

Yorkshire Netball



Under 16 Regional League RULES & REGULATIONS 2014/15

1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 The U16 Regional League (U16RL) and all its rights and properties associated with it shall be owned controlled and managed by a sub group of the Netball Yorkshire Regional Management Board (YNRMB).
- 1.2 The decisions of the YNRMB, in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the U16RL 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 under England Netball's Codes of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.)
- 1.3 **It is the responsibility of all Officials and all clubs/teams including Team Managers, Coaches, Captains and Athletes to ensure that they are conversant with the following rules and regulations.**
- 1.4 All clubs will be held responsible for the Overall Conduct* of their players, officials and spectators
**Definition:*
Overall Conduct = You will be responsible for the behaviour, demeanour and actions of all members associated with your club and spectators
- 1.5 All the Codes of Conduct of England Netball will be adopted by all associated with the League

2. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 Application for entry to the U16RL shall be open to any club which is affiliated to England Netball through a County Association, which has paid its subscription in this respect, and which is situated within the boundaries of a County Association which is a member of Yorkshire Netball Region – unless otherwise agreed by the YNRMB. Their entry eligibility will have been determined by the competition structure for that County and agreed by YNRMB.
- 2.2 Entry to the U16RL will be determined by the YNRMB at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the rules and regulations laid out herein, and having due regard to the playing standard of teams which wish to participate. In the same way, such casual vacancies as may appear from time to time will be addressed by the YNRMB in whatever way it sees fit. At the end of the season, the league will be disbanded and a new league formed the following season.
- 2.3 The YNRMB will charge an entry fee to the U16RL. In addition clubs will be liable for court and umpiring costs as set out in the entry particulars.
- 2.4 In order to qualify to participate in the Regional League, clubs shall either be accredited under England Netball's CAPS or working towards the same
- 2.5 Clubs entering in the U16RL agree that:
 - They will abide by these rules and regulations
 - They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the U16RL
- 2.6 In order to participate in the U16RL player and team officials shall be in membership of England Netball as an affiliated Registered Participant via one of the following qualifications

- Through affiliation to a club
- Through affiliation to a Young Persons Group

Players must be affiliated as a Registered Participant through a club as defined in Regulation 2.1 above

- 2.7** All players must have their membership lodged with the England Netball Head Office no less than four days before playing, and their subscription paid in full, prior to their participation in the U16RL, or any other level of the competition. All players should carry their current affiliation card with them at all matches.
- 2.8** Only players registered and who have taken the court in this competition will be eligible to play for that club in the National Final
- 2.9** All players must be **over** 14 years of age and under 16 years of age at midnight on 31 August/1 September immediately prior to the commencement of the League. No player shall be allowed to play whose age is outside this age band unless the appropriate approval is in place (see age banding details available via the website), approval must be in writing and submitted to the league administrator and is applicable for this competition and playing season ONLY
- 2.10** Pregnant players may not take part in League matches beyond the twelfth week of pregnancy. Pregnancy childbirth miscarriage or any consequences thereof is a policy exclusion from England Netball's Insurance

3. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

- 3.1** Squad sheets for each participating club must be completed fully for each player and lodged with the YNRMB seven days prior to the commencement of the League. Copy of *Proof of Age should be attached.
**Proof of age for each player – copies of birth certificate or passport, if these are not available then a copy of the medical card.*
- 3.2** Clubs may only use those players whose names appear on their squad registration list held by the YNRMB.
- 3.3** Any additions to the squad sheets must be lodged with the YNRMB by 1700 hours on the Thursday prior to the fixture, this should be done via telephone to the Regional Office (0114 223 5697), an email should also be sent to Debbie Chandley confirming the relevant details
- 3.4** Once a player has been named on a squad sheet and has played she cannot transfer to another club during the course of the current playing season. Consent to a transfer may be given by YNRMB in unusual or exceptional circumstances where written request is made by the player and clubs involved to the YNRMB.
- 3.5** Each club may declare up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each match by completing a team sheet/result card.
- 3.6** There may only be one team per club except in extreme circumstances as decided by the YNRMB.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

- 4.1** The U16RL will be contested between as many clubs as shall be determined by the NYRMB from time to time. For 2014/15 this will be two teams per County.
- 4.2** The format of the league will be determined by the subgroup of the YNRMB. For 2014/15 each team will play each other once. Matches will be played on the dates specified. All matches will be played at a central venue as per fixture schedule.
- 4.3** Clubs will be awarded league points as follows:
- 5 points for a win
 - 3 points for a draw
 - 2 points if within 5 goals of winners score i.e. 50-46 = 2 points, 50-45 = 1 point
 - 1 point for more than 50% of the winners score i.e. 6-10 = 1 point,
 - 0 points for a loss
- 4.4** The league positions will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team. The following order of precedence will apply where two or more teams are level on points:

- Goal average (goals for divided by goals against) shall be used to determine their relative positions, i.e., the team with the higher average score over the course of the season shall take precedence.
- In the event that goal average does not differentiate between the teams, then goal difference shall be applied, i.e., precedence shall be given to the team with the greater difference between goals scored and goals conceded
- 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
- Where one of the teams has its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals scored affected by cancellations, then all goals scored by and against defaulting team(s) in all fixtures shall be omitted from the calculations of both teams level on points. For example, in the event that one team received 5 points for a cancelled fixture, then the goals scored by and against both teams level on points, in all games against the offending team, will not be included when its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals is calculated
- In the event that neither goal average nor goal difference nor goals scored can differentiate between the teams, the aggregate score in the match or matches played between them over the course of the season shall be calculated and precedence given to the winning team

In the event that none of the above differentiates between the teams, the NYRMB or its nominee(s), shall determine the means of differentiation.

- 4.5** The clubs finishing 1st and 2nd will go forward to the U16 National Finals. (subject to confirmation by EN)

5. FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS

- 5.1** Matches will be played on indoor courts at locations determined by the YNRMB
- 5.2** Venues will be booked by YNRMB.
- 5.3** YNRMB will be responsible for producing the fixtures for the League

- 5.4** All matches must be played on the dates specified. All matches shall be of 48 minutes duration (i.e., four quarters of 12 minutes each) with 2 minutes break between quarters and 4 minutes at half time.
- 5.5** All teams will be responsible for arranging their own travel, and the costs of this, and should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays. Any team which fails to arrive for the start time of the match will forfeit the match, and the non-offending team will be awarded the points as winners by default.
- 5.6** No team may postpone or cancel a fixture. See regulation 4.4 and 5.8 and 9.1. Matches which are postponed due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances, e.g., flash flood, heavy snowfall, will be rescheduled by YNRMB to a reserve date.
- 5.7** If a club fails to play a match:
- The non-offending club will be awarded five (5) league points for the match, and the team which cancels will have five (5) league points deducted from their total
 - The club will forfeit its deposit and be liable to pay the total costs of the fixture
- 5.8** In the event that a match is abandoned or not completed for any reason, e.g., because of serious injury, the result of that match will be determined by the YNRMB, having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended and taking into account all the surrounding circumstances and facts.
- 5.9** Any bank charges relating to unpaid cheques must be paid immediately by the relevant team.

6. MATCH REGULATIONS

- 6.1** All games shall be played to the IFNA Rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time, except where specific regulations may apply.
- 6.2** Each club shall register its playing kit and bib colours.
- 6.3** Teams must have a spare set of bibs in a different colour in case of a clash of colours. In the event of a clash of bib colours the first named team shall change colour. Final decision to rest with Umpires / Match referee.

7. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 7.1** Umpires will be appointed by Yorkshire Netball Officiating Technical Group and be A or B award level (not Intermediate), the same group will also allocate the matches to the umpires.
- 7.2** In the event that an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied:
- If another umpire of the appropriate standard is available then she/he will umpire the match
 - Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire should be used
 - The YNRMB must be informed immediately after the match. To determine the validity of the result of the game.

- 7.3** Scorers will be required for all fixtures. Each club must provide a competent Scorer.

Scorers will sit or stand together in a position nominated by the match umpires, and should have no input with the teams for the duration of the fixture.

- 7.4** Each Club should ideally provide a timekeeper for each match played. Failing this, it will be the responsibility of the first named club to provide a timekeeper, who will be responsible for timing the match.

8. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

- 8.1** All teams must notify the Results Secretary by 9:00am on the Monday immediately following the fixture this will be done by Telephone (0114 223 5697) or through the regional website www.netballyorkshire.co.uk

- 8.2** Both clubs will complete and submit to the NYRMB an official result card after each match, including entering the names of each player their affiliation number quarters played etc to arrive by Thursday following the fixture. There will be a £10 fine for the late arrival

- 8.3** The official result cards must be checked and signed by the scorer(s), both captains and umpires

9. COMPETITION REFEREE

- 9.1** The Competition Referee will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising throughout the Competition including, but not limited to:

- altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary;
- determining if teams and/or players are in breach of these Regulations and imposing an appropriate penalty (including disqualification of any individual or team)
- The use of an unaffiliated player will result in a deduction of 3 league points, the result of the fixture will still stand
- The use of an unregistered player or a player who is under age without written permission to play in this league, will result in a deduction of 2 league points, the result of the fixture will still stand
- In the event that a team fails to play the non-offending team will be awarded 5 points for the match and the offending team will have 5 points deducted from their total (Failure to play is defined as not playing in a game, without prior consent from RLMB and with the opposition and officials expecting that the game would be played) ** The offending team may be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team and match officials have incurred.
- Failure to play on more than one occasion (e.g. failure to play in 2 league fixtures) may result in expulsion from the League.

Teams who are repeatedly in breach of any Regulation may have further action/penalties imposed to those above

- Instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour including instances of teams predetermining the outcome of a match:
- any urgent matters that impact on the delivery of the competition not covered by the Regulations:
- consult with additional people to assist with the Competition, but the final decision and accountability will lie with the Competition Referee

10. COMPETITION COMPLAINTS AND PROCEDURE

10.1 All queries and complaints should be directed to the Competition Referee in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows:

10.1.1 Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant team or match official, must do the following:

- Inform their opponents and the umpires of their complaint;
- Mark the score card with the words "Under Protest";
- Send the marked score card to the Competition Referee within 72 hours of the match;
- Attach a letter to the results card to explain the issue in full to the Competition Referee;

and the Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken.

10.1.2 The Competition Referee will acknowledge receipt of the Complaint and make a decision on the matter within 72 hours of receipt of the Complaint. The Competition Referee's decision in relation to decisions taken under clause 10.1.1 is binding. Parties to the complaint shall have the right to appeal the decision under Section 11 below.

10.2 Where the Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Competition by the RLMB such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of the relevant regional association.

10.3 Where the Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual or team participating, volunteering or attending the Competition which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations, such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the processes set out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations

11. APPEAL OF COMPETITION REFEREE DECISION

11.1 A party to a complaint submitted under section 10.1.1 shall have the right to appeal a decision made by the Competition Referee in relation to that complaint; if

- the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition; AND
- there has been a failure by the Competition Referee to follow these regulations or the Competition Referee reached the 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 in section 11.

- 11.2** An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the Team Manager of the objecting party to the Competition Referee or its nominee within 72 hours of receiving the decision, who will refer it to the RLMB. The RLMB will establish a Competition Appeals Committee (CAC) which will consist of individuals that are independent of the Competition; one of those individuals will be appointed as the Chair.
- 11.3** 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 CAC will decide whether the extenuating circumstance warrant the cheque being returned.
- 11.4** The Chair of the CAC will send the appeal to the opposing team and any other team that they believe could be impacted by the outcome of the appeal. These teams will be permitted 72 hours, from the date they received the appeal from the CAC, to submit any evidence or submission that they wish the CAC to consider.
- 11.5** All submissions and evidence must be submitted in writing. No parties involved in the appeal, including the appellant, will be able to make a verbal representation to the CAC.

The CAC shall meet and conclude the matter within 72 hours of receiving the evidence and submissions.

- 11.6** The CAC will immediately notify all the parties who presented submissions and evidence of their decision and any penalties imposed. The CAC shall have the discretion to publish the decision through whatever media it considers appropriate
- 11.7** The CAC shall have the power of the RLMB to make all decisions and impose any penalties (including but not limited to, reprimands, the deduction of points, fines, suspensions and expulsions from the competition) relating to the appeal.
- 11.8** The decisions of the CAC shall be considered to be the decisions of the RLMB and shall be final and binding on all participants in the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt there shall be no further right of appeal under England Netball's Disciplinary Manual or otherwise.
- 11.9** The procedures in this Section 11 shall be governed by the Arbitration Act of 1996 and amounts to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of Section of that Act. The seat of the arbitration shall be England
- 11.10** If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than permitted by this Section 11, and all parties to the appeal agree, the timetable within which an appeal is raised, submissions made and the decision taken can be shorter than the 72 hours stated in this section. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised timetable which shall be binding on all parties.

12 MISCELLANEOUS

- 12.1** It is the responsibility of each club to provide adequate first aid cover for its players and officials, which shall also be made available to the match officials on request.

- 12.2** Any team wishing to video/photograph a Regional League match must give the opposing side, team officials and match officials at least 5 clear days' notice prior to the game to allow all parental permissions required under the Duty of Care to be obtained. All permissions must be in written form and signed by all contacts. A match official/team official who wishes to video record or photograph a Regional league game must also go through the same procedure. A copy of the permissions must be sent to the Regional Welfare Personnel as identified Contacts on page 2 of the handbook.
- 12.3** England Netball (including the Regional league) 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 England Netball's (including the three Northern League member Regions) liability for any personal loss or injury caused by England Netball's (including the Regional league) own negligence, the negligence of its employees, or for fraud.
- 12.4** All participants acknowledge that participating in the sport of netball involves a risk of personal injury and by taking part in the Regional League whether as a player, team member, team official, other official or spectator, each participant does so at their own risk.
- 12.5** 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.
- 12.6** These Regulations shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law
- 12.7** Any questions regarding these Regulations can be addressed to the RLMB
- 12.8** The RLMB may review and amend these regulations
- If England Netball amends the under 16 Competition Regulations for 2014/15.
 - Following changes communicated by England Netball.
 - At the discretion of the NLMB

Any changes will be communicated to the teams.

- 12.9** The RLMB will adjudicate on all matters not covered by the regulations