

WEST SUFFOLK NETBALL – LEAGUE RULES (2024)

1. General

Matches shall be played according to the rules of Netball as agreed by the International Federation of Netball Associations and as circulated by England Netball (EN) except as hereafter varied to meet local conditions. Matches shall be of four quarters.

2. Player/Umpire Registration

- 2.1 All teams must register an umpire at the start of the season to be eligible to compete.
- 2.2 Teams playing league netball must register the names and EN affiliation numbers of all members to the Summer/Winter League Secretary prior to the start of the season.
 - a) A player who has played within the Winter League must be registered to the relevant team to their ability or seek committee approval.
 - b) Any additional players must be notified at the latest on the Team/Result Sheet on which they first appear.
 - c) The Committee have the right to where necessary to ask for a deposit for entrance into the league(s) prior to the start of the season (Rule 9.3).
- 2.3 Teams may nominate reserves from lower teams within the same club.
 - a) Each reserve may be used no more than twice, on the third occasion she becomes a member of the higher team in which she played for and is no longer eligible to play for her original team.
- 2.4 The squad for any match may comprise of up to 15 registered players and all members of the squad must be declared on the match Team/Result Sheet.
 - a) All squads must be listed on the Team/Result Sheet – pre-printed for the season - which must include individual EN membership numbers.
 - b) All reserves taking the court must be clearly indicated on the Team/Result Sheet (indicating any players playing up).
 - c) All teams must register and include details of their affiliated umpire at the start of the season on the Team/Result Sheet.
 - d) If 15 players have been named on the squad sheet, no further players can be added or “play up” from a lower team, unless there are exceptional circumstances which must have prior agreement from the league committee.

Penalty: Unregistered players/umpires will not be allowed to take the court – points will be deducted if they do take the court/match already played.

3. Officiating

- 3.1 Summer **and** Winter League – for all matches in Divisions 1, 2 and 3 clubs must provide an umpire qualified to at least a C level.
 - a) The League Committee reserves the right to allow competent/experienced umpires who are working towards level C to umpire Division 2 and 3 matches if necessary. The names of such nominated umpires will be available to clubs.
- 3.2 For teams in Divisions 4, 5 6, Zena’s and Paula’s umpires should hold an IO Award as a minimum (or in the short term, **be deemed competent by a mentor**).

Penalty: Should a team not provide an umpire or provide an unsuitably qualified umpire (as decided by the Umpiring Secretary) they will forfeit their match or lose points.

- 3.3 The West Suffolk Netball League on behalf of the County when appropriate reserves the right to use any match for the training, assessment or testing of umpires.

4. League Points

The winner will be the team who amass the most points. In the event of a tie, the winner shall be the team with the greatest difference between goals scored and goals conceded (both totals adjusted for non-played/incomplete matches). Should a tie remain, the winner shall be the team who score the most goals (again adjusted).

5 points – win

3 points – draw

1 point if within 50% of winning score

5. Punctuality

- 5.1 It is essential that matches start and finish on time. The match clock will start at the appointed time. Play will commence when both sides have a minimum of five players (one of whom must play Centre) on court.
- 5.2 In the event that only one team is ready to start, then they will be credited with one goal for every two minutes (or part thereof) of waiting time until the second team are ready. In the event that the first quarter interval is called before the second team are available then the match shall be awarded to the team ready to start who shall be deemed to have won. This team will be awarded five points for a win and will be awarded a goal every two minutes of play. The team present should take to the court with an umpire.
- 5.3 For the implementation of this rule it is essential that umpires give teams' adequate notice of their intention to start the clock.
- 5.4 Summer & Winter League – seniors and junior divisions – 10-15minute quarters depending on the venue.

6. Cancellation/Abandonment

Summer League

- 6.1 Once arranged match dates must be honoured even if it means playing short (5 players). Only in emergencies may matches be cancelled by the committee. Such emergencies would include extreme weather conditions that make travelling or playing dangerous.
- 6.2 If weather, bad light or any other reasons make continuation of a match dangerous (in the opinion of both umpires and after consultation with the captains) then play must be halted. Please note:
 - a) If the first half has been played the score will stand as the result.
 - b) If less than half the match has been played, then the match must be replayed starting at 0-0. Date and time will be notified by the committee.
- 6.3 If a team wish to concede a game, they can do so, and the game will be awarded to the opposition. The goals awarded to the winning team will be a goal every two minutes of play.
- 6.4 Any team having to concede a game must do so at least 24 hours before the match is due to be played and notify the Summer League Secretary and Umpiring Secretary direct.
- 6.5 The Committee will include an additional two weeks in the playing schedule in order for any postponed/abandoned matches to be played.
- 6.6 In the event that any scheduled match(es) cannot be played during the summer, the Committee have the right to bring the season to an end at any time.

Penalty: If games are cancelled/forfeited with less than 24hours notice fines will apply

1st Infringement = £20

2nd Infringement = £30

3rd Infringement = committee to reconsider placement in the league

7 Squad Sheets/Results Sheets

7.1 Both teams must provide both umpires with a completed Team/Result Sheet after the match, as Rule 2.3 above. At the end of the game both umpires will complete the result section, sign and return the sheets to the Captains/team Officials who must:

- a) Indicate which squad members actually took part in the match.
- b) Ensure that any reserve player(s) original team is indicated clearly on the Team/Result Sheet, and the number of times the player(s) has played up.
- c) Nominate their players of the match from the opponents' team.
- d) Team Official/Captain to sign the sheet on behalf of their squad as confirmation of the score and that all information is correct.
- e) Send the result sheet to the Summer/Winter League Secretary within two days of the date of the match. (advisable to retain a copy of the sheet)

Penalty: If the Team/Result Sheet is not completed/received/or is inaccurate points may be deducted at the discretion of the Committee/Secretary.

8 Players

From time-to-time EN circulates regulations and guidelines for the playing of netball. The league highlights the following:

- a) Please note that the WSN League will adhere to the most current statement from EN in respect of pregnancy.
- b) Umpires must be fit enough to keep pace with the speed and variability of the game. If pregnancy, illness or injury prevents this then they should withdraw from officiating.
- c) The wearing of gloves is not permitted except in cases of medical need, in which case a current doctor's certificate must be provided.
- d) Team kit (matching) must be worn for all matches which will include playing position initials, which shall be worn above the waist front and back.
- e) No item of jewellery (including body piercing may be worn with the exception of a wedding ring and/or a medical alert bracelet, both of which shall be taped.
- f) Fingernails shall be short and smooth.

9 League Management

An Annual General Meeting of the League will be arranged in September where possible each year.

- a) A representative from each club must attend the AGM.

Penalty – Failure to do so will incur a £10 fine.

9.1 Team(s) can apply to join West Suffolk Netball League

9.2 The Committee reserve the right to place any new team in an appropriate division if and when there is space available.

9.3 New teams joining the League may be asked where appropriate to pay a £30 deposit on registration.

- a) Any team withdrawing from the league would lose their deposit.

10 Summer League – Promotion/Relegation

10.3 The top two teams in each division shall be promoted. The bottom two teams in each division will be relegated.

11 Grievances

11.1 When any player or team believes an injustice has occurred or has some other form of complaint or grievance, then notice must be given to the Secretary in writing within ten days of the event occurring.

11.2 Matters relating to umpiring should be addressed to the Umpiring Secretary who will in turn inform the Committee.

Refer to constitution 9.1