

KENT COUNTY JUNIOR LEAGUE

U14 & U16 - 2023-2024



RULES & REGULATIONS

It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players are conversant with the regulations.

1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 The competition shall be known as the Kent County Junior League (the "League").
- 1.2 The League is controlled and managed by the Kent Netball Association ("Kent Netball"), which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to any sub-committee or individual(s).
- 1.3 The League is managed on Kent Netball's behalf by the Kent County Junior League Management Group ("LMG") at their absolute discretion. The LMG is responsible for the organisation and management of the League, associated tournaments and play-offs. The LMG will also deal with any complaints or appeals resulting from matters affecting the competition.
- 1.4 The purpose of the League is to provide high level competition for the U16 and U14 age groups, together with a development section for less experienced Clubs and Players.
- 1.5 These Rules and Regulations ("the Regulations") must be followed by all Teams, Team Officials, Technical Officials, Match Officials, spectators and administrators involved in the management, administration, and operation of the League.
- 1.6 It is the responsibility of the Club, not Kent Netball to ensure that all Players and relevant parties connected to the Team are fully conversant with the Regulations. All Clubs will be held responsible for the overall conduct of their Players, Team Officials, Technical Officials, and spectators (meaning the behaviour, demeanour and actions of all persons associated with the Club).
- 1.7 The decisions of Kent Netball, or its nominee(s), in respect of the Regulations and on any other matter related to the 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 in section 8).

2. COMPETITION REFEREE

- 2.1 A Competition Referee will be appointed by the LMG for each Fixture Date of the League.
- 2.2 The Competition Referee will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising during the League including, but not limited to:
 - 2.2.1 altering or amending the Competition schedule as necessary;
 - 2.2.2 determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction (including disqualification of any individual, Player or Team);

- 2.2.3 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 League;
 - 2.2.4 upholding enforcing the decision by any medical advisor, regarding the participation of a Player and whether they are able to a) start the match or b) continue to play;
 - 2.2.5 determining the result and score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance;
 - 2.2.7 determining any matter not covered specifically within the Regulations.
- 2.3 The Competition Referee 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.
 - 2.4 If a Player is suspended from a Match or ordered to leave the court and take no further part in a match due to dangerous/reckless play, serious foul language or gross misconduct, that Player and a Team Official (normally the Coach), may be required to attend a hearing before the Competition Referee. After the hearing, the Competition Referee will decide what if any action will be taken.
 - 2.5 For all accidents or incidents on or off the court at the League venue an Accident Report form must be completed by the Club, and provided to Kent Netball and a copy stored by Kent Netball for insurance purposes (to be produced to England Netball if required).
 - 2.6 The Competition Referee will maintain and be responsible for a confidential Competition Referee Logbook (if appropriate).

3. TEAM ENTRY AND ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 Entry to the League is open to any Club which is registered to England Netball with Kent Netball as their primary county.
- 3.2 The League will be contested between as many Teams as shall be determined by Kent Netball.
- 3.2 Entry to the League will be determined by Kent Netball, at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of these Regulations.
- 3.3 Kent Netball is entitled to charge an entry fee to the League and this must be paid in full within the required timescales for a Team to compete.
- 3.4 By entering a Team in the League Clubs agree that:
 - a) they are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the League;
 - b) they will fulfil their obligations and responsibilities set out in these Regulations;
 - c) they are bound by these Regulations; and
 - d) they are bound by all of the rules, policies, regulations and by-laws of England Netball, including the England Netball Codes of Conduct and Disciplinary Rules and Regulations, as may from time to time be in force.

- 3.5 Clubs who persistently cancel matches or cancel matches in two consecutive seasons may not be invited to re-join the League, for a period to be decided at the LMG's discretion.
- 3.6 The LMG may hold a qualifying competition to determine the final entries to the League. The criteria for this qualifying competition may reflect past performance of the clubs within the League or other factors at the LMG's absolute discretion. Any club cancelling more than two matches in the previous season may be required to take part in any qualifying competition regardless of their finishing position in the League. The finishing positions of clubs at the end of the qualifying competition will be used to determine entry to the League.
- 3.7 No Club may enter more than one Team in each age group in the League, other than at the discretion of the LMG. Clubs that have participated in the League for the last two years, and fulfilled all their fixtures, may be permitted to enter a "B" Team into the League and/or qualifying competition.
- 3.8 Clubs entering the League must be represented at the Kent Netball Association Annual General Meeting, held in September. Failure to do so may result in their team(s) being refused entry to the League.
- 3.9 It is expected that all Clubs ensure that they follow England Netball safeguarding guidelines, including obtaining enhanced (child workforce) DBS certificates for all relevant coaches and team officials.
- 3.10 All Players and Team Officials must be England Netball members, having paid the full adult / junior membership fee due and received confirmation of their membership in advance of submitting the Squad Registration Sheet for the League. Social and Supporting memberships do not constitute full membership.
- 3.11 Any Club who knowingly and deliberately provides false information regarding the identity of Players when registering Players or naming Players on team sheets may be subject to disciplinary action and may be expelled from the competition at the discretion of Kent Netball.
- 3.12 Players of Teams competing in the U14 age group must be over eleven (11) years of age and under fourteen (14) years of age as at 11.59pm on **31 August 2023**. No-one under the age of eleven (11) is permitted to compete in the Qualifying Tournament.
- 3.13 Players of Teams competing in the U16 age group must be over thirteen (13) years of age and under sixteen (16) years of age as at 11.59pm on **31 August 2023** (subject to age banding requirements set out in Rule 3.14 below)
- 3.14 Clubs wishing to play a talented U14 player in the U16 age group, must complete an Age Banding Application form and submit this to the LMG for approval. No player may play out of her age group until written permission has been received from the LMG. The LMG will consult with the appropriate Kent Netball Academy coach (who should be independent of the applying club) who will be responsible for granting any such permission. If the player is not part of any Kent Netball Academy her standard of play within her own age group will be assessed by a Kent Netball Academy coach at the first reasonable opportunity, prior to any permission being granted.
- 3.15 All Team Managers must be over the age of eighteen (18) years old prior to the start of the League.
- 3.16 During the League, Team Managers must carry proof of age for all Players and a copy of any Age Banding Consent Forms applicable to Players listed on the Squad Registration Sheet.
- 3.17 Proof of age comprises one or more of the following:

a) copy of birth certificate; b) copy of passport; c) copy of medical card

- 3.18 The League is a competition for female participants. Only female participants can be included on the Squad Registration Sheet.
- 3.19 Kent Netball embraces diversity, is committed to providing enjoyable netball for all who wish to participate and follows the England Netball guidance in respect of transgender people. A copy of the guidance can be obtained from the LMG or the England Netball website. If a club has a transgender player that wishes to participate in the League, they should speak with the LMG at the earliest possible opportunity in order that any steps from the guidelines can be followed prior to participation.
- 3.20 Should a Team play an ineligible Player, the Matches where the ineligible Player took to the court will be awarded to the opposition. The offending Team will also be **deducted six (6) League points** for these Matches.
- 3.21 An ineligible Player is defined as:
- 2.13.1 A Player who does not hold full England Netball membership;
 - 2.13.2 A Player who is the incorrect age.

4. REGISTRATION OF SQUADS

- 4.1 Clubs must register a minimum of ten (10) eligible Players (subject to rule 4.8 below).
- 4.2 Clubs must complete a Squad Registration Sheet(s), fully listing each Player, and Team Officials with their relevant details as requested. In addition, Clubs must provide their official club roster from England Netball's ENgage membership system in the format requested by the LMG, showing all Players and Team Officials marked as 'active'.
- 4.3 The initial Squad Registration Sheet(s), official club roster and fully completed and any signed Age Banding Consent Forms must be submitted to the LMG in accordance with their instructions and by the date specified. Failure to provide the report in the correct format by the correct date may result in a deduction of League points to be decided by the LMG.
- 4.4 Clubs may only use those Players who appear on the Squad Registration Sheet held by the Kent Netball.
- 4.5 Any additions to the Squad Registration Sheet must be lodged, together with any related Age Banding Forms, and updated ENgage club roster by midnight on Thursday prior to the Fixture Date on which the Player participates.
- 4.6 Once a Player has played for a Team in the qualifying competition for the League (where that Team has qualified for the League) or played for a Team in the League she cannot transfer to another Club within the League during the course of the current playing season, without the written authority of the LMG at their absolute discretion. No transfers shall be allowed after 31 December in any season in any event.
- 4.7 Players may not participate in a League match if they have participated, or will participate, in an U18 or senior County, Regional or Premier League match on the same day.
- 4.8 Clubs entering "B" Teams are subject to these additional registration requirements:

- Clubs should provide separate Squad Registration Sheets for their “A” Team and their “B” Team. There must be at least **20 Players listed in total**, and the “A” Team list should contain not less than 7 Players.
- No “A” Team Player will be permitted to play for a “B” Team, other than at the LMG’s absolute discretion (for example, “A” Team Players that sustain a serious injury during the season may be permitted by the LMG to play for their Club’s “B” Team on their return from injury).
- Clubs entering any qualification competition are permitted to play “B” Team Players in the “A” Team to cover injury or unavailability, but they may only play for one Team on the day of competition. Any participation for the “A” Team in a qualifying competition will count as 4 quarters towards the restriction in Rule 4.9.

4.9 Players registered for a Club’s “B” Team, shall be permitted to play a maximum of 12 quarters (or part thereof) for the Club’s “A” Team. Following this, if the Player takes any further part in a Match for the “A” Team, they will no longer be eligible to compete for the “B” Team and shall permanently be part of the “A” Team squad.

4.10 Any U14 Player (for whom written permission has been received in accordance with rule 3.14) shall be permitted to play a maximum of 12 quarters (or part thereof) in the U16 League in total. Following this, if the Player takes any further part in the U16 League they will no longer be eligible to compete within the U14 League and shall permanently be part of that U16 squad. Where a Player has played for a Club’s U16A and U16B squad:

- If the Player has played 12 (or part thereof) or more quarters for the U16 “A” Team they shall be permanently be part of the U16 “A” Team squad.
- Otherwise, they shall be permanently part of the U16 “B” Team squad.
- Rule 4.9 shall apply to any player becoming part of the U16 “B” Team squad, and any quarters (or part thereof) played for the “A” Team prior to their transfer to the “B” Team squad shall count towards the maximum permitted.

4.11 U14 “B” team Players will not be permitted to play in the U16 League at any time.

4.12 No player may participate in more than two (2) Matches on any Fixture Date (regardless of the number of quarters played).

4.13 The penalties for using players incorrectly registered are as follows:

- Deduction of one (1) League point, for each and every Match, for any Team using a Player who has not been registered on the Squad Registration Sheet held by the LMG prior to playing.
- Deduction of four (4) League points, for each and every Match, for any club using a player whose membership with their Club (and therefore Kent Netball) had not been paid on ENgage prior to playing.
- Deduction of six (6) League points, for each and every Match on that Fixture Date, for any Club using a Player for more than two (2) League Matches on any Fixture Date.
- Deduction of six (6) League points, for each and every Match, for any Club using an “A” team player in their “B” team. The Match will be defaulted by the offending team and the points for winning the Match will be awarded to the non-offending team.

5. **COMPETITION VENUE & SCHEDULING**

5.1 Matches will be played at agreed venues with adequate surrounds and ancillary facilities, including changing and showering facilities for both sexes, unless otherwise agreed by the LMG or Kent Netball.

- 5.2 The LMG and Kent Netball are responsible for arranging the venue(s), and their payment.
- 5.3 Kent Netball will conduct a risk assessment of venues to ensure they are suitable. The LMG will conduct a risk assessment at the start of each Fixture Date to ensure that the venue is suitable for the Matches to be played, and together with the Umpires and the Clubs take all reasonable steps to mitigate any risk so identified. Kent Netball will not be liable to a person for any direct or indirect loss or injury resulting from the venues.
- 5.4 All Matches must be played on the date specified by the fixture schedule, except as otherwise agreed by the LMG. Where the LMG sets a reserve date, this must be used for the first postponed Match.
- 5.5 Clubs will be responsible for arranging their own travel, and the costs of any travel. All Teams should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays. Matches should start at the agreed start time, or as soon thereafter as both teams have the minimum number of players required by the rules, to start the Match. If a Team is not able or willing to start the Match five (5) minutes after the agreed start time, the match may be forfeited. Any non-offending Team may be awarded the points for the Match and the offending Team may be deducted points in respect of a Match not played.
- 5.6 No Team may postpone or cancel a Match without the agreement of the LMG. Matches which are postponed due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances or for any other reason e.g. flash flood, heavy snowfall, will be played at a later date as agreed by the LMG.
- 5.7 In the event that a Match is abandoned for any reason e.g. because of serious injury, weather conditions or an emergency at the venue, the result or re-playing of that match will be determined by the LMG at its discretion.
- 5.8 In the event of a clash between any League fixture and any national club competition, or other netball event that the LMG deems to be of significance to the development of Kent Academy players, Clubs may apply to the LMG for a rearrangement.
- Any such application must be made at least one month prior to the fixture date.
 - Where an application is approved, the Club applying must arrange an appropriate venue and bear the cost of any such venue hire, at a time and date to be agreed by their opposition.
 - Where clubs are not able to agree on a date, the LMG will specify a time and date on which the fixture is to be played. If any team cannot fulfil the fixture on the specified date, then the match will be defaulted and the points for winning the match will be awarded to the non-offending team.
- 5.9 If a Club wishes to cancel a Match they must follow the following protocol AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:
- Contact the opposition for the Match(es) concerned.
 - Contact the LMG to inform them which Match(es) have been cancelled in order that Umpires can be re-arranged.
- 5.10 Teams involved in a cancelled Match will not be required to provide an Umpire. The LMG will amend the umpiring schedule as necessary.
- 5.11 The Team that cancels may be liable to pay any costs, which the non-offending team and match officials have incurred, subject to the determination of the LMG.
- 5.12 If a Team cancels a Match 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 per cancelled Match deducted from their total for the first Fixture Date on which they cancel Matches;

- ten (10) League points per cancelled Match deducted from their total for the second Fixture Date on which they cancel Matches;
 - fifteen (15) League points per cancelled Match deducted from their total for the third Fixture Date on which they cancel Matches;
 - and so forth increasing by five (5) League points on each subsequent Fixture Date.
- The playing of a friendly match will not constitute fulfilling a Match and the above sanctions will apply.

6. PLAYING AND COMPETITION

6.1 Match rules and format

6.1.1 All Matches shall be played to the World Netball Rules of the Game and England Netball's domestic guidance currently in force in England at the time, except where specifically stated in the Regulations. Any League Protocols for Clubs, Umpires and Scorers provided by the LMG shall be applied to all Matches.

6.1.2 U16 League Matches shall be forty-eight (48) minute's duration (i.e. four quarters of twelve (12) minutes each). U14 League Matches shall be forty (40) minute's duration (i.e. four quarters of ten (10) minutes each). Each quarter-time interval will be 3 minutes with a half-time interval of 5 minutes.

6.1.3 Where the result of a Match must produce a winner, for example in the playoff stages of the League, the following will apply in the event of a draw at full time:

- a) Teams change ends immediately after full time and there will be extra time of two (2) minutes each way.
- b) The centre pass is taken by the Team entitled to the next centre pass.
- c) The Teams will change ends at half time without a break.
- d) In the event of a draw after the full period of extra time, play will continue without a break, until the next goal is scored, whereupon the Team which scores that goal will be the winners.

6.1.4 Each team may declare up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each Match by completing their team section on the official Results Sheet. Players' names must be completed in full. Umpires will ensure that the team section has been completed and the Results Sheet lodged with the Scorers prior to the Match. Players not on the Results Sheet prior to the start of the Match may not take part.

6.2 Match Officials (Umpires)

6.2.1 Each Club must provide an active Umpire for every match who holds England Netball membership for the current season together with a Europe Netball Award ('C' or above). Teams will be responsible for the costs of any fees / expenses direct to their Umpire.

6.2.2 All Umpires must register at the Score Table not less than 20 minutes prior to the start of their match and are required to provide their England Netball membership number at registration. Umpires will be allocated to each match by the LMG wherever possible on a "neutral" basis.

6.2.3 Umpires are expected to conform to a standard of physical fitness that allows them to keep pace with the speed and variability of the Match(es). If age, illness, injury or pregnancy is likely

to affect the Umpire's movement and positioning to the detriment of the Match they are asked to withdraw from officiating.

6.2.4 No Umpire will be allowed to officiate at more than two Matches in any one day unless permission has been granted by the LMG, at their absolute discretion.

6.2.5 Matches may be used by Kent Netball for the purposes of Umpire testing and assessment.

6.2.6 Kent Netball reserves the right (but are under no obligation) to assess the competency of any Umpire if concerns are raised by any Club(s). A qualified umpire assessor will carry out any such assessment. The decision of the umpire assessor as to competency will be final, and if necessary, the Umpire may be required to pass a re-assessment at local league level prior to umpiring again at the League.

6.2.7 In the event that an Umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a Match, the following procedure will be applied:

- The Competition Referee must be informed immediately, and will determine the action to be taken.
- Where an Umpire has failed to arrive the Team responsible may be required to forfeit their Match to allow for Umpires to be re-allocated should a suitable replacement not be available. This will be at the discretion of the Competition Referee. The Team responsible may also be subject to a deduction of a maximum of five (5) League points, subject to determination by the LMG.

6.2.8 Umpires are expected to have read and be conversant with the rules of the League.

6.3 Technical Officials

6.3.1 The Technical Officials are the Scorers and Timekeepers who shall constitute the Official Bench.

6.3.2 Scorers will be required for all Matches. Each Team must provide a competent Scorer, for their own Match.

6.3.3 The Umpires will act as the Timekeepers for all Matches, however they may ask the Scorer(s) to act on their behalf, provided that the Scorer(s) agree and they have the means to do so.

6.3.4 Scorers must agree the score with each other after every goal, and they should record the final score on the official Results Sheet.

6.4 Team Officials & Team Bench

6.4.1 Each Team is allowed up to three (3) Team Officials. These include the Coach, Team Manager and one other person, at least one (1) of whom must be a primary care person, preferably holding an appropriate first aid qualification.

6.4.2 The Team Officials and up to five (5) players not on court shall constitute the Team Bench.

6.4.3 The Team Bench will be situated in the area at the Team's defending end at the start of the Match to the right of the netball posts unless otherwise agreed with the Umpires. The Team Bench does not change ends during any intervals.

6.5 Kit and Equipment

- 6.5.1 All players on court should wear team uniform as registered with the LMG.
- 6.5.2 Teams must carry an alternative set of bibs for use where a clash of colours occurs. It is the Team Manager's responsibility to identify any potential clash. In the event of a clash of colours, a toss of a coin between the two captains will decide which team will retain their original colours.
- 6.5.2 Each Team must provide a size five (5) netball to the Umpires. The Umpires will check both match balls and determine one for use as the match ball and to be used as the reserve.

6.6 Injuries and Accidents

- 6.6.1 It is the responsibility of each Team to have an identified primary care person and provide and carry adequate first aid cover for its Players and Team Officials, which should also be made available to the Umpires upon request.
- 6.6.2 Team Officials are required to take great care in moving an injured player or ill player from the court.
- 6.6.3 Should the Primary Carer feel that an injury is critical (e.g. head, neck or back) and that the injured Player should not be moved without the assistance of medical staff, which means it is not possible to complete the match the Umpires should make a report to the Competition Referee who will adjudicate.
- 6.6.4 For all accidents or injuries on or off the court at the League, where any Player, Team Official, Match Official, Technical Official, spectator, volunteer, staff member or any other individual connected to the League is injured, the Club must complete an Accident Report Form and return it to Kent Netball.
- 6.6.5 This procedure should be followed for all injuries and accidents, regardless of whether or not medical treatment is given.

6.7 Scoring

- 6.7.1 The League results table will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each Team.
- 6.7.2 Teams will be awarded League points as follows:
- Five (5) points for a win
 - Three (3) points for a draw
 - One (1) point for a loss in which the Team scores more than 50% per cent of the winning Team's score
 - Zero (0) points for a loss in which the Team scores 50% or less of the winning Team's score
- 6.7.3 Where Teams are level on points:
- Goal Average shall be used to determine their relative positions, i.e. the Team with the higher average score shall take precedence.
 - In the event that Goal Average does not differentiate between the Teams, then the Team with the higher Goal Difference shall take precedence.

- In the event that Goal Difference does not differentiate between the Teams, then the Team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence.
- In the event that neither Goal Average nor Goal Difference nor goals scored can differentiate between the Teams, the Kent Netball shall determine the means of differentiation.

Note – where one of the Teams has its Goal Average, Goal Difference or total number of goals scored affected by conceded fixtures, then all goals scored by and against conceding Team(s) in all fixtures shall be omitted in from the calculations above for the Teams level on points (except where one of the Teams level on points is the conceding Team, at which point they assume a Goal Average of zero (0) and will be the lowest ranked Team of those level on points.

- 6.7.4 If a Team withdraws from the League during the season, all associated points and goals (for and against) will be removed from the League table.

6.8 Registration of Results

6.8.2 The official Results Sheets must be checked and signed by both the Umpires and Team Captains. Once the official Results Sheet has been submitted no dispute can be lodged unless it was clearly marked 'under protest' in accordance with Regulation 7.1.2.

6.8.2 If there is disagreement in relation to the final score, the procedure outline in Section 7 (Competition Complaints Procedure) should be followed.

6.8.3 The completed official Results Sheet must be returned to the Score Table immediately following the end of the Match.

6.8.4 If a player is cautioned, warned, suspended from a game or ordered to leave the court and take no further part in the game, this must be recorded on the official Results Sheet.

6.9 Tournament

6.9.1 There will be an end of season tournament held each year following the end of the League (subject to availability of dates, facilities and weather).

6.9.2 All Clubs who enter the League are expected to enter their participating Teams into the end of season tournament. Failure to enter a Team in the tournament will be treated as a two-match default and will be taken into consideration by the LMG when considering future entry to the League.

7 COMPETITION COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

7.1 On the day of the League, all queries and complaints (a Complaint) should be directed to the Competition Referee in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows:

7.1.1 Where the Complaint relates to the competition format or management, including (but not limited to) the schedule, the opposing Team, the playing surface or other playing arrangements, a protest must be made, before the start of the Match (or as soon as possible after the issue becomes apparent during the Match) to the Competition Referee. The Complaint must then be acknowledged by the Competition Referee who will decide what action should be taken.

7.1.2 Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a Match, the scoring, and/or its result, the Captain or Team Manager must do the following:

- a) Inform their opponents and the Umpires of their complaint.
- b) Mark the Results Sheet with the words 'Under Protest';
- c) Explain the issue in full to the Competition Referee.

The Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken.

7.1.3 The Competition Referee's decision in relation to decisions taken under clauses 7.1.1 or 7.1.2 is binding except where parties to the Complaint have the right to appeal the decision under section 8 below.

7.2 Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the League by the Kent Netball, such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of the Kent Netball.

7.3 Where a Complaint relates to the behaviour of a Player, Team, Team Official, Technical Official, Match Official, volunteer or individual attending the League which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations, such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures set out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations and should be referred to the Disciplinary Secretary of the Kent Netball or England Netball as appropriate.

8 APPEALS AGAINST THE COMPETITION REFEREE'S DECISION

8.1 The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a Complaint submitted in accordance with sections 7.1.1 or 7.1.2 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

8.1.1 if the decision of the Competition Referee has a potential impact on a Match result, a results table, or the outcome of the League; and

8.1.2 there has been a failure by the Competition Referee to follow or act in accordance with these Regulations and/or the Competition Referee has reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact.

These are the only grounds of appeal, and any appeal must be submitted in accordance with the appeals process set out below.

8.2 An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the Team Manager of the appealing Team to Kent Netball within seventy-two (72) hours of the Fixture Date.

8.3 The appeal shall be accompanied by a cheque for £100 which shall be returned if the appeal is upheld or if there are any other extenuating circumstances. The Competition Appeals Committee (CAC) will decide whether the extenuating circumstance warrant the cheque being returned.

8.4 Kent Netball will establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected to the League. One of those individuals will be appointed as the Chair.

- 8.5 The Chair of the CAC give notice of the appeal to the opposing Team and any other Team the CAC believe could be affected by the outcome of the appeal. These Teams will be permitted seventy-two (72) hours, from the date the appeal notice is sent from the CAC to submit any evidence or submission that they wish the CAC to consider.
- 8.6 All submissions and evidence must be submitted in writing. The Chair of the CAC will have the discretion to determine the process, procedure and direction of the appeal.
- 8.7 The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy-two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions.
- 8.8 The CAC will notify all the parties that made submissions and presented evidence of its decision and any penalties and sanctions imposed within twenty-four (24) hours of it reaching its determination. The CAC shall have the discretion to publish the decision through whatever means it considers appropriate.
- 8.9 The CAC shall have the delegated power of Kent Netball to make all decisions and impose and enforce any penalties and sanctions (including but not limited to, reprimands, the deduction of points, fines, suspensions and expulsions from the League) relating to the appeal.
- 8.10 The procedures set out in this section shall be governed by the Arbitration Act 1996 (the Act) and amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of Section 6 of the Act. For the avoidance of doubt, there shall be no further right of appeal against the decision of the CAC.
- 8.11 The parties also waive irrevocably their right to any form of appeal, review or recourse to any court or other judicial authority, or under England Netball's Disciplinary Procedures Manual or otherwise, as far as such waiver may be validly made.
- 8.12 The seat of arbitration shall be England, the language used shall be English and the governing law of the regulations and these proceedings under this section shall be English Law.
- 8.13 If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than provided for by this section, and all parties to the appeal consent, the timetable within which an appeal is raised, submissions made, and the decision taken, can be shorter than seventy-two (72) hours stated in this section. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised directions timetable which shall be binding on all parties.
- 8.14 In order to adhere to the timescales set out in this section, all communication will take place via electronic mail to the Team Manager listed on the Squad Registration Sheet. It is the participating Teams responsibility to ensure the contact details provided to Kent Netball are up to date.

10 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- 9.1 Kent Netball will not be liable to any person, whether in contract, tort (including negligence) or otherwise for any direct or indirect loss or injury of any nature, howsoever caused and howsoever arising from the matters covered by these Regulations, provided that nothing in these Regulations excludes or restricts Kent Netball's liability for any personal loss or injury caused by Kent Netball's own negligence, the negligence of its employees, or for fraud.

- 9.2 All participants acknowledge that participating in the sport of netball involves a risk of personal injury and by taking part in the League, whether as a Player, Team Official, Match Official, Technical Official or spectator, each participant does so at their own risk.
- 9.3 If any of these Regulations are held by any competent authority to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of the Regulations shall not be affected thereby.
- 9.4 These Regulations shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law.
- 9.5 Any questions regarding these Regulations can be addressed to the LMG.
- 9.6 Kent Netball reserves the right to amend these Regulations each year in advance of the League.

DEFINITIONS

Some definitions within these Rules and Regulations are set out in the England Netball Membership Regulations and World Netball Rules of the Game or have been defined within these Regulations. Supplementary to these, the following terms shall have the meanings set out below.

Accident Report Form means a form that provided by Kent Netball which records the details required by current legislation regarding reportable accident or incidents.

Fixture Date means any day on which League Matches are played.

Goal Average means the goals scored by a Team divided by the goals conceded by a Team (to two decimal places).

Goal Difference means the goals scored by a Team minus the goals conceded by a Team.

Match means an individual game of Netball played as part of the League.

Player means an individual listed on the Squad Registration Sheet who may from time to time participate in a Match.

Season means the usual winter playing season being 1 September – 31 May, but also includes any qualifying competition for leagues played prior to the start of the Season.

Team means the Players listed on the official Results Sheet for a Match.

ENGLAND NETBALL DOMESTIC GUIDANCE FOR MATCH PERSONNEL

The priority must be to encourage increased participation in Netball, while being sensitive to religious practices, cultural differences, health, and well-being issues, for example, climatic weather conditions with due regard to the safety of all participants.

Players Uniform: Exceptionally non-registered playing uniform may be worn. There is no intention to debar players from wearing tracksuits and clothing that reflect the uniform and colours of a club. Umpires should act responsibly and sensitively in checking that the players' uniform reflects both the INF Rules and EN Domestic Rules Guidance. Umpires should therefore use common sense when applying the rules in the local leagues.

Gloves: No form of glove should normally be worn when playing Netball. However, EN recognises its responsibility for duty of care to all players playing Netball, particularly outside and within school and junior competition. In extreme weather or climatic conditions, or with a medical condition, gloves may be worn. If for medical reasons gloves are required, then on production of an appropriate medical certificate/letter, a local league, County, Kent Netball or EN should allow gloves to be worn. The player should ensure that the gloves worn do not endanger other players' safety. Gloves should be plain, soft leather or micro fibre (e.g. Neoprene) which are manufactured without seams (or with internally sewn seams) and have no abrasive materials including but not limited to zippers, Velcro, metallic or plastic fasteners or rubberized embellishments used to improve grip. Umpires are reminded that they still need to be satisfied that any gloves worn do not present an obvious hazard to other players. Umpires must also check fingernails conform to World Netball Rule 5.1.1 (iv) (c) Fingernails must be short and smooth

Head Coverings: A player may wear a hat, head covering or scarf. They should ensure that the material used for the head covering is soft and without embellishments or loose fibres, which might constitute a danger to any other player on the court, and with potential flowing/flapping edges held securely around the neck or tucked into the shirt collar. Headbands that meet the requirements as above should be allowed. Peaked, baseball or tennis type caps do not meet the requirements and are not permitted.

Eyewear: If a player/coach/official has to wear glasses for medical reasons then she/he is fully insured from an EN point of view, but the glasses are not insured. Sunglasses should not normally be worn when participating in netball activities. However, sunglasses may be worn for genuine medical reasons when participating in recognised and authorised EN activities. If sunglasses are required for genuine medical reasons, then an appropriate medical certificate must be supplied to EN (or the appropriate League, County or Kent Netball).

Jewellery / adornments and medical alerts: It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that they comply with the INF Rule 5.1.1 (iv). Decorative beading or metal clasps should not be worn in a player's hair as these have the potential to add weight or may act as a slip hazard if they come loose. Players that have beading that cannot be easily removed may choose to cover their hair with a scarf, but this must comply with the guidance outlined in 'Head Coverings'. They may also choose to contain their hair in a net. Dermal piercings (that are located below the skin and cannot be easily removed) and flat religious rings or bracelets (which are not to be removed for religious and / or cultural reasons) are to be suitably covered with padding / tape as necessary to prevent injury to others.

Daith/Tragus Piercing: The medical evidence regarding a Daith/Tragus piercing is only anecdotal at this time with some Doctors prepared to support its use and some that do not. England Netball would suggest that the player gets a supporting letter from a doctor and then appeals to their league committee for a dispensation as there may be local regulations that apply. If granted it is suggested that the player wears a headband

covering her piercing. Taping is not sufficient, and the headband would offer an additional level of safety to the wearer and other players.

Hair: Hair should be suitably tied back whilst participating in Netball and any hair accessory that is used should not pose any risk to any individual. A single 'ponytail' is sufficient for all hair types. Hair should be free from any decorative adornment. Where an adornment is not easily removable the hair should be suitably secured and covered with a head covering or scarf. This provides an additional level of safety for the wearer and other players on court.

Medical aids: Players wearing medical aids to protect injury or post surgery and who are prepared to take the risk of playing, may take the court provided the medical aid is covered adequately thus preventing no obvious hazard to other players. Such players are advised to ensure that they have appropriate personal liability insurance coverage. Any medical aid must be approved by a qualified medical practitioner especially when returning to Netball from injury and have an appropriate medical certificate/letter. The medical aid must be 'flexible' form and not inhibit movement for the individual. The wearing of ankle braces does not apply to these medical aid guidelines therefore can be worn.

Please note that Libre sensors used by diabetic players to monitor blood sugar levels are not required to be covered as they pose no additional risk to the wearer or other players.

Pregnancy: EN recommends that individuals (players, coaches, umpires etc) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidelines issued by EN. Neither EN, nor the registered netball organisation will be held liable for any pregnant individual participating in recognised and authorised netball activity should the expectant mother suffer a miscarriage or permanent damage to herself and / or unborn child as a result of participating. The EN Personal Accident cover will not provide any benefit for injury, loss, or expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage, or any consequence thereof. For example, if an 'Insured Person' who is pregnant is involved in an accident (not pregnancy related) and suffers a broken leg then, subject to claims validation, the policy would pay any broken bones benefit, the Hospital Confinement benefit and Temporary Total Disablement benefit due under the Personal Accident Insurance Policy resulting from this injury. However, if the absence or hospital stay is prolonged as a direct result of pregnancy, pregnancy complications or even early childbirth then this would not be covered. The programme of insurance that is centrally arranged by EN is provided as a Membership benefit and ensures that Affiliated Members (referred to in the Liability insurance documents as 'Registered Participants') and in the Personal Accident documents as an 'Insured Person' are covered for Liability and Personal Accident Insurance, at the level of cover applicable to their category of membership. This information is intended as a guide only - full terms and conditions apply as detailed in the policy documents, in association with EN's current Memorandum, Articles, Regulations and Policies. The summary of cover is available in the member welcome email and full policy documents are available from Howden.