

NORTH LONDON NETBALL LEAGUE

LEAGUE RULES 2009 – 20010

1.0 TEAMS

- 1.1 Games will be played according to England Netball rules.
- 1.2 All clubs and members shall comply with England Netball's 'Safe Guarding and Protecting our Youngsters – Every Child Matters' policy.
- 1.3 All clubs shall comply with the league's 'Photographic & Imaging' policy.
- 1.4 No team may commence playing until the annual subscription is paid.
- 1.5 Prior to the start of the season all clubs shall put up a bond against cancelled/forfeited games. The penalty for not fulfilling a fixture shall be agreed at the AGM. All monies forfeited will go to the league development fund. Outstanding monies will be returned to the club at the AGM, or at the clubs request can be carried over for the following season's bond
- 1.6 At the beginning of each season each team shall register its playing colours.
- 1.7 Each team must provide its own ball and unless it does so a match cannot be played. No player shall be allowed on court unless wearing the registered playing colours.
- 1.8 Gloves may not be worn when playing netball. The management committee may allow gloves to be worn in exceptional circumstances on production of an appropriate medical certificate.
- 1.9 Registration of players
 - 1.9.1 Teams will be allowed an unlimited number of registered players, age 14 and over, per team in any one season, but a minimum of seven players per team must be registered before the commencement of the season.
 - 1.9.2 A team registration sheet with at least seven players names and signatures must be submitted to the registration secretary by close of play on the first game of the season.
 - 1.9.3 Additional players may be registered provided that they have been affiliated with England Netball and that notice is given to the Registration Secretary by Midnight on the Thursday before the match on Saturday.
 - 1.9.4 (With reference to 1.9.3) On the day of their first fixture players must submit with the scorecard, documentation detailing their full name, specimen signature and England Netball affiliation number.
 - 1.9.5 Players registered in Regional and Premier Leagues or Superleague Development squads may play in the league. However, they may only play in their club's highest team.
 - 1.9.6 Players must be registered in teams A, B, C, D, etc. at the beginning of the season. In the event of a player being promoted or having to withdraw, a replacement registration must be made so that the team maintains the minimum registration of seven active players per team throughout the season.
 - 1.9.7 If a player hasn't played for 4 consecutive fixtures, they will be considered a dormant player and a replacement registration must be made immediately to maintain the minimum registration of seven active players per team. NB – Cancelled / forfeit games do not count towards the consecutive fixtures rule (for either of the teams involved).

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- 1.9.8 A lower team player may be upgraded THREE times only during the season, on the FOURTH occasion she is deemed to be a member of the team to which she has been promoted. She may not be further promoted or demoted.
- 1.9.9 A lower team may only use ONE player (and not one who has previously been promoted in the same season) from a higher team on any one day, and no player may be demoted after the 11th fixture of the season (this also applies to those players changing clubs as per 1.9.10) unless at the discretion of the Committee. A higher team player may only play for a lower team permanently.
- 1.9.10 A player may only play for one club in the league at any one time. Should a player wish to leave their original club and play for another club during the course of a season, they will need to be formally released by that original club. This release must be received by the Registration Secretary by Midnight on the Thursday before their first game for the new club.
- 1.9.11 The demotion and promotion rules apply to active and dormant registrations alike.
- 1.9.12 Teams defaulting on any of 1.9.1 to 1.9.10 will have THREE points deducted from their total.
- 1.9.13 If for any unforeseen reason, a club needs to withdraw a team, the club may only withdraw their lowest placed team in the league. The players from the withdrawn team may continue to play in the league but must be re-registered in a higher team.
- 1.10 Affiliation of players and umpires
- 1.10.1 All players and umpires must be affiliated with England Netball through their appropriate County. Affiliation numbers for players and umpires must be provided to the Registration Secretary. A copy of the MAR form for each club must also be submitted to the Registration Secretary before 31 October each season.
- 1.10.2 Teams found to use unaffiliated players or umpires will have THREE points deducted from their total.
- 2.0 MATCHES**
- 2.1 All matches shall be played on the pre-arranged dates and at the times and on the courts allocated.
- 2.2 In exceptional circumstances teams may submit a request for a change in fixtures e.g. club wedding, club tour. Notification of the request to change must be received by the Fixtures Secretary by the 31st July. Any changes to fixtures will be at the discretion of the committee.
- 2.3 There will be central timing with a bell at the beginning and end of each game, but the umpire's whistle will start and finish the game. The games are to start at 10.15am, 11.35am, 12.55pm and 2.15pm.
- 2.4 A team may claim points if their opponents have not arrived with a minimum number of five players when the bell signals the start of play. A player arriving late may only enter the game after a goal has been scored or immediately following an interval or at a stoppage for injury or illness.
- 2.5 A match can only be replayed in the event of bad weather. In the event of temporary bad weather during a match, the umpires will decide whether it is safe to continue play. The duty committee member will decide whether play will be resumed or the match is to be abandoned. Teams must remain at the ground until the decision has been announced.
- 2.6 If a match is abandoned, the management committee will decide whether the scores are to stand or if the match is to be replayed. Rearranged matches will be played at the same time as the original fixture on one of the two allocated spare dates.

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- 2.7 Teams cancelling or failing to fulfil a fixture must concede the points. Teams cancelling a fixture with prior notice (i.e. up to the Friday before the game) will forfeit TWO points. Those failing to fulfil a fixture without prior notice will forfeit THREE points. Upon completion of promotion and demotion tables at the end of the season, any team which has cancelled and/or failed to fulfil three games or more will be dropped a division in the following season.
- 2.8 In the event of teams withdrawing from the League during the playing season, all previous matches and points are removed from the record.
- 3.0 UMPIRES**
- 3.1 Premier Division
Each team must provide a qualified umpire (minimum B award or C award actively working towards B award*) for either the game preceding or following theirs. If your game is at 10.15 you must provide an umpire for the 11.35 and vice versa. Similarly teams playing at 2.15 must supply an umpire for the 12.55 match and vice versa. No match is valid or may be played without the allocated umpire.
* Must have attended a B award course in the last 2 seasons (any exception to this is at the discretion of the committee). Umpires may be asked to provide proof of course attendance.
- 3.2 Divisions I, II, III and IV*
Each team must provide a qualified umpire (minimum C award) for either the game preceding or following theirs. If your game is at 10.15 you must provide an umpire for the 11.35 and vice versa. Similarly teams playing at 2.15 must supply an umpire for the 12.55 match and vice versa. No match is valid or may be played without the allocated umpire.
(* An exception to this is umpires awaiting 'C' Award testing who have been positively assessed and are awaiting their test - applies to Division IV only)
- 3.3 Division V
Each team must provide an umpire (unqualified umpires are permitted although the committee requires that the umpire must have attended a C award course within the last 2 years, before umpiring matches) for either the game preceding or following theirs. If your game is at 10.15 you must provide an umpire for the 11.35 and vice versa. Similarly teams playing at 2.15 must supply an umpire for the 12.55 match and vice versa. No match is valid or may be played without the allocated umpire.
- 3.4 Any team that fails to provide an appropriately qualified umpire for the appropriate match will have **THREE** points deducted. **Any team which fails to provide an appropriately qualified umpire for three or more games in a season will be dropped a division in the following season.** Two points will also be deducted for teams whose organized umpires are not present and ready to start when the bell rings to signal the start of a match.
- 3.5 Premier Division, Division I and Division II
In addition to providing a qualified umpire, teams playing in the Premier Division, Division I and Division II must provide a person to take and keep score for either the game preceding or following theirs, as described in item(s) 3.1 and 3.2 above.
- 3.6 The Committee reserves the right to allocate umpires for the purpose of umpire testing and this may involve matches taking place in Division IV or Division III.
- 3.7 Umpires must ensure that the score card is fully completed and signed by all players before the start of any match. Substitutes must also sign the cards before they come on to court for the first time.
- 3.8 Umpires may umpire no more than two games on one day, preferably with an hour's break in between matches. Umpires may only umpire a third match in exceptional circumstances and with the prior permission of the duty committee member. It is the responsibility of both the individual umpires and the clubs they are umpiring for, to comply with this rule. Umpires continuing to breach this rule will be given an official warning.

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Any further breach could result in a ban from umpiring in the league. Penalties will apply at the committee's discretion.

4.0 SUBSTITUTION AND TEAM CHANGES

4.1 As per England Netball rules.

5.0 STOPPAGES

5.1 Play may be stopped for an injury or illness at the discretion of the Umpires. A stoppage of up to two minutes is allowed from when time is called to decide whether the injured or ill player is fit to continue play. This decision shall be left to the team's Officials. After two minutes, the injured or ill player must either resume play or leave the court. If the injury is such that the player cannot be moved, the match must be abandoned.

5.2 Play may be stopped by the Umpires for an emergency relating to:

- (i) the equipment, court, weather or interference by outside agencies
- (ii) a player's person or clothing
- (iii) Officials officiating at a match.

Umpires shall decide the length of the stoppage or whether the match should be abandoned.

5.3 In the event of a match being abandoned, a written report should be submitted by the umpires to the Committee, who will then decide whether the match is to be replayed.

6.0 RESULTS

6.1 FIVE points will be awarded for a win, THREE for a draw, TWO if you are within 5 goals of winning team and ONE point for the losing side if they score more than 50% of the winning team's score.

6.2 Each player and both umpires must print their name and sign the the reverse of the score cards. Captains must place the score cards in the box in the changing hut to be forwarded to the Registration Secretary. Failure to do this will result in ONE point being deducted from the team's total.

7.0 PROMOTION / DEMOTION

7.1 The team gaining the highest number of points in their Division shall be adjudged the winners of the Division. The two teams gaining the highest number of points shall be promoted from each Division (with the exception of the Premier Division) and those two teams with the lowest shall be relegated (subject to 7.3 below).

7.2 In the event of two teams being equal in points for promotion and relegation at the close of the season, deciding matches shall be played on a date and ground selected by the Committee - preferably on the 'spare' date as agreed at the AGM.

7.3 Promotion and relegation shall be decided at the AGM and the Committee shall have power to promote teams into different divisions if numbers drop in that division.

7.4 The winning team shall hold the perpetual trophy for twelve months.

8.0 DISCIPLINE

8.1 Members of the League are expected to act in a courteous and respectful manner to those around them, on and off the court, particularly as Broomfield Park is a public area. Any person may be disciplined whose conduct the Committee considers likely to bring the League or the game of netball into disrepute.

8.2 Disputes

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- 8.2.1 If there is a problem, the captain alone may approach the umpires at an interval or after the game for clarification of any rule.
 - 8.2.2 If the problem is still unresolved, then an independent Committee member must be asked by the captain and/or the umpire to officially observe the rest of the match.
 - 8.2.3 If a Committee member is asked to observe a match, she must inform both umpires and captains that she is observing in an official capacity.
 - 8.2.4 Committee members may not discuss the matter with the parties concerned and will make their report directly to the Committee.
- 8.3 Complaints about players / umpires / coaches / supporters shall be sent in writing by the Club Secretary or Umpire to the League Secretary within seven days of the match being played . Reports will be requested from both umpires and teams and these should be returned within seven days of receipt of the request. The complaint will be considered by a Committee disciplinary panel (comprising 3 neutral committee members) . If deemed necessary, representatives from the teams concerned may be called to the meeting. The parties concerned will be informed of the Committee's decision within seven days of the meeting.
- 8.4 The Committee shall have power to discipline in such a manner as it thinks fit. The power to discipline shall include the power to deduct points, to suspend or remove a member from the League.
- 8.5 Clubs have the right of appeal against the Committee's decision. Any appeal should be sent in writing by the Club Secretary to the League Secretary within seven days of notification of the decision. The appeal will be heard by a panel convened from members of the Middlesex County Netball Association Executive Committee.