

U14 and **U16** Junior League

Qualifying Tournaments 2024

Rules & Regulations



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Section A - Introduction

1 GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1.1 The competition is open to any club which is an active club registered with the England Netball Membership system. The format will be decided on the number of entries received. Eight teams will be identified from each age group to take part in the Junior League Division 1 and if there is sufficient interest, a second division will be formed in each age group
- 1.2 Entry form and entry fee must be received by the closing date. Late entries will not be accepted unless approved by the Regional Competition Technical Support Group
- 1.3 GDPR- Data Protection: Any personal data provided by the clubs will be used for this event only. It will be destroyed after the event and not shared with any third party’.
- 1.4 It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players are conversant with all the following regulations and also the International World Netball rules of the game in force at the time.
- 1.5 The Junior League Qualifying Tournaments shall be governed and managed by the Regional Management Board, which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to any sub-committee or individual(s).
- 1.6 The decisions of the Regional Management Board, or its nominee(s), in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the event which is 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 sections 14, 15, and 16)

Section B - Pre-Competition & Management

2 ELIGIBILITY FOR TEAMS

- 2.1 By entering a team in the Junior League Qualifying Tournament, clubs/teams agree that:
 - 2.1.1 they are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the Junior League.
 - 2.1.2 they will fulfil their obligations and responsibilities set out in the Regulations;
 - 2.1.3 they are bound by the Competition Regulations; and
 - 2.1.4 they are bound by all of the rules, policies, regulations and by-laws of England Netball, including the England Netball Disciplinary Rules and Regulations, as may from time to time be in force.
- 2.2 Any club which took part in the previous season’s league, in either age group, and defaulted on more than two fixtures will not be eligible to enter the qualifying tournament the following season.
- 2.3 Application for entry to the Junior League Qualifying Tournament shall be open to all clubs who are in membership of one of the Region’s constituent counties ie. Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire.
- 2.4 All clubs must be in membership of England Netball.
- 2.5 A club may enter two teams per age group into the competition.
- 2.6 If a club enters two teams, each team must consist of not less than 10 players and each team must have a separately named coach, manager, primary carer and umpire

3 ELIGIBILITY FOR PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

- 3.1 All players and team officials must be in full membership of England Netball.
 - 3.1.1 Through membership of the club they are representing.
 - 3.1.2 Team Officials only - through membership directly to England Netball or a County Association
- 3.2 All players and team officials’ must have paid the full membership fee due and received confirmation in advance of submitting the Squad Registration Sheet
- 3.3 **U16s: Players must be over 14 and under 16 years of age at 31st August 2024***
U14s: Players must be over 11 and under 14 years of age at 31st August 2024*ie Yr 7 and above

Players may apply for Age Banding for the U16 tournament only. The Age Banding Consent Form to be submitted to the Tournament Organiser with the Squad Registration form

- 3.4 During the Competition, Team Managers must at all times carry proof of age for all Players.
- 3.5 Proof of age comprises of one or more of the following:
 - 3.4.1 **COPY** of birth certificate
 - 3.4.2 **COPY** of passport
 - 3.4.3 **COPY** of medical card
- 3.6 The Junior League Qualifying Tournament is a competition for biological female participants. Only biological female players can be included on the team registration sheet.

4 REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

- 4.1 Squad Registration Sheets for each participating team must be completed fully for each player and lodged with the tournament organiser at least 10 days prior to the start of the competition. **See 3.2**
- 4.2 The maximum number of players allowed in a squad is 12.
- 4.3 Team Managers will be asked at Registration to confirm that the Registration Sheet submitted is correct. Registration Sheets may be changed at Registration, but any amendments (including the Team Officials) must be accompanied by proof of England Netball Membership. No changes may be made to the Registration Sheet once it has been signed.
- 4.4 Team Managers must check in with the Competition Referees at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the Event.
- 4.5 Once the Tournament has commenced, a player named on a Registration Sheet cannot transfer to another team during the day of the Tournament.
- 4.6 Any team who knowingly and deliberately provides false information regarding identity of players at registration and the naming of players on team sheets will forfeit their deposit and may be expelled from the competition. Disciplinary action may be taken against the club.
- 4.7 Only players and Team Officials named on the Registration Sheet can be part of the team bench.

Section C - Playing the Game

5 RULES OF THE GAME

All games shall be played to the World Netball Rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time of the Tournament, except where specific Tournament Regulations apply.

6 BALLS AND BIBS

- 6.1 Each team must provide a size five (5) match netball, which must be clearly marked for identification purposes.
- 6.2 All players must wear positional bibs and teams must have a spare set in a different colour in case of a clash of colours. (NB a reversal of bib colours is unlikely to be sufficient)
- 6.3 In the event of a clash of colours, a toss of a coin between the two captains will decide which team retain their original colours.

7 MATCH OFFICIALS

- 7.1 Teams must provide a C Award umpire or above
- 7.2 Umpires will not be responsible for the score
- 7.3 Umpires need to be fully conversant with these regulations
- 7.4 Each team must provide a competent scorer who has a working knowledge of scoring
- 7.5 Scorers need to be fully conversant with these regulations
- 7.6 Scorers may not be a member of the squad

8 TEAM BENCH

- 8.1 The Team Bench will be the area at the team's defending end at the start of the game to the right of the netball posts. **Do not change ends at half time.**
- 8.2 The Team Officials are the Coach and up to 4 other personnel. One of Team Officials must be nominated prior to the start of the tournament as the Primary Carer and should ideally hold a first aid qualification.
- 8.3 The Primary Carer will be required to wear a form of designation which will be issued on the day. Only the Primary Carer will be allowed on court in the event of illness/ injury. No First Aid will be provided on the day by the Region.
- 8.4 Team Officials and bench players may **not** move up and down the side lines or along the goal lines outside the court during play. Coaching is only permitted from the team bench.

9 CENTRAL TIMING

- 9.1 Central timing will be used, but matches will start and finish on the Umpires whistle.
- 9.2 The hooter will sound at the beginning and end of an interval.
- 9.3 A 30 second warning will be given before play is due to commence.
- 9.4 The length of matches will be dictated by the number of entries.
- 9.5 There will be no injury time.

10 START OF PLAY AND LATE ARRIVALS

- 10.1 Captains should toss for centre pass well before the start of each game.
- 10.2 All teams must be on court, in position and ready to play, at the time and on the court stated in the playing schedule.
- 10.3 No team may start a game with less than five (5) players.
- 10.4 Any team late on court will forfeit the match points.
- 10.5 The forfeited points will be awarded to the team on court, in position and ready to play at the correct time.
- 10.6 If a reserve plays because of the late arrival of a player, she shall continue to play until half time when the late arrival may be substituted. The 'Substitution' rule must be obeyed.
- 10.7 If a reserve is not used, late arrival(s) may only join the game with permission of the Umpires, immediately after the scoring of a goal and only in the vacant position(s). At half time, positions may be changed and the 'Team Changes' rule must be obeyed.

11 SUBSTITUTES AND TEAM CHANGES

- 11.1 Play may be stopped if the umpire deems it necessary but, **ONLY** injured or ill players may be substituted during a game. No other changes can be made at this time by either side.
- 11.2 During the half time interval both teams may make substitutions provided that they take place immediately.
- 11.3 No extra time will be allowed for stoppages due to injury or illness.
- 11.4 Officials are requested to take great care in moving an injured player or ill player from the court. Should an Umpire or Primary Carer feel that a player's injury is critical, for example, head, neck or back and she will be better left on court for medical professionals, the Umpire must note the time lost during treatment and report to the Tournament Referees who will adjudicate.
- 11.5 In the event that a match is abandoned for any reason e.g. because of a serious injury, the result of the match will be determined by the Tournament Referees having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.
- 11.6 Only the Primary Carer will be allowed on court during an injury stoppage.

12 SCORING SYSTEM

12.1 Match points will be awarded as follows:
5 points for a win
3 points for a draw
1 point to the losing team if scoring over 50% of the goals scored by the winning team.

12.2 A league table for each will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team.

Where two teams are level on points:

- a) **Goal Average** shall be used to determine their relative positions, i.e., the team with the higher Goal Average will take precedence. Goal Average is calculated as goals scored divided by goals against.
- b) **Goal Difference** shall be applied in the event that Goal Average does not differentiate between the teams, then, i.e., precedence shall be given to the team with the greater difference between goals scored and goals conceded.
- c) **Greatest number of goals** scored shall take precedence in the event that Goal Difference does not differentiate between the teams, then the team which scored the highest number of goals shall be the winner
- d) **Aggregate score** in the matches played between them over the course of the season shall be calculated and precedence given to the team whose scores were greatest
- e) In the event that neither Goal Average nor Goal Difference nor goals scored can differentiate between the teams, the **Competition Referee** shall determine the means of differentiation

Note - Where one of the teams has its Goal Average, Goal Difference or total number of goals scored affected by conceded fixtures, then all goals scored by and against conceding team(s) in all matches shall be omitted from the calculations of both teams level on points. Except where one of the teams level on points is the conceding team, at which point they assume a goal average of 0 and will be the lowest ranked team of those level on points.

Quarter, Semi and Finals (where applicable) - in the event of a draw at full time, extra time of 2 minutes each way will be played. This will be timed by the Competition Referees. Teams will change ends immediately after full time and the centre pass is taken by the team entitled to take the next centre pass. Teams change ends at half time without a break. In the event of a draw at full time, play will continue without a break until the next goal is scored. The team that score that goal is the winner.

12.3 In the event of a team being 'non-competitive' for any reason, their results and those of their opponents will not be included on the master score sheet.

13 REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

- 13.1 Scorers must record their name on the back of the results card.
- 13.2 Team Managers must check the scores with both Scorers and if satisfied must sign the result card.
- 13.3 The result card represents the official score of the match and once the result card has been signed, no dispute can be lodged.
- 13.4 It is the responsibility of each Scorer to take their result cards to the Recorders Table after they have been signed by each Team Captain.
- 13.5 If a Team is not in agreement with the final score, or does not wish to sign the result card for other reasons, the Team Manager must advise their opponents and both Umpires and state reasons for their non-compliance with this regulation and report immediately to the Tournament Referees. The result card should be marked 'under protest'.

Section D - Competition Referees, Complaints and Appeals Procedure

14. COMPETITION REFEREES

- 14.1 Competition Referees will be appointed by the East Midlands Netball Association or its nominees
- 14.2 The Competition Referees will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising during the Competition Day¹ including, but not limited to:
 - 14.2.1 altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary;
 - 14.2.2 determining if teams and/or players are in breach of these Regulations and imposing an appropriate penalty (including disqualification of any individual, Player or team)
 - 14.2.3 maintaining and being responsible for a confidential Competition Referees' Log Book (if appropriate);
 - 14.2.4 upholding the decision by any medical advisor, including but not limited to the Competition doctor or physiotherapist (if relevant), regarding the participation of a player.
 - 14.2.5 determine the score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance altering the length of matches as set out in 9.4
 - 14.2.6 Instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour including instances of teams predetermining the outcome of a match:
 - 14.2.7 any matter not covered by the Regulations; and:
 - 14.2.8 consult with additional people to assist with the Competition, but the final decision and accountability will lie with the Competition Referees
- 14.3 If a player is suspended from a game, or ordered to leave the court and take no further part in the game, that player, team manager and coach may be required to appear in front of the Competition Referees immediately after the end of the match. At the end of the match the Team Manager / Coach and the player concerned must report immediately to the Competition Referees, who will decide what action should be taken.

15 COMPETITION COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- 15.1 On the Competition Day, all queries and complaints (a Complaint) should be directed to the Competition Referees in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows:
 - 15.1.1 Where the Complaint relates to the competition format or management, including (but not limited to) the schedule, the opposing team, playing surface or other playing arrangements, a protest must be made, before the start of the match (or as soon as possible after the issue becomes apparent during the match) to the Competition Referees by the relevant Team or Match Official. The Complaint must then be acknowledged by the Competition Referees who will decide what action should be taken.
 - 15.1.2 Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant team or match official, must do the following:

- Inform their opponents and the umpires of their complaint;
- Mark the score card with the words "Under Protest";
- Take the marked score card to the Competition Referees, straight after the match;
- Explain the issue in full to the Competition Referees
- The Competition Referees will decide what action should be taken.

15.1.3 The Competition Referees' decision in relation to decisions taken under clauses 15.1.1 or 15.1.2 is binding. Parties to the complaint shall have the right to appeal the decision under Section 16 below.

15.2 Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Competition by the host county or the East Midlands Competition Technical Support Group, such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of the East Midlands Netball Association

15.3 Where a Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual or team participating, volunteering or attending the Competition which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations, such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the processes set out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations and should be referred to the Regional Disciplinary Secretary.

16 APPEAL OF COMPETITION REFEREES' DECISION

16.1 The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with sections 15.1.1 or 15.1.2 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

16.1.1 if the decision of the Competition Referee has a potential impact on a Match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition Round; AND

16.1.2 there has been a failure by the Competition Referee to follow or act in accordance with these Regulations and/or the Competition Referee has reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact.

These are the only grounds of appeal and any appeal must be submitted in accordance with the appeals process set out below.

16.2 An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the appropriate member of the appealing Team to the Competition TSG Chairman within 3 working days of the match who will refer it to the Regional Management Board.

16.3 The Regional Chair will establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected to the Competition. One of those individuals will be appointed as the Chair.

16.4 The appeal shall be accompanied by a cheque for £100 which shall be returned if the appeal is upheld or if there are any other extenuating circumstances. The Competition Appeals Committee (CAC) will decide whether the extenuating circumstance warrant the cheque being returned.

16.5 The Chair of the CAC will send the appeal to the opposing Team and any other Team the CAC believe could be affected by the outcome of the appeal. These Teams will be permitted 3 working days, from the date the appeal notice is sent from CAC to submit any evidence or submission that they wish the CAC to consider.

16.6 All submissions and evidence must be submitted in writing. The Chair of CAC will have the discretion to determine the process, procedure and direction of the appeal.

16.7 The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within 3 working days of receiving all the evidence and submissions.

- 16.8 The CAC will notify all the parties that made submissions and presented evidence of its decision and any penalties and sanctions imposed within 3 working days of it reaching its determination. The CAC shall have the discretion to publish the decision through whatever means it considers appropriate.
- 16.9 However, England Netball recognises that a considerable element of the Sport is delivered through volunteers and therefore some flexibility may be required when applying timescales. If the Appropriate Authority, Investigation, Disciplinary or Appeal Panels fail to adhere to the timescales set out in the Disciplinary Regulations it will not invalidate the Disciplinary Procedure and only unreasonable delays could be used as grounds of Appeal. All parties connected to the Complainant or the Respondent must comply with the timescales set out in these Regulations.
- 17.0 The CAC shall have the delegated power of East Midlands Netball Association to make all decisions and impose and enforce any penalties and sanctions (including but not limited to, reprimands, the deduction of points, fines, suspensions and expulsions from the Competition) relating to the appeal.
- 16.10 The procedures set out in this section shall be governed by the Arbitration Act 1996 (the Act) and amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of Section 6 of the Act.
- 16.11 The parties also waive irrevocably their right to any form of appeal, review or recourse to any court or other judicial authority, or under England Netball's Disciplinary Procedures Manual or otherwise, insofar as such waiver may be validly made.
- 16.12 The seat of arbitration shall be England, the language used shall be English and the governing law of the regulations and these proceedings under Section 3 shall be English Law.
- 16.13 If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than provided for by this section, and all parties to the appeal consent, the timetable within which an appeal is raised, submissions made and the decision taken can be shorter than 3 working days stated in this Section. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised directions timetable which shall be binding on all parties.

NB Competition Day is defined as the day(s) when a tournament is played as determined by the LOC

Section E - Miscellaneous

17 CLOSE RANGE PHOTOGRAPHY

- 17.1 The England Netball Safeguarding Guidelines require that anyone wishing to engage in any video, zoom or close-range photography (including mobile phones) should register their details with staff in the Registration Area.
- 17.2 Anyone wishing to take photographs will be required to wear a form of accreditation on the day.
- 17.3 Any club with players or officials who do not want to be photographed/videoed must inform the Tournament Organiser prior to the event
- 17.4 Flash Photography and live streaming are not permitted.

18 PLAYERS & BLEEDING

Please note IFNA Regulations clearly states the procedure regarding players and bleeding. However, as no time is allowed for injuries the following should apply:

- 18.1 If the bleeding is not profuse, the player should be asked to cover the injury at the next interval.
- 18.2 If the bleeding is very heavy, the player will be asked to leave the court for the dressing of the injury and to return according to INF rules of the game in force at the time.
- 18.3 In these shorter matches, it is not the intention to penalise a team with an injured player and Umpires will need to be very aware of the time of the next interval, in order to keep a player on court unless it

is absolutely necessary to have the injury covered. A sticking plaster could be used in order to stem the flow until the next interval.

- 18.4 Please note: it is the responsibility of the team officials to have first aid dressings available at the side of the court.
- 18.5 If dressings are not available, then a substitute would have to be used or the team would have to play on with only six players.

19 UMPIRES & BLEEDING

- 19.1 Play may be stopped for injury or illness or any other cause. This would allow the Umpires to stop the game if she/he sustained and injury herself/himself.
- 19.2 As no time is allowed for stoppages, the Umpire should try to wait until the next interval before dealing with her/his injury. If the injury is bleeding, the Umpire should avoid touching the ball. It may now be advisable for Umpires to keep an Elastoplast about their person in order to deal with any small injury that may occur. In the event of a major injury to either a player or an Umpire, the game would have to be stopped and the Tournament Referees would have to make a decision as to how the emergency situation would be coped with.

20 PREGNANT PLAYERS AND UMPIRES FITNESS, GLOVES, HEADSCARVES LEG BRACES, UNIFORM, JEWELLERY & PIERCINGS

England Netball Domestic Guidance must be followed and can be found
http://www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/officiating/Rules_Directives.php

22 ACCIDENT REPORTING

- 22.1 An England Netball Accident form must be completed for all accidents and sent to England Netball. Alternatively an online form is available
(<https://www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/membership/insurance/report-a-claim>)
- 22.3 All participants acknowledge that participating in the sport of netball involves a risk of personal injury and by taking part an East Midlands' competition whether as a player, team member, team official, other official or spectator, each participant does so at their own risk.

Section F - Disclaimer

East Midlands Netball will not be liable to any person, whether in contract, tort (including negligence) or otherwise for any direct or indirect loss or injury of any nature, howsoever caused and howsoever arising from the matters covered by these Regulations, provided that nothing in these Regulations excludes or restricts East Midlands Netball's liability for any personal loss or injury caused by East Midlands Netball's own negligence, the negligence of its employees, or for fraud.