Tyne & Wear County Netball Association

TYNE AND WEAR JUNIOR LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS 2026-2027

Overview

T&W Junior League is organised by Tyne and Wear County Netball Association (TWCNA) to enable junior teams to compete against each other, encouraging participation and development in netball. The regulations set out below govern the operation of the Junior League. The Rules and Regulations must be followed by all teams, players, officials, spectators and administrators in the management, administration, and operation of the Junior Leagues**. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that all their players and relevant officials 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 Junior Leagues, clubs agree that:

- They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation
- They are bound by these Competition Regulations
- They are bound by all of the rules, policies, regulations and by-laws of England Netball, including the England Netball Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Regulations, as may from time to time be in force and:
- Their participants acknowledge that participating in the sport of netball involves a risk of personal injury and by taking part in the junior league whether as a player, team member, team official, other official or spectator, each participant does so at their own risk.

Competition Management

TWCNA is responsible for the organisation and management of the Junior Leagues. Decisions in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to these Leagues not covered below, shall be considered final and binding on all parties (subject to the right of appeal provided for under the Complaints and Appeal Process).

TWCNA shall appoint a Competition Referee and a person to receive appeals of the decisions of the Competition Referee, as outlined in the Complaints and Appeals Process – please see the website for the current Complaints and Appeals Process. The Competition Referee may call upon additional persons to assist or consult with, prior to making any decision. Decisions will be reported to the TWCNA County Committee. Accountability for any decision, will rest with TWCNA. The Competition Referee will rule on any issues not covered in these regulations.

Player Eligibility

All players **must be members of England Netball**, having paid the full membership fee due before taking the court.

Clubs will be required to submit a Squad List for each team entered. There is no limit on the number of players named. To allow sufficient time for clubs to get sorted the deadline for squads to be submitted will be **Saturday 10th October**. The form to use to submit squads will be available on the Junior

Competition page of the TWCNA website, please use player names as they appear on ENgage. Team sheets for each match will not be required.

Players should play within their age groups wherever possible. Players may play up an age group but clubs should ensure they have any necessary permissions in place for this. Age Banding forms are not required to be submitted to the Competition Referee. Any playing up from Development to Performance (see below) or up an age group should be kept to a minimum.

Where the age groups have Performance and Development divisions:

- a gap on a Performance team can be filled by a Development player playing up,
- a gap on a Development team should be filled by a player playing up from a lower age group,
- If it is unavoidable for an older player to play in a lower age group team to make up numbers and allow the game to go ahead, then the opposing team coach MUST be informed before the match starts and the match will be forfeited by the team with the older player.

Match rules and format

All Matches shall be played to the World Netball Rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time, except where specific local exception and variations apply as detailed in these regulations.

Teams are required to provide Bibs and a Ball. They must take the court in matching/similar coloured 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. Where clashes or issues arise with kit the umpires should be approached before the match and a solution found by applying common sense.

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. It is the responsibility of each team to provide all necessary first aid assistance and materials (ice packs, plasters, wipes, etc.) for its players, officials and spectators, which should be made available to the match officials on request.

Photography or video recording is not permitted at any match apart from a team photo which must only include players from your club and be displayed on a controlled and secure social media site or the filming of a match for exam submission. **Every instance of filming MUST be registered** via the form on the County website before filming takes place. Please see the TWCNA website for the details of the current Photography Policy and how to log any photography at a match.

Fixture Scheduling

All matches will be played at a central venue (Blue Flames Sporting Club) as per the published fixture schedule. The first named team on the fixture will be designated the home team. The Home team will take the first centre pass, occupy the bench at the entry/reception end of the hall and operate the flip over scoreboard. Each court will have designated home and away bench areas where coaches, substitutes, team officials and spectators of that club must remain throughout the match. Whilst this is the normal procedure please apply common sense on match days. If a club is occupying one court all day but is sometimes the home team and sometimes the away team it makes no sense for them to be swapping bench ends if that is feasible.

Fixtures will only be rearranged (where possible) if the venue is deemed unplayable. No financial compensation will be paid by TWCNA in the event that fixtures have to be cancelled. Where matches can't be rearranged an appropriate outcome will be decided by the Competition Referee if required. If a match is abandoned after it has started, the result or rearrangement of that match will be determined by the Competition Referee. The Junior Whatsapp group will be used for all communication about match rearrangements.

If a team have to cancel a match they must ensure they inform the opposing club giving as much notice as possible. If possible, a friendly will be arranged to fill the gap. Please utilise the Junior Whatsapp group for sending all messages relating to match cancellations and amendments.

Match Timing

- U10/11/12 Matches will consist of four 8 minute quarters with 2 minutes at quarter time and 3 at half time, leaving 5 minutes between matches. In total 45 minutes will be provided to complete the match.
- U13/14 Matches will consist of four 10 minute quarters with 2 minutes at quarter time and 3 at half time. In total 55 minutes will be provided to complete the match.
- U15/16 Matches will consist of four 12 minute quarters with 2 minutes at quarter time and 3 at half time. In total one hour will be provided to complete the match.

Duty Clubs - Each club will be responsible for timing matches over the course of the season. Please see fixture list for duty allocations.

Match results should be entered on the Whatsapp group, clearly stating the score and winning team. Note: The online League system lists all the fixtures with dates (no times) **BUT** the fixtures distributed at the start of the season and published on the website are **ALWAYS the MASTER version**.

Team Sheets – checking hundreds of team sheets is too onerous for our small group of volunteers. Therefore, there is no requirement to submit a team sheet for each match. Clubs will be trusted to use the players named on their submitted squads at the start of the season for all matches.

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: 20-24. In the event of a match being conceded a score of 20-5 will be recorded for U13/U14/U15/U16 matches and a score of 10-2 for U10/U11/U12 matches.

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). If none of the above differentiate between the teams, the Competition Referee shall determine the means of differentiation.

Officials

Umpires qualified to Into award or above will be provided for each match, the cost of these are included in the league fees. Clubs will provide their own scorers.

Competition Referee

Issues should be raised by completing an Issues Google Form – you will find the link on the home page of the website. Issues will then be forwarded to the relevant County Secretary or passed to the Competition Referee for resolution.

Local Rule Variations

The following variations to the IFNA Rules of Netball will apply to the Junior League.

Concussions or Serious Injuries

In the event that an Umpire feels a player has sustained a significant injury or has been contacted in the head area, and assuming the player does not ask for injury time then the following process will be followed:

- Controlling Umpire blows whistle and holds time
- Umpire asks the relevant player if they are okay and wish to continue playing. For any injury around the head area or if there are concerns about possible concussion the Coach or Safeguarder of the relevant team should be called over to observe and agree the conversation.
- Player and if appropriate Coach/Safeguarder agree if the player will continue or be substituted.

As all players will be young players Umpires may choose to follow this procedure for instances where the injury may appear minor to ensure the young player's wellbeing. Young players are less likely to be aware of the injury time process and less confident about approaching the umpire. England Netball have published 'Safeguarding at Matches Guidance' which all Clubs MUST abide by on match days. Specifically this means that each team **MUST** have a **Responsible Adult** with them on the side of the court at all times. Any queries or concerns should be raised with this person. Please see the website for this document.

Any questions regarding these Regulations can be addressed to the T&W Competition Group on tandwnetballcompetition@gmail.com.