



COUNTY LEAGUE-SURREY
RULES & REGULATIONS
2018-2019



1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 The County League - Surrey shall be governed and managed by the Surrey County Netball Association (hereafter to be known as SCNA), which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to the County League Administrators (hereafter to be known as CLA).
- 1.2 The decisions of the SCNA, in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the County 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 It is the responsibility of all team managers, coaches and captains to ensure that all players are conversant with the following rules and regulations.

2. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 Application for entry to the County League shall be open to any club or team which is affiliated to 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 SCNA.
- 2.2 Entry to the County League will be determined by the SCNA, in the first instance at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the rules and regulations laid out herein, and having due regard to the playing standard of teams which wish to participate. In the same way, such casual vacancies as may appear from time to time will be addressed by the SCNA in whatever way it sees appropriate.
- 2.3 The SCNA will charge an entry fee to the County League to be reviewed annually.
- 2.4 All teams entering the County League will be encouraged to work towards an accreditation under the England Netball's CAPS scheme.
- 2.5 No club may enter more than one team in the County League.
- 2.6 By entering a team in the County League, clubs/teams agree that:
- They will abide by these rules and regulations
They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the County League
- 2.7 In order to qualify to participate in the County League, a player shall be in membership of England Netball as a Registered Participant via one of the following qualifications:
- Through affiliation to a club or a county association
Through a youth or junior club membership
Through a young person's group membership

- 2.8 All players must have their membership **i.e. Affiliation** lodged with England Netball and their subscription paid prior to their participation in the County League, as detailed below:
- 2.9 All players must be over 16 at midnight on 31 August/1 September prior to the commencement of the County League
- 2.10 Pregnant players may not take part in county matches beyond the twelfth week of pregnancy.

3. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

- 3.1 Squad sheets must contain at least 12 players for each participating team and must be completed fully. Each team must then lodge the sheets with the CLA at least four (4) days prior to the commencement of the County League.
- 3.2 Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their squad registration list held by the CLA.
- 3.3 Any additions to the squad sheets must be lodged with the CLA by 6pm on the Friday prior to playing the fixture.
- 3.4 A player may only be registered for one County League team; once she has played she may transfer to another County League team during the course of the current season, subject to prior approval from SCNA.

Each team may declare up to twelve (12) of their registered players prior to the start of each match by completing a team sheet/result card.

A player is able to play up for a Premier/Regional team on 2 occasions, on the 3rd occasion they will be deemed to be a permanent member of and registered for that team.

PENALTY - See 9.1

NOTE: See 6.2 for further clarification

- 3.7 After Round 10 any new registrations to the League have to be approved by the SCNA before participation in any League fixtures.

Failure to comply with rule 3.7 will result in a deduction of 3 points for each person on each occasion they play before they have been approved.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

- 4.1 The County League will be contested between as many teams as shall be determined by the SCNA. The number of teams will not normally be less than eight, or more than ten.
- 4.2 Each team in the County League will play the others twice.

- 4.3 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:
5 points for a win
3 points for a draw
2 points for within 5 goals (i.e. 40-36)
1 point for over 50% goals scored
0 for a loss
- 4.4 A County League table will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team. Where teams are level on points:
- Where teams have equal points, positioning will be decided by goal average, which shall be calculated on the basis of goals for DIVIDED by goals against. If one of the teams concerned has been given a walkover, the score of the corresponding match, i.e. against the same opponents of the other team(s) involved shall not be included in the goal average calculations.
- If this does not differentiate between the teams then total goals scored will be used.
- 4.5 The team which finishes top of the County League at the end of the season will be the winners of the competition. They will be eligible for promotion to the London & South East Regional League division 2, and will contest a play-off involving other County League champions and South East Regional division 2 clubs in order to pursue that promotion.
- 4.6 At the end of each season, any team or teams which are based in the county and which are relegated from the London & South East Regional League division 2, will be automatically included within the County League for the following season.

5. FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS

- 5.1 Matches will be played at a centrally agreed venue with adequate surrounds and ancillary facilities, including changing and showering facilities, unless otherwise agreed by the CLA
- 5.2 The CLA in conjunction with SCNA are responsible for arranging the venue.
- 5.3 All matches must be played on the day specified by the fixture schedule, as agreed by the CLA
- 5.4 The start time of each match will be set by the CLA.
- 5.5 All teams will be responsible for arranging their own travel and the costs incurred. Sufficient travelling time should be allowed to cover any unexpected delays. Any team which fails to present themselves at the agreed start time will forfeit the match, and the non-offending team will be awarded the points as winners by default.

If a fixture is cancelled,
It is the responsibility of the offending team to ensure that the CLA, the opposition and both umpires are informed immediately of the cancellation.

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 will be liable to pay any costs incurred by the match officials, subject to the discretion of the CLA.

- 5.7 In the event that a match which is abandoned for any reason, e.g. adverse weather conditions, the result of that match will be determined by the SCNA, having regard to the score and the circumstances at the time at which play was suspended. (See 7.6).

6. MATCH REGULATIONS

- 6.1 All games shall be played to the IFNA Rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time, except where specific regulations may apply.
- 6.2 A player or players wishing to play for a club in a regional League (see 3.6) should ensure both the player/s and the club are aware of the rules of the regional league to ensure it does not prevent the player/s involved from representing their own club, currently playing in the County League, should the said team win the league and wish to enter the regional league play-offs.
- 6.3 All matches shall be of one hour's duration (i.e., four quarters of 15 minutes each). See Rule 5.7 Maximum of 5 minutes will be allowed at half time.
- 6.4 Stoppages (Injury) and Blood Rule - Please see IFNA Rules.

7. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 7.1 Each team will nominate an affiliated umpire initially who actively holds a Netball Europe 'B' Award or above. All nominated umpires will be required to officiate at each SCNL match. Once all nominations of umpires have been received, they will be placed into a pool and allocated to each fixture by the CLA.
- 7.2 It will be possible for some C Award umpires, who are being mentored for their B Award and approved by the SCNA and the CLA, to be nominated by the CLA to umpire fixtures during the season.
- 7.3 The CLA shall be responsible for providing both named umpires with confirmation in writing of the fixtures, the start times, and travel directions at the start of the season.
- 7.4 The umpires' travel expenses will be a payment of £20. Clubs will be responsible for paying the umpire on the day of the fixture.
- 7.5 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 umpire of the appropriate standard is available then they will umpire the match. Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire should be used. The CLA must be informed immediately after the match.
- 7.6 Umpires must conform to a standard of physical fitness (Bleep test standard 5.1 or above) which allows them due regard to the playing standard of teams wishing to participate. Umpires will be required to take a bleep test twice during each playing season.

- 7.7 Umpires must take final decision as to whether a match should be abandoned due to adverse weather conditions (see 5.7).
- 7.8 Scorers will be required for all fixtures. Each team must provide a competent scorer. If a team is unable to supply a scorer they will have to drop a player to fulfil this role

8. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

- 8.1 Both teams are required to complete official result cards after each match, including entering the names of each player and indicate quarters played.
- 8.2 The two official result cards must be checked and signed by both captains and umpires and sent separately to the secretary of the CLA to be received within five (5) working days of the match. The score for the match will not be registered until both result cards have been received. These can be emailed.

Failure to comply with rule 8 will result with a two point deduction for the team not conforming.

9. QUERIES, COMPLAINTS & APPEALS

- 9.1 The SCNA will have the power to 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 County League. Such penalties will include but not limited to reprimands, the deduction of league points, fines, suspensions, and expulsion from the competition, except as specified below:

The use of an unaffiliated player will result in a deduction of 6 league points.

The use of an unregistered or ineligible player (see 3.6) or a player, who is under age without written permission from the National Performance Director, will result in a deduction of 5 league points.

Failure to play on more than one occasion may result in expulsion from the League.

In the event of a cancellation or postponed fixture, due to adverse weather conditions or a national emergency, teams may have to cover the expenses of any rearranged games.

- 9.2 Any queries or complaints regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must be submitted in writing to the CLA within five (5) working days.
- 9.3 All complaints and disputes regarding the playing of a match and/or its result will be determined in the first instance by a sub-committee convened by the SCNA, which will use its best endeavours to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.
- 9.4 In the event that any team wishes to appeal against the decision of this sub-committee, it must notify the SCNA within five (5) working days of receipt of the decision. In this event, the matter will be considered under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations 10 and 12, which allows for an appeals panel to be convened. The decision of the appeals panel will be final and binding on all parties.
- 9.5 Any team which wishes to appeal more generally against the governance and management of the County League by the CLA, or against specific decisions made by it, must also observe the procedures laid out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations 10 and 12.

9.6 Any team which fails to observe the procedures laid out in the preceding clauses may 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.

10. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISOS

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

10.2 It is the responsibility of each team to provide adequate first aid cover for its players and officials, which shall also be made available to the match officials on request.

10.3 Clothing:

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

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.

If scarves or trousers need to be worn because of religious practices, the player 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 or tucked into the shirt collar as neatly and securely as possible.

10.4 Use of Social Media

The use of 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 will incur a penalty ranging from a warning, loss of points and a fine, to suspension and expulsion from the competition, determined by the seriousness of the offence.

11. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

11.1 The winning team of the County League will be eligible to contest at a play off for entry into the South East Regional division 2.

11.2 The lowest placed team in the County League will be automatically relegated to the appropriate local league where they will be accommodated in the highest division of that league. The second lowest placed team in County League will be eligible for a play-off with other local league teams for the potential entry to the County League. The local leagues will each nominate a team to go forward into the County League play-offs. The play-offs are to be organised by the SCNA.

- 11.3 Promotion of teams to the County League, will be determined by, the number of spaces available. The formation of the league is to be at the discretion of the SCNA.
- 11.4 After the County League play-offs, and prior to the SCNA AGM, there will be a County League clubs forum. All County League clubs for the forthcoming season must be represented at that meeting.
- 11.5 All clubs playing in the County League **MUST** be represented at the SCNA AGM held in June where trophies will be presented.

Failure to attend the SCNA AGM will result in the Club being penalised 5 points at the start of the following season.

12. Decision

The decision of the SCNA on any points or issues shall be final.