

L&SE REGIONAL U16 LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS 2019 - 2020

1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

1.1 The U16 Regional League shall be governed and managed by the Regional Management Board (RMB), which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to any sub-committee or individual(s).

1.2 The decisions of the RMB, or its nominee(s), in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the U16 Regional League 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 England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations).

1.3 These rules and regulations shall be subject and secondary to the application of England Netball's rules and regulations, especially Playing Regulations 5.1 and 6.1.

1.4 It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players and other club members are conversant with the rules and regulations.

2. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Application for entry to the Regional League shall be open to any club or team which is Registered with England Netball through a County Association, which has paid its subscription in this respect, and which is situated within the boundaries of a County Association which is a member of the Regional Association – unless otherwise agreed by the RMB.

2.2 Entry to the Regional League will be determined by the RMB at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the rules and regulations laid out herein.

2.3 The RMB may be entitled to charge an entry fee to the U16 Regional League.

2.4 All clubs must be actively working towards CAPS and achieve accreditation within 18 months of registration.

2.5 No club may enter more than one team in the Regional League.

2.6 By entering a team in the Regional League, clubs/teams agree that:

- They are conversant with and will abide by these rules and regulations, the England Netball Codes of Conduct and the England Netball Disciplinary Regulations.
- They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the Regional League

2.7 **In order to qualify to participate in the Regional U16 League, a player shall be female, a fully paid Member of England Netball and registered through a Member Club or a County Association in London & South East Region.**

2.8 A player may not play in 2 Geographically different Regional Leagues (e.g. a L&SE Regional League and a South Regional League) during the same season.

2.9 **All players must have paid their EN Membership and be marked as "active" on the ENGage Membership System prior to participation in the Regional U16 League.**

2.10 All players must be U16 on 31 August / 1 September prior to the commencement of the League.

2.11 A player who is U14 on the date as defined in 2.10 may play in the U16 Regional League 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.

2.12 No player who is U13 on the date as defined in 2.10 may play in the U16 Regional League.

2.13 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 EN.

2.14 **TEAM OFFICIALS (Bench Officials) & TECHNICAL OFFICIALS (Scorers, Timekeepers etc) –**

- **Must hold England Netball Membership for the current season.**
- **Coaches must be over 18 years of age**

3. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

Any team who knowingly and deliberately provides false information regarding identity of players when registering players or naming of players on team sheets may be subject to disciplinary action and may be expelled from the competition. Disciplinary action may be taken against the club and this is at the discretion of the RMB.

3.1 Squad registration sheets must contain at least 12 players for each participating team and must be completed fully. Each team must then lodge the sheets, together with any related Age Banding Forms, with the appointed Registration Co-ordinator and the Regional Unit at least fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the Regional League.

3.1.1 Clubs must also submit their Official Club Roster (from the ENgage Membership system) showing players flagged as 'active' for the current Membership year (2019-2020) at least 14 days prior to the commencement of the Regional U16 League, the latest date as specified on the Entry Form.

3.2 Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their squad registration list held by the Registration Co-ordinator and the Regional Unit.

3.3 Any additions to the squad sheets must be lodged, together with any related Age Banding Forms, with the Registration Co-ordinator and the Regional Unit by midnight on Tuesday prior to playing the match.

3.3.1 If the additions are also new **Members** of the Club, a copy of the relevant England Netball Membership Receipt confirming payment, or updated Official Club Roster, must accompany the Registration document.

3.4 Once a player has played she cannot transfer to another club within the U16 Regional League during the course of the current playing season.

3.4.1 A player on the Squad Registration Sheet and playing for a Club in the U16 Regional League is only eligible to play for that Club in the National U16 Finals.*

3.5 Each team must declare up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each match by completing a team sheet/result card. Players' names must be completed in full. Umpires will ensure that completed team sheets/result card are lodged with scorers prior to the game. Players not on the card prior to the start of the match may not take part.

3.6 Premier League Teams within the London & South East Region will be requested by the RMB to nominate their top 7 players before the start of the season. Any player submitted as a top 7 Premier League player cannot participate in or be a registered player of a Regional U16 League team.

3.7 Players registered for a Regional U16 Team may play up to and including 16 quarters for a Premier League Team. On the 17th occasion those players will become ineligible to play again in the Regional Team in the Regional League or the Regional League Playoffs.

3.8 Players registered for a Regional U16 Team may not play for a Regional Senior team on the same fixture date.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

4.1 The U16 Regional League will be contested between as many teams as shall be determined by the RMB from time to time. The number of teams will not normally be less than eight.

4.2 Each team in the Regional U16 League will play each other twice.

The top 2 teams from this League will qualify to progress to the National U16 Clubs Finals.

4.3 Teams will normally play two matches on each fixture date as determined by the RMB.

4.4 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:

- 5 points for a win
- 3 points for a draw
- 2 points for within 5 goals (e.g. 40 – 36)
- 1 point for over 50% goals scored
- 0 for a loss

4.5 A U16 Regional League table will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team. Where two teams are level on points:

- Goal Average shall be used to determine their relative positions. Goal Average will be determined by dividing goals scored by goals against.

- In the event that Goal Average does not differentiate between the teams, then Goal Difference shall be applied, i.e., the team with the higher difference score over the course of the season shall take precedence
- In the event that neither Goal Average nor Goal Difference separates the teams, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence.
- Where one of the teams has its Goal Average, Goal Difference or total number of goals scored affected by cancellations, then the goals scored by and against defaulting team(s) 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 match, 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 or Goal Difference or total number of goals is calculated
- In the event that neither Goal Average nor Goal Difference nor goals scored can differentiate between the teams, the aggregate score in the match or matches played between them over the course of the season shall be calculated and precedence given to the winning team
- In the event that none of the above differentiates between the teams, the RMB, or its nominee(s), shall determine the means of differentiation

5 MATCH ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 Under 16 Regional League Matches will be played at appropriate central venues, approved by the Region, within each Member County on rotation.

5.2 The costs of venues for the Under 16 Regional League will be included in the Entry Fee

5.3 All matches must be played on the date and time specified on the fixture schedule, or except as otherwise agreed by the RMB. Where the Regional League sets a reserve date, this must be used for the first postponed match.

5.4 Matches will **normally** start at 10.00 am and 11.45 am or otherwise notified by the RMB. **Please consult the Match Schedule.**

5.5 All teams will be responsible for the costs and arrangement of their travel, and should allow sufficient time to cover any unexpected delays.

5.6 No team may postpone or cancel a match without the agreement of the RMB. Matches which are postponed due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances or for any other reason; e.g., flash flood, heavy snowfall, must be played as agreed by the RMB.

5.7 If a team cancels a match or fails to fulfil a match, except as allowed for in rule 5.6

- The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points for the match, and the team which cancels will have five (5) league points deducted from their total.
- The team which cancels may be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team and match officials have incurred, subject to the deliberations of the RMB.
- The playing of a friendly match will not constitute fulfilling a match, and the offending team will be deducted 5 league points.

5.8 If a match is cancelled, it is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that the Venue Co-ordinator, Regional Unit and the opposition are informed immediately the cancellation is known.

5.9 In the event that a match which is abandoned for any reason or not played as per rule 5.6; e.g., because of serious injury, the result or re-playing of that match will be determined by the RMB in whatever means it deems appropriate.

6. MATCH REGULATIONS

6.1 All games shall be played to the INF rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time, except where specific regulations may apply.

6.2 All U16 matches shall be of 40 minutes duration (i.e. four quarters of 10 minutes each), one minute at Quarter and Three Quarter Times and 3 minutes at Half Time.

7. MATCH OFFICIALS

7.1 Scorers will be required for all matches. Each team must provide a competent scorer who is preferably a qualified umpire and who must remain a scorer for the entire match. Scorers must not coach.

7.2 Umpires – **TEAMS MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN UMPIRES**. Please nominate, **on the Entry Form**, at least one **ACTIVE** umpire of C Award or above holding a **CURRENT** Fitness Test, ('bleep') certificate, relevant to their Award for approval by L&SERNA. The Umpires, once approved, will be placed neutrally. Clubs will be responsible for meeting their nominated Umpire's expenses direct.

8. SUBMISSION OF RESULTS

8.1 The first named team on each match will be deemed to be the home team and will provide the result card.

8.2 The official result card must be checked and signed by both captains and umpires and sent to the Regional Office to be received within 5 working days of the match. The score for the match will not be registered until the result card has been provided.

8.3 **The Game Management Form MUST be completed and submitted with the Score Sheet if any recordable Game Management issues arose, ticking 'YES' on the Score Sheet. If no such issues occurred the Game Management Form need not be submitted, ticking 'NO' on the Score Sheet.**

8.3 Results must also be sent by text or e-mail within 2 hours by the home team to the nominated Results Co-ordinator/s.

9 COMPETITION REFEREE

9.1 The Competition Referee is the Chair of the Competition Technical Support Group (CTSG)

9.2 The Competition Referee will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising throughout the Regional U16 League including, but not limited to:

- 9.2.1 Altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary;
- 9.2.2 Determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction (including disqualification of any individual, Player or Team). Such penalties will include but not be limited to reprimands, the deduction of league points, fines, suspensions, and expulsion from the Regional U16 League, except as specified below:
 - a) The use of a player without England Netball Membership will result in a deduction of 3 league points on each occasion. The result of the match will still stand.
 - b) The use of an unregistered or ineligible player or a player, who is under age, without seeking Age Banding permission, will result in a deduction of 2 league points. The result of the match will still stand.
 - c) In the event that a team fails to play, the non-offending team will be awarded 5 points for the match and the offending team will have 5 points deducted from their total (Failure to play is defined as not playing in a game, without prior consent from the RMB and with the opposition and officials expecting that the game would be played). The playing of a friendly match will not constitute fulfilling a match.
- 9.2.3 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 the Competition;
- 9.2.4 Determine the score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance;
- 9.2.5 Any matter not covered specifically within the Regulations.

9.3 The Competition Referee may call upon, or delegate to, additional persons to assist with the Regional U16 League 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.

10 COMPETITION COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

10.1 All queries and complaints (Complaint) should be directed to the Competition Referee in the first instance to be dealt with as follows:

- 10.1.1 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:
 - a) inform their opponents and the umpires of their complaint on the day of the match;
 - b) mark the score card with the words "Under Protest";
 - c) send the marked score card to the Competition Referee within 72 hours of the match;
 - d) attach a letter or email to the scorecard to explain the issue in full to the Competition Referee;
 - e) and the Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken.

- 10.1.2 The Competition Referee will acknowledge receipt of the query or complaint and make a decision on the matter within 72 hours of receipt of the query or complaint. The Competition Referee's decision in relation to decisions taken under clause 10.1.1 is binding. Parties to the Complaint shall have the right to appeal the decision under rule 11 below.

10.2 Where the Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Regional U16 League by the Competition TSG, such Complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of the London & South East Region Netball Association.

10.3 Where the Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual or team participating, volunteering or attending a match or using social media technology to bring the game into disrepute or make an inappropriate comment about a fellow player, coach, official, volunteer or the governing body 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.

11 APPEAL OF COMPETITION REFEREE DECISION

11.1 The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with section 10.1.1 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

- a) If the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition; **AND**
- b) If there has been a failure by the Competition Referee to follow or act in accordance with these Rules and Regulations or the Competition Referee 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.

11.2 An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the Secretary of the appealing Team to the Competition Referee, within 72 hours of receiving the decision, who will refer it to Regional Management Board.

11.3 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.

11.4 The Regional Management Board will establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected to the Regional U16 League. One of those individuals will be appointed as the Chair.

11.5 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 the CAC to submit any evidence or submission that they wish the CAC to consider.

11.6 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.

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

11.8 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.

11.9 The CAC shall have the delegated power of Regional Management Board 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.

11.10 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.

11.11 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.

11.12 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 11 shall be English Law.

11.13 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

12 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

12.1 All clubs will be held responsible for their players, officials and spectators.

12.2 It is the responsibility of each team to have an identified Primary Carer and to provide adequate first aid cover for its players which shall also be made available to the match officials on request.

12.3 Jewellery/Medic Alert Bracelets

- All jewellery must be removed when playing netball, and players wearing jewellery (including body piercing) will not be allowed on court. The following exceptions will apply:
- Wedding rings may be worn, but must be taped
- Medic alert bracelets may be worn, but must be secured in such a manner that they will not constitute a danger to an opponent, i.e., with clear tape, and in such a way that it cannot be removed/lifted off by any accidental contact

12.4 Head Covering.

The priority must be to encourage increased participation in sport, with sensitivity to the religious practices and cultural differences, together with the safety of all participants. With this in mind the player, together with the coach/teacher/parent etc. should ensure that the material used for the head covering is soft, without embellishments which might constitute a danger and with potential flowing/flapping edges held securely around the neck or tucked into shirt collar. It should be as neat and secure as possible.

Baseball caps etc are not permitted.

12.5 Gloves.

No form of glove may be worn when playing netball. If for medical reasons gloves are required, then on production of an appropriate medical certificate, the RMB may allow gloves to be worn. Umpires are advised that if a medical certificate is produced and gloves are worn they should be plain, soft, leather type gloves, seamless or with internal seams. These players are then to be advised to have Personal Liability Insurance. Umpires are reminded that they still have to be satisfied that any gloves worn do not present an obvious hazard to other players.

Please note that if gloves are worn this does not supersede the international ruling on nails.

13.6 Hair.

Hair must be suitably tied back. For example, players who have long hair tied in a ponytail must ensure that it does not present a hazard by allowing it to swing in the faces of other players.

*Clarification

ENGLAND NETBALL NATIONAL U16 CLUBS FINALS: RULES AND REGULATIONS

5.2.6 If a Player was not named on the Squad Registration Sheet for the final feeder competition prior to the National Finals, the Club must provide evidence that the Player has played for the Club prior to the date of the final feeder competition. Failure to provide evidence will result in the player being ineligible. **If the player was on the Squad Registration Sheet for another club in the feeder competition, this would also make them ineligible.**

**THE L&SER U16 CLUBS LEAGUE IS THE FEEDER COMPETITION
FOR THE NATIONAL FINALS.**