

# HAMPSHIRE NETBALL SENIOR LEAGUE REGULATIONS



## 1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 The competition shall be known as Hampshire Netball Senior League (HN - SL), and the name shall be preceded by the name of such sponsor Hampshire Netball Association (HNA) may direct from time to time.
  - 1.1.1 For the purposes of these rules and regulations and their provision, and unless otherwise determined by HNA, shall be deemed to comprise up to two divisions.
- 1.2 The competition and all rights and properties associated with it shall be owned, controlled and managed by HNA, which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to a sub-committee
- 1.3 The decisions of the HNA or its nominee(s), in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the HN-SL which is not provided for below, shall be considered final and binding on all parties.
- 1.4 It is the responsibility of all Team Officials to ensure that all players are conversant with the following rules and regulations.
- 1.5 All clubs will be responsible for the **Overall Conduct** of their players, officials and spectators

## 2. QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1.1 Entry to the HN-SL shall be through the local league structure for any club which is affiliated to England Netball, Netball South and Hampshire Netball Association. Teams entering will agree to abide by the rules and regulations, codes of conduct and fulfil any cost commitments
  - 2.1.1 Entry into the HN-SL will be open to winning team in local leagues. Consideration will be given to teams wishing to progress to the Netball South Regional League play offs.
  - 2.1.2 A club may have no more than 2 teams in the HN-SL
  - 2.1.3 The league will consist of no more than eight (8) teams in any one division. The Committee reserve the right to amend as necessary
- 2.2 HNA is entitled to charge an entry fee to the HN-SL.
  - 2.2.1. Where a club has junior members (U18s) in order to qualify and participate in the HN-SL they shall either be accredited under England Netball's CAPS scheme, or actively working towards the same.
- 2.3 Players must be over 14 at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August/1<sup>st</sup> September prior to the commencement of the HN-SL playing season unless granted age banding permission
- 2.4 HNA recommends that individuals (player coach umpire) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidelines issued by itself. England Netball Personal Accident Insurance cover excludes any loss of expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage or any consequence thereof.

(Pregnant players may not take part in matches in the HN-SL beyond the twelfth week of pregnancy. Pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage or any consequences thereof is an insurance policy exclusion.)

### 3. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

- 3.1 Squad registration sheets for each participating team must be completed fully for each player and lodged with HN-SL administrator at least fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of first fixture of the League
- 3.2 Clubs who have more than more team participating in the Hampshire League will register all players identifying eight (8) tied players who can only play in the highest team registered.
- 3.3 Any additions to the squad sheets must be lodged with the HN-SL administrator by 17.00 hours on the Thursday prior to the fixture weekend. Email additions will be accepted as long as the paperwork is sent with the results of the next fixture. No additional registrations will be permitted for the last 3 scheduled games of the season.
- 3.4 Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their squad registration list held by HN-SL Administrator
- 3.5 Once a player has been named on a squad sheet and has played she can transfer but not play for another HN-SL team during the course of the current playing season In extreme circumstances permission may be granted at the discretion of the HNA
- 3.6 Each team must declare up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each match by completing a HN-SL Result Sheet and handing to the score desk at least 15minutes prior to the start of the game.
- 3.7 Where a club has a player(s) participating in the Regional League they may play in the HN-SL until they have played 16 quarters in the regional league, No player either 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> claim that has played 12 quarters or more in any regional team in the current season will be permitted to play in Netball South Regional League Play Offs for Division 3.
  - 3.7.1 Players playing in premier league or higher are not permitted to play in the HN-SL

### 4. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

- 4.1 The HNSL will be contested by as many teams as shall be determined by HNA committee from time to time
- 4.2 Each team will play the other teams in its division twice, once at home and once away. Where a division consists of less than eight (8) teams they will play once at home and once away during the first half of the season. Fixtures will continue for the remainder of the season with a format to be determined by HNA this could be in the form of one or more tournaments.
- 4.3 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:
  - 5 points for a win
  - 3 points for a draw
  - 2 points if within 5 goals of the winner's score – i.e., 50-46 = 2 points, 50-45 = 1 point
  - 1 point for more than 50 per cent of the winners' score
  - 0 points for a loss
- 4.4 Where two teams are level on points:

**Note - Where one of the teams has its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals scored affected by cancellations, then all goals scored by and against defaulting**

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**team(s) in all fixtures shall be omitted from the calculations of both teams level on points. For example, in the event that one team received 5 points for a cancelled fixture, then the goals scored by and against both teams level on points, in all games against the offending team, will not be included when its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals is calculated**

- 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 season 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 team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence
- 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, then HNA or its nominee(s), shall determine the means of differentiation.

4.4.1 The team which finishes top of HN-SL Division one will be eligible to enter the playoffs for promotion to Netball South Regional League Division 3.

- Should the winner of the HN-SL NOT gain promotion to the Netball South Regional League Division 3 through the playoffs, then they will be allowed to return the HN-SL
- If an HNA affiliated team is relegated from Netball South Regional League Division 3, they will be allowed to re-enter the HN-SL Division one and adjustments to the division will be made as appropriate
- If the winning team decline or unable to enter Division 3 the second place team will be offered the play off place

4.5 Promotion and relegation between divisions and leagues:

The bottom team in Division One will be relegated to Division Two

The top team in Division Two will be promoted to Division One

The bottom team from division two will be relegated to their local league

**HNA reserve the right to adjust the number of divisions and teams in each division based on the number of entries received**

**The process as to how this will be achieved will be decided by HNA and details will be sent to teams**

### 5. FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 Matches will be played on a suitable indoor court. The home team is responsible for arranging the venue, which must be within the boundaries of the county and will be liable for the cost.

5.2 The home team is responsible for ensuring adequate changing facilities. Refreshments for

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both teams and match officials are optional.

- 5.3 The home team must provide their Opponents, Match Officials and the HN-SL administrator with details of the fixture, travel directions to include postcode and two mobile numbers for emergency contact on the day. This must be sent by email to the league administrator 30 days before fixture one and confirmed with teams at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the fixture.

## **The away team and officials must confirm receipt of this information**

- 5.4 Matches will be played **between Friday evening and Sunday. Where teams cannot agree a day then the fixture will be played on the Saturday**
- 5.5 The start time of each match must be by **20:30** on the Friday and between **9:30am and 3pm** on Saturday and Sunday without exception. All fixtures must start within 30 minutes of the agreed start time.
- 5.6 The away team will be responsible for arranging its own travel and costs. Any team that fails to arrive within 15 minutes after the agreed start time will forfeit the match, and the non-offending team will be awarded 5 points as winners by default. The offending team will be deducted 5 points
- 5.7 No team may postpone or cancel a match without agreement of HNA. Matches which are postponed due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances, e.g. flash flood, heavy snowfall will be played on the reserve date unless agreement has been given by HNA to play on an alternative date prior to the reserve date. A team may request permission in writing to the league administrator, which will be considered by HNA.
- 5.8 If a match is postponed or cancelled, it is the responsibility of the offending team to ensure that the League Administrator, the opposition and officials, are informed immediately. The offending team might be liable for any out of pocket expenses incurred by the non offending team
- 5.9 In the event that a match is abandoned by both umpires for any reason (ie serious Injury), the outcome of the match will be determined by HNA Committee

## **6. MATCH REGULATIONS**

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 All matches shall be of one hour duration (i.e, four quarters of 15 minutes each).
- 6.3 Half time will be 5 minutes duration.
- 6.4 In the event of a clash of colours of bibs, the away team will change. All teams must have a change of colour of bibs available for all fixtures.
- 6.5 It is the responsibility of the home team to provide a Claxton/horn and visible score cards
- 6.6 Home team to complete a risk assessment prior to the first fixture at any new venue

## **7. MATCH OFFICIALS**

- 7.1 Each team must provide an **Active** Umpire who holds a minimum of **C Award** . The umpire cannot be the coach or a player from the list of registered players submitted to the match official table for that game
- 7.2 All teams will contribute to the costs incurred of umpires.

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- 7.3 All teams must notify the League Administrator the name of their umpire ten (10) days prior to the fixture and thereafter any subsequent changes that occur.
- 7.4 In the event that an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied:
- If another active umpire with the correct qualification is available then she/he will umpire the match. This should not be one of the registered players or team officials for that match (as per rule 7.1)
  - The home team must inform the League Administrator immediately after the match.
- 7.5 Each team must provide a competent scorer and the home team to provide a timekeeper. These cannot be a player named on the result sheet.
- 7.6 Each team may have up to five (5) Team Officials. These will include a Coach and a Primary Care Person.
- 7.6.1 A Primary Care Person:
- Must be qualified to diagnose and treat injury or illness (for example, doctor or physiotherapist)
  - Teams must provide evidence of the relevant qualification for their primary care Person along with the Squad Registration Form.
  - Must wear identification as specified by Hampshire
  - Is permitted on the court during a stoppage for injury/illness of a Player or Blood issues
  - Must advise the umpires if a Player is too ill/injured to be removed from the court within 30 seconds and/or if assistance is required
- 7.6.2 Team Officials may be fewer than specified and may therefore undertake several duties. However, primary care person/s must not also be Players and it is preferable that they do not hold any other role.
- 7.6.3 The Team Officials and up to five (5) Players not on court shall constitute the Team Bench.
- 7.6.4 The Team Bench will be situated in the half of the court that the Team is defending at the start of the Match, to the right of the netball posts, unless otherwise agreed with the Event Organiser .

## 8. RESULTS

- 8.1 Official result sheet
- 8.1.1 The completed result sheet must be handed to the official table **15 minutes prior to the start of the match**
- 8.1.2 The result to be entered by the scorer **at the end of the match**
- 8.2 Registration of results
- 8.2.1 The result sheet must be checked and signed by the scorer(s), both captains and umpires after the match and **both** sheets sent by the **home** team to the League Administrator to be received within five (5) working days of the fixture
- 8.2.2 Results must be sent by text or email to the League Administrator (number to be confirmed prior to commencement of the season) by 20.00 hours on the day of the fixture, after which league tables will be published within 24 hours.

## 9. QUERIES COMPLAINTS and APPEALS

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- 9.1 Any queries or complaints regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must be submitted in writing to the League Administrator or its nominee within seven (7) days.
- 9.2 All queries, complaints and disputes regarding the playing of a match and/or its result will be determined in the first instance by a competition investigation committee, convened by HNA which will use best endeavours to determine the course of action within ten (10) days of receiving the query, complaint or dispute.
- 9.3 The competition investigation committee appointed by HNA will determine the penalty to be imposed on teams and players who are in breach of these rules and regulations regarding the playing of matches in the HN-SL such penalties will include reprimands, deduction of points, fines, suspension and expulsion from the competition except as specified below:
- The use of an unaffiliated, unregistered or ineligible player will result in a deduction of 3 points for each offence.
  - The Incorrect level of umpire without the permission of HNA will result in a deduction of 3 points
  - A team not providing a competent scorer and timekeeper will result in the offending team receiving a deduction of 3 points
  - Incomplete and/or late score sheets on more than 3 occasions will result in a deduction of 3 points
  - Late emailed/texted results on more than 3 occasions will result in a deduction of 3 points
- 9.4 In the event that any team wishes to appeal against the decision of the competition investigation committee, it must notify HNA with the grounds of the appeal within seven (7) days of receipt of the decision. In this event, the matter will be considered under England Netball's Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures Manual, which allows for an Appeals Panel to be convened. The decision of the Appeals Panel will be final and binding on all parties. The Appeals Panel will have the power to:
- Reduce, increase, quash, or confirm the penalty imposed by HNA and/or may substitute for it any other sanction that would have been available to them and/or
  - Make such other order or determination as it may think right or just
- 9.5 Any team that wishes to appeal against the governance and management of the HN-SL by HNA or against specific decisions made by it must follow the procedures laid out in England Netball's Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures Manual.
- 9.6 Any team which fails to observe the procedures laid out in the preceding clauses will invalidate their right to raise a query, complaint or appeal.
- 9.7 No team may claim victory by default in any match without first submitting itself to the procedures laid out in these rules and regulations.
- 9.8 Any complaint which does not concern the playing of a match and/or its result, but which is made in respect of a disciplinary offence, will be dealt with according to the procedures laid out in England Netball's Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures Manual
- 9.9 If a team cancels a match without agreement of HNA:
- The team which cancels will incur a 5 point deduction, a fine and will be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team has incurred, subject to the determination of the HNA.

Fines

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- £25 for 1 game, £50 for 2 games and £100 for 3 games
- The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) points
- Conceding three (3) Matches will result in all games being forfeited and the offending team will take no further part in the HN-SL.

## 10. CONDUCT

All players, coaches, officials, volunteers, spectators and parents must adhere to the appropriate EN codes of conduct as set out on the Hampshire Netball, South Netball Websites and also on the England Netball Website.

## 11. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISOS

It is the responsibility of each team to provide adequate first aid cover for its players and officials.

11.2 HNA accept no liability whatsoever in respect of personal loss or injury which players, officials or spectators may sustain. The England Netball Accident report form must be sent to the League Administrator with the results sheet.

11.3 Clothing

11.3.1 No form of glove may be worn when playing netball. If gloves are required for medical reasons, the umpires may allow seamless leather or cotton gloves to be worn on production of an appropriate medical certificate, provided that they are satisfied that any gloves worn do not present an obvious hazard to other players.

11.3.2. If scarves need to be worn because of religious practices or medical reasons, the players and the coach must 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 and securely as possible.

## 11. Photography

11.1 Any person wishing to take photographs or video recordings **must** get the permission of both teams and officials

11.2 Flash photography is not permitted in the playing arena at any time

## 12 Health and Safety

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

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

12.3 Should the primary care person 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, then the Match Officials should note the time lost during treatment and report to the Competition Referee who will adjudicate.

12.4 For all accidents or injuries on or off the court at the Competition, where any Player, Team Official, Umpire, Bench Official, spectator, Volunteer, Staff Member or any other individual connected to the Competition is injured, the Competition Referee must complete a Hampshire Netball Accident Report Form and return it to League Administrator. This procedure should be followed for all injuries and accidents, longer than 30 seconds.

**13 Social Media**

Social media must not be used to insult, belittle or criticise other teams, players, officials or staff of England Netball.