

Regional U16 League 2019-20

Qualifying Tournament Regulations



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 League Qualifying Tournament.

1.2 The decisions of the London & South East Region in respect of these Rules and Regulations and on any other matter related to the Tournament 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 sections 9 and 10).

1.3 All clubs will be held responsible for the **Overall Conduct*** of their players, officials and spectators.

2. QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Entry to the U16 Qualifying Tournament is open to any Member Club (one team per Club) which is Registered to England Netball through a County within the area of jurisdiction of the London & South East Region (L&SERNA). [Essex Met, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey]

2.2 Entry will be determined by L&SERNA, at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the Rules and Regulations laid out herein.

2.3 L&SERNA is entitled to charge an entry fee to the U16 Qualifying Tournament.

2.4 By entering a team in the U16 Qualifying Tournament clubs/teams agree that:

- a) they are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the Competition;
- b) they will fulfil their obligations and responsibilities set out in the Regulations;
- c) they are bound by the Competition 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.

2.5 In order to qualify a team to participate in the U16 Qualifying Tournament a club shall either be accredited under England Netball's CAPS scheme, or registered and actively working towards the same, prior to submitting the Registration Form. Failure to meet these requirements will result in a team not being permitted to participate.

2.6 In order to qualify to participate in the Regional U16 Qualifying Tournament, players shall be female and they and the Team Officials (see 6.5) shall be Registered Members of England Netball, via one of the following qualifications:

- a) Through a Member Club
- b) Through a County

2.7 All players and Match Officials (Rule 6) must have paid their England Netball Membership and be marked as 'active' on the ENgage Membership System **no less than four (4) days** before **Competition Day***.

2.8 No club may enter more than one team in the Qualifying Tournament.

2.9 All players must be U16 at 11.59pm on 31 August / 1 September 2019.

2.10 A player who is U14 on the date as defined in 2.9 may play in the Qualifying Tournament with specific permission as defined by the RMB ('Age Banding' required). A maximum of TWO (2) Age Banded U14 players will be allowed per team.

2.11 No player who is U13 on the date as defined in 2.9 may play in the Qualifying Tournament.

2.12 During the Competition, Team Managers must at all times carry proof of age for all Players and a copy of Age Banding Consent Forms applicable to Players listed on the Squad Registration Sheet.

2.13 Proof of age comprises of one or more of the following:

- a) Copy of birth certificate;
- b) Copy of passport;
- c) Copy of medical card.

2.14 England Netball recommends that individuals (player, coach, umpire) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidelines issued by England Netball.

3. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

3.1 Squad Registration Sheets for each participating team must be completed in full for each player and lodged, together with any related, properly SIGNED Age Banding Forms and the Official Club Roster (from the ENgage Membership System with Jenny Harrold by **Monday 9th September 2019**).

3.2 Teams may use up to twelve (12) players whose names appear on their Squad Registration Sheet held by L&SERNA.

3.3 All players must be in Membership of England Netball and Registered to the Club that they are representing in the competition (marked 'active' on the Official Club Roster).

3.4 Any additions, or alterations to the Squad Registration Sheets must be lodged with L&SERNA's Tournament Referee on the Competition Day, prior to the start of the Tournament.

3.5 No changes may be made to the Squad Registration Sheet once the Team Manager has signed it during the Registration Period of the Competition Day, even if the Registration Period has not closed.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

4.1 The Qualifying Tournament will be contested between as many teams as shall be determined by L&SERNA.

4.2 The top 8 teams will qualify to enter the Regional U16 League (commencing in October).

4.3 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:

- 5 points for a win
- 3 points for a draw
- 1 point for more than 50 per cent of the winners' score
- 0 points for a loss

4.4 Tables will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team. Where two teams are level on points:

- 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 stage shall take precedence.
- 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.
- 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 with extra time process between the teams as outlined below for Placing Matches.
- Placing Matches (where applicable) – in the event of a draw at full time, 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.

5 MATCH REGULATIONS

5.1 All matches shall be played to the INF Rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time, except where specific regulations may apply.

5.2 All matches shall be played in a format as decided by L&SERNA.

5.3 Start of Play and Late Arrivals

5.3.1 Captains should toss for centre pass well before the start of each game.

5.3.2 All teams must be on court, in position and ready to play, at the time and on the court stated in the playing schedule.

5.3.3 No team may start a game with less than five (5) players.

5.3.4 Any team not on court as per 5.3.2 and 5.3.3 will concede the match. 0 points will be awarded to the team conceding the match.

5.3.5 Match points for a win (5) will be awarded to the team on court, in position and ready to play at the correct time.

5.3.6 The Umpires must record on the Score Card, the name and arrival time of the team who arrived late.

5.4 Central Timing.

5.4.1 Central timing, normally sounded by a hooter, will be used, but matches will start and finish on the Umpire's whistle.

5.4.2 Central Timer will signal the end of each half to the Umpire (usually by a hooter), whose whistle shall end each half.

5.4.4 The hooter will sound at the beginning and end of each half.

5.4.5 A warning will be given before play is due to commence 5 minutes prior to the start of the competition.

5.5 **Substitutes and Teams Changes.** 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.

5.5.1 At half time, substitutions/team changes may be made by both teams providing they take place immediately.

5.5.2 No extra time will be allowed for injury or illness.

5.6 Injuries and Accidents -Team Officials must have basic First Aid knowledge and material readily to hand.

5.6.1 Play may be stopped if the umpire deems it necessary due to the injury or illness of a player.

5.6.2 Team Officials are required to take great care in moving an injured player or ill player from the court.

5.6.3 Should the Team Officials feel that an injury is critical (e.g. head, neck or back) and that the injured Player should not be moved without the medical staff the Officials should note the time lost during treatment and report to the Competition Referee who will adjudicate. (Most Netball injuries i.e. knee, ankle etc fall outside this exemption clause)

5.6.4 For all accidents or injuries on or off the court at the Competition, where any Player, Team Official, Umpire, spectator, Volunteer, Staff Member or any other individual connected to the Competition is injured, the Competition Referee must complete an England Netball Accident Report Form and return to England Netball.

5.6.5 This procedure should be followed for all injuries and accidents, regardless of whether or not medical treatment is given.

5.6.6 In the event that a Match is abandoned for any reason, for example because of serious 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.

5.7 Kit and Equipment. Each team must provide a size five (5) netball, which must be clearly marked for identification purposes.

5.7.1 All players must wear positional bibs and teams must have a spare set in a different colour in case of a clash of colours.

5.7.2 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.

6. MATCH OFFICIALS

6.1 Each Team must provide an active Umpire who holds England Netball Membership for the current (2019-20) season together with a Netball Europe Award ('C' or above). **The name of the umpire MUST be included on the Entry Form.** The Umpires, once approved by L&SERNA, will be organised on the day by an Umpire Co-ordinator appointed to the Tournament.

6.2 Teams will be responsible for paying fees/expenses direct to their umpire.

6.3 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 Umpire Co-ordinator must be informed immediately
- If another umpire of the appropriate minimum standard (C Award) is available then she/he will umpire the match
- Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire should be used.

6.4 **The Technical Officials** are Scorers and Timekeepers. The two (2) scorers shall constitute the Official Bench.

6.4.1 Scorers will be required for all matches. Each team must provide a competent scorer, either an Umpire, qualified Technical Official or a person with working knowledge of scoring (not a Team Bench Official or player).

6.5 **The Team Officials** (max 3) are the Coach, Team Manager and/or Primary Carer. If there is no designated Primary Carer either the Coach or the Team Manager must have knowledge of First Aid.

6.5.1 The Team Officials and up to five (5) players not on court shall constitute the **Team Bench**.

6.5.2 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.

6.5.3 Team Officials and Bench players may coach while play is in progress provided that they remain seated or standing at their Team Bench.

7 REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

7.1 L&SERNA's official scorecard must be checked and signed by the Scorer(s) and both Team Managers. Once the official scorecards have been signed no dispute can be lodged unless clearly marked 'under protest'. If the final score is not agreed then the process outlined in 9.1.2 should be followed.

7.2 A legible copy of the L&SERNA's official scorecard must be submitted to the Recording Table immediately after the match by the winning Team Captain, Team Manager or Scorer. In the event of a draw the Team Captain, Team Manager or Scorer of each team will take responsibility for delivering their own Scorecard.

8. COMPETITION REFEREE

8.1 Competition Referee will be appointed by L&SERNA for the Qualifying Tournament.

8.2 The Competition Referee will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising during the Competition Day* including, but not limited to:

- 8.2.1 altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary;
- 8.2.2 determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction (including disqualification of any individual, Player or Team);
- 8.2.3 maintaining, and being responsible for, a confidential Competition Referee Log Book (if appropriate);
- 8.2.4 enforcing the decision of any Medical Advisor, regarding the participation of a Player and whether they are able to;
 - a) Start the match or b) Continue to play
- 8.2.5 adjudicating Instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour or behaviour that brings the sport into disrepute, including instances of Teams predetermining, or attempting to predetermine, the outcome of a Match and/or Competition Round;
- 8.2.6 determining the score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance;
- 8.2.7 any matter not covered specifically within the Regulations.

8.3 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.

9 COMPETITION COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

9.1 On the Competition Day, all queries and complaints (a Complaint) should be directed to the Competition Referee in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows:

- 9.1.1 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. The Complaint must then be acknowledged by the Competition Referee who will decide what action should be taken; or.

- 9.1.2 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 Score Card with the words 'Under Protest';
 - c) Take the Score Card marked 'Under Protest' to the Competition Referee, straight after the Match;
 - d) Explain the issue in full to the Competition Referee;
 - e) The Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken.
- 9.1.3 The Competition Referee's decision in relation to decisions taken under clauses 9.1.1 or 9.1.2 is binding apart from where parties to the complaint have the right to appeal the decision under Section 10 below.
- 9.2 Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Competition by the Regional Competition TSG, such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of London & South East Region.
- 9.3 Where a Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual Player or Team, volunteer or individual 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 procedures set out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations and should be referred to the Disciplinary Secretary of the Appropriate Authority.

10 APPEAL OF COMPETITION REFEREE DECISION

- 10.1 The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with sections 9.1.1 or 9.1.2 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:
- 10.1.1 if the decision of the Competition Referee has a potential impact on a Match result, a league (section) table, or the outcome of the Competition Round; **AND**
 - 10.1.2 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.

- 10.2 An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the Secretary of the appealing Team to the London & South East Region within seventy two (72) hours of the match.
- 10.3 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.
- 10.4 The London & South East Region 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.
- 10.5 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.
- 10.6 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.
- 10.7 The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions.

- 10.8 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.
- 10.9 The CAC shall have the delegated power of London & South East 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 Competition) relating to the appeal. There is no further right of appeal on this decision.
- 10.10 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.
- 10.11 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.
- 10.12 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 10 shall be English Law.
- 10.13 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.

11 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- 11.1 It is the responsibility of each team to provide and carry adequate first aid cover for its players and officials.
- 11.2 L&SERNA 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 England Netball's liability for any personal loss or injury caused by England Netball's own negligence, the negligence of its employees, or for fraud.
- 11.3 All participants acknowledge that participating in the sport of netball involves a risk of personal injury and by taking part in Qualifying Tournament, whether as a player, team member, team official, other official or spectator, each participant does so at their own risk.
- 11.4 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.
- 11.5 These Regulations shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law.
- 11.6 Any questions regarding these Regulations can be addressed to the Regional Office.

**Definition:*

Overall Conduct = you will be responsible for the behaviour, demeanour and actions of all members associated with your club.

Competition Day = the day when the tournament is played as determined by the L&SERNA