

Tyne and Wear County Netball League – Rules 2011-12

1. GENERAL

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 it's Leagues not provided for below, shall be considered final and binding on all parties (subject to the right of appeal which is specifically provided for under TWCNA Constitution).

These rules and regulations shall be subject and secondary to the application of England Netball's rules and regulations.

It is the responsibility of all 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 their players and officials.**

2. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

League Fees will be set annually by the TWCNA. Entry to the Leagues will be determined by TWCNA at its absolute discretion. Priority will be given to teams from existing Tyne and Wear league clubs, and if necessary teams which are based in the Tyne and Wear county area. Teams wishing to enter any of TWCNA's leagues **must** attend the relevant meeting and **must** pay the required league fee on the night. Late payment of fees will incur an incremental increase!

Penalty: 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 – this will be at the discretion of the committee.

All new entrants to the T&W County League will be required to enter at the lowest division. By entering a team in the Tyne and Wear leagues, 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

All players must be affiliated to England Netball via Tyne and Wear County in order to take part in it's Leagues.

Penalty: Teams found to be in contravention of the Affiliation Rule will forfeit any points awarded for the game played. The five points will be awarded to the non offending team. The offending team may incur an additional points penalty at the discretion of the committee. Subsequent contraventions may incur a financial penalty at the discretion of the committee.

Players may affiliate to more than one club but can only represent one club in any division. First affiliations are processed online via the England Netball site. Names of players second affiliating must be registered with the Affiliations Secretary before the commencement of the winter or spring league. Players cannot change clubs after the commencement of a league. All players should carry with them their Affiliation Card as random checks will be carried out. Players new to the Tyne and Wear leagues may affiliate at anytime during the season.

All players must be aged 14 or over as at midnight 31st August/1st September prior to the commencement of the League. Pregnant players must not take part in League matches beyond the twelfth week of pregnancy.

Exception to the above – Written applications can be made at any time, to the Committee for consideration of a player aged 13 at midnight 31st August/1st September prior to the commencement of the League, to be allowed to compete. In this case the player's skill and maturation level will be reviewed by Scouts or the Regional Talent Coach and a decision communicated to the Coach of the relevant club within 2 weeks.

3. NOMINATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

All clubs must complete a Nomination sheet for each participating team and hand them in before the start of the relevant league. A minimum of 7 players (no maximum) must be nominated for every team, all affiliated players within a club must be affiliated to a team. The League Secretary should be informed of new players and their allotted nomination before they take part in any League game. Nominations for the various leagues are entirely separate.

Higher nominated Players cannot play for a lower nominated team within their club. Players can 'play up' for a higher nominated team within their club twice. After the third occasion they will be attached to the higher team and this should be indicated on the team sheet. A player will be deemed to have 'played up' if they compete in two or more of the quarters of a match.

Penalty: Teams found to be in contravention of the Nomination Rule will forfeit any points awarded for the games played. The five points will be awarded to the non offending team. The offending team may incur an additional points penalty at the discretion of the committee. Subsequent contraventions may incur a financial penalty at the discretion of the committee.

4. FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS

The League fixtures are set by the League Secretary and 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 and no financial compensation will be payable in the event of expenses incurred.

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

In the event that a team cannot fulfil a playing fixture it must either:

- offer the opposing team a friendly. In the event that a friendly is being played both umpires and the opposing captain should be informed before the start of the game that it is a friendly. It is the decision of the opposing captain whether they inform their team members.

OR

- If a friendly cannot be offered they must inform the opposing team and the two umpires designated for the match as soon as possible (at least a day's notice if possible) and the League Secretary. **Both teams must still provide their umpire as per the league fixtures.**

If no friendly is offered, the team whose game is cancelled can request from the team conceding, £16.00 towards the cost of the lost match and the cost of their umpire on the night.

5. MATCH REGULATIONS

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 may apply. It is recommended that every club should own a copy of, and ensure their players are familiar with, the IFNA Rules of the Game. Rule Books can be obtained from the Umpiring Secretary at a cost of £5.

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 on the night. If a team is not on court at the starting time, the umpires may award the match to the team on court.

There will be no additional time available to cover for injuries so injured players should be removed from the court as soon as is possible. The game should be restarted promptly. There is no requirement to wait for substitutes to take the court if they are not ready. First aid should be administered off court whilst the game continues. It is the responsibility of each team to provide first aid cover for its players, officials and spectators.

In the event that a match is abandoned after it has started, e.g., because of serious injury, the result of that match (or possible rearrangement) will be determined by TWCNA Committee, having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended. The score at the time of the abandonment and the circumstances for the abandonment should be noted on the team sheet. Note that 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.

Every Club will be required to administer at least one night of matches during the winter and summer seasons. **Penalty: Failure to attend for a 'duty night' will incur a £10 fine.**

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. Final league positions will be ranked by points, then by goal average, then by goals scored. Teams finishing in the top and bottom two places of each division will be promoted and relegated. The exception to this is Divisions 2L/2R where only the top team will be promoted. Where possible in the parallel leagues, teams from the same club will be kept in separate divisions.

Teams are required to provide Bibs and a Ball which meet IFNA regulations. Teams are advised to have a spare set of bibs in a significantly different colour to use in the event of a kit colour clash. **In the event that a team attends for a match without bibs and no spares are available then they will be deemed to have conceded the game. In the event that both teams attend without bibs and a ball and no spare is available then they will both be deemed to have conceded the game.**

Teams should play in matching kit, as a minimum they should be in the same colour tops and similar colour skirts. Tracksuit bottoms may be worn but they should not trail on the floor or cause a trip hazard to an opponent. Shorts on their own are not acceptable attire for matches. Umpires can request players to change their kit where a clash occurs which is significantly affecting the match.

6. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

The Captain of each team must complete a Team Sheet for every match. The Team Sheet should clearly show the full names of all players, including substitutes. Players who are nominated to a lower team and hence 'playing up' **MUST** be marked with an asterisk and the quarters they were on court for clearly identified. **If the player and quarters are not clearly marked it will be deemed that they have played at least 2 and have therefore played up. Incorrectly completed Team Sheets may result in games being forfeited. Teams who regularly fail to submit team sheets will receive a points penalty.**

The two team sheets clearly indicating the final score, must be checked and signed by the umpires and handed to the Duty representatives on the night. In addition results should be recorded on the teams Result Sheet along with the umpires' signatures. Result Sheets provide a further confirmation of the result in the event of a dispute. Result Sheets should be handed into the League Secretary when complete. Consistent failure to submit team sheets may result in penalties.

7. MATCH OFFICIALS

For every match played there will be a reciprocal requirement for a team to provide an umpire who must be neutral. **It is the responsibility of the team to ensure the umpire they provide is neutral and is not breaking the three hour rule.** A financial penalty may be applied to a team who repeatedly fail to provide a neutral umpire. All umpires who officiate in the Tyne and Wear County league must be affiliated to England Netball and must be qualified (minimum B award for Division 1 matches and C Award for all other divisions).

Penalty: Teams failing to provide an appropriately qualified umpire will forfeit the points for the game played and may incur a further five point penalty. Subsequent contraventions may incur a financial penalty at the discretion of the committee.

Division 1 teams **MUST** provide a competent scorer for each of their matches. The two scorers **must** sit together away from the main bench areas in order to ensure that discrepancies are avoided. The scorers must make themselves known to the Umpires before the start of the match.

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

All umpires officiating in the Tyne and Wear Leagues **must** attend an umpiring seminar where updates on rules and rule changes will be given and issues can be discussed with a view to raising the standards of umpiring in our league. At the seminar there will be an opportunity to take the 'beep' test though this is optional.

It is the responsibility of the two officials in charge of each match to ensure that the league rules are applied appropriately and that discipline on and around the court is maintained. They should deal with issues brought to their attention by captains on the night. And they should remain by the court they are umpiring throughout the

duration of the match. If any specific issues arise they should either note these on the team sheets or forward these to the League Secretary.

In the event that an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure should be followed:

- 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 agree then there will be no right to appeal for a replay.
- If no suitable substitute is available the League Secretary should be informed as soon as possible so that the game can be rearranged.

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. QUERIES, COMPLAINTS & APPEALS

In the event that an issue arises during a match please record these briefly on the individual Team Sheets before handing in. Teams wishing to raise more formal issues should submit their query or issue in writing to the County Secretary, outlining the issue in more detail. Any team or match official who raises a query formally should out of courtesy, inform other interested parties by supplying them with copies of letters or reports.