

SWINDON & DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES - EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2014

All previous rules are hereby revoked.

1. RULES OF THE GAME

1.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the Rules of England Netball (EN). It is a requirement for all players, coaches, umpires and spectators to adhere to their respective Codes of Conduct as laid down by England Netball whilst playing, coaching, umpiring or spectating in and at the Swindon and District Netball Association League.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

2.1 Any player participating in leagues organised by the SDNA must be a registered member of the club they represent and be affiliated to EN, NSW (Netball South West) and WCNA (Wiltshire County Netball Association).

2.2 A player may only represent one club at any one time in the League.

2.3 Any player will be eligible to play in the SDNA as of the date of their 13th birthday. Any player wishing to play prior to their 13th birthday will need to be observed by an independent qualified scout, independent satellite coach or county coach before being deemed of the appropriate level to play in the adult league.

2.4 A player may request a transfer of clubs once during a season, before the end of the first half of the season.

PENALTY 16.1

3 REGISTRATION

3.1 All players must complete a registration card when changing clubs (within Swindon), and must have the card signed by both old and new club Secretaries. This must be done if the player has played for another club in the league within the last two seasons.

3.2.1 Clubs must register a minimum of seven players per team before completing any fixture. Registration must be made in writing or by email on appropriate forms with affiliation numbers, 48 hours prior to the first match and sent to the Registration and Results Secretary. Names (and dates of birth if under 19) should be listed on team registration forms.

3.2.2 Clubs with teams in higher leagues shall provide to SDNA by the start of the winter season their top 6 team members per team, registered to play in the higher teams/leagues. These players will not be eligible to play in SDNA leagues and these 6 players are not eligible for re-selection.

3.3 A club with more than one team must name its team in order of strength i.e. a, b, c or 1, 2, 3 etc.

3.4 No player may play for a lower team than the one for which she is registered.

3.5 A player may play for any higher team/leagues for 16 Quarters. On the 17th quarter the player will be re-registered to be a member of the next highest team/leagues above that for which she was originally registered. If the player then plays for a team higher than her current registration (for 1 quarter) this will cause her to be re-registered in the next highest team/leagues immediately. It is the Captains responsibility to note on the Result card at the time of the match how many quarters a lower player played up - if no quarters are noted then 4 will be assumed for that game.

3.6.1 If a club has more than one team in higher leagues playing up shall be the aggregate of quarters/matches played in either team. The player becoming a member of the regional team when total is reached. SDNA can request any information that is deemed necessary to operate this rule from clubs or region involved.

3.6.2 Any player who plays regional or higher league netball who is not declared in an initial 6 must be registered to their highest SDNA league team.

3.6.3 The club must notify the Registration and Records Secretary of the SDNA, by the Wednesday following the match, of the number of regional quarters played per match played.

3.7.1 A player may be re-registered down at any time prior to the end of the first half of the SDNA season as a matter of re-selection. A player cannot be re-registered down to a lower team due to re-selection if they have already played up 17 quarters for any team. Any player re-registered as a matter of re-selection may not then play above her current registration.

3.7.2 A player may be re-registered at any time in the season due to serious injury or illness (2 months duration). They may then play up in accordance with Rule 3.5

3.8. All clubs must be supplied with a list of the League registrations by the Registration & Results Secretary before 15th October. This must be updated by the beginning of the second half of the season.

PENALTY 16.2

4 FEES

4.1 League and Tournament fees shall be decided at each AGM. EN, NSW and WCNA affiliation fees will be announced at each AGM.

4.2 League fees may be paid in full, or in two parts, by dates agreed at the AGM.

PENALTY 16.3

5 WITHDRAWAL FROM THE LEAGUE

5.1 If a team withdraws from the League before the first league fixture, the League Secretary will inform all clubs in order that applications from new teams may be considered. In the event of more than one team applying, the League Committee will decide.

PENALTY 16.4

5.2 If a club/team withdraws from the league after the fixtures have been issued they must honour all of their umpiring commitments.

6 UMPIRES AND MATCH OFFICIALS

6.1 A list of all umpires and their qualifications must be supplied to the League Secretary before the start of the season. It is the responsibility of the Club umpires to ensure that their allocated matches are covered by a suitably qualified umpire.

PENALTY 16.5

6.2 Umpiring qualifications for each division are as follows:

Divs. 1&2 - NE 'C' award and above

Divs. 3&4 - EN 'Beginners' award and above

Div. 5 (or lowest division) - Training umpires working towards the EN 'Beginners' award supported by a qualified mentor.

6.3 All clubs must notify the SDNA league Umpiring Secretary of nominated umpires by 8pm on Thursday prior to Saturday matches.

6.4 Where games have to be re-arranged the umpires as stated on the fixture list shall be used where possible. It is the stated club's responsibility to provide the umpire for the re-arranged match. The stated club providing the umpire shall be given seven days' notice of the rearranged date.

6.5 Scorers are to be provided by clubs in Divisions 1 and 2 (**PENALTY 16.5**), and WHEREVER POSSIBLE in divisions 3, 4 and 5. (There will be no penalty if a club doesn't provide a scorer in Divisions 3, 4 and 5.)

7 FACILITIES

7.1 If inclement weather causes the 10am games to be postponed, the decision will not necessarily affect the 11.30am, 1pm and 2.30pm sessions. A decision shall be made prior to those times unless the full day's play is postponed at 10.00. If there is any doubt about playing conditions, all teams must contact the referee of the day for a decision. It is the responsibility of each team captain to contact the referee. Mobile phone numbers of the referees will be included on the fixture list. If a whole day's play is abandoned, all games shall be transferred to the next reserve date which will be shown on the fixture list. Any match that is postponed must be played at the Central Venue location.

7.2 Postponed matches shall be re-arranged within two weeks of the original fixture date. The re-arranged date does not have to be within that period. The Registration and Results Secretary and umpires shall be notified immediately the date is fixed.

PENALTY 16.6

7.3 The Registration and Results Secretary shall be notified of the circumstances of 7.1 and 7.2 above within 7 days by way of a result card from each team.

8 COMPOSITION OF DIVISIONS

8.1 The number of divisions and the number of teams in each division will be decided at the AGM. All new teams will enter the League in the lowest division. If it becomes necessary to increase the size of any division, fewer teams will be

relegated, NOT more promoted. Provision will be made for teams relegated from the Regional structure to be included in Division One of the SDNA league.

8.2 The composition of each division will be decided by promotion and relegation, depending on positions in the League Tables at the end of the previous season. The numbers for relegation and promotion will be two teams up and two teams down in Divisions 1, 2 and 3; two teams up and three teams down from Division 4, and three teams up from Division 5

8.3 Any team that withdraws from the League will be considered as the relegated team i.e. that team will be relegated through each division so that no other team will be placed at a disadvantage. All match results against the withdrawing team will be deleted from the records.

8.4 In each division the team gaining the highest number of points shall be declared the champion of that division. Where two or more clubs are level on points:

- Goal average shall be used to determine their relative positions, i.e. the team with the higher average score over the course of the season shall take precedence
- In the event that goal average does not differentiate between the teams, then goal difference shall be applied, i.e. the precedence shall be given to the team with the greater goal difference between goals scored and goals conceded
- In the event neither goal average or goal difference can differentiate between the teams, the aggregate score in the matches played between them over the course of the season shall be calculated and the precedence given to the winning team

This method will be applied to teams at the top of the table to determine promotion and to teams at the bottom of the table to determine relegation.

9 FIXTURES/MATCHES

9.1 At the beginning of the season all clubs will be given a fixtures list compiled by the Fixtures Secretary.

9.2 All matches will be played on the date on the fixture list. Matches may be brought forward where higher netball is to be played on the fixture date. Re-arrangements shall be made with the agreement of the teams involved. 'Higher netball commitment' is School/College, Regional and National tournaments. If only 1 player or official is involved in the higher commitment the game shall be played.

9.3 Matches may not be played AFTER the date on the fixtures list unless Rule 7 applies.

PENALTY 16.7

9.4 All teams will play each other team in their division twice during the season. The maximum time allowed for a late start is five minutes.

PENALTY 16.7

9.5 All fixtures must be completed by a date agreed at the AGM and results received by the Registration and Results Secretary within 7 days of the last

fixtures, when all records will be closed. Failure to complete all fixtures for any reason, other than extenuating circumstances, shall result in the forfeiture of the club's deposit.

PENALTY 16.7

9.6 If any team concedes a match during a single season the non-infringing team will be deemed the winner and awarded 5 points. The infringing team will be deducted 5 points. On the 3rd incidence the infringing team will be called before the disciplinary committee.

9.7 At the end of a season, in the case of a tie on points, if any team has been disadvantaged by match cancellations, all results of matches against an offending team shall be declared null and void.

9.8 Clubs with two or more teams in the same division must complete the matches between them not later than one calendar month prior to the closing date of the season.

9.9 In the event of a colour clash the away team shall change bibs. (Alternative set of bibs will be held by the referee)

10 MATCH RESULTS

10.1.1 Names of players for each match and their affiliation numbers, including substitutes if used, must be included on the result card to be provided by each captain. If a team wishes to raise a query about the match, the captain should write on the back of the card that a complaint may be lodged. The umpires must print their names and sign the result cards. Any alterations to the results must be initialled by the Captains.

10.1.2 Completed cards (names and affiliation numbers) must be shown to umpires before the start of the match. Umpires will be responsible for putting scores on the cards and for signing them.

10.2. All result cards must be received by the Registration and Results Secretary within seven days of the match being played.

PENALTY 16.8

10.3. The scoring system shall be:

WIN	5 POINTS
DRAW	3 POINTS
LOSS (BY 5 GOALS OR LESS)	2 POINTS
LOSS (BY 10 GOALS OR LESS)	1 POINTS
LOSS	0 POINTS

11. TOURNAMENTS

11.1 The Handicap tournament may be played.

11.2 Divisional tournaments will be played at the end of each season.

11.3 All League tournaments to be played to SDNA Tournament Rules.

11.4 SDNA Registration Rules apply (Section 3) for tournaments. However, should a player play for a higher team in a SDNA tournament then this game is not counted under Rule 3.5.

12 NEW APPLICATIONS

12.1 Applications from teams wishing to enter the League must be made in writing and received by the League Secretary one calendar month prior to the AGM.

12.2 New teams should have a suitably qualified umpire or be actively working towards getting a suitable qualified umpire by the beginning of their 2nd season in the league.

12.3 New clubs entering the League will be provided with a current copy of the Constitution and Rules.

13. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

13.1 Fourteen days' notice of all AGM and Executive Committee meetings must be sent to all clubs and officers. This should take the form of a written agenda. All clubs must be represented at these meetings by an affiliated member of that club.

PENALTY 16.9

14. CHANGE OF CLUB SECRETARY

14.1 The League Secretary must be notified of any change of name/address/telephone number/e-mail address of Club Secretaries. The League Secretary will notify all clubs of changes.

15. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

15.1 A Disciplinary Committee and Appeals Committee shall be formed at the AGM. Each committee will consist of a representative from each club who can be called upon when needed. A quorum will be 5 reps. The Disciplinary Committee will be responsible for investigating any complaints referred to it by the League Secretary. Any involved party will have the opportunity to state their case. The outcome will be reported back to the Association's officers. This does not jeopardise any right of appeal which may be made to an Appeals Committee or higher netball governing body. The SDNA disciplinary committee will only deal with complaints against rule as laid down by the SDNA league and complaints outside this remit will be dealt with by an England Netball Approved Disciplinary Officer.

15.2 Any complaint should be made to the League Secretary, in writing, within seven days of an incident. No complaints received after this time will be considered by the Disciplinary Committee. The League will abide by the England Netball Codes of Conduct and Disciplinary Matters, adopted by Wiltshire County Netball Association.

15.3 The League Secretary will then contact the parties involved (preferably by telephone) requesting they submit a report, in writing, again within 7 days of the request

15.4 The League Secretary shall then inform the Disciplinary Committee who shall meet within 7 days of the receipt of the reports. Upon making their decision, the

Disciplinary Committee shall report to the Association's Officers and the judgement will be sent to all concerned parties within 7 days of the meeting.

16. PENALTIES

16.1 Eligibility of Players. (Rules 2.1-2.4)

The infringing team is deemed to have lost the match.

If the infringing team has won the match the points shall be awarded to the opponents and the infringing team shall lose 5 points.

If the infringing team lost the match five points shall be deducted from their cumulative total.

The score for the infringing team shall be deleted from the records.

The score for the non-infringing team shall stand in the event of a win and will be voided in the event of a loss.

16.2 Registration. (Rules 3.1-3.8)

The infringing team is deemed to have lost the match.

If the infringing team has won the match the points shall be awarded to the opponents and the infringing team shall lose 5 points.

If the infringing team lost the match five points shall be deducted from their cumulative total.

The score for the infringing team shall be deleted from the records.

The score for the non-infringing team shall stand in the event of a win and will be voided in the event of a loss.

16.3 Fees. (Rules 4.1-4.2)

Non-payment will result in exclusion from the League

16.4 Withdrawal from the League. (Rule 5)

If a team withdraws from the League at any time all matches involving that team will be counted null and void.

16.5 Umpires. (Rule 6.1 and 6.4)

If a suitably qualified umpire fails to arrive for a match and a substitute is found, the infringing club shall pay the substitute umpire £20. If a club fails to fulfil any umpiring commitments on more than 2 occasions during the season a fine of £50 will be imposed, and for any subsequent occasions. If a Division 1 or 2 team fails to provide a scorer for a match, a fine of £10 will be imposed.

16.6 Re-arranged Games (Rule 7.2)

The Disciplinary Committee shall decide the penalty.

16.7 Fixtures (Rules 9.3-9.5)

Any team failing to fulfil its arranged fixtures will forfeit the points (5) which will be awarded to the non-infringing team.

16.8. Match Results (Rule 10.2)

Cards that are incorrectly completed will not be accepted by the Registration and Results Secretary. Failure to submit a results card within 7 days will result in a fine of £5.00. This situation is to be monitored by the Registration and Results Secretary

16.9 AGMs, EGMs and Committee Meetings (Rule 13)

Any club not represented by an affiliated member of the club at the AGM shall be fined £50. Upon payment of the fine the Club's team(s) may re-enter the League in its last position. Any club not represented at an EGM or Committee meeting will be fined £20.

17.0 Exceptions

In exceptional circumstances, Officers of the SDNA will have jurisdiction to apply any penalty that they deem fit that may not already be covered by these rules.