**Liverpool Netball League - Rules and Regulations 2021**

**1: MANAGEMENT**

1. The management of the League will be vested in a committee consisting of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, League Secretary, Treasurer, Umpiring Secretary, Divisional Secretaries for each division together with four representatives from the constituent clubs in the league. The officials and members of the Committee will be determined at the Annual General Meeting which will be held in the close season to which all clubs in the League must send a representative.
2. Clubs failing to comply will be fined **£20.00.**
3. Regular meeting of the League Committee will be held during the season to deal with current items of business.

**2: THE LEAUGE**

1. The league will be of players aged 14 or above as at 23:59 on 31 August prior to the season start date (school year 10) and will be divided into the Divisions decided at the Annual General Meeting.

**3: APPLICATIONS**

1. Applications for entry into the League must be received by the Secretary by the appointed date and must be accompanied by the entrance fee nominated for the season and the appropriate forms i.e. Entry Form and Umpire confirmation form.
2. Court fees, outstanding fines and any other outstanding debts must be paid **prior to the AGM.**
3. The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject applications for entry into the League, including teams defaulting on the payment of fees or fines. Failure to comply will result in rejection of application.
4. Teams can be added to a waiting list. Any space in the league will be offered to teams in date order request to join the league is received.
5. A club may have a maximum of 5 teams within the league at one time. If a club currently in the league has more than 5 they will be allowed to remain in the league, however if a team drops out they will not be allowed to re-enter while the club has 5 or more teams.

**4: REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

1. Players must be registered annually and cannot take part in matches organised by the League unless 7 days have elapsed from one Sunday to the next e.g. player registered Sunday 11th is eligible to play Sunday 18th.
2. Initial Team Players Registration Form which must include each player’s individual signature and affiliation numbers must be completed and returned to relevant division secretary no later than players take to the court for the first game of the season. Failure to do so will result in a player not being eligible to play.
3. At the least, seven players must be registered for each team.
4. In the event of more than 12 players registered a £2.50 charge per player will be levied on the team.
5. In the event of a player being transferred from one club to another in the League, the Secretary of the club requesting the transfer must obtain consent of the player’s original club by the completion of a transfer form and a copy sent to each of the Divisional Secretaries concerned. The player will become eligible for the new team 14 days after the new date of registration.
6. Clubs with two or more teams in the League will be allowed to include players from their team(s) in lower Divisions in their senior sides for three League matches without an official transfer being affected. If the player is required for more than three League matches, an official transfer must be made.
7. In one match, a maximum of two players only may be allowed to play for their senior team.
8. An official transfer within the same club can only be made prior to 56 days of the last league fixture. Any player transferring down within the same club will not be eligible to play up for the remainder of the season. (For cup matches see rule 15)
9. Clubs will not be allowed to use players form a senior side in teams in a lower Division without an official transfer.
10. In the event of a club having more than one team in the same Division, interchange of players will not be allowed without an official transfer.
11. No players may be transferred to a different club prior to 28 days of the last league fixture.
12. Registration lists must be kept up to date as the number of players registered will be taken in to account when application for rearranged games are considered.

**5: INELIGIBLE PLAYERS**

1. In the event of a club playing an ineligible player, the points for the match will be awarded to the opposing Club and the offence will be dealt with by the League Committee.
2. A club shall have the right to demand signatures of the players in the opposing team.
3. Any club including in their team a player under an assumed name is liable to suspension and any further action considered necessary by the League Committee.

**6: FIXTURES**

1. All games must be played at the appointed venue – no exceptions to this rule.
2. Each club will play the other teams in their Division at least twice in a season on the dates arranged in the season’s Fixture list.
3. Matches must be played on the dates and appointed times given.
4. Any team more than **5** minutes late taking the court will lose the points.
5. All games must start at the appointed time the only exception being if umpires are delayed.
6. If both umpires are ready to start, the timing of the game will commence.
7. If one team and both umpires are on court at the appropriate time 2 goals will be awarded to them for every completed minute the opposition then fail to take the court. After 5 completed minutes the game will be awarded to the team on court.
8. In the event of a match being postponed due to severe weather conditions, and both teams are present at the appointed time, the match will be rearranged by the Divisional Secretary and both team secretaries will be notified of the time and date.
9. If only one team attends, the points for the fixture will be awarded to that team and postponement of the match will not be valid, (a minimum of 3 points – maximum of 6 points may be deducted from the offending team, at the discretion of the Committee).
10. In special cases when a fixture clashes with an important club event (this does not include Christenings/social occasions) application to the Divisional Secretary for permission to postpone the fixture at least 28 days prior to the original fixture date on the fixture list is required in writing. In this case the club applying for the postponement must inform the opposing club Secretary immediately confirmation is received from the League.
11. Games cannot be rearranged between clubs under any circumstances. In the event of a club being unable to field a team for the given fixture, the club Secretary must advise the opposing Club, the Divisional Secretary and teams providing the umpires giving five clear days’ notice.
12. If a rearranged game is to be played on the same day a team is playing in a cup competition the cup game must be played first.
13. Failure to take any action resulting in the opposing club unnecessarily attend the venue may result in the offending club having to pay travel expenses and umpiring expenses. (Maximum travel/umpiring fees £20.00).
14. Points will be forfeited by the clubs not completing fixtures without due reason.
15. All Club’s Fixtures must be played. Any team failing to fulfil four League matches, will be addressed by the Committee and may be withdrawn from the League and all that club’s fixtures and points will be expunged.
16. For whatever reason a game is postponed, once a new date has been set by the Divisional Secretary it is deemed to be a fixture. This does not extend to the last official League fixture date.
17. Teams who forfeit any of their last 3 league fixtures will have 7 points deducted per game. This is to stop unnecessary influence on promotion and relegation positions.
18. All courts must be correctly marked in accordance with England Netball rules.
19. Complaints about the venue and/or equipment must be made to the umpire **before** the match and officials will, if considered appropriate, will take any necessary action to rectify any defects before the match commences. Once the match has commenced or played clubs cannot then go back on the original complaint.
20. Matches may only be abandoned in exceptional circumstances. The decision to abandon will rest with the match umpires.
21. If a match is abandoned before half time, the division secretary should be informed, and the match will be rearranged. Unless the losing team does not wish to rearrange the match and therefore the result will stand. If a match is abandoned at half time or later the score will stand at the time of the abandonment

**7: SCORE CARD**

1. Both teams in a match must complete a score card giving the result, date, name and positions of players. The players should sign the card which is then to be counter signed by the umpires.
2. Team Secretary or Team Member should take a picture or scan the completed score card and email it to your division secretary before 9pm on the Tuesday immediately after your game has been played.
3. Once the email has been sent the digital copy should be deleted and the original retained by the team secretary and kept in a safe place for reference should the committee require any information during the season.
4. Teams failing to provide a score card in the due time may be fined £2.50.

**8: UMPIRES**

1. Matches will be played in accordance with England Netball Rules.
2. Each team must provide the name of an umpire who has agreed to umpire on their behalf. It is that team’s responsibility to provide the services of a reliable umpire.
3. If a team fails to provide an umpire the team will be fined £20.00, regardless of whether alternative cover is found on the day by the committee.
4. Games will not take place unless there are 2 umpires to officiate. Games not played must be reported to the Committee.
5. If the named umpire is not available, each team should provide the umpire secretary with the name of the umpire who has agreed to cover the games named umpire is not available for in advance.
6. If a team has arranged for an umpire to cover a game the umpire may be fined an amount decided by the committee, should they fail to attend, and they cannot umpire again till the fine has been paid.
7. If an umpire repeatedly fails to attend the committee may stop them from umpiring within our league till further notice.
8. All Division 1 and Division 2 teams must provide qualified umpires.
9. Umpiring expenses are £10.00 for qualified and £6.00 for unqualified.
10. All matches will be played with neutral umpires. If an umpire finds themselves on a court to umpire a game with a team, she/he is affiliated to, coaches or trains then that umpire is required to swap courts with another umpire of an equal standard.
11. All umpires are expected to wear the correct clothing and footwear – white T-shirt/sweat top to differentiate from the players

**9: SCORERS**

1. Each team should provide a competent scorer for the given game.
	1. Playing at 09.50 – Score 11.40
	2. Playing at 10.45 – Score 09.50
	3. Playing at 11.40 – Score 10.45
	4. Playing at 12.35 – Score 13.30
	5. Playing at 13.30 – Score 12.35
2. Each playing team will pay one scorer £3.00.
3. If a team fails to provide a scorer the team will be fined £6.00, regardless of whether alternative cover is found on the day by the committee.
4. Each team should provide the umpire secretary with the name of the scorer they have arranged for their designated game in advance.
5. If a team has arranged for a scorer to cover a game the scorer may be fined an amount decided by the committee, should they fail to attend, and they cannot scorer again till the fine has been paid.
6. If a scorer repeatedly fails to attend the committee may stop them from scoreing within our league till further notice.

**10: COURTS**

1. Allocation of indoors courts should be prioritised as follows.
2. Cup Games
3. League Games
4. Rearranged Games
5. Indoor courts should always be utilised.
6. If an indoor court is available using the above priority the game being played on court one outside will be moved inside first before court two
7. If there is no game being played on court one, then the game due to be played on court two will be moved inside.
8. If there is no cup game or league fixture being played outside any rearranged game will be moved inside with court one taking preference before court two.
9. If a cup game must be rearranged to a time league fixture should be played, the cup game will be played inside, the league fixture may be required to move outside.

**11: DISCIPLINE**

1. All umpires (qualified and unqualified) must report to the League Committee any disciplinary action taken before, during or after a match and offences will be dealt with by the League Committee.
2. When an unqualified umpire is umpiring with a qualified umpire, the unqualified umpire must consult with the qualified umpire before any disciplinary action is taken.
3. When two unqualified umpires are umpiring a match, disciplinary action can still be taken after joint consultation.
4. The umpire must advise the player that her name and details of the offence will be forwarded to the League Secretary for action at the next Committee meeting.

\*\*Complaints process to be reviewed by committee and further details given to teams.

**12: COLOURS**

1. The proper netball attire must always be worn – skirt/blouse/dress/bibs/tracksuit and correct sporting underwear.
2. If a player is deemed to be wearing unsuitable underwear, she may be asked to leave the court.
3. If a tracksuit is worn a skirt must be worn over.
4. All teams must register their colours with the League Secretary on their League Entry form.
5. In the event of the two teams in a match having similar colours one team must provide a second set of bibs.

**13: CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. Points for matches will be apportioned accordingly:

5 points for a win, 3 points for a draw, 2 points for losing within 5 goals, 1 point if more than 50% of the winning score is achieved.

1. At the end of the season, awards determined by the League Committee will be presented to the first and second team in each Division. In the event of more than one club on the same points the League Committee will arrange Play-off matches to determine the final League positions. This will be played the final week of the season the week before cup final date.
2. No player shall be allowed to take part in play-off matches unless she has played for the Club on at least three occasions during that current season.
3. In the event of a club resigning from the League, all that clubs’ points will be expunged.
4. Winners and Runners-up of any competition, League or Cups will receive 8 trophies.
5. Additional trophies can be requested for a small fee.

**14: MATCH TIMING-**

1. Games will be played in 4 equal quarters of 10 minutes.
2. Players must be on the court of play ready to play at the allotted time
3. Games should only be delayed if waiting for umpires to arrive from another court or players who have been playing for their senior team.
4. At the end of the first and third quarter it will be a straight change of ends with substitution if needed.
5. Two minutes will be given at the end of the second quarter (half time).

**15: KNOCK-OUT-COMPETITIONS**

1. Teams in Divisions 1 and 2 will automatically be entered for the “Bill Williams” Shield Competition and a separate “Jim Harrison” Shield Competition shall include teams in Divisions 3 and 4 and Division 5 if appropriate.
2. A player will only be allowed to play in one of these competitions and for one team only, including clubs with more than one team.
3. Where applicable, the League Rules will apply to the Knock-Out Competitions except that players must have played at least one League Match before they can compete in the opening rounds and three league matches (this may include a cup match) before they can compete in the Semi-Final or Final.
4. If a match is a draw, 5 minutes each way extra time will commence with a straight turn around at half time. The first centre pass in each half is taken by the team entitled to the next centre pass. In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time, a visual signal is placed at the official table to indicate that play will continue until one team leads by two goals.
5. If a team forfeits the match at the semi-final/final stage, then the team that they played in the previous round will be re-instated.

**16: CHANGE OF OFFICIALS**

Changes of name and/or address of Club Secretaries and Umpires must be notified to the League and Divisional Secretaries as soon as they occur.

**17: PREGNANCY**

1. A player who is pregnant shall be allowed to play up to and including the 12th week of pregnancy.
2. Umpires can umpire up to and including the 20th week of pregnancy.

**18: FUNDS**

In the event of the League being dissolved, funds standing to the credit of the League shall be disposed of by refunding monies received in sponsorship and entry fees that season, the balance being dealt with at a special General Meeting convened for this purpose.

**19: AFFILIATION**

1. **ALL players, umpires, scorers & team officials**, including those applying for re-entry into the League must have an individual membership with England Netball.
2. All teams, including new teams joining the league must register with England Netball and ensure that all players and officials’ application for membership with England Netball is complete before the start of the season. Any additional players must have a membership with England Netball before they are eligible to play in the league.
3. The England Netball insurance scheme is provided as a Membership benefit and ensures that Affiliated Members are covered for Liability and Personal Accident Insurance, at the level of cover applicable to their category of membership.

**20: RETURNING OF TROPHIES**

1. All cups and trophies are to be returned to the Divisional Secretary on the last Sunday of the League fixture in a good condition.
2. Fines will be applicable for any damage to the same.

**21: FIRST AID**

All teams must have a suitable First Aid kit to use in any emergency during matches. Responsibility for First Aid rests with each individual team and not the League or the owners of the Premises.

**22: ANY OTHER MATTERS**

Any matter not specifically dealt with in the Rules and Regulations shall be decided by the Committee.