

National U14 & U16 Clubs 2025 Competition Nottinghamshire County Round Rules & Regulations



Section A - General Information

- Structure of the competition
- Entry fee
- Entry forms
- Responsibility of team managers
- Integrity

Section B - Pre-Competition & Management

- Eligibility for teams
- Playing Qualifications
- Registration of Squad members

Section C - Playing the Game

- Rules of the game
- Balls and bibs
- Match Officials (Umpires, Scorers, Timekeepers)
- Team Bench
- Match timings
- Start of play and late arrivals
- Substitutes and team changes
- Scoring system
- Registration of results

Section D - Competition Referees, Complaints and Appeals Procedure

- Competition Referees
- Competition Complaints Procedure
- Appeal of Competition Referees' decision

Section E - Miscellaneous Proviso

- Close range photography
- Players & Bleeding
- Umpire bleeding
- Pregnant players
- Jewellery
- Accident Reporting

Section F - Disclaimer

Section A - Introduction

1 GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1.1 The County round of the National Clubs U14 Competition (hereafter referred to The Competition) is open to clubs registered to Nottinghamshire Netball Association. The format will depend upon the number of entries- for 5 teams or fewer there will be a round robin competition and for 6 or more there will be two groups with semi-finals and final. The winners and runners-up from the County Competition will go forward to the regional Round.
- 1.2 All Clubs are required to pay an entry fee. In the event of a team withdrawing from the competition, full or part refunds will only be given at the discretion of the County Competition Technical Support Group
- 1.3 Entry forms and entry fee must be received by the closing date. Late entries will not be accepted unless approved by the County Competition Technical Support Group
- 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.
- 1.5 Any team who knowingly and deliberately provides false information regarding the 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.
- 1.6 The county round of The Competition shall be governed and managed by the County Netball Association Committee, which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to any sub-committee or individual(s).
- 1.7 The decisions of the County Committee, or its nominee(s), in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the 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 county round of The Competition, clubs/teams agree that:
 - 2.1.1 they are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the Competition;
 - 2.1.2 they will fulfil their obligations and responsibilities as 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 Application for entry to The Competition shall be open to all clubs registered to Nottinghamshire County Netball Association.
- 2.3 All clubs must be in membership of England Netball no less than 4 days prior to the County rounds
- 2.4 A club may enter more than one team into the county/regional rounds of The Competition, but only the higher placed team will be eligible to go forward to the National Finals
- 2.5 If a club enters more than one team, each team must consist of not less than 10 players and each team must have a separately named coach, manager and primary carer.
- 2.6 Teams which progress to the National finals must be accredited under the CAPS scheme, or registered and actively working toward the same, prior to the start of the National Finals.

3 PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 All players and team officials (including Primary Carers) must be in full membership of England Netball as affiliated Registered Participants via one of the following qualifications
 - 3.1.1 Through membership of a club
 - 3.1.2 Through membership of a Young Persons Group
 - 3.1.3 Team Officials may also be IRPs (Independent Registered Participants)
- 3.2 All player membership must be received by England Netball Head Office no less than 4 days before taking part in any level of the competition
- 3.3 U14 Competition: All players must be over 12 years of age and under the age of 14 years old as at 11.59 pm on 31st August prior to the commencement of the U14 National Clubs playing season unless they have submitted an age banding consent form to the Competition Organiser for each round

U16 Competition: All players must be over 14 years of age and under the age of 16 years old as at 11.59 pm on 31st August prior to the commencement of the U16 National Clubs playing season unless they have submitted an age banding consent form to the Competition Organiser for each round

3.4 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

3.5 If a player is not named on the Squad Registration Sheet for the regional round of the competition, the Club / Team must provide evidence that the player has played for the Club / Team prior to the date of the final feeder competition.

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 Competition Organiser at least 7 days prior to the start of the competition

4.2 The maximum number of players allowed in a squad is 12.

4.3 No player, other than the 12 nominated on the Registration Sheet may play without the prior permission of the Competition Referees.

4.4 At registration teams will be asked to confirm that the Registration Sheet submitted is correct. Registration Sheets may be changed at this time, but any amendments must be accompanied by proof of membership.

4.5 Team Managers must check in with the Competition Referees at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the Competition

4.6 All team members will be required to have available on the day, proof of identification and age. This may be a **photocopy** of a passport. Other acceptable forms of identification are a **photocopy** of a birth certificate or medical card.

4.7 Once the Competition has commenced, a player named on a Registration Sheet cannot transfer to another team.

4.8 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.

4.9 Only players and 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 Net ball Rules of the Game (2024) currently in force in England at the time of the Competition, except where specific Competition 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.

6.3 In the event of a clash of colours, a toss of a coin between the two captains will decide which team retains their original colours.

7 MATCH OFFICIALS

7.1 Umpires will be provided by the clubs and must be C award or above

7.2 Umpires will not be responsible for the score

7.3 Umpires need to be fully conversant with these regulations and any additional information given out in their own official package/meeting

7.4 Teams will be responsible for the umpires' travel expenses,

7.5 Each team must provide a competent scorer who has a working knowledge of scoring

7.6 Scorers need to be fully conversant with these regulations

7.7 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 or as indicated by the umpires. **Do not change ends at half time.**
- 8.2 The Team Officials (variation to INF rule 5.1.2 for the purpose of this competition) are the Coach, Manager and up to 3 other personnel. One of Team Officials must be nominated prior at the start of the Competition as the Primary Carer, must be over 18 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.
- 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 A hooter/bell will sound at the beginning and end of an interval.
- 9.3 A warning will be given before play is due to commence.
- 9.4 The matches will normally be 7 minutes each way with 1 minute half 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 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 owing to the short games. 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 Team Official feel that a player's injury is critical ie. head, neck or back and she will be better left on court for the medical staff, the Umpire must note the time lost during treatment and report to the Competition Referees who will adjudicate.
- 11.5 In the event that a match is abandoned for any reason e.g. because of serious injury, the result of the match will be determined by the Competition 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 Note - Where one of the teams has its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals scored affected by cancellations, then all goals scored by and against defaulting team(s) in all fixtures shall be omitted from the calculations of both teams level on points. For example, in the event that one team received 5 points for a cancelled fixture, then the goals scored by and against both teams level on points, in all games against the offending team, will not be included when its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals is calculated
- 12.2.1 Goal average (goals for divided by goals against) shall be used to determine their relative positions, i.e., the team with the higher average score over the course of the competition shall take precedence
- 12.2.2 In the event that goal average does not differentiate between the teams, then goal difference shall be applied, i.e., precedence shall be given to the team with the greater difference between goals scored and goals conceded
- 12.2.3 In the event that goal difference does not differentiate between the teams, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence
- 12.2.4 In the event that goals scored does not differentiate between the teams, then the result of the group match(es) between the two teams will be the decider.
- 12.2.5 In the event of a draw at full time of the extra game, extra time of 2 minutes each way will be played, changing over at half time without a break. Teams will toss for centre pass and change ends. In the event of a draw at full time, play will continue without a break, until the next goal is scored
- 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.

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13 REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

- 13.1 Scorers and umpires must record their name on the results card.
- 13.2 Captains must check the scores with both Scorers and if satisfied must sign the result card. A runner will then take scores to the Recorders Table.
- 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 If a Team Captain is not in agreement with the final score or does not wish to sign the result card for other reasons, her Team Manager must advise their opponents and both Umpires and state reasons for their non-compliance with this regulation and report immediately to the Competition Referees.
- 13.5 In the event that Court Runners are not provided, it is the responsibility of the winning Team Captain or Manager to take both result cards to the Recorders Table after they have been signed by each Umpire, Scorer and Team Captain.
- 13.6 In the event of a draw, each Team Captain or Manager will take responsibility for taking a card to the recorders table.

Section D - Competition Referees, Complaints and Appeals Procedure

14. COMPETITION REFEREES

- 14.1 Competition Referees will be appointed by the Nottinghamshire 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, 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 will 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 such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of the Nottinghamshire 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 Referees 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 seventy two (72) hours of the match who will refer it to the Regional Management Board

16.3 The Regional Management Board will establish a Competition Appeals Committee (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 must 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 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 seventy two (72) hours, 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 seventy two (72) hours 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 twenty four (24) hours of it reaching its determination. The CAC shall have the discretion to publish the decision through whatever means it considers appropriate.

16.9 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 seventy two (72) hours 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 competition is played as determined by the LOC

Section E - Miscellaneous

17 CLOSE RANGE PHOTOGRAPHY

- 17.1 The England Netball Safeguarding Guidelines require that any person wishing to engage in any photography or close-range photography should register their details with staff in the Registration area.
- 17.2 Anyone wishing to take photographs must be 'vouched for' by a club representative, produce photographic identity at the beginning of the competition and will be required to wear an accreditation badge.
- 17.3 Any club with players who do not want to be photographed/videoed must inform the Competition Organiser prior to the event

18 PLAYERS & BLEEDING

Please note IFNA Regulation 9.3.1 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 regulation 9.3.1.
- 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. This may mean that she/he should request the other Umpire to take any Toss Up that she/he may award, until she/he can deal with her/his own injury. 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 Competition 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

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

21 JEWELLERY & PIERCINGS

England Netball Domestic Guidance must be followed and can be found in paragraph 5
<https://www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/make-the-game/officiating/rules-updates>

22 ACCIDENT REPORTING

All participants acknowledge that participating in the sport of netball involves a risk of personal injury and by taking part in the East Midlands Competition whether as a player, team member, team official, other official or spectator, each participant does so at their own risk.

An England Netball Accident Form must be completed for all accidents, and will be found on the England Netball website.

(<https://www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/membership/insurance/report-a-claim>)

Section F - Disclaimer

Nottinghamshire Netball Associations and 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.