

## LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS 2023-2024 (WINTER & SUMMER) – version 2

### 1. General

Tyne and Wear County Netball League (Winter & Spring) is a county competition organised by Tyne and Wear County Netball Association (TWCNA) to enable clubs in their county to compete in a progressive league structure. These regulations outline the Rules upon which the two (Winter and Spring) County Leagues 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 Leagues. It is the responsibility of the Club not TWCNA to ensure that all their players and relevant parties connected to their team(s) are fully conversant with these 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 County leagues, clubs/teams agree that:

- **They will abide by these rules and regulations**

**They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and all the commitments of participation in the County League**  
**The decisions of 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.**

### 2. Competition Structure

2.1 The County Leagues will consist of up to 9 Divisions subject to entries. Entry will be determined by TWCNA at its absolute discretion. New teams which are based in other 'netball counties' geographically 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 any relevant meetings and seminars and must pay the required league fee when entering. League Fees will be set annually by the TWCNA. All fees or payments must be paid electronically, no cheques or cash will be accepted.

**Sanction: Existing Clubs who do not attend any relevant entry meeting and subsequently apply for entry may be relegated to a lower division or incur a financial penalty of up to £20, 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 (if applicable) where up to 4 teams may be promoted to Division 5L and 5R

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).

2.7 No Club will be allowed to have more than 2 teams in any one Division. In exceptional circumstances TWCNA will 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 all 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 identifying and adjudicating 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 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 All players must be England Netball members, having paid the full adult/junior membership fee due and received confirmation of their membership **in advance of being nominated for a squad and taking the court. Players taking the court for a T&W Club must be attached to that Club on the ENgage system and if possible should set their main Club as their Primary Club on the ENgage system.**

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 an exceptionally talented player, aged 13 at midnight 31st August/1st September, to be given permission to take part in the Adult League. Forms must be submitted to the Performance Officer one week before the player is due to take the court, email address - tandwnetballperformance@gmail.com. Please Note: that only exceptionally talented under age players will be given permission to play in the Adult League. Completion of an age banding form is not in itself permission for an under-age player to participate.**

3.3 Players may play for up to two clubs in the County Leagues subject to the following and 3.4 below:

- **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 team to a higher placed team subject to the rules around playing up in Section 4.
- **Division 3 and below.** A player may play for two clubs in any of the Divisions 3 and below (subject to the maximum of two within the league), 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..

**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 or financial penalty at the discretion of the TWCNA.**

3.4 Any player who plays for more than one club in the County League or who is an EN member via a different County, will be required to pay a 'seconds' fee of £10 and meet the requirements below:

3.4.1 A player who is a **member of England Netball via Tyne and Wear County and playing for a second club:**  
a. **Must** be named on the squad sheet of their 'second' club at the start of the season;  
b. Must pay their £10 'seconds' fee (which covers both the Winter and Spring League) direct to the County via their Club.

3.4.2 A player who is a **member of England Netball via a different County but who is playing for a Tyne and Wear Club:**

- a. Must link themselves to their T&W County Club on the ENgage system;
- b. Must pay their £5 County Fee via Engage and the remaining £5 of their 'seconds' fee direct to the County. The £10 seconds fee covers both the Winter and Spring Leagues.

3.4.3 A player playing for a non Tyne and Wear Club in the County League:

- a. Should pay their £10 'seconds' fee (which covers both the Winter and Spring League) direct to the County via their Club.

3.5 Once squads have been nominated and the league has commenced only 'new' players may be added to squads. 'New' players are those who have not taken the court for a team in the relevant T&W County League or been named on a squad in the relevant T&W County League. These players may be first or second affiliates.

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

4.1 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 by the deadline set for the relevant league.

4.1.2 Players who are seconds should have their first Club in brackets after their name.

4.1.3 Under-age players should be marked with an asterisk and relevant document forwarded asap.

**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 playing limitations will apply:

4.2.1 A higher nominated player cannot play for a lower nominated team within their club.

4.2.2 A lower nominated player may 'play up' for a higher nominated team within their club **on a total of 3 (three) occasions in any one county league**. After the third time they play up the Club must inform the Competition Referee of the higher club they are to be assigned to (subject to the rules below), **and they will not be permitted to 'play up' again for the remainder of the season.**

a. Having played up 3 times the player will have their nomination reassigned to a higher team as follows.

- A player who has played up three times for the same higher nominated team may be reassigned to that team or a higher one.
- A player who has played up three times for two (or three) different higher nominated teams (eg: D team player playing for C team once and B team twice) may be reassigned to either of those teams or a higher team.

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 no financial compensation will be payable for expenses incurred. Fixtures will designate home and away teams. The Home team will take the first centre pass, occupy the bench at the entry end of the hall and operate the flip over scoreboard.

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 If a team cannot field a team for a match they should offer the opposing team a friendly – **when playing a friendly the opposing team and Umpires should always be informed before the match. The opposing team will need to submit a team sheet in order to claim the points for the match.** Where friendly matches are played the non-offending team will be awarded the 5 points for the match and a score of 20-5 will be recorded.

5.4 If a team cannot field a team or offer a friendly then the cancellation process outlined below must be followed in as timely a manner as possible. The team who has their match cancelled may request up to £20 from the team cancelling to compensate them for the lost match. It is up to the team whose match is cancelled to request and arrange payment of the money.

The detailed procedure for cancelling a match is available on the TWCNA website. Briefly,

- post the cancellation notice on the T&W County League **AND** the Tyne and Wear County Netball (Umpiring) **facebook pages** including **all** the details of the match cancelled, and ensure you receive an acknowledgement from your opponents and the two teams providing the umpires for the match
- email the Competition Group (for information) on [tandwnetballcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:tandwnetballcompetition@gmail.com)

Remember that if you cancel your match you will **still have to provide and pay an Umpire** to fulfil your umpiring slot.

**5.5** In the event that a match is cancelled the following **process will be followed for the payment of Umpires on the night**. The team whose match is cancelled will have their Umpire paid for by the two teams who are no longer required to provide an Umpire as in the example below:

Time	Match	Umpires
6:30	Blue v Green	Red v Black
7:30	White v Yellow	Blue v Green
8:30	Red v Black	White v Yellow

Blue cancel their match versus Green. Red and Black are no longer required to provide an umpire.

Blue still provide and pay for their Umpire as scheduled. Red and Black share the cost of Greens umpire between them.

**5.6** 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.

**5.7** Any team who concede more than 2 of their 9 matches during the course of either the Winter or Spring league will be subject to a penalty in the form of a points deduction.

Any team who concedes 4 or more of their matches during the course of either the Winter or Spring league, will have all their match results voided for that league. In addition, the team's circumstances will be reviewed by the County Committee for a decision as to whether any further penalties will be imposed. Examples of the possible penalties (non-exhaustive) that may be imposed include:

- eligibility for entry to the leagues in future seasons
- financial penalty to compensate teams for lost matches

**5.8** Every Team will be allocated at least one 'duty night' per league, where they time either the first or second half of the matches. **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 World Netball Federation Rules of the Game and England Netballs Domestic Guidance currently in force in England at the time. However, local applications of these rules and guidance will be applied locally. These local applications are detailed in these regulations.

**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** 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. In the event of a blood stoppage Umpires are being asked to adopt a common sense approach to stains on kit but in some circumstances players may be required to remove or replace kit and if this is not possible then players may not be able to continue on court.

**It is the responsibility of each team to provide basic first aid cover for its players, officials and spectators.**

6.4 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.

6.5 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.

6.6 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.**

6.7 Teams must take the court in matching/similar kit which as a minimum must not clash with their opponents. Teams should play in tops and skins which co-ordinate with their basic kit colours, and similar colour skirts. Tracksuit bottoms, leggings and shorts may only be worn under a skirt/dress. 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.

**6.8 Photography or video recording is not permitted at any match subject to the exceptions below. Please also check the TWCNA website and England Netball website for further information.**

1. Team/squad photographs may be taken at the start or end of a match as long as no one else is included in the background, eg: other players, umpires, spectators, etc. No photographs must be taken during matches. Team/squad photos may be posted on "official" Club social media sites but Clubs must ensure they have all appropriate consents in place before they publish and must ensure they retain control of these photographs, their use and distribution.
2. A student who needs video evidence to submit as part of an official examination or award. The consent of the opposing team must be gained at least one week in advance of the recording taking place and the recording must be registered with the County via the photography registration form. As the game will involve at least one young person clubs are reminded they must have all necessary consents in place before agreeing to, or arranging any video recording. On the night of recording the Umpires **MUST** be informed at the start of the match that recording is taking place and asked for their consent too.
3. Clubs/Umpires may video matches for training purposes. As in 2 above, the consent of the opposing team must be gained at least a week in advance of the recording taking place and the recording must be registered with the County.

## **7. Registration of Results**

7.1 Each team must submit a completed Team Sheet for every match. This must be submitted within 48 hours of the completion of the match.

**Sanction: Teams who fail to submit a team sheet within 48 hours will receive a fine of £5.**

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 5 goals of the winning score, ie: 19-24.

7.3 A League Table will be compiled and published on 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). **Where two or more teams are tied on points and one of the teams has had a match or matches cancelled, then the goals from the corresponding fixture of the other team(s) level on points shall be omitted from the goal average and goals scored calculations.** If none of the above 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 a neutral umpire for another match. 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 are required to have a qualified and active umpire within their club or attached to the club formally.**

**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 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 & 2 – B Award or above or C Award holder actively working toward their B Award, with a Mentor observing and **who has been approved by the Officiating Secretary.**
  - ii. All other divisions – C award or above. Divisions 5 & 6 may be umpired by umpires who hold the Into qualification and **who have been approved by the Officiating Secretary** and have a mentor observing.

There is a progression process that all qualified umpires must adhere to in order to progress through the divisions of the league. See the County website for more information.

**8.4 It is the responsibility of the club to ensure the umpire they provide is neutral to both teams.**

**Sanction: Financial or Points penalties may be applied to clubs 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 relevant league regulations are applied appropriately and that discipline on and around the court is maintained. If any specific issues arise they should report these to the Competition Referee via email.**

**8.6 Umpires must not umpire for three hours, or play and umpire for a total of three hours where the third hour is umpiring. Breaking the three hour rule will only be sanctioned where an umpire steps in to cover for an umpire as detailed in 8.7 below or if requested to do so by the County Umpiring Secretary.**

**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 a neutral umpire for any reason this will be investigated by the Competition Group 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.**

**8.9 All Teams are required to provide a competent scorer for each of their matches. The Home team should operate the flip over scoreboard whilst the Away team should score with pen and paper and must raise immediately any discrepancy in the score. The only allowed exception to this rule is where both teams are from the same Club then one Scorer could score the full match.**

**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. It is up to the team captains to enforce this rule if they choose to. It is permissible for one team to score the whole match if the other team don't have a scorer and this is agreed between the captains. In these circumstances the team without a scorer will have no right to appeal the final score.**

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

**See the separate Complaints and Appeals Procedure document on the TWCNA Website**