

**KENT COUNTY SENIOR NETBALL LEAGUE  
RULES & REGULATIONS OF THE PLAY-OFFS  
2023-24**

**1. OBJECT**

Kent County Senior Netball League, divisions 1 and 2, is a County League competition organised by Kent Netball to enable teams to compete against each other to determine a County winner, whilst encouraging participation and development in netball through an open, fair, progressive and transparent league structure.

The League Play-Offs is a competition organised by Kent Netball that determines the movement of teams between the League divisions 1 and 2 (if required) and teams that wish to enter the League. It takes place once the League has concluded.

The regulations set out below outline the Rules and Regulations through which the League Play-Offs only shall be organised. For the avoidance of doubt, the separate regulations which pertain to the Kent County Senior Netball League competition shall have force within the Play-Offs

The Kent County Committee administer and manage these Regulations, together with the Kent County Senior Netball League Rules and Regulations and they must be followed by all teams, players, officials and spectators involved in the League Play-Offs. Particular note should be made of the player criteria regulations in both sections.

**2. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

- 2.1 At the end of the season and by the **1<sup>st</sup> April**: The County Secretary will confirm to those teams in the League who will be taking part in the Play-Offs.
- 2.2 By the **1<sup>st</sup> April** – The County Secretary will send an invitation either to each netball league affiliated to Kent Netball or direct to the winner and runner of the top division in each affiliated league. In the case of the North West Kent Netball League, the invitation will be sent to teams in the top two divisions, plus the winner and runner up in division 3.
- 2.3 **1<sup>st</sup> May** : closing date for applications to take part in the Play-Offs
  - 2.3.1 **1<sup>st</sup> May** : The County Secretary will check the registrations of those already participating in the League
  - 2.3.2 **1<sup>st</sup> May** : The County Secretary will check the affiliation records of registered participants
- 2.4 **14<sup>th</sup> May** – BY THIS DATE The County Secretary MUST send any registration or affiliation queries to the Play-Off Competition Referee(s)
- 2.5 **June** – The Play-Off competition will take place at a date, time and venue organised by Kent Netball.

**3. COMPETITION STRUCTURE**

- 3.1 Entry into the County League Play-Offs will be through the following methods :
  - 3.1.1 In the event of a Kent Regional team being relegated back into the County League, and no Kent team is promoted to the Regional competition, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> placed teams in division 1 will 'play off' for one place in that division. The losing team will be relegated to Division 2.
  - 3.1.2 In the event of a Kent team being promoted to the Regional competition, and no Kent Regional team being relegated back into the County League, the 6<sup>th</sup> placed team in Division 1 and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team in Division 2 will play off for one place in Division 1.
  - 3.1.3 A Play-Off between the two (2) teams placed bottom of the League and any team(s) wishing to enter The League.
    - (a) The County Secretary will send an invitation to each Netball League affiliated to Kent Netball during the season that the League is played. It is open to teams who have

participated in the 'main' competition in a particular league season – i.e. this may vary between,

- (i) a summer league competition that took place prior to the beginning of the current League competition
  - (ii) a winter league competition held during a similar period to the League competition.
- (b) The teams nominated by the Affiliated Leagues will be done so at the discretion of those affiliated leagues. Kent Netball will have no involvement with or influence over these teams apart from the requirements set out in these Regulations.
- 3.1.3 All matches must produce a result and if teams are drawn at the end of time, extra time will be played in accordance with the Official Netball Rules. The length of extra time and half time interval will be determined by Kent Netball at its absolute discretion.
- 3.1.4 The number of entries and the circumstances outlined in 3.1.1 will determine the number of places available in Division 2. Normally, the two (2) top placed teams in this section of the Play-Off will be promoted to/or retain their place in division 2 of the League for the following season.

#### **4. TEAM/PLAYER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- 4.1 The eligibility of players to compete for teams in the Play-Off competition shall be subject to the League Rules and Regulations.
- (a) An existing County League team may only use those players who were registered to play for them during the preceding season and who remain eligible.
    - (i) In circumstances where an existing county league team qualifies for the Regional League, their team seeking to join may not use players registered for the Regional Play-Offs. The County Secretary will check with the Results Co-ordinator the names of players registered during the season.
  - (b) A team seeking to join may only use the players who have participated in the local league competition which has earned them the invitation to take part in the Play-Offs and who remain eligible. Application to participate must be accompanied by proof of affiliation for each registered participant to England Netball.
    - (i) A team qualifying from a summer league competition: a player first being affiliated to England Netball for that team after the 1<sup>st</sup> September in the year prior to the Play-Offs will not be eligible.
    - (ii) A team qualifying from a winter league competition: a player first being affiliated to England Netball for that team after the 31<sup>st</sup> January in the year of the Play-Offs will not be eligible.

#### **5 APPLICATION and REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS**

- 5.1 Applications to participate in the Play-Off must be received by the closing date of 1<sup>st</sup> May.
- 5.1 The date, time, venue and format of the Play-Off will be set by Kent Netball at their absolute discretion.
- 5.2 Teams must provide an umpire holding the Netball Europe B Award or above, together with a scorer who should preferably be a qualified umpire
- 5.3 Play-Off teams must submit their squad registration sheets to The League Secretary by the closing day for entries of 1<sup>st</sup> May. The maximum number of players to be registered is twelve (12).

## 6. COMPETITION REFEREE(S)

Competition Referee(s) will be appointed by Kent Netball who will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising through the Competition, including but not limited to :

- 6.1
- altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary;
  - determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction including but not limited to the disqualification of any individual team or player
  - adjudicating instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour or behaviour that brings the sport into disrepute, including but not limited to instances of teams predetermining, or attempting to predetermine, the outcome of a Match and/or the Competition;
  - determining the result and score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance;
  - enforcing the decision by any medical advisor, including but not limited to Kent Netball's appointed Competition Medic or Competition Physiotherapist, regarding the participation of a player and whether they are able to;
    - (a) Start the match or
    - (b) Continue to play
  - determining any matter not covered specifically within the Regulations.
- 6.2 The Competition Referee(s) may call upon, or delegate to, additional persons to assist with the Competition or consult with other persons prior to making any decision. However, the final decision and accountability for the decision will rest with the Competition Referee(s).
- 6.3 If a player is suspended from a Match, or ordered to leave the court and take no further part in the Match, that player and a Team Official, normally the Coach, may be required to attend a hearing before the Competition Referee(s) immediately after the end of the Match. After the hearing the Competition Referee(s) will decide what action should be taken.
- 6.4 For all 'incidents' on or off the court at the selected venue a Kent Netball Accident Report form must be completed by the Competition Referee(s) and a copy sent to Kent Netball Secretary which will be stored for insurance purposes using standard issued forms.
- 6.5 The Competition Referee(s) will maintain and be responsible for a confidential Competition Referee Log Book where appropriate.