

# **REGIONAL U16 AND U14 LEAGUES 2024-2025 QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS**



## **RULES & REGULATIONS**

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**It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players are conversant with the regulations.**

### **1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

- 1.1 The competition shall be known as the Regional U16 & U14 Leagues Qualifying Tournaments ("Qualifying Tournaments").
- 1.2 The Qualifying Tournaments are controlled and managed by London & South East Regional Netball Association (the "Region").
- 1.3 The purpose of the Qualifying Tournaments is to determine the Clubs who will compete in the Regional U16 League and the Regional U14 League for the forthcoming season ("the League(s)"). The Qualifying Tournaments will be split into two age groups – U16 and U14.
- 1.4 These Rules and Regulations ("the Regulations") must be followed by all Teams, Team Officials, Technical Officials, Match Officials, spectators and administrators involved in the management, administration, and operation of the Qualifying Tournaments.
- 1.5 It is the responsibility of the Club, not the Region to ensure that all Players and relevant parties connected to the Team are fully conversant with the Regulations. All Clubs will be held responsible for the overall conduct of their Players, Team Officials, Technical Officials, and spectators (meaning the behaviour, demeanour and actions of all persons associated with the Club).
- 1.6 The decisions of the Region in respect of the Regulations and on any other matter related to the Qualifying Tournaments, 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 in section 8).

### **2. COMPETITION REFEREE**

- 2.1 A Competition Referee will be appointed by the Region for the Qualifying Tournaments.
- 2.2 The Competition Referee will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising during the Qualifying Tournament including, but not limited to:
  - 2.2.1 altering or amending the Tournament Schedule as necessary;
  - 2.2.2 determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction (including disqualification of any individual, Player or Team);

- 2.2.3 adjudicating instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour or behaviour that brings the sport into disrepute, including but not limited to instances of Teams predetermining, or attempting to predetermine, the outcome of a Match and/or the Qualifying Tournaments;
  - 2.2.4 upholding and enforcing the decision by any medical advisor, regarding the participation of a Player and whether they are able to a) start the match or b) continue to play;
  - 2.2.5 determining the result and score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance;
  - 2.2.6 altering the length of Matches;
  - 2.2.7 determining any matter not covered specifically within the Regulations.
- 2.3 The Competition Referee may call upon, or delegate to, additional persons to assist with the Competition or consult with other persons prior to making any decision. However, the final decision and accountability for the decision will rest with the Competition Referee.
  - 2.4 If a Player is suspended from a Match or ordered to leave the court and take no further part in a match, that Player and a Team Official (normally the Coach), may be required to attend a hearing before the Competition Referee. After the hearing, the Competition Referee will decide what if any action will be taken.
  - 2.5 The Competition Referee will maintain and be responsible for a confidential Competition Referee Logbook (if appropriate).

### **3. TEAM ENTRY AND ELIGIBILITY**

- 3.1 Entry to the Qualifying Tournaments is open to any Club which is registered to England Netball through a County within the area of jurisdiction of the Region, being Essex Metropolitan, Kent, Middlesex and Surrey.
- 3.2 The Qualifying Tournaments will be contested between as many Teams as shall be determined by the Region. A maximum of one Team per Club is permitted to compete in each age group.
- 3.2 Entry to the Qualifying Tournaments will be determined by the Region, at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of these Regulations.
- 3.3 The Region is entitled to charge an entry fee to the Qualifying Tournaments and this must be paid in full within the required timescales for a Team to compete.
- 3.4 By entering a Team in a Qualifying Tournament Clubs agree that:
  - a) they are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the Qualifying Tournament;
  - b) they will fulfil their obligations and responsibilities set out in these Regulations;
  - c) they are bound by these Regulations; and
  - d) they are bound by all of the rules, policies, regulations and by-laws of England Netball, including the England Netball Codes of Conduct and Disciplinary Rules and Regulations, as may from time to time be in force.

- 3.5 It is expected that all Clubs ensure that they follow England Netball safeguarding guidelines, including obtaining enhanced (child workforce) DBS certificates for all relevant coaches and team officials.
- 3.6 All Players and Team Officials must be England Netball members, having paid the full adult / junior membership fee due and received confirmation of their membership in advance of submitting the Squad Registration Sheet for the Qualifying Tournament(s). Social and Supporting memberships do not constitute full membership.
- 3.7 Any Club who knowingly and deliberately provides false information regarding the identity of Players when registering Players or naming Players on team sheets may be subject to disciplinary action and may be expelled from the Qualifying Tournament at the discretion of the Region.
- 3.8 Players of Teams competing in the U14 age group must be over ten (10) years of age and under fourteen (14) years of age as at 11.59pm on **31 August 2025**. No-one under the age of eleven (11) is permitted to compete in the Qualifying Tournament.
- 3.9 Players of Teams competing in the U16 age group must be over thirteen (13) years of age and under sixteen (16) years of age as at 11.59pm on **31 August 2025**. Any Clubs wishing to register Players under the age of fourteen (14) must have completed the Age Banding Consent Form and submitted this alongside the Squad Registration Sheet for the Qualifying Tournament.
- 3.10 All Team Managers must be over the age of eighteen (18) years old prior to the Qualifying Tournament.
- 3.11 During the Qualifying Tournaments, Team Managers must carry proof of age for all Players and a copy of any Age Banding Consent Forms applicable to Players listed on the Squad Registration Sheet. Proof of age comprises one or more of the following:
- copy of birth certificate
  - copy of passport
  - copy of medical card showing date of birth
- 3.12 The Qualifying Tournaments are a competition for biologically female participants. Only biologically female participants can be included on the Squad Registration Sheet.
- 3.13 Should a Team play an ineligible Player, and this is identified before the end of the Qualifying Tournament, the Matches where the ineligible Player took to the court will be awarded as a win to the opposition with a score of 5-0. The offending Team will also be deducted 5 points for these Matches.
- 3.14 Should an ineligible Player be identified retrospectively after the Qualifying Tournament, all the results of the offending Team shall be expunged from the Qualifying Tournament, and that Team shall be disqualified. The Region will decide whether this has affected any other Team's qualification for the Leagues, and if appropriate organise any additional play-off match required to complete the formation of the Leagues.
- 3.15 An ineligible Player is defined as:
- 3.15.1 A Player who does not hold full England Netball membership;
  - 3.15.2 A Player who is not included on the Squad Registration Sheet;
  - 3.15.3 A Player who has represented a Club in a different regional qualifying competition for the same age group for season 2025-26.

It is the responsibility of the Club, not the Region, to ensure that all Players are eligible to compete.

#### **4. REGISTRATION OF SQUADS**

- 4.1 Clubs may register up to twelve (12) Players and three (3) Reserves in their Team, for each age group of the Qualifying Tournament.
- 4.2 Clubs must complete a Squad Registration Sheet(s) for each age group, fully listing each Player, reserve Players, and Team Officials with their relevant details as requested. In addition, Clubs must provide their official club roster from England Netball's ENGage membership system in the format requested by the Region, showing all Players and Team Officials marked as 'active'.
- 4.3 The Squad Registration Sheet(s), official club roster and fully completed and any signed Age Banding Consent Forms must be submitted to the Region in accordance with the instructions in the invitation to enter, by the date specified.
- 4.4 Only the 12 listed Players of any Team are eligible to compete except in the event of illness or injury prior to the start of the Qualifying Tournament. In this event, any replacement of those 12 Players must be one of the named Reserves who appear on the Squad Registration Sheet submitted to the Region.
- 4.5 Any amendments to the 12 listed Players with one of the named Reserves can be made prior to the Team Manager signing the Squad Registration Sheet during the Registration Period on the morning of the Qualifying Tournament.
- 4.6 No changes may be made to the Squad Registration Sheet once the Team Manager has signed it, even if the Registration Period has not closed.
- 4.7 Players who are registered for a Team for a Qualifying Tournament may only represent that Club in the Leagues, should that Team successfully qualify.

#### **5. COMPETITION VENUE & SCHEDULING**

- 5.1 Matches will be played wherever possible on courts with adequate surrounds and playing surface and with ancillary facilities for participants including changing facilities, unless otherwise agreed by the Competition Referee. Where any such facilities are not available, this will be communicated to all Clubs and Match Officials before the day of the Qualifying Tournament.
- 5.2 The Region will hire the venue from a third party and the Competition Referee will conduct a risk assessment and take all reasonable steps to mitigate any risk so identified. The Region will not be liable to a person for any direct or indirect loss or injury resulting from the venue.
- 5.3 Seven (7) days prior to the date of the Qualifying Tournament, the Region will provide the Clubs and Match Officials with confirmation in writing (via email) of the date, start time and schedule (the "Tournament Schedule").
- 5.4 All Matches must be played in accordance with the Tournament Schedule and take place on the day of the Qualifying Tournament, unless otherwise agreed by the Competition Referee.

5.5 Clubs will be responsible for arranging their own travel and the costs of this. All Teams should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays. Any Team which fails to arrive on time must arrive at the event within 30 minutes of the agreed Registration Period in order to be allowed to compete in the Qualifying Tournament.

5.6 If a Match is postponed or cancelled for any reason, it is the responsibility of the Competition Referee to ensure that the Teams and Match Officials are informed immediately the postponement or cancellation is known.

## **6. PLAYING AND COMPETITION**

### **6.1 Match rules and format**

6.1.1 All Matches shall be played to the World Netball Rules of the Game and England Netball's domestic guidance currently in force in England at the time, except where specifically stated in these Regulations.

6.1.2 The Qualifying Tournament shall be played in the format set out within these Regulations, and the Tournament Schedule provided, unless otherwise determined by the Region.

### **6.2 Match Officials (Umpires)**

6.2.1 Umpires who hold a current Netball Europe Award at 'C' or above will be allocated to the Qualifying Tournament by the Region.

6.2.2 In the event that an Umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied:

- The Competition Referee and Umpire Co-ordinator must be informed immediately.
- The Umpire Co-ordinator will appoint a replacement Umpire for the Match.

6.2.3 In the event of any Player being Suspended or Ordered Off, the Umpires must report to the Competition Referee to explain the circumstances.

### **6.3 Technical Officials**

6.3.1 The Technical Officials are the Scorers and Timekeepers, and they shall constitute the Official Bench.

6.3.2 Scorers will be required for all Matches. Each Team must provide a competent Scorer, either an Umpire, qualified Technical Official or a person with a good working knowledge of scoring (who cannot be a Team Official or Player).

6.3.3 Each Team must provide a competent Timekeeper for all Matches, however the Scorer and Timekeeper may be the same person. The Timekeeper must provide their own suitable method of timing such as a stopwatch or phone stopwatch.

6.3.4 The Technical Officials will time any Suspensions and supervise any player who has been Suspended or Ordered Off for the specified period of playing time. As all matches will be centrally timed, Timekeepers should be prepared to assist the Umpires in noting any time lost from Matches due to severe injury.

- 6.3.5 In conjunction with the Umpires, Scorers are required to record all Game Management sanctions (Caution, Warning, Suspension or Ordering Off), using the reverse of the scorecard.

#### **6.4 Team Officials**

- 6.4.1 Each Team may have up to three (3) Team Officials. These will include a Coach, Team Manager and at least one Primary Care Person.
- 6.4.2 Team Officials may be fewer than specified and may therefore undertake several duties. However Primary Care Persons must not also be Players and it is preferable that they do not hold any other role.
- 6.4.3 The Team Officials and up to five (5) players not on court shall constitute the Team Bench.
- 6.4.4 The Team Bench will be situated in the area at the Team's defending end at the start of the Match to the right of the netball posts unless otherwise agreed with the Umpires. The Team Bench does not change ends during any intervals.

#### **6.5 Kit and Equipment**

- 6.5.1 All players on court should wear team uniform as registered with the Region. It is recommended that a spare kit is provided by each team to be readily available during a Match, for example, to replace blood-stained clothing.
- 6.5.2 Teams must carry an alternative set of bibs for use where a clash of colours occurs. It is the Team Manager's responsibility to identify any potential clash. Where a clash of colours is identified, Team Captains will toss a coin to determine which Team shall wear the alternative kit.
- 6.5.3 Each Team must provide a size five (5) netball, which must be clearly marked for identification purposes. The Umpires will check both match balls and determine one for use as the match ball and one to be used as the reserve.

#### **6.6 Match Timings and Start of Play**

- 6.6.1 Match Timings will be decided by the Region and communicated to Teams when the Tournament Schedule is provided.
- 6.6.2 Central timing will be used and will normally be sounded by a hooter, but Matches will start and finish on the Umpire's whistle. The hooter will sound at the beginning and end of an interval. A warning will be given, before play is due to commence, 5 minutes prior to the start of the first Match of the Qualifying Tournament.
- 6.6.3 Umpires must ensure that:
- a) Before the start of each match the two Captains have tossed for centre pass and informed the Umpires and Scorers of the result.
  - b) Both Teams are on court, in position and ready to play at the scheduled time in accordance with the Tournament Schedule.
  - c) No Team starts a Match with less than five (5) Players on court.

- 6.6.4 Any Team not on court as detailed in accordance with 6.6.3 a) to c) above will concede the Match. Zero (0) points will be awarded to the Team conceding the match and five (5) match points for a win will be awarded to the Team on court, in position and ready to play at the correct time. The Umpires must record on the scorecard the name and arrival time of the Team which arrived late.

## **6.7 Substitutes and Team Changes**

- 6.7.1 During the half time interval, substitutions and team changes may be made by both Teams providing they take place immediately.
- 6.7.2 Only injured or ill Players may be substituted during a Match owing to the short game time. No other changes may be made during a Match by either Team.
- 6.7.3 No extra time will be allowed for injury or illness, or for any substitution made as a result of it.

## **6.8 Injuries and Accidents**

- 6.8.1 It is the responsibility of each Team to have an identified Primary Carer and provide and carry adequate first aid cover for its Players and Team Officials, which should also be made available to the Umpires upon request.
- 6.8.2 Play may be stopped if the Umpires deem it necessary due to the injury or illness of a Player. Substitutions must be made immediately, and time will not be held or added. If a substitute player is not ready to take the court, then play will continue and they may take to the court after a goal is scored, having notified the Umpire.
- 6.8.3 Team Officials are required to take great care in moving an injured player or ill player from the court.
- 6.8.4 Should the Primary Carer feel that an injury is critical (e.g. head, neck or back) and that the injured Player should not be moved without the assistance of medical staff, the Umpires should note the time lost during treatment and report to the Competition Referee who will adjudicate.
- 6.8.5 For all accidents or injuries on or off the court at the Qualifying Tournament, where any Player, Team Official, Match Official, Technical Official, spectator, volunteer, staff member or any other individual connected to the Qualifying Tournament is injured, the Competition Referee must complete an Accident Report Form and return it to the Region.
- 6.8.6 This procedure should be followed for all injuries and accidents, regardless of whether or not medical treatment is given.
- 6.8.7 In the event that a Match is abandoned for any reason, for example because of severe injury, the result of that Match will be determined by the Competition Referee, having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.

## **6.9 Scoring**

- 6.9.1 The Qualifying Tournaments' results tables will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each Team.

6.9.2 Teams will be awarded tournament points as follows:

- Five (5) points for a win
- Three (3) points for a draw
- One (1) point for a loss in which the Team scores more than 50% per cent of the winning Team's score
- Zero (0) points for a loss in which the Team scores 50% or less of the winning Team's score

6.9.3 Where Teams are level on points:

- Goal Average shall be used to determine their relative positions, i.e. the Team with the higher average score shall take precedence.
- In the event that Goal Average does not differentiate between the Teams, then the Team with the higher Goal Difference shall take precedence.
- In the event that Goal Difference does not differentiate between the Teams, then the result of the group Match between the two Teams will be the decider.
- In the event that the group Match result does not differentiate between the Teams, then the Team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence.
- In the event that neither Goal Average nor Goal Difference nor the group match result nor goals scored can differentiate between the Teams, the winner will be decided by playing an extra time match of two (2) minutes each way in accordance with the extra time process between the Teams as outlined below in Regulation 6.9.4.

Note – where one of the Teams has its Goal Average, Goal Difference or total number of goals scored affected by conceded fixtures or fixtures affected by the playing of an ineligible player, then all goals scored by and against conceding or penalised Team(s) in the equivalent home or away fixture shall be omitted in from the calculations above for the Teams level on points (except where one of the Teams level on points is the conceding or penalised Team, at which point they assume a Goal Average of zero (0) and will be the lowest ranked Team of those level on points.

6.9.4 Where the result of a Match must produce a winner, for example in the playoff stages of the Qualifying Tournaments, the following will apply in the event of a draw at full time:

- a) Teams change ends immediately after full time and there will be extra time of two (2) minutes each way.
- b) The centre pass is taken by the Team entitled to the next centre pass.
- c) The Teams will change ends at half time without a break.
- d) In the event of a draw after the full period of extra time, play will continue without a break, until the next goal is scored, whereupon the Team which scores that goal will be the winners.

**6.10 Registration of Results**

6.10.1 Both scorecards must be checked and signed by the Scorers and Team Managers. Once the official scorecards have been signed, no dispute can be lodged unless clearly marked 'under protest' in accordance with Regulation 7.1.2.

6.10.2 If there is disagreement in relation to the final score, the procedure outlined in Section 7 (Competition Complaints Procedure) should be followed.



6.10.3 It is the responsibility of the Scorers from each Team to submit their scorecard to the Score Table immediately following the Match.

#### **6.11 Qualification for Regional Leagues**

6.11.1 The top eight (8) Teams from the U14 age group will qualify for the U14 Regional League

6.11.2 The top eight (8) Teams from the U16 age group will qualify for the U16 Regional League

6.11.3 Should further places become available prior to the start of the Leagues, due to a Team dropping out, or refusing their place, these will be offered to the next highest placed Team(s) in order of their finishing positions, or the Region, in its discretion, shall arrange additional playoff matches if required.

### **7. COMPETITION COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

7.1 On the day of the Qualifying Tournament, all queries and complaints (a Complaint) should be directed to the Competition Referee in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows:

7.1.1 Where the Complaint relates to the Competition format or management, including (but not limited to) the schedule, the opposing Team, the 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 Referee. The Complaint must then be acknowledged by the Competition Referee who will decide what action should be taken.

7.1.2 Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a Match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant Squad member or Team Official, must do the following:

- a) Inform their opponents and the Umpires of their complaint.
- b) Mark the scorecard with the words 'Under Protest';
- c) Take the scorecard marked 'Under Protest' to the Competition Referee, straight after the Match.
- d) Explain the issue in full to the Competition Referee.

The Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken.

7.1.3 The Competition Referee's decision in relation to decisions taken under clauses 7.1.1 or 7.1.2 is binding except where parties to the Complaint have the right to appeal the decision under section 8 below.

7.2 Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Qualifying Tournament by the Region, such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of the Region.

7.3 Where a Complaint relates to the behaviour of a Player, Team, Team Official, Technical Official, Match Official, volunteer or individual attending the Qualifying Tournament which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations, such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures set out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations and should be referred to the Disciplinary Secretary of England Netball.

## **8 APPEALS AGAINST THE COMPETITION REFEREE'S DECISION**

8.1 The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a Complaint submitted in accordance with sections 7.1.1 or 7.1.2 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

8.1.1 if the decision of the Competition Referee has a potential impact on a Match result, a results table, or the outcome of the Qualifying Tournament; and

8.1.2 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.

8.2 An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the Team Manager of the appealing Team to the Region within seventy-two (72) hours of the Qualifying Tournament.

8.3 The appeal shall be accompanied by a payment of £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 payment being returned.

8.4 The Region will establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected to the Qualifying Tournament. One of those individuals will be appointed as the Chair.

8.5 The Chair of the CAC give notice of 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 the CAC to submit any evidence or submission that they wish the CAC to consider.

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

8.7 The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy-two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions.

8.8 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.

8.9 The CAC shall have the delegated power of the Region 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 Qualifying Tournament) relating to the appeal.

- 8.10 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. For the avoidance of doubt, there shall be no further right of appeal against the decision of the CAC.
- 8.11 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, as far as such waiver may be validly made.
- 8.12 The seat of arbitration shall be England, the language used shall be English and the governing law of the regulations and these proceedings under this section shall be English Law.
- 8.13 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.
- 8.14 In order to adhere to the timescales set out in this section, all communication will take place via electronic mail to the Team Manager listed on the Squad Registration Sheet. It is the participating Teams responsibility to ensure the contact details provided to the Region are up to date.

## **9 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

- 9.1 The Region 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 the Region's liability for any personal loss or injury caused by the Region's own negligence, the negligence of its employees, or for fraud.
- 9.2 All participants acknowledge that participating in the sport of netball involves a risk of personal injury and by taking part in the Qualifying Tournament, whether as a Player, Team Official, Match Official, Technical Official or spectator, each participant does so at their own risk.
- 9.3 If any of these Regulations are held by any competent authority to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of the Regulations shall not be affected thereby.
- 9.4 These Regulations shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law.
- 9.5 Any questions regarding these Regulations can be addressed to the Regional Office.
- 9.6 The Region reserves the right to amend these Regulations each year in advance of the Qualifying Tournament.

## DEFINITIONS

Some definitions within these Rules and Regulations are set out in the England Netball Membership Regulations and World Netball Rules of the Game or have been defined within these Regulations. Supplementary to these, the following terms shall have the meanings set out below.

**Accident Report Form** means a form that provided by the Region which records the details required by current legislation regarding reportable accident or incidents.

**Goal Average** means the goals scored by a Team divided by the goals conceded by a Team (to two decimal places).

**Goal Difference** means the goals scored by a Team minus the goals conceded by a Team.

**Match** means an individual game of Netball played as part of the Qualifying Tournament.

**Player** means an individual listed on the Squad Registration Sheet who may from time to time participate in a Match.

**Primary Care Person** means a person who is qualified to diagnose and treat injury and illness (for example doctor or physiotherapist) with a minimum of a first aid qualification.

**Score Table** means a designated area at the Qualifying Tournament to which all scorecards must be returned. This area will be clearly communicated during the Registration Period.

**Registration Period** means the time scheduled prior to the first Match of the Qualifying Tournament for Teams and Umpires to register their arrival, receive information regarding the schedule, carry out administrative tasks such as agreeing the Squad Registration Sheet and any other procedures required. The Region will notify all Teams of the Registration Period prior to the day of the Qualifying Tournament.

**Reserve** means an individual listed on the Squad Registration Sheet as a reserve Player who in the event of injury or illness may take the place of a Player.

**Team** means the Players listed on the Squad Registration Sheet.

## ENGLAND NETBALL DOMESTIC GUIDANCE FOR MATCH PERSONNEL

The priority must be to encourage increased participation in Netball, while being sensitive to religious practices, cultural differences, health, and well-being issues, for example, climatic weather conditions with due regard to the safety of all participants.

**Players Uniform:** Exceptionally non-registered playing uniform may be worn. There is no intention to debar players from wearing tracksuits and clothing that reflect the uniform and colours of a club. Umpires should act responsibly and sensitively in checking that the players' uniform reflects both the World Netball Rules and EN Domestic Rules Guidance. Umpires should therefore use common sense when applying the rules in the local leagues.

**Gloves:** No form of glove should normally be worn when playing Netball. However, EN recognises its responsibility for duty of care to all players playing Netball, particularly outside and within school and junior competition. In extreme weather or climatic conditions, or with a medical condition, gloves may be worn. If for medical reasons gloves are required, then on production of an appropriate medical certificate/letter, a local league, County, Region or EN should allow gloves to be worn. The player should ensure that the gloves worn do not endanger other players' safety. Gloves should be plain, soft leather or micro fibre (e.g. Neoprene) which are manufactured without seams (or with internally sewn seams) and have no abrasive materials including but not limited to zippers, Velcro, metallic or plastic fasteners or rubberized embellishments used to improve grip. Umpires are reminded that they still need to be satisfied that any gloves worn do not present an obvious hazard to other players. Umpires must also check fingernails conform to World Netball Rule 5.1.1 (iv) (c) Fingernails must be short and smooth

**Head Coverings:** A player may wear a hat, head covering or scarf. They should ensure that the material used for the head covering is soft and without embellishments or loose fibres, which might constitute a danger to any other player on the court, and with potential flowing/flapping edges held securely around the neck or tucked into the shirt collar. Headbands that meet the requirements as above should be allowed. Peaked, baseball or tennis type caps do not meet the requirements and are not permitted.

**Eyewear:** If a player/coach/official has to wear glasses for medical reasons then she/he is fully insured from an EN point of view, but the glasses are not insured. Sunglasses should not normally be worn when participating in netball activities. However, sunglasses may be worn for genuine medical reasons when participating in recognised and authorised EN activities. If sunglasses are required for genuine medical reasons, then an appropriate medical certificate must be supplied to EN (or the appropriate League, County or Region).

**Jewellery / adornments and medical alerts:** It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that they comply with World Netball Rule 5.1.1 (iv). Decorative beading or metal clasps should not be worn in a player's hair as these have the potential to add weight or may act as a slip hazard if they come loose. Players that have beading that cannot be easily removed may choose to cover their hair with a scarf, but this must comply with the guidance outlined in 'Head Coverings'. They may also choose to contain their hair in a net. Dermal piercings (that are located below the skin and cannot be easily removed) and flat religious rings or bracelets (which are not to be removed for religious and / or cultural reasons) are to be suitably covered with padding / tape as necessary to prevent injury to others.

**Ear Tunnels/Lobe Stretchers:** It is recommended that ear tunnels and/or lobe stretchers are not removed as this can lead to a greater risk. These should instead be replaced with a flat silicone 'spacer' and secured into place with tape to prevent them from being dislodged.

**Daith/Tragus Piercing:** The medical evidence regarding a Daith/Tragus piercing is only anecdotal at this time with some Doctors prepared to support its use and some that do not. England Netball would suggest that the player gets a supporting letter from a doctor and then appeals to their league committee for a dispensation as there may be local regulations that apply. If granted it is suggested that the player wears a headband covering her piercing. Taping is not sufficient, and the headband would offer an additional level of safety to the wearer and other players.

**Hair:** Hair should be suitably tied back whilst participating in Netball and any hair accessory that is used should not pose any risk to any individual. A single 'ponytail' is sufficient for all hair types. Hair should be free from any decorative adornment. Where an adornment is not easily removable the hair should be suitably secured and covered with a head covering or scarf. This provides an additional level of safety for the wearer and other players on court.

**Medical aids:** Players wearing medical aids to protect injury or post-surgery and who are prepared to take the risk of playing, may take the court provided the medical aid is covered adequately thus preventing no obvious hazard to other players. Such players are advised to ensure that they have appropriate personal liability insurance coverage. Any medical aid must be approved by a qualified medical practitioner especially when returning to Netball from injury and have an appropriate medical certificate/letter. The medical aid must be 'flexible' form and not inhibit movement for the individual. The wearing of ankle braces does not apply to these medical aid guidelines therefore can be worn.

*Please note that Libre sensors used by diabetic players to monitor blood sugar levels are not required to be covered as they pose no additional risk to the wearer or other players.*

**Pregnancy:** EN recommends that individuals (players, coaches, umpires etc) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidelines issued by EN. Neither EN, nor the registered netball organisation will be held liable for any pregnant individual participating in recognised and authorised netball activity should the expectant mother suffer a miscarriage or permanent damage to herself and / or unborn child as a result of participating. The EN Personal Accident cover will not provide any benefit for injury, loss, or expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage, or any consequence thereof. For example, if an 'Insured Person' who is pregnant is involved in an accident (not pregnancy related) and suffers a broken leg then, subject to claims validation, the policy would pay any broken bones benefit, the Hospital Confinement benefit and Temporary Total Disablement benefit due under the Personal Accident Insurance Policy resulting from this injury. However, if the absence or hospital stay is prolonged as a direct result of pregnancy, pregnancy complications or even early childbirth then this would not be covered. The programme of insurance that is centrally arranged by EN is provided as a Membership benefit and ensures that Affiliated Members (referred to in the Liability insurance documents as 'Registered Participants') and in the Personal Accident documents as an 'Insured Person' are covered for Liability and Personal Accident Insurance, at the level of cover applicable to their category of membership. This information is intended as a guide only - full terms and conditions apply as detailed in the policy documents, in association with EN's current Memorandum, Articles, Regulations and Policies. The summary of cover is available in the member welcome email and full policy documents are available from Howden.