

SCNA - COUNTY LEAGUE – SURREY

RULES & REGULATIONS 2024-2025



1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 The Surrey County Netball League (hereafter to be known as Surrey County League) 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 Surrey 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 Surrey 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 and the England Netball Codes of Conduct.

2. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 Entry to the Surrey County League will be determined by the SCNA, 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. To this effect, entry to the Surrey County league is via nomination by the Chairs of the local leagues affiliated to Surrey, and playoffs as are necessary. In addition, a Surrey team relegated from the London and SE Regional League (L&SE) will be accommodated in the Surrey County League. Clubs will only be eligible to enter the Surrey County League if they are registered with EN/SCNA as its Primary County and have their home base within the administrative boundaries of the jurisdiction of SCNA. This requirement for primary county to come into effect on 1 September 2025.
- 2.2 In order to qualify to participate in the Surrey County League, a player shall be a fully paid member of England Netball and have paid the SCNA part of the membership fee prior to playing. A player shall be marked as "active" on the Engage Membership System with SCNA shown as the primary county, prior to participation in the Surrey County League, subject to the implementation date in 2.1 above. A player who has been listed to play for a team which plays in another county league that feeds into the L&SE Regional League, is not eligible to play in the Surrey County League, and this will come into effect on 1 September 2024.
- 2.3 The SCNA will charge an entry fee to the Surrey County League to be reviewed annually.
- 2.4 No club may enter more than one team in the Surrey County League.
- 2.5 By entering a team in the Surrey County League, clubs/teams agree that:
 - They will abide by these rules and regulations; and

- They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the County League.

2.6 All players must be over 16 at midnight on 31 August/1 September prior to the commencement of the County League. Exceptionally, SCNA will consider requests for younger players to participate in the league on their merits and in consultation with relevant Performance Pathway Coaches (and National Performance Director (or equivalent) as required). A fully completed and **signed** Age Banding Form to be submitted when the player is registered.

2.7 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. Attention is drawn to the specific provisions in the England Netball Insurance on this matter and any guidance from England Netball. The Surrey County League will also have regard to any England Netball guidance on the obligations under the Equalities Act 2010.

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. 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.

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 and play for one Surrey County League team at any one time; once she has played, she may transfer to another Surrey County League team during the course of the current season, subject to prior approval from CLA.

3.5 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.

3.6 A player is able to play up for a L&SE Regional team on a maximum of 16 quarters across the whole season. If a player plays for 17 or more quarters, they will be deemed to be a permanent member of that Regional team and not eligible to play in the Surrey County League thereafter for that season in any capacity including the playoffs at the end of that season for any team/club.

3.7 Players who are registered to or participate in a Super League team, Premier League team or Regional League are not eligible to play in the Surrey County League or Surrey County League Playoffs for any team.

- 3.8 After Round 10 any new registrations to the Surrey County League must be approved by the CLA before participation in any League fixtures.
- 3.9 Failure to comply with rule 3.8 will result in a deduction of 3 points for each person on each occasion they play before they have been approved by the CLA.
- 3.10 Rule 9.1 addresses non-compliance with the rules above. See also rule 6.2 for advice regarding players in the L&SE Regional League.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

- 4.1 The Surrey 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, and in any case no more than ten.
- 4.2 Each team in the Surrey 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 Surrey 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 L&SE Regional League division 3 and will contest a play-off involving other County League champions within the L&SE Region and L&SE Region division 3 clubs in order to pursue that promotion. If a team does not gain promotion, they will remain in the Surrey County League for the following season.
- 4.6 At the end of each season, any team or teams which are based within the jurisdiction of SCNA, and which are relegated from the L&SE Regional League division 3, will be automatically included within the Surrey 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 SCNA requires all matches to be played on the day specified by the fixture schedule, as agreed by the CLA. Only exceptionally will requests for rearrangement be considered by the CLA, and the decision of the CLA is final.
- 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.
- 5.6 If a fixture is cancelled, which is only with the agreement of the CLA it is the responsibility of the offending team to ensure that the CLA, the opposition and both umpires are informed immediately of the cancellation.
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 The team which cancels will be liable to pay any costs incurred by the match officials, subject to the discretion of the CLA.
- 5.9 In the event that a match which is abandoned for any reason, , the result of that match will be determined by the CLA , having regard to the score and the circumstances at the time at which play was suspended. (See 7.7).

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 team in the L&SE Regional League (see 3.6) should ensure both the player/s and the club are aware of the current rules of the L&SE Regional league regarding eligibility of players to ensure it does not prevent the player/s involved from representing their own team ,playing in the Surrey County League, should the said team win the Surrey County 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). Maximum of 5 minutes will be allowed at half time.

7. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 7.1 Each team will nominate an umpire who is an affiliated member with EN, also initially, who actively holds a Netball Europe 'B' Award or above. All nominated umpires will be expected to officiate at each Surrey County League fixture dates. Once all nominations of

umpires have been received, they will be placed into a pool and allocated to each fixture by the CLA/Umpire Coordinator.

- 7.2 It will be possible for some C Award umpires, who are being mentored for their B Award and approved by the SCNA (including the Surrey County Officiating Lead/Surrey County League Umpire coordinator) 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 Clubs will be responsible for providing the umpires' expenses directly to the umpire(s). The expenses will be determined by SCNA with reference to EN guidance and L&SE Region practice.
- 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. The Umpires may be required to take a further bleep test during a season if considered necessary by SCNA.
- 7.7 Umpires must take final decision as to whether a match should be abandoned. (see 5.9).
- 7.8 Competent scorers will be required to be provided by each team for every match. Scorers must not coach. If a team is unable to supply a scorer, they will have to drop a player to fulfil this role. Timekeeping responsibility to be decided prior to the commencement of each match and scorers should keep time if requested by umpires.

8. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

- 8.1 The Home team (first named team) is responsible for the completion and submission of the official results form. Results forms must include all names of the players competing in the fixture and should be filled in prior to the start of the match. Captains must check this prior to the start of the match. The Home team only are required to complete official result cards after each match, including entering the quarters played by each player (captains to confirm).
- 8.2 All Game Management decisions/actions taken by umpires shall be recorded on the results form by the scorers and umpires shall initial the form to confirm the actions. These will be reviewed by the League organiser during a season, and the SCNA reserves the right to issue penalties for any repeated disciplinary action.

- 8.3 The official result form must be checked and signed by both captains and umpires and the Home team shall send the result form to the secretary of the CLA to be received within 2 days of the match. (The score for the match will not be registered until result card have been received.) This can be emailed.
- 8.4 Failure to comply with rule 8 could incur a point deduction to the defaulting team.

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 Surrey 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 2.1, 2.2 & section 3) or a player, who is underage without written permission from the National Performance Director, will result in a deduction of 5 league points.
 - Failure to play a fixture on more than one occasion may result in expulsion from the Surrey County 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; in any such circumstances, the CLA will discuss this with the teams affected
- 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 Surrey 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.
- 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 The Surrey County League will be administered with regard to the health and safety requirements of the players, officials and any other persons attending Surrey County League fixtures.

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

10.3 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.

10.4 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.

10.5 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 SCNA on the seriousness of the offence. The decision of SCNA is final.

11. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

11.1 The winning team of the County League will normally be eligible to contest at a play off for entry into the L&SE Regional lowest division subject to there being vacancies. In the event of that team not being eligible or otherwise unable to accept the nomination of the SCNA for the regional play-offs, SCNA will consider nomination of the next highest placed team able to accept the nomination who will represent the county at a play-off for the Regional League.

- 11.2 The formation of the league is to be at the discretion of the SCNA. The lowest placed team in the Surrey County League will be automatically relegated back to the local league from which they were originally promoted, where they will be accommodated in the highest division of that league. The second lowest placed team in the Surrey County League will be eligible for the play-offs with teams from the local leagues as nominated. If unsuccessful, the team will go back to the local league from which they were originally promoted. The demotion will be decided in discussion with local leagues as required. If, for any reason in any given season, the league is made up of 9 or more teams the number of teams to be automatically demoted or to participate in the playoffs will be at the complete discretion of the SCNA.
- 11.3 Promotion of teams to the Surrey County League, will be determined by the number of spaces available. Each local league may nominate a team to go forward into the Surrey County League play-offs. The play-offs are to be organised by the SCNA/CLA.
- 11.4 After the Surrey County League play-offs, there will be a Surrey County League clubs forum. All Surrey County League clubs for the forthcoming season must be represented at that meeting.
- 11.5 All clubs playing in the Surrey 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. PLAYOFFS FOR ENTRY INTO THE SURREY COUNTY LEAGUE
(see also Rule 2: Playing and Eligibility and Rule 3: Registration of Squad Members)**

- 12.1 Winners or any other eligible 1st division/Highest Division team within the local leagues in Surrey may be eligible to contest at a play-off for entry into the Surrey County League subject to there being vacancies and the nomination from the local league. Nominations from clubs which are not primary Surrey clubs (as defined at clause 2.1 above) will not be accepted into the playoffs.
- 12.2 The bottom team in the Surrey County league will normally be demoted to the appropriate local league. The second from bottom will normally be eligible for a play-off with teams nominated by the local leagues as in 12.1 above. (Pursuant to clauses 11.1 and 11.2 above)
- 12.3 In respect of the play-off competition to determine entry to the Surrey County League, competing teams are required to register a squad of up to 12 players one week prior to the competition.
- 12.4 The eligibility of players to be registered and compete for teams in the play-off competition shall be governed by rules 2.1 to 3.8 above and the following criteria:
- 12.4.1 In respect of a team which has competed in the Surrey County League during the season, only players who have been registered for that team in the league, and remain eligible to play, may be registered.
- 12.4.2 A player who has already played for a different club in the Surrey County League may not be registered except where rules 3.4 and 3.8 have been complied with.
- 12.4.3 A player who has played for any club in the L&SE Regional League exceeding the level outlined in Rule 3.6 above may not be registered for the playoffs.

12.4.4 Any player who has competed for the winning team in the Surrey County League which has then gained entry to the Regional League for the following season may not be registered.

12.4.5 For teams seeking entry from the local leagues, players registered for the playoffs must have been registered for that team with the local league during the season.

12.5 The playoffs shall be organised by the CLA at a venue within the administrative area of SCNA. The playoffs shall take place in accordance with the rules set out.

12.6 In the event of an unregistered or ineligible player participating for a team in the playoffs, whether the team/club knew or not, will have the effect of disqualifying that team from entry into the Surrey County League for the forthcoming season.

13. Decision and Disclaimer:

- a. The decision of the SCNA on any points or issues shall be final.
- b. SCNA accepts no responsibility for any personal loss howsoever sustained suffered by any person(s) attending any event organised by the SCNA.