 2 placed teams in the Prem in a play off competition. This is a round robin event with the top 2 teams taking up 2 places in the Prem and the bottom 2 teams invited into the Championship.

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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.

Please NOTE: 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 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) ten (10) days prior to the date of the 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. 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

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

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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).

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 to apply for a 'B' Award Test**.

'C' Umpire with approved mentor working towards their B assessment may be used to who have been endorsed by approved personnel the County Umpiring Secretaries via the NW Officials Officer. Please get approval prior to match fixture and lodge this with the NW office.

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 We would encourage all B award umpires to register their Bleep Test Results with England Netball as per the requirements laid down by the England Netball Officiating Manager. Only those 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 NOT be involved in 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 TSG Competition. Disciplinary action may be taken.

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8. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

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

8.2 The official result sheet must be checked by scorers and signed by both captains and umpires and the top copy sent to the Regional Office to be received within four (4) working days of the match. Each team will also keep a copy of the sheet.

8.3 Both teams are to register the score via the following web link the same day as the match.

<http://www.netballnorthwest.org.uk/nw-championship.html>

PENALTY FOR LATE RESULTS (EITHER TO OFFICE OR VIA WEBSITE)

– 1 POINTS DEDUCTED

9. QUERIES, COMPLAINTS & APPEALS

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, Karen Greig, 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

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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 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.

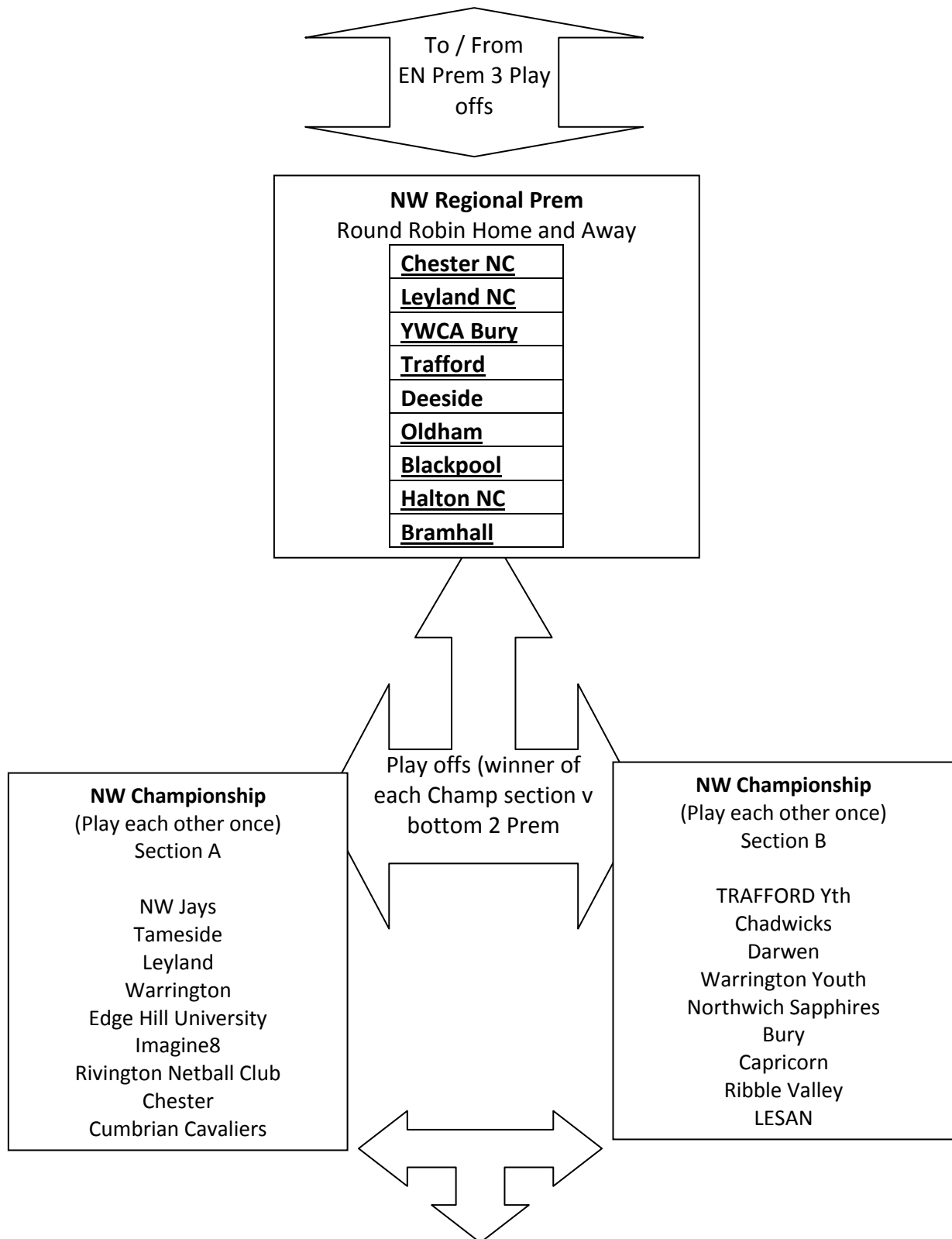
9.12 IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH TEAM TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FIRST AID COVER FOR ITS PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS, WHICH SHALL ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MATCH OFFICIAL ON REQUEST.

9.13 The NW TSG for competition may review and amend these regulations if England Netball amends the Premier League Regulations for 2012/13 following changes communicated by England Netball.

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2013/14 Competition Format



Regional entry via the Counties of Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester,
Lancashire & Cumbria