**Protocols for Junior Netball Matches – Tyne and Wear County.**

**The following procedures MUST be followed by all participants taking part or attending the Junior matches in any capacity.** **All participants have a duty of care to each other to ensure that they minimise any risk of transmission of the Covid-19 virus.**

These procedures have been agreed by the Tyne and Wear County Netball Committee to ensure that netball can take place in a safe environment for all participants. Some procedures **MUST** be followed by all participants, others are recommendations which we hope everyone will agree to follow in order to create the safest environment possible.

In the event that significant transmissions occur which can be traced to the junior netball matches, the events will have to be cancelled.

If anyone is concerned about the behaviour of an individual or a team (in relation to these procedures) 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 tandwcovidofficer@gmail.com as soon as possible after the event. For all other issues please contact Peggy Osborn on tandwnetballyouth@gmail.com.

**Venue Specifics:**

* Please follow any directions given by Blue Flames, Gateshead Stadium or John Spence High School staff and follow any instructions marked in the venue. Please only gather in the areas that have been designated for netball users. This is particularly important as there may be other users in the venue at the same time.
* 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 each Club should bring with them everything that they need on the day. For example, sanitisation equipment, spare bibs, first aid supplies, ice packs, etc..

**Drop Off and Pick Up Points:**

It is each Club’s responsibility to ensure that players are collected safely after matches – ideally someone should be available on the day to supervise the younger players leaving the venue and being collected.

**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 and it is **recommended** that overhead bibs are shared between no more than two players.
* 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.
* 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. All players should be regularly reminded that they **MUST** not attend a netball event if:
	1. They have tested positive for Covid-19;
	2. They feel ill with Covid-19 type symptoms and haven’t had a negative test result;
	3. A close contact has tested positive and they haven’t received a negative test result
2. Players should arrive changed and ready to go having removed all jewellery. For confirmation no jewellery whatsoever may be worn on court – taping a piercing is not acceptable, all piercings must be removed regardless of where they are located. Players should also have short nails, again taping long nails or wearing gloves is not acceptable. Please ask players to bring as little as possible to minimise bags on the side of the court and to clearly label all water bottles with names.
3. At the end of each match players should vacate the courts immediately. Post match chats or general discussions **must** take place outside. Please inform your players to wait outside (weather permitting) or in cars until someone gives them the nod to enter the venue. Similarly please ensure that those arriving to play know which court to proceed to.

**Bench areas and personnel:**

* There will be a **maximum occupancy on each court of 30 people**. Deducting 2 for the Umpires each Club may have 14 personnel in attendance. Ideally the 14 personnel should be members of England Netball and involved in the match - player, coach, safeguarding officer, primary carer, scorer, etc. All personnel must remain in their bench area at all times. Specifically, no one must stand or move behind the umpire’s area.
* Anyone in the bench area **is recommended to** wear a mask and to socially distance from others in the area.
* Spectators – if there is space in the bench area than a Club may decide to allow spectators to occupy those spaces. In this instance the spectators **MUST** wear a mask.
* The names of all those attending (including any spectators) on the day **MUST** be submitted via the electronic team sheet after each event. It is recommended that teams keep their own record too.

**Play Safe:**

* Players **must** sanitise their hands at the start and end of each match.
* The match ball **must** be sanitized at the start and end of each match.
* Ideally kit should not be shared and sharing of overhead bibs should be minimised.

**Get Out**

* At the end of each match everyone not involved in the next event **must** leave the venue immediately.
* **Any attendee who develops COIVD-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**