

## LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS 2021-2022 - WINTER

A number of rules around players have been relaxed for the Winter Season, to provide additional flexibility so teams can cope should issues arise due to Covid. Most of these relaxations require the permission of the Competition Referee. We will endeavour to respond quickly to requests but teams should allow at least 24 hours for an answer to be received. Applications should only be made for Covid related emergencies and not if a team finds themselves short of players one week. The amended rules are highlighted in yellow and red text, please read them carefully.

### 1. General

Tyne and Wear County Netball League is a county competition organised by Tyne and Wear County Netball Association (TWCNA) to enable clubs in their county to compete and encourage participation and development in netball through a progressive league structure.

These regulations outline the Rules upon which the **Winter County League** will be run. The Regulations **must** be followed by all teams, players, officials, spectators and administrators in the management, administration and operation of the County League. It is the responsibility of Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players, club officials and supporters are conversant with the following rules and regulations. **All clubs will be held responsible for the actions and behaviour of their players, officials and spectators.**

By entering a team in the Tyne and Wear winter county 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 County League

**The decisions of the Tyne and Wear County Netball Association (TWCNA), or its nominee(s), in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to its Leagues not provided for below, shall be considered final and binding on all parties (subject to the right of appeal detailed in Section 9). These rules and regulations shall be subject and secondary to the application of England Netball's rules and regulations.**

### 2. Competition Structure

2.1 The County League will consist of as many divisions as the entry warrants and can be catered for within available court time. Entry will be determined by TWCNA at its absolute discretion. Priority will be given to teams from existing league clubs or new teams based in the Tyne and Wear county netball geographical area. New teams which are based in other 'netball counties' are not eligible for entry into the Tyne and Wear County Leagues.

2.2 All new entrants to the T&W County League will be required to enter at the lowest division.

2.3 Teams wishing to enter any of TWCNA's leagues must attend the relevant meetings and seminars and must pay the required league fee when entering. League Fees will be set annually by the TWCNA. Late payment of fees will incur an incremental increase! **From this season all fees must be paid electronically, no cheques or cash will be accepted.**

**Sanction: Existing Clubs who do not attend the relevant entry meeting and subsequently apply for entry may be relegated to a lower division or may incur a financial penalty of up to £20 – this will be at the discretion of the TWCNA.**

2.4 At the end of each league season the teams finishing top of each Division will be the winners of their division.

2.5 At the end of each league season the two teams finishing at the top of each division will be promoted to the divisions above. The exceptions to this are:

- 2.5.1 Division 3L & 3R where only the top placed club will be promoted to Division 2.
- 2.5.2 Division 6 where up to 4 teams may be promoted to Division 5L and 5R at the discretion of TWCNA.

2.6 At the end of each season the two teams finishing at the bottom of each division will be relegated to the divisions below. There will be no relegation from the lowest division(s). **For the 2021-22 season – where final league placings are significantly affected by a number of conceded matches the Competition Group may review the final standings and exclude the results of conceded matches in the final table.**

2.7 In exceptional circumstances TWCNA reserve the right to make decisions relating to relegation and promotion which are in the best interests of its members.

2.8 A Competition Referee will be appointed by TWCNA for the County Leagues. The Competition Referee will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising throughout the Competition including, but not limited to:

- 2.8.1 altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary;
- 2.8.2 determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction (including disqualification of any individual, player or team)
- 2.8.3 instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour that brings the sport into disrepute including instances of team predetermining, or attempting to predetermine the outcome of the Match and/or the competition making recommendations to the County Committee on promotion issues and carry over of points penalties
- 2.8.4 Determine the score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance
- 2.8.5 Any matter not covered specifically within the Regulations.

2.9 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. Decisions will be reported to the TWCNA and the final decision, and accountability for any decision, will rest with TWCNA.

### **3. Player Eligibility**

3.1 To be eligible to participate all players, coaches and officials must be in membership of England Netball having paid the full membership fee due (England Netball fee, plus Regional add on, plus County add on). Players must ensure they confirm their membership on the ENgage system in advance of taking the court.

3.2 All players must be aged 14 years or over as at midnight 31st August/1st September prior to the commencement of the League. Written applications (accompanied by a completed Age Banding Form) can be made to the Performance Officer for consideration of a player aged 13 at midnight 31st August/1st September to be allowed to compete. In this case the player's skill and maturation level will be reviewed by the County Performance Officer in conjunction with relevant County or Regional Coaches or whoever they feel relevant.

3.3 A player may play for no more than 2 Clubs in any county league. **For the 2021-22 winter season players may be allowed to play for 3 clubs in exceptional circumstances – applications for this exemption must be made to the Competition Referee.**

3.3 A player who is a member of England Netball via a Tyne and Wear County Club, may play for that club in the County Leagues without paying any additional fees. If this player then chooses to play for a second club in the County League they must attach themselves to that Club on ENgage **AND** pay an extra player fee of £10. This fee covers the player to play for that club in both the Winter and Spring Leagues. If they choose to play for a further Club at some point during the season they must pay the extra player fee for that club too.

3.4 A player who is a member of England Netball via a non-Tyne and Wear county club must pay the extra player fee of £10 for each club they wish to play for in the County Leagues. This fee covers the player to play for that club in both the Winter and Spring Leagues. If they choose to play for a different Club at some point during the season they must pay the extra player fee again for that club, fees are not transferrable.

3.5 At the start of each county league teams must submit their squads for the season, this is done via an online form, one for each team in the Club. After this time only players who are 'new to the league' may be added to squads. 'New to the league' is defined as a player who has not taken the court for a team or been nominated to a

team in the current T&W County League. These players must be added as members to that club on Engage and allocated to a squad. If appropriate they may have to pay the extra player fee of £10 too.

**For the 2021-22 winter season clubs with 2 teams or less may be allowed to replace a squad member who for some reason has to withdraw during the course of the league. This player will be removed from the squad list and will be ineligible to play. Should the original player be able to return during the competition, they may do this but their replacement will be removed from the squad. Applications must be made to the Competition Referee for permission to remove and replace squad members mid-season.**

**In addition to the above single team clubs may name up to 4 'pay when play' players to help boost their squad during the Winter League 2021-22.**

- 3.6 Players may play for up to two clubs in the County Leagues subject to 3.1 to 3.5 above and the following:
- **Division 1 or 2.** A player may only play for one club in these divisions. Where a Club has teams in both divisions then players may play up from the lower placed club to a higher placed club subject to the rules around playing up in Section 4.
  - **Below Division 2.** A player may play for more than one club in the divisions below Division 2, but may only play for one club in any one division. Note that Division 3L and Division 3R are deemed separate divisions, and similarly 4L and 4R, etc..

**For the 2021-22 winter league clubs who are significantly affected (due to Covid) by 3.6 may apply to the Competition Referee for exceptions to this rule. 'Works' or small clubs in particular who have specific limits on the players available to them may be eligible for consideration.**

**Sanction: Teams who play an unaffiliated, ineligible or under age player will forfeit any points awarded for the game played. The five points will be awarded to the non-offending team and a score of 20-5 recorded. The offending team may incur an additional points penalty at the discretion of the TWCNA. Subsequent contraventions may incur a financial penalty at the discretion of the TWCNA.**

#### **4. Nomination of Squads**

- 4.1 All players within a club must be nominated to a team. A minimum of 7 players (no maximum) must be nominated for every team. Nominations for the two county leagues (winter and spring) are entirely separate.
- 4.1.1 All clubs must submit their nominations on the night of the first match prior to the start of the League. An online form will be made available for submission of squads.
- 4.1.2 Players who are members via a different County should be highlighted on the form by stating their Club name in brackets after their name.

**Sanction: Clubs submitting nominations after their deadline or failing to pay required fees may incur a points or financial penalty at the discretion of the TWCNA.**

- 4.2 Where a club has more than one team the following limitations will apply:
- 4.2.1 A higher nominated player cannot play for a lower nominated team within their club. **For the 2021-22 Winter League a Club may apply to the Competition Referee for an exception to this on 2 occasions.**
  - 4.2.2 A lower nominated player may 'play up' for a higher nominated team within their club **on a total of 4 (four) occasions in the Winter League.** After the fourth time they play up the Club must inform the Competition Referee of their new nominated team **and that player will not be eligible to play up again for the remainder of the season.**
  - 4.2.3 Players 'playing up' on any occasion must be marked on the team sheet with an asterisk.

**Sanction: Teams found to be in contravention of the Nomination Rules above will forfeit any points awarded for the games played. The five points will be awarded to the non-offending team and a score of 20-5 recorded. The**

**offending team may incur an additional points penalty at the discretion of the TWCNA. Subsequent contraventions may incur a financial penalty at the discretion of the TWCNA.**

## **5. Fixture Arrangements**

5.1 All matches must be played as per the fixture schedule published by TWCNA. Fixtures will only be rearranged in the event that the venue is deemed unplayable. In the event that the venue is unplayable, every effort will be made to contact clubs and inform them of the cancellation but no financial compensation will be payable in the event of expenses incurred.

5.2 Application may be made to the Competition Referee if match clashes arise from progression in a national or regional netball event (this will not include clashes with other local leagues).

5.3 In the event that a team cannot fulfil a playing fixture they should offer the opposing team a friendly. **With the relaxation of rules for the 2021-22 Winter League it is hoped that all matches can take place as a friendly at least.** Sanction for conceding a match: the non-offending team will be awarded the 5 points for the match and a score of 20-5 will be recorded.

- 5.3.1 If a friendly cannot be offered the team cancelling must inform the opposing team, the clubs providing the two umpires for the match and the Competition Referee as soon as possible. **The non-offending team may request up to £25 from the team cancelling.** This money is to compensate the non-offending team for the match lost and to pay for their umpire. It is up to the non-offending team to request the money and arrange payment.
- 5.3.2 When playing a friendly the team conceding must inform both umpires and the opposition captain that the match is a friendly before the match starts.

5.4 In the event that both teams concede a match then a score of 0-0 will be recorded and neither team will receive any points for the match.

5.5 ~~Any team who concede more than 2 of their 9 matches during the course of a season will automatically have all their results for that season declared void.~~ **For the 2021-22 winter league this rule has been removed.**

5.6 Every Club will be required to administer at least one night of matches during each of the leagues. Sanction: Failure to attend for a 'duty night' will incur a £10 fine.

## **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 local regulations apply (as outlined in these regulations). England Netball Domestic Rules Guidance will also apply where applicable. **For the 2021-22 winter league there will also be match procedures around sanitisation and social distancing which must be followed.**

6.2 Matches will consist of four 12 minute quarters with intervals of 2, 3 and 2 minutes respectively. Central timing will be administered by the duty team. If a team is not on court at the starting time, the umpires after discussion with the Captain(s), may award the match to the team on court. Even if the game is awarded to the team on court at the starting time, a friendly should be played if possible and the umpires must remain on court to officiate this match. Matches decided in this matter will be dealt with as per conceded matches.

6.3 Following the changes to the IFNA Rules of Netball in the event of a player being suspended the following will apply:

**Division 1 & 2** - Scorers must ensure that they are ready to time the 2 minutes in the event that a player is suspended. So all scorers must have with them either a stopwatch or a phone with a timer.

**Division 3 and below** - as we operate on central timing it isn't practicable for the team on duty to time any suspension. So in Division 3 and below the penalty for a suspended player will be 3 goals.

6.4 Injury/Illness/Blood procedures will be as per IFNA Regulations (9.3) subject to the following: there is no additional time available to extend a match, so any stoppages will mean a reduction in playing time for those teams. Time will not be added at the end of a match to cover for stoppages.

**It is the responsibility of each team to provide basic first aid cover for its players, officials and spectators. A small selection of bandages and tape will be available from the Duty Box.**

6.5 In the event of an accident, the reporting procedure as detailed on the England Netball website should be followed and the accident recorded in the venue's accident reporting book. This procedure should be followed for ALL injuries and accidents, regardless of whether or not medical treatment is given. Copies of the England Netball Accident Reporting Form are available in the Duty Box.

6.6 In the event that a match is abandoned after it has started, the result or rearrangement of that match will be determined by the Competition Referee. The score, time and circumstances of the abandonment should be noted on the team sheet. For games abandoned in the last five minutes of the match the score at the time the game stopped will stand and there will be no replay organised.

6.7 Teams are required to provide Bibs and a Ball which meet IFNA regulations. Sanction: In the event that a match fails to go ahead due to lack of Bibs or a Ball the relevant team(s) will be deemed to have conceded the game and the relevant penalty applied.

6.8 Teams **should** take the court in matching kit which as a minimum must not clash with their opponents. **For the 2021-22 Winter League this may not be possible due to the relaxation of rules but teams should still aim to play in kit which is similar in colour, and skirts/dresses should be worn if possible. Where clashes or issues arise with kit the umpires should be approached before the match and a solution found using common sense to ensure that players are not unduly affected and matches go ahead.**

6.9 Photography or video recording is not permitted at any match without the following being in place before the match commences:

- 6.8.1 the agreement of the opposing team
- 6.8.2 both umpires have been informed and have no significant objections
- 6.8.3 the appropriate paperwork (see county website) has been completed and is available for inspection by any umpire, player or coach, prior to the start of the match

## **7. Registration of Results**

7.1 Each team must submit an electronic Team Sheet for every match **within 48 hours of the match** showing:

- full names of all players who took the court, as they appear on ENgage
- asterisks should be placed after the surname of any player who is playing up,
- full names of all players present who did not take the court – this is for Covid purposes,
- full names of anyone who was present on the bench – this is for Covid purposes,
- the final score & name of winning team
- the name of the Umpire who umpired on your behalf on that evening

**Sanction: Teams who submit an incorrect team sheet or who fail to submit team sheets will incur a financial penalty of £2 per sheet. Teams who regularly fail to submit sheets may also receive a points penalty at the discretion of the TWCNA Committee.**

7.2 Points will be awarded as follows: 5 points for a win, 3 points for a draw, 1 point for more than half score, 2 points for a loss within 3 goals of the winning score, ie: 21-24.

7.3 A League Table will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded. The results and league table will be accessible at all times via the County website. Final league positions will be ranked by points, then if required by

goal average, goals difference and finally goals scored (higher taking preference). If none of these differentiate between the teams then the scores in the matches played between the teams over the course of the season shall be calculated and ranked as per the league table detailed above. If this fails to differentiate between the teams then the TWCNA shall determine the means of differentiation.

## 8. Match Officials

8.1 For every match played there will be a reciprocal requirement for a team to provide an umpire. All costs associated with the provision of their umpire rests with the relevant club.

~~8.2—All Clubs playing in the Tyne and Wear league must nominate an “active umpire” for each team they have in the county league. An Active Umpire is one who meets the requirements detailed in 8.3 and in addition umpires at least 5 matches for each nominated team. Individual Umpires may be nominated a maximum of 2 times. Allowances will be made for regular club umpires who are injured or pregnant. The Umpiring Secretary should be informed in a timely manner of any issues which arise during the season. This rule will take effect from the Spring 2019 League.~~ **The Active Umpire rule has been removed for the 2021-22 Winter Season.**

8.3 All umpires who officiate in the Tyne and Wear County league must:

- a. hold a full membership of England Netball
- b. achieve fitness at a county or regional Bleep Test as shown below:
  - i. Level 4.1 to umpire in Division 3 and below
  - ii. Level 5.1 to umpire in Division 1 or 2.
- c. attend at least one County Umpiring Seminar every year and more if required
- d. be qualified as below:
  - i. Division 1 – B Award or above
  - ii. Division 2 – B Award or above or C Award holder actively working toward their B Award and with a mentor observing (they must have the prior permission of the Officiating Secretary).
  - iii. All other divisions – C award or above. Divisions 5 & 6 may be umpired by trainee umpires who have been approved by the Officiating Secretary and have a mentor observing. **There is a progression process that all newly qualified or returning umpires must adhere to in order to progress above Division 5. C Award Umpires who wish to progress to a higher division must be assessed on a match before they will be given permission to move up.**

8.4 It is the responsibility of the club to ensure the umpire they provide is neutral to both teams. Umpires should not commit to matches where they are not neutral and if this occurs must swap courts. Sanction: Financial or Points penalties may be applied to clubs or umpires who repeatedly fail to adhere to this rule.

8.5 It is the responsibility of the two officials in charge of each match to ensure that these regulations are applied appropriately and that discipline on and around the court is maintained. If any specific issues arise they should either note these on the team sheets or inform the Competition Referee via email.

8.6 **Umpires must not umpire for three hours, or play and umpire for three hours where the third hour is umpiring.** It is the responsibility of the umpire to ensure that they are not breaking this rule. Breaking the three hour rule will be allowed where an umpire steps in to cover for an umpire as detailed in 8.7 below.

8.7 In the event that an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match:

- Another umpire with the appropriate qualification should be asked to umpire the match. Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire may umpire subject to the agreement of the two team captains. However if both teams agree then there will be no right to appeal for a replay.
- If no suitable substitute is available the Competition Referee should be informed.
- In the event that a match has to be rearranged due to an umpire not attending the club responsible for the provision of that umpire may be liable for the costs of the rearranged match.

8.8 Where a team fails to provide an umpire for any reason this will be investigated by the Competition Referee and Officiating Officer and following referral to the TWCNA an appropriate penalty agreed. Penalties could include

the forfeit of any points gained for the reciprocal match, or a financial penalty, applied to the Club or the Umpire, depending upon the circumstances. In certain circumstances points penalties may be carried over to the following season.

### **Match Bench Officials**

8.9 Division 1 and 2 teams **MUST** provide a competent scorer for each of their matches. The two scorers should sit together away from the main bench areas in order to ensure that discrepancies are avoided or resolved within the quarter. The Team/Scorer at the entry/bar end of the court should also use the flipchart to display the score during the match this will help to avoid discrepancies with the scores.

**Sanction: In the event that a team fails to provide a scorer, one of their players will be required to leave the court and take on this role.**

## **9. QUERIES, COMPLAINTS & APPEALS PROCEDURE**

9.1 The **Competition Referee** for the Tyne and Wear County League (Winter & Spring) will be **Cat Witty - tandwnetballcompetition@gmail.com**. The Appeals Officer will be **Sarah Jane Cross** the County Secretary – **tandwnetballsecretary@gmail.com**. All decisions of the Competition Referee will be referred to the County Committee for endorsement. All queries and complaints (a Complaint) should be directed to the Competition Referee in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows:

9.1.1 Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a Match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant Squad member or Team Official, must do the following:

- a) Inform their opponents and the Umpires of their complaint;
- b) Mark the Team Sheet with the words “Under Protest” in the comments field;
- c) Submit the Team Sheet online as normal;
- d) Within three (3) days of the match send an email or write to the Competition Referee to explain the issue in full;
- e) The Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken.

9.1.2 The Competition Referee will acknowledge receipt of the query or complaint and make a decision on the matter within an appropriate period of time depending upon the impact of the complaint and the availability of the CR and County Committee members. The Competition Referees decision in relation to decisions taken under clause 9.1.1 is binding apart from where parties to the complaint have the right to appeal the decision under Section 9.2 below.

9.1.3 Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Competition by the Tyne and Wear County Netball Association, such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of the Tyne and Wear County Netball Association.

9.1.4 Where the Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual Player or Team participating, volunteering or individual attending a Match which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball’s Disciplinary Regulations, such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the processes set out in England Netball’s Disciplinary Regulations.

9.1.5 Complaints cannot be made in relation to a decision made by an umpire in line with the INF rules of netball.

### **9.2 Appeal of Competition Referees Decision**

The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with section 9.1.1 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances: :

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

- b. 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.

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

- i. An appeal should be forwarded in writing from a Club official of the appealing Team to the Competition Referee within 7 days of receiving the decision, who will refer it to the Tyne and Wear County Netball Association.
- ii. The appeal shall be accompanied by a payment of £50 via bank transfer 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.
- iii. The TWCNA County Secretary 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.
- iv. The Chair of the CAC will send the appeal to the opposing Team and any other Team or persons the CAC believe could be affected by the outcome of the appeal. These Teams will be permitted seven days (7) from the date the appeal notice is sent from the CAC to submit any evidence or submission that they wish the CAC to consider.
- v. All submissions and evidence must be submitted in writing. The Chair of CAC will have the discretion to determine the process, procedure and direction of the appeal.
- vi. The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seven (7) days of receiving all the evidence and submissions.
- vii. The CAC will notify all the parties that made submissions and presented evidence of its decision and any penalties and sanctions imposed within two (2) days of it reaching its determination. The CAC shall have the discretion to publish the decision through whatever means it considers appropriate.
- viii. The CAC shall have the delegated power of Tyne and Wear County Netball Association 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.
- ix. The procedures set out in this section 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.
- x. The parties also waive irrevocably their right to any form of appeal, review or recourse to any court or other judicial authority, or under England Netball's Disciplinary Procedures Manual or otherwise, insofar as such waiver may be validly made.
- xi. 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 3 shall be English Law.
- xii. If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than provided for by this section, 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 timescales stated in this Section. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised directions timetable which shall be binding on all parties.