

NW REGIONAL LEAGUE U14 & U16 RULES & REGULATIONS 2013/2014

For 2013/2014, if you have any queries, your NW Technical Support Group Representative is for:

U14's	Pat Evans	tel 07806795490	patevans57@msn.com
U16's	Pat Evans	tel 07806795490	patevans57@msn.com

1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 The Regional League shall be governed and managed by the Regional Management Board, which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to 1.2 The decisions of the Regional Management Board, , 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).
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players are conversant with rules and regulations.

2. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 Entry to the Regional League is for teams which affiliates to a County Associations; each County Association decides on their rules of entry i.e. via application or competition.
- 2.2 Entry to the Regional League 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 In order to qualify a team to participate in the Regional League, clubs shall either be accredited under England Netball's CAPS scheme, or working towards the same.
- 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
- 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 and County Association
 - Clubs/players must be able to produce current EN ID at fixtures
 - Youth Club Affiliation NOT permitted
- 2.7 All players must have their membership lodged with the England Netball Head Office, and their subscription paid, prior to their participation in the Regional League
- 2.8 All players must be over 12 at midnight on 31 August/1 September to qualify for the under 14's. All players must be over 14 at midnight on 31 August/1st September to qualify for the under 16's prior to the commencement of the Regional League. All players must carry with them some form of proof of age as random checks may be carried out.

WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM A COUNTY OR REGIONAL COACH MUST BE PROVIDED WITH THE REGISTRATION SHEET FOR ANY TALENTED PLAYERS TO PLAY OUTSIDE OF THE AGE BANDS ABOVE.

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

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

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 fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the Regional League.

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 three (3) days prior to playing the fixture.

3.4 *Once a player has been named on any regional junior league squad sheet (U14 or U16) **and** has taken the court (no matter how short the time period), she cannot transfer to play for another team or club within the Junior Regional League during the course of the current playing season. (amended for 2012/13)*

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.

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 top two teams in the U16 Regional League will qualify for entry to the National Finals
- The top two teams in the U14 Regional League will qualify for entry to the National Finals.

5. FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS – Please note all fixtures will be required to be registered with the NW office by 30th Sept 2013.

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 with the exception of any central fixtures.

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 both umpires are informed immediately the postponement or cancellation is known.

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 four quarters of 15 minutes each. Intervals of 2 mins at quarter times, 5 mins at half time (as decided by the NW TSG Sept 09).

7. UMPIRES & SCORERS

7.1 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 or be endorsed by the County Umpiring Sec as below.**

'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.

If neither of the above are available, a 'C' Umpire with knowledge and experience of umpiring protocols used at B level, endorsed by approved personnel the County Umpiring Secretaries via the NW Officials Officer. Please get approval prior to match fixture.

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 In conjunction with England Netball, the Regional Management Board – TSG will have responsibility for procedures which ensure that umpires conform to a standard of physical fitness which allows them to keep pace with the speed and variability of the game(s) i.e. Level 5.0 on the Bleep Test.

7.4 Scorers will be required for all fixtures. Each team must provide a competent scorer who is either a 'C' Award umpire, or certified as competent by his/her County Association prior to the start of the season.

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.

8. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

8.1 The home team is responsible for ensuring the completion of an Official England Netball Results sheet, with both teams entering their squad names prior to the start of the match.

8.2 Umpires to sign the score sheet at the completion of the match along with a representative from each club (this can be the table official).

8.3 The home team is to keep a copy and provide a copy to the away team.

8.4 The home team MUST post or scan/email a copy of the score sheet to the NW office to be received within 14 days of match.

8.5 Within the day of the match, BOTH teams register the result on the NW website.

<http://www.netballnorthwest.org.uk/nw-juniors.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 receiving 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, the deduction of league points, fines, suspensions, and expulsion from the competition, except as specified below:

- The use of an 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 Head Scout or the Member of High Performance, will result in a deduction of 2 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. In this event, the matter will be considered under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations (*New for 2013*), which allows for an Appeals Panel to be convened. 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 specific decisions made by it, must also observe the procedures laid out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations (*new for 2013*).

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 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.

10 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISOS

10.1 All clubs will be held responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials and spectators.

10.2 It's the responsibility of each team to provide adequate first aid cover for its player and officials, which shall also be made available to the match officials on request.

10.3 Clothing

- No form of glove may be worn when playing netball. If gloves are required for medical reasons, the umpires may allow gloves to be worn on production of an appropriate medical certificate and provided that they are satisfied that any gloves worn do not present an obvious hazard to other players.
- All jewellery must be removed when playing netball and players wearing jewellery including body piercing will not be allowed on court. The following exceptions apply:
 - Wedding rings may be worn but must be taped.
 - Medical alert bracelets may be worn but must be secured in such a manner that they will not constitute a danger to an opponent i.e. with clear tape, covered by a sweat band and in such a way that it cannot be removed / lifted off by an accidental contact.
 - Necklaces for religious reasons. These must be securely taped and covered by clothing which does not contravene the rules on playing uniforms. Alternatively, the necklace can be worn on the wrist as for a medical alert bracelet.
- If scarves need to be worn because of religious practices, the player and the coach must ensure the material used for the head covering is soft, without embellishments which might constitute a danger and with potential flowing / flapping edges held securely around the neck or tucked into the shirt collar as neatly and securely as possible.

2013 / 14 Competition Format

The NW Junior league will consist up to 16 teams will be made up of the following:

Cheshire / Lancashire / Manchester	4 teams each
Cumbria / Merseyside	2 teams each

County associations will provide the NW TSG with 4 or 2 club names per age group (U14 and U16) plus one extra wild card if they have one. Cheshire have provided clubs from their county league willing to take part to fill gaps not filled by the other NW counties.

These teams will be split equally across 2 sections via a random draw of names entered from a hat. Modifications may be made to the groups to align the fixtures with the regional senior league.

There will be up to 7 rounds where each section play each other once. The rounds are played home and away. Then at a central venue, if possible, all teams will play a placings game with the qualifiers for the nationals being the following matches (named the Semi Finals):

Section 1	1 st v	section 2	2 nd
Section 2	1 st v	section 1	2 nd

The winners of the above games will play a placings game (provisionally before a Thunder game to be confirmed) named the finals.

The NW TSG encourages clubs to share umpires and officials and offer assistance where possible to travelling opponents as a sporting gesture.

The entry fees will pay for the central venues and prizes with the final subsidised by the NW.