

NORTH DURHAM NETBALL RULES

The following rules stand for the Junior Winter League 2021. If required, additions and amendments will be made to the rules before the start of the Season and these will be communicated with clubs/teams.

****please note that parking at the Beacon of Light is shared with the Stadium and other business' on site therefore everyone is required to park opposite black cat house or you can use the blue car park and walk across. NDCNA will not accept responsibility for damage, accident or loss****

1. General

The decisions of the North Durham County Netball Association (NDCNA), or its nominee(s), in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter to its leagues not provided for below, shall be considered final and binding on all parties (subject to the right of appeal which is specifically provided under NDCNA constitution . These rules and regulation shall be subject and secondary to the application of England Netball rules and regulations

2. Playing Qualifications and eligibility

League Fees must be paid in full at the start of the season. Teams wishing to enter must complete an entry form prior to the deadline given.

By entering a team in the North Durham League, clubs/teams agree they will abide by these rules and regulations, and also are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the County League.

All players must be affiliated to England Netball. Players cannot change clubs or join additional clubs after the commencement of the league.

3. Nomination of Squad Members

All clubs must complete a nomination squad sheet for each participating team and hand them in before the start of the relevant season. A minimum of 7 players and a maximum of 12 must be nominated for every team; all affiliated players within a club must be affiliated to a team. The competition referee should be informed of new players and their allotted nomination before they take part in any league game. Nominations for the various leagues are entirely separate.

Penalty: Teams found to be in contravention of the Nomination rule will forfeit any points awarded for the games played. The five points will be awarded to the non-offending team. The offending team may incur additional points at the discretion of the committee. Subsequent contravention may incur financial penalty at the discretion of the committee.

Divisions: Players must be in the following school year to play in the listed age groups;

Under 11s school year 6 and under

Under 12s school year 7 and under

Under 13s school year 8 and under

Under 14s school year 9 and under

Under 16s school year 11 and under

Players may “play down” an age group at the committee’s discretion. The justification would have to be accurate and a true reflection of their skill level and ability to even be considered as a possibility. This must be submitted to the league secretary prior to the league commencing.

If a team are to “play up” a division, they must complete an England Netball age banding form which will need to be submitted to the competitions referee prior to the league starting. If a player is “playing up” for a team within their age group for example a player playing for a team this is allowed on only 2 occasions per player. The player’s name must be stated on the results card with a * beside it. Once that player has played their 3rd match in that team they will stay in that team as a player for the rest of the season. Players cannot play down an age group or down a team for example a player cannot play down to under 16 and an a team player cannot play down to a b or c team etc. If this has not been recorded and made apparent to the competition secretary during the course of a season the offending team will automatically have all their results declared void.

4. Fixture Arrangement

The league fixtures are set by the league and will only be re-arranged in the event that the venue is deemed unplayable. In the event that the venue is unplayable, every effort will be made to contact clubs and inform them of the cancellation and no financial compensation will be payable in the event of the expenses incurred.

In the event that a team cannot fulfil a playing fixture they must either:

Offer the opposing team a friendly – remember that any player can play for you in a friendly, from other clubs or higher team within your club. In the event that a friendly is being played both umpires, and the opposing captain MUST be informed before the start of the game that it is a friendly. The team who cannot fulfil the fixture should inform their opposing team and competitions referee as soon as they know the match will be a friendly.

OR if a friendly cannot be offered they must inform the opposing team and competitions referee and umpires as soon as possible with at least 1 days’ notice, and must pay both umpires as per the league fixtures.

Any team to concede more than 3 of their matches during the course of a season will automatically have all their results declared void.

5. Match Regulations

All games shall be played to the IFNA Rules currently in force in England at the time, except where specific local regulations may apply. It is recommended that every club should own a copy of, and ensure their players are familiar with the IFNA Rules of the game.

Matches will consist of 10 minute Quarters with intervals of 1, 2, 1, minutes respectively. Central Timing will be administered by the league admin on the day. If a team is not on court at the starting time, the umpires may award the match to the team on court.

There will be no additional time available to cover for injuries so injured players must be removed from court as soon as possible and the game should resume promptly. Players bleeding whilst on court must be removed immediately and a replacement

may step on court after a goal is scored. There is no requirement to wait for substitutes to take the court if they are not ready. First aid should be administered off court whilst the game continues. It is the responsibility of each team to provide first aid cover for its players, officials and spectators and must report these to the venue and the league admin.

In the event that a match is abandoned after it has started e.g. because of serious injury, the result of that match (or possible re-arrangement) will be determined by NDCNA committee, having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended. The score at the time of the abandonment and the circumstances for the abandonment should be noted on the team sheet. Note that for games abandoned in the last five minutes of the match the score at the time the game was stopped will stand and there will be no replay organised.

Points will be awarded as follows: 5 points for a Win, 3 points for a draw, 1 point for more than half score. Final league positions will be ranked by points, then by goal +/-, then by goals scored.

All teams are required to provide bibs and match ball which meet IFNA regulations. Teams are advised to have a spare set of bibs to use in the event of a colour clash. In the event a team attends for a match without bibs or a ball and no spares are available they will be deemed to have conceded the game. If this is both teams the game will be void. Teams are also required to have a designated scorer for each match.

Teams should play in matching kit, as a minimum they should be in the same colour top. Tracksuit bottoms can be worn as long as they don't trail the floor or cause a trip hazard. Umpires can request players to change their kit where clash occurs or could cause a hazard.

All spectators should remain outside the areas of the courts, with the people on the team bench being only the names players, team coach and scorer.

6. Registration of Results

The captain/coach of each team must submit a Result Sheet for every match electronically, showing the following information...

- Full Names of named Players
- The Final Score
- Opponent player of the match
- The Winning team
- Umpire names

Teams who regularly fail to submit complete result sheets will receive penalty points. Result sheets should be handed into the lead Umpire on the night when complete.

7. Match Officials

Match officials will be allocated as stated on fixtures. A competent unqualified umpire may umpire under 11s 12s 13s 14s 16s with a written statement from their mentor to state they are fit and eligible to umpire with a C award qualification.

It is the responsibility of the two officials in charge of each match to ensure that the league rules are applied appropriately and that discipline on and around the court is maintained. They should deal with issues brought to their attention by captains on the day and should remain by the court they are umpiring throughout the duration of the match. If any specific issues arise they should either note these on the team sheets or inform the league/committee.

In the event that an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure should be followed:

- Another umpire with appropriate qualification should be asked to umpire the match. Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire may umpire subject to the agreement of the two captains. However if both agree then there will be no right to appeal or replay.
- If no suitable substitute is available the League/Committee should be informed as soon as possible so that the game can be re-arranged.

8. Queries, Complaints and Appeals Procedure

The competition referee for NDCNA for the 2021 Winter league will be Rebecca Cairns (NDCNA Junior Committee)

All queries and complaints should be directed to the competition referee in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follow:

8.1.1 Where a complaint relates to the player of a match, the scoring, and /or its results, the relevant squad member or team official, you must do the following:

- Inform their opponents and the umpires of their complaint
- Mark the result card with the words ‘under protest’
- Send the marked result card to the competition referee, within 3 days of the match
- Attach a letter to the result sheet to explain the issue in full to the competition referee
- The competition referee will decide what action should be taken

8.1.2 The Competition referee will acknowledge receipt of the query or complaint and make a decision on the matter within seventy two hours of receipt of the query or complaint. The Competition Referee decision in relation to decisions and may include other members of the committee for assistance.

8.1.3 Where a complaint relates to the governance or administration of the competition by the NDCNA, such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the processes set out in England Netball’s Disciplinary Regulations

8.2 Appeal of competition referees decision

The decision of the competition referee in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with section 8.1.1 shall be final and binding on all parties. A party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

If the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the competition and if there has been a failure by the Competition referee to follow

or act in accordance with this regulation and/or the competition referee reached a decision on the basis of error or fact

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

An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the Team Manager/Captain of the appealing team to the competition referee within 5 days of the decision, who will refer it to NDCNA secretary.

The appeal shall be accompanied by a cheque for £50 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 circumstances warrant the cheque being returned.

The NDCNA secretary will establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are dependant of and not connected to the competition. One of those individuals will be appointed as the chair.

The chair of the CAC will send the appeal to the opposing team and any other team that CAC believe could be affected by the outcome of the appeal. These teams will be permitted five days from the date of the appeal notice sent to the CAC to submit evidence that they wish the CAC to consider.

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

The CAC will notify all parties that made submissions and presented evidence of its decision and any penalties and sanctions imposed within twenty four hours of it reaching its determination. The CAC shall have the discretion to publish the decision through whatever means it considers appropriate.

The procedure set out in this section shall be governed by the arbitration Act 1996 and amount to a binding arbitration and agreement for the purpose of section 6 of the Act.

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.

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.

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 an appeal is raised, submissions made and the decision taken can be shorter than 5 days stated in this section. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised directions timetable which shall be binding by all parties.