

Procedures for Junior Netball Matches – Tyne and Wear County.

The following procedures **MUST** be followed by all participants taking part in the Junior League in any capacity. These procedures are in line with the agreement reached between England Netball and the government under which we are allowed to return to playing competitive netball. Failure to follow these may result in us having to suspend the matches for a period of time.

All participants have a duty of care to each other to ensure that they minimise any risk of transmission of the Covid-19 virus. The following procedures if followed by **ALL** will help to reduce the risks of transmission and keep us safe on court.

If anyone is concerned about the behaviour of an individual or a team they should raise these concerns with the individuals immediately if that is possible. If that isn't possible then they should raise the issues with the County's Covid Officer, Cat Witty, on tandwccovidofficer@gmail.com as soon as possible after the event.

Venue Specifics:

- Please follow any directions given by Kenton School staff and follow any movement flows and instructions marked in the venue.
- Please place all your litter and rubbish in the bins at the venue or take with you when you leave, please don't leave anything for someone else to pick up.
- Remember that there will be limited facilities available at the venue – ball pump, ice packs, etc., and you won't be able to borrow from other teams so please bring with you everything that you might need.

Drop Off and Pick Up Points:

It is each Club's responsibility to ensure that players are collected safely after matches – remember parents are not allowed to enter the courts.

Things you will need in your kit bag:

- At least 1 match ball or more, sanitised, pumped up and ready to play.
- At least 2 sets of bibs or more if you have large squads per team – you can't borrow from other teams or share bibs.
- A copy of the England Netball personal Health Checker document.
- Sanitizer hand gel – either one for the team or each individual needs one – there will be limited hand sanitiser available around the courts.
- Cleansing wipes – to sanitize your match ball between quarters.
- Something to time matches with – it's unlikely that there will be central timing.
- First Aid equipment, there will be nowhere to get supplies from at the outdoor venue.

First Aid

It is recommended that each Club's designated first aider checks the St John Ambulance website to obtain precise and detailed guidance on how to administer first aid within a Covid-19 environment. It is imperative that everyone is aware of the risks to themselves and others and how to ensure these risks are controlled and minimised.

As a brief guide if assistance is required the person(s) assisting must sanitise their hands before **and** after assisting – even if all they are doing is helping a player from the court. If they are required to administer any first aid they must wear surgical gloves and a mask at all times. Again, all waste must be disposed of safely and hands sanitised after disposal and before anyone returns to court.

Get In:

The following pre match procedure is recommended:

1. Players and Umpires should arrive changed and ready to go (having removed all jewellery) – there will be no changing facilities available at the venue. Toilets are available but must not be used for changing and operate on a one in, one out basis. Please bring with you as little as possible to minimise bags on the side of the court and clearly label all water bottles with names. Remember to follow the government guidance on travel and public transport.
2. Players should assemble in the car park to complete their health screening, sort bibs, remove jewellery, file nails, etc.. and sanitise hands before they enter the venue. It is recommended that each Club designates a place in the car park for their players to meet.
3. You should be able to see when your court has been vacated – please don't go to your court until it is clear. Also please don't gather at the entrance to the courts, leave space for those vacating to leave first.
4. Finally, anyone who has any symptoms at all should not attend the venue and should they experience symptoms on arrival they should return home and not mix with other attenders.

In order to minimise time being lost at the start of each match the **published fixtures designate a home and an away team this year.**

The Home Team will:

- Occupy the bench area at the end of the court closest to the school;
- Time the match unless other arrangements are in place – it may be that sometimes we have central timing;
- Take the first centre pass.

The Away Team will:

- Occupy the bench area at the opposite end of the court to the home team;

On the odd occasion a Club is staying on the same court for two matches but they are the home team for one match and the away team for the other – this is to even out the homes and aways between teams. Please use common sense on these occasions and minimise movement around the court with the Club remaining on court staying in the same bench area.

Bench areas and personnel:

- There will be no spectators allowed at matches, anyone in the bench areas must be a participant in the match – player, coach, safeguarding officer, primary carer, scorer, etc;
- All bench personnel must be members of England Netball;
- Anyone in the bench area **is recommended to** wear a mask and must socially distance from others in the area;
- Teams will be limited to a **maximum of 7 players on court and 5 participants in the bench area.**
- On occasion a committee member or an umpire mentor may be present in addition to the above. But they must observe social distancing and position themselves away from the bench areas;
- No bench personnel may stand behind the movement area of the Umpire. Bench personnel must move if instructed to by the Umpire. A diagram outlining the court layouts is available on the T&W website.

Play Safe:

- Players must sanitise their hands at the start and end of the match and during each quarter break.
- Players may only play one match on any one day.
- Each team must have **a sanitized match ball and the ball MUST be sanitised between quarters.** If the ball comes into contact with someone not on your court then it must be sanitised before it is used on court again.
- **Kit** and Bibs cannot be shared between players and must be washed between matches.
- There is an additional risk of infection in close proximity situations where people are **shouting or conversing loudly.** The modified guidance prohibits shouting by players on court and general discussion between players on court should be kept to an absolute minimum and only conducted at a distance of 4 feet or more.
- Team talks should be conducted in socially distant circles on the court to avoid congesting the bench area. This will probably result in team talks on court.
- Players are actively discouraged from touching the post. **If a player makes significant contact with the post the match will have to be stopped and the post wiped down.** So basically, don't touch anything you don't have to. If a ball rolls onto your court from another court stop it with your foot and wait for a player from the other court to retrieve it – don't pick it up and throw it back.

- Clubs **MUST** submit a record of **ALL** attendees at a match to support NHS Track and Trace. This includes players on court and everyone in the bench area. This record will be submitted via an electronic google form and must be submitted within 12 hours of the match ending. Teams **MUST ADHERE** to this requirement. It is recommended that clubs keep their own record of attendees too.

Get Out

- **Teams will have around 5 minutes to vacate the court** when the match ends – teams **MUST** vacate the court swiftly so that they do not cause issues for the next teams on court. So no handshaking, three cheers, post match team discussions, etc..
- Each team will be responsible for wiping down the post at their bench end at the end of each match.
- All players, coaches, officials and other attendees must sanitise their hands as they leave.
- **Any attendee who develops COVID-19 symptoms up to 48 hours after any netball activity must report to NHS Test and Trace and notify the COVID Officer of their Club and the County Covid Officer if the test is positive**