

# WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL NETBALL LEAGUE

## Senior Qualifying League Rules 2020

### 1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 The West Midlands Regional Netball Qualifying League (hereinafter called the 'League') will be administered by a Regional League Committee (RLC) and chaired by the Regional Management Board (RMB) member with responsibility for competition
- 1.2 The Regional League Committee whilst autonomous will be fully accountable to the Management Board and the RMB appraised of all League progress and matters directly.
- 1.3 All games will be played according to the IFNA Netball Rules.
- 1.4 Rules will be in line with England Netball competition rules and may be reviewed by the RMB as and when required and operative immediately. The RMB will have jurisdiction over any matters not covered herein.
- 1.5 All matches will be of one hour's duration (i.e. four quarters of 15 minutes each) with injury/stoppage time in accordance with current INF rulings. Care should be taken in moving injured players.
- 1.6 It is the responsibility of all Team personnel to ensure that all are conversant with, and abide by, the rules and regulations.
- 1.7 Please ensure that mutual respect and courtesy is shown between all officials, players and spectators.
- 1.8 A Central Venue system will operate unless otherwise deemed appropriate.
- 1.9 Emergency cancellation, only in exceptional circumstances, will be decided by the RLC.

### 2. FINANCE

- 2.1 All fees and costs are to be administered by the Regional League Administrator.
- 2.2 All transactions will be recorded and receipted accordingly.
- 2.3 All fees are to be paid by the dates specified. In case of difficulty please contact the Regional League Administrator

### 3. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 The League will be open to any club in the Region which wants to compete for a place in Division 3 of the Senior Regional League.
- 3.2 ALL players **MUST** be members of England Netball by 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020 with the Club they are representing in these Leagues. Proof of membership from the Club management page of ENgage, must be presented at the time of player registration and the player must have represented that club in a local league during the current season.
- 3.3 Clubs shall either be Accredited under England Netball's CAPS scheme, or actively Working Towards same. Qualifications must be achieved by the end of their second season. If not they will be withdrawn from the League
- 3.4 All players must be over 16 for the Senior League, as at midnight 31st August / 1st September prior to the commencement of the Regional League. Talented players capable of playing at a higher level may be exempted from this regulation, providing age-banding permission has been completed and presented at the same time as player registration for the League. Players who have played for any club in any Senior Regional League since September 2019 are not eligible to compete in this Qualifying

League. Players registered for any Senior Super League team in the current season shall not be eligible to play in the Regional Qualifying League. Players registered for any Premier League team and who have taken to the court in twelve or more quarters during the current season shall not be eligible to play in the Senior Regional Qualifying League. Requests for consideration in exceptional circumstances should be made in writing to the RLA. Players should not take to the court until written permission has been received.

- 3.5 Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their Player registration sheet held by the Regional League Administrator at the commencement of the League.
- 3.6 Up to 12 players may be nominated for each match and must be entered on the Match Team Sheet before the match. Only players recorded on the Match Team Sheet at the beginning of the match will be eligible to play in that match. The name of any player who did not take part in the match should be deleted, by the relevant club, at the end of the match.
- 3.7 Any infringement of these eligibility rules will result in points automatically being awarded to the opposition.
- 3.8 The use of a **Non Member** will result in loss of points for that game(s) plus a further deduction of three (3) points.
- 3.9 The use of an **Un-registered** player will result in loss of points for that game(s) plus a fine

#### 4. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

- 4.1 Points awarded for each game are as follows:
  - 5 points for a win
  - 3 points for a draw
  - 2 points for a loss but scoring within 5 goals of the winning team's score, for example, Final score 50 - 46 = 2 points to losing team.
  - 1 point for a loss but scoring 50% or more of their opponents score, for example, Final score 50 – 45 = 1 point to losing team.
  - In the event of a conceded match 5 points will be awarded to the non-offending team.

If teams are equal on points at the end of the season, "League" positions will be decided by Goal Average, then Goal Difference, then by the result of the matches between the teams.

If Goal Average is needed to decide "League" positions at the end of the season then the goals of the teams involved in conceded matches will be ignored in the calculations of the team's level on points.
- 4.2 The league will operate (based on the number of entries) either one or two sections. The top two teams in each section will go forward, with the bottom two teams in Division 3 to participate in Play Offs to gain the appropriate places in Division 3.
- 4.3 The season's schedule is to be organised with a fair allocation of starting times for teams.
- 4.4 Due to the short season there will be no postponement of matches except as deemed necessary by the League Committee

#### 5. OFFICIALS

- 5.1 Each team must provide a **competent** Table Official (**scorer**) for each of their fixtures. A Table Official (scorer) may not participate in the current match as a Player, Coach or Primary Carer. Each team must provide someone to operate the 'score flip chart' (who may be from the bench) for their own fixture. If this person is not named as part of the Team bench then they should not approach the bench during intervals. The score flip chart is a visual aid for players and spectators only. This person is not a table official and may have no input to the recorded final score

Failure to comply with this rule may result in loss of points or other sanctions as determined by the Regional League Committee.

- 5.2 Clubs must provide an umpire for each of their match days (who will be placed neutrally) who should actively hold a Netball Europe 'B' Award or above, or 'C' award who have been recommended to the Regional Umpiring Secretary.
- 5.3 England Netball and the Regional Umpiring Secretary reserve the right to use Regional League Qualifying matches for the purpose of Assessment.

## 6. MATCH DAY

- 6.1 The first named team on the fixture schedule is designated as the "Home" team
- 6.2 The 'Home Team Bench' will be deemed to be on the left hand side on entering the arena (both team benches will be to the left of the Umpire on each side of the court). Second named team is the "AWAY" team and should change bibs if requested to do so by the Umpires.
- 6.3 Team Bench Personnel should only include players listed on the Match Team Sheet, and may have up to 5 Team Officials, which will include a coach and at least 1 Primary Carer (able to treat injury/illness). The identified Primary Carer may not have another role. There must be an identified on court Captain.
- 6.4 A Match Team Sheet for each fixture is to be completed. It is the responsibility of the "Home" team to ensure that the Match Team Sheet is completed by both teams and lodged with the Score Table fifteen (15) minutes before the start of the fixture.
- 6.5 Up to 12 players may be nominated for each match and must be entered on the Match Team Sheet before the match. Only players recorded on the Match Team Sheet at the beginning of the match will be eligible to play in that match.
- 6.6 **ALL** parts of the Match Team Sheet must be **completed legibly**, including names of captains, scorers, players and substitutes. The starting seven should be entered on the Match Team Sheet in their playing positions. Any changes and substitutions must be notified to the Score Table at each interval.
- 6.7 At the conclusion of the match these Match Team Sheets must be completed by the Table Officials (scorers) and signed by the captains and umpires. Once the Official Match Team Sheets have been signed by the Captains no dispute may be lodged unless it is marked "**Under Protest**". The Match Team Sheet should be placed in the prepared envelope provided and placed in the Score Table Box. The RLA should be informed of an "Under Protest" sheet by the club disputing the Match Team sheet.
- 6.8 Only those named as Players or Team Bench Personnel will be allowed in the court arena and those not actually playing must remain on the appropriate team bench during play. No-one else should be on the bench or enter the court arena unless in the case of an emergency.
- 6.9 Only those officiating as above will be allowed in the court arena and those not actually playing must remain on the appropriate team side-line bench during play.
- 6.10 All spectators must use the viewing gallery.

## 7. GENERAL

- 7.1 Kit bags and equipment must not be left where they may cause an obstruction.
- 7.2 Whilst the University of Wolverhampton Walsall Campus has first aid, it is the responsibility of each team to provide their own.
- 7.3 Any accidents must be reported to the University of Wolverhampton Walsall Campus and recorded appropriately.
- 7.4 A Netball West Midlands Incident Record sheet provided as part of your Club pack should be completed and placed in the envelope provided along with the Match Team Sheet
- 7.5 The RLC, RMB, and the University of Wolverhampton Walsall Campus cannot be held responsible for

any loss, damage, injury, or accident.

- 7.6 Any photography and/or video recording (for coaching and educational purposes only) must be approved and details lodged with the Table Officials (scorers) where a badge will be issued. Permission from teams and umpires must be obtained prior to the start of the match. Flash photography is not permitted. Such photography and/or video recording may only be posted on closed social media forums.  
The RMB reserves the right to comply with this rule for Business and Marketing purposes.

## 8. COMPLAINTS

- 8.1 Any complaints or queries must be submitted in writing to the RLA within five (5) working days. The RLA will acknowledge within 48 hours any such submission.
- 8.2 All queries, issues and disputes regarding the playing of a match and/or its result will be determined in the first instance by the RLC which will use best endeavours to resolve the issue within ten (10) working days of receipt of correspondence.
- 8.3 The RLC will have the power to determine the penalty to be imposed on teams and players who are in breach of these West Midland Regional League rules. Such penalties may include reprimands, the deduction of league points, fines, suspensions, and expulsion from the "League".
- 8.4 In the event that any team wishes to appeal against the decision of the RLC it must notify the RMB via the Regional Office in writing within seven (7) working days of receipt of the decision.
- 8.5 A cheque for £100 should be sent to the Regional Office. This must be received before the appeal process can start. The £100 shall be returned if the appeal is upheld.
- 8.6 An Appeals Panel which shall be independent of the RLC will be convened within seven (7) working days to consider the matter. The conclusion of this 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 the RLC
  - Make sure other order or determination as it may think right or just

**Failure to comply with any League rule or decision may result in loss of points or disciplinary action as determined appropriate by the Regional Management Board.**

Under the CAPS scheme it is expected that all persons involved with or attached to a Club are conversant with the England Netball Codes of Conduct.

### **General Safety and Conduct –**

- Clubs are requested to refrain from warming up in the corridors or outside at the front of the main reception area.

### **No Smoking –**

- Please note that Walsall Campus operates a no smoking policy within all areas of Campus facilities.

### **Refreshments –**

- There may be a refreshment café open during the day on campus. Please encourage spectators and players to patronise the facilities.