

Welwyn Hatfield Netball League

By-Laws – May 2024

The rules governing play in the Welwyn Hatfield Netball League (WHNL) shall be according to the current rules adopted by England Netball (EN) and By-Laws.

1. ENTRY TO THE WHNL LEAGUE

- A. New teams must enter the lowest division. The following exception may apply:
 - i) After consultation with the second division named contacts, the WHNL Executive Committee may decide to expand the league by entering the teams who are considered to be of an acceptable standard to the first division.
 - ii) After consultation with the second and third division named contacts, the WHNL Executive Committee may decide to expand the league by entering the teams who are considered to be of an acceptable standard to the second division and third division.
- B. At the discretion of the WHNL Executive Committee, any recently demoted Herts League teams may be considered for a place in the WHNL first division. If a Herts League team is accepted into the WHNL, the lowest placed team in the first division (after the demoted teams) from the previous season will be moved into the second division, the lowest placed team in the second division (after the demoted teams) from the previous season will be moved into the third division.
- C. At the discretion of the WHNL Executive Committee, any Herts League teams who voluntarily leave the Herts League may be considered for a place in any WHNL division.
- D. Any local league team who wants to play in the WHNL will be placed in the third division.
- E. The league fees shall be determined by the WHNL Treasurer and ratified by the WHNL Executive Committee. EN, Regions and Herts County Committee set membership fees.
- F. All fees must be paid before the first league fixtures.
- G. Priority for the WHNL Summer league is given to those teams who entered the preceding Winter league. Entrance is then done on a waiting list basis.

2. PLAYERS

- A. Players must be 14 years or over to be eligible to play in the WHNL.
- B. Players must be registered to a team that is entered into the WHNL. Players may only be registered to one team at a time in the WHNL. Players may change teams in any one season but they may not re-join any of their previous teams in that season. All team movements must be notified to the WHNL Registration Secretary by 7pm on the Friday before the match and proof of registration to the new team must be provided to the WHNL Executive Committee prior to the player being allowed to take the court for the new team.
- C. All players must be full members of EN, Hertfordshire and registered with WHNL.
- D. In the last 4 weeks of the winter season, a player will not be allowed to move to a team in a lower division.
- E. All membership fees need to be paid directly to EN. Each team must supply the WHNL Registration Secretary with a list of the registered players (and their relevant consent forms if required), who will be playing for that team in the WHNL for the forthcoming season, prior to the day of the first fixture (usually the beginning of season tournament); this will form the list of registered players for that team.
- F. Players must be registered to the league in their usual playing position and teams must register at least one player in every playing position (unless there are not enough players in which case any new players registering with that team during any one season must register into the vacant playing position(s)).
- G. If registrations are not received prior to the day of the first fixture, the penalties as per by-law 2H will be applied.
- H. Teams using players who have not paid their EN membership fees or who are not registered to play in WHNL are deemed to have fielded an illegal player. The offending team will lose 8 points for each game where an illegal player is fielded, the score will be superseded by a goal difference of 30-0 to the other team and a fine will be levied for each game in which an illegal player is fielded. The fine for using a player who has not paid their EN membership fee will be equivalent to the current membership fee according to the rates supplied by EN. There is no monetary fine for using a player who is unregistered to WHNL but is otherwise a member of England Netball.
- I. A new player may be added to a team at any point in the season. The new player must be an active EN and Hertfordshire member and should be registered with the WHNL Registration Secretary by 7pm on the Friday before the first match they play. Any necessary consent forms must also be received prior to the player taking the court. If the new player is not registered on the Friday before the first match they play, by-law 2H will apply.

J. The Registration Secretary can provide a list to each team at their request by email of the players registered to their team and their playing position. If a team wants to check the registered position of a player they want to borrow, they need to contact the Executive Committee by 7pm on the Friday before they wish to play.

K. There is no limit to the numbers of substitutions which can be made by a team per match, provided that the number of players used in that match does not exceed twelve.

3. **WARNINGS/SUSPENSIONS/ORDERING OFF**

A. The WHNL Executive Committee will monitor the number of warnings, **suspensions** and **ordering off** received by individual players

B. Warnings

- (i) If 3 Warnings are received by an individual player an email will be sent to the Captain of their registered team highlighting the issue and asking them to discuss and address with the player.
- (ii) If 5 Warnings are received by an individual player the WHNL Executive Committee will investigate and the player may receive up to a two week suspension from any games in the WHNL.
- (iii) If 6 or more Warnings are received by an individual player the WHNL Executive Committee will investigate and the player may be suspended from playing any games within the league for the remainder of the season.

C. Suspensions & Ordering Off

- (i) If 2 Suspensions/Ordering Offs are received by an individual player an email will be sent to the Captain highlighting the issue and asking them to discuss and address with the player.
- (ii) If 3 Suspensions/Ordering Offs are received by an individual player the WHNL Executive Committee will investigate and the player may be suspended from playing any games within the league for the remainder of the season.

4. SCORECARDS

- A. Captains must fill in the scorecard before the start of each fixture and list all players intending to take part in the game, including substitutions. This does not apply to the tournament.
- i) The starting positions for guest players in the first quarter must be filled in on the scorecard before handing to the umpire;
 - ii) The position(s) played in each quarter by a guest player must be entered on the back of the scorecard before handing it in to enable the Executive Committee to keep a record of the number of quarters played.
 - iii) If the required information is not recorded on the back of the scorecard, one point will be deducted from that season's league tables.
 - iv) Captains must inform umpires of late arrivals.
- B. A picture of the front of the scorecard showing the final score must be taken and sent to the relevant division scorecard WhatsApp group. The scorecard must be placed in the scorecard box at the end of the match.
- C. If this has not been possible to place the scorecard in the box, then the back and front should be scanned or photographed and the image(s) should be emailed to the league account for the attention of the Fixtures Secretary. The scorecard should then be placed in the scorecard box at the earliest opportunity and no later than 28 days from the match in question, otherwise the offending team will have one point deducted from that season's league tables.

5. GUEST PLAYERS

- A. First division players may play as guest players for other teams in the first division. However, they must play at least two places out of position from the one they are registered in. The offending team will be fined £5.00 and that team will also lose 4 points.
- i) The order of positions is GS GA WA C WD GD GK eg a WA may not play GA or C; a GK may not play GD or GS. NOTE: First division players may not play as guest players for any second or third division team in the WHNL.
- B. Second division players may play as guest players for other teams in the second division. However, they must play at least two places out of position from the one they are registered in. The offending team will be fined £5.00 and that team will also lose 4 points.
- i) The order of position is GS GA WA C WD GD GK eg a WA may not play GA or C; a GK may not play GD or GS. NOTE: A second division player may play as a guest player in any position for a first division team but may not play as a guest player for any third division team in the WHNL.

- C. Third division players may play as guest players for other teams in the third division. However, they must play at least two places out of position from the one they are registered in. The offending team will be fined £5.00 and that team will also lose 4 points.
- i) The order of position is GS GA WA C WD GD GK eg a WA may not play GA or C; a GK may not play GD or GS. NOTE: A third division player may play as a guest player in any position for a first or second division team in the WHNL.
- D. A maximum of two guest players are permitted per team per match. If a team fields more than two guest players per match, the offending team is deemed to have fielded an illegal player and the penalties as per by-law 2H will apply.
- E. A player can play a maximum of 12 quarters for multiple teams (as per 5 A, B, C), in any one Winter Season. Should a player exceed the 12 quarters for one team, the offending team will be fined £5.00 and that team will also lose 8 points.
- F. Players who register to a County League team (e.g. Herts League) or higher league from the start of the season team may not play in the WHNL. The exception to the by-law will be where one player in the County League is registered to two teams and one team (not WHNL team) is promoted to a County League. This is conditional upon the player having played continuously for two whole seasons prior to the promotion for each of the teams concerned. Following the first season in the County League for the promoted team, the player will not be permitted to play in the WHNL and the County League. The player will only be allowed to play for one of the teams.
- G. During any one Winter Season, a WHNL player may play in a County League for 12 quarters for one club only as a guest player (WHNL is aware that the Herts League rules require a guest player to register to the club for which she is guesting – see by-law 5F above). The league will run reports on players to ensure that all matches are accounted. For the avoidance of doubt, a Winter Season commences with the first fixture of that season and finishes at the end of the last fixture of that Winter Season or the AGM for that season, whichever is the later.
- i) The player (or their registered team or club) must notify the WHNL Executive Committee, by email to the league account, that they played for a County League club within 48 hours of playing the game. They must confirm which team they have played for and the number of quarters they have played in the County League game. A penalty of 1 point will be deducted against the player's registered team for non or late notification to the WHNL.

- ii) The player (or their registered team or club) must inform the WHNL Executive Committee, by email to the league account, within 48 hours once the 13th quarter has been played for a County (or higher) League club and they will no longer be eligible to play in the WHNL and will be struck off from the WHNL Registered Players' List. The offending WHNL team will lose 4 points for non-notification. The player will also not be permitted to play in the WHNL for the remainder of that Winter Season.

H. Friendly games do not count; it is only during a Winter league fixture that all by-laws apply.

6. MATCHES

- A. All games must be played on the date arranged or agreed by the Fixtures Secretary at a venue agreed by the Executive Committee.
- B. A central hooter will signify the start and finish of each timeslot per match; however, the match will start and finish on the umpire's whistle.
- C. A team may not commence a game with less than five league-registered players to their team and without a suitably qualified umpire. If it is not possible to fulfil either of these requirements, the offending team will forfeit the fixture. The result will be entered as a 30-0 score and points awarded accordingly. If this event occurs, it is the responsibility of both teams to contact the WHNL Fixtures Secretary, by email to the league account, and notify them of the failure of a fixture to take place. If the teams are at the courts when the game is cancelled, both scorecards should be placed in the scorecard box suitably marked and signed by the respective Captains. Note: If a team commences with five league-registered players and one of them subsequently needs to leave the court due to injury, the match can continue without penalty. The limit on the number of guest players still applies.
- D. All first division teams must either provide a qualified umpire (C award or higher) or on the agreement of all first division teams playing that match slot and all the qualified umpires involved in the match, a non-qualified umpire who has been put forward for their assessment by their Mentor (Hertfordshire). The agreement between all team captains to allow an umpire assessed for test to officiate a game must be in place by the preceding Wednesday of the match. The other umpire must be a qualified umpire.

E. All first division matches will be neutrally umpired. The neutral umpiring rules are as follows:

- i) Team A vs. Team B playing on Court 1
- ii) Team C vs. Team D playing on Court 2
 - a) The umpires for Teams A & B will umpire on Court 2
 - b) The umpires for Teams C & D will umpire on Court 1
- iii) If a match is cancelled by a team, the teams who should have been playing that match are still responsible for providing an umpire for the other match that is still going ahead; this is to ensure that neutral umpiring is still upheld. Failure of a team to provide a suitably qualified umpire who is included on the players'/umpires' list will result in a 5 point deduction.

If a team does not provide an umpire the following will apply:

- iv) Team A vs. Team B playing on Court 1 – Teams A and B are ready to play but Team A does not have a suitably qualified umpire
- v) Team C vs. Team D playing on Court 2 – Both teams are ready to play and have suitably qualified umpires
- vi) If Team A has a suitably qualified umpire in their team, they must drop this player to umpire on Court 2
- vii) If Team A does not have a suitably qualified umpire in their team, Team A will forfeit the game to Team B and the two most neutral umpires will umpire the game on Court 2. The forfeited game on Court 1 can be played as a friendly if the remaining umpire is willing to umpire the whole court.

F. All second division matches will be neutrally umpired. The neutral umpiring rules are as follows:

- i) Team E vs. Team F playing on Court 3
- ii) Team G vs. Team H playing on Court 4
 - a) The umpires for Teams E & F will umpire on Court 4
 - b) The umpires for Teams G & H will umpire on Court 3
- iii) If a match is cancelled by a team or a team cannot provide an umpire at the sound of the central timing, the teams will resort back to their own umpires for that match so as not to delay the other court starting.

G. All third division matches will be neutrally umpired. The neutral umpiring rules are as follows:

- i) Team J vs. Team K playing on Court 5
- ii) Team L vs. Team M playing on Court 6
 - a) The umpires for Teams J & K will umpire on Court 6
 - b) The umpires for Teams L & M will umpire on Court 5
- iii) If a match is cancelled by a team or a team cannot provide an umpire at the sound of the central timing, the teams will resort back to their own umpires for that match so as not to delay the other court starting.

- H. Half time match intervals will be 5 minutes. The interval between 1st and 2nd quarters and 3rd and 4th quarters will be 2 minutes. The umpires must use their discretion as to whether there is enough time to permit the full breaks.
- I. All non-qualified umpires must comply with the latest guidance on validity of courses and written papers to ensure they are insured. This includes but is not limited to Into Officiating courses, Into Officiating assessments, C Award courses and C Award written papers.
- J. Second division games to be officiated by umpires who have gained their IOA (where applicable) and have taken a C award course either online or as a practical prior to COVID.
- Third division games to be officiated by umpires who have attended either:
- An IOA online course and attended the Herts practical (or other county equivalent)
 - Obtained IOA but not yet attended a C award course
- K. Should any team fail to provide a suitably qualified umpire, with an active EN membership and registered to WHNL, the offending team will forfeit the match and 5 points will be awarded to the opposition along with a goal difference of 30-0.
- L. Should an umpire's membership number and evidence of valid certificate of course attendance or C or above award not be available, the team will be deemed to have failed to provide a suitably qualified and EN registered umpire and the above penalties will apply.
- M. Match points will be awarded as follows:
- i) 5 points will be awarded for a win
 - ii) 3 points will be awarded for a draw
 - iii) 2 points will be awarded to the losing team if their final score is within 6 goals or less of the winning team's goal score eg 2 points will be awarded if the final score is 44-50
 - iv) 1 point will be awarded to the losing team if their final score is more than 50% of the winning team's goal score eg 1 point will be awarded if the final score is 26-50; no points will be awarded if the final score is 25-50
- N. A team may claim winning points if their opponents are not on court, with a suitably qualified umpire, within 5 minutes of the fixture start time signalled by the central hooter, or if no hooter has sounded, then 5 minutes from the scheduled start time. In the event of a late start, the umpires will be responsible for dividing the remaining time between the last two quarters to be played ensuring the match finishes on time.
- O. Any stoppages for illness or injury of players or umpires are subject to the INF rules or official guidance in operation at that time.

- P. Any team that fails to play a fixture on the arranged date in a Winter Season will have the match awarded to their opposition and will incur a minus thirty (-30) goal difference. Any team that fails to play a fixture for the second time in that Winter Season, will have the match awarded to their opposition and will incur a minus thirty (-30) goal difference.
- Q. Any team that fails to play a fixture for the third or more times in that Winter Season will have each match awarded to their opposition and will incur a minus thirty (-30) goal difference and will be deducted 1 point for each match.
- R. If both teams notify the Executive Committee that they are unwilling or unable to field a team, then the score for both teams will be recorded as a 0-0 result with no points awarded but by-law 6Q still applies.

7. TOURNAMENTS

- A. There will be one tournament per year. This tournament can be either at the beginning of the season or the end of the season and will be a fundraising tournament.
- B. Unless there is an acceptable volunteer, the tournament organiser will be drawn annually from the registered teams at the AGM. The team chosen at the AGM will be excluded from the next season's draw. If the team chosen at the AGM subsequently leaves the WHNL or is otherwise unable to fulfil their commitment, the Executive Committee will choose an alternative team or individual(s) to organise the tournament with their consent.
- C. The tournament is a COMPULSORY league fixture and all teams will be entered. EN and league by-laws will apply. Points and fines will be deducted (see Tournament Penalties – By-law 7F below). Umpires do not need to be C award qualified or above but must have attended an England Netball recognised course within the previous two years. C-qualified umpires or above will umpire the semi-finals and final. A minimum of five registered players for each team are required. If five registered players cannot be fielded, the by-law for failure to play a fixture will be applied, except for the goal-difference award. Teams may borrow players from other teams and by-laws 5A to 5D will apply except:
 - i) any guest players will NOT be recorded towards the 12 quarters that a player can guest for a team;
 - ii) in the case of the tournament being organised as a versatility tournament the guest player will not need to play two positions out.
- D. The tournament organisers will govern the theme of the tournament (ie versatility, fancy dress, handicapped by league position).

- E. There is a non-refundable compulsory fee for the tournament of £30.00 per team which will be included in the league entry fee. The team organising the tournament will determine which charity/charities the money raised will be donated to.

F. Tournament Penalties

If a team does not participate in the tournament, then a penalty of £35.00 fine and 8 points deducted from league results will be imposed on the offending team. The 8 points will be deducted from the current season.

- G. All or some of the Tournament by-laws can be waived for a specific tournament at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

8. POSTPONEMENTS

A. General League/Tournament Postponements

WHNL does not allow the postponement of any league or tournament fixtures unless specifically expressed below.

B. Inclement Weather

- i) The WHNL will make provision for dates during and at the end of the season to be set aside for postponed fixtures due to inclement weather. Inclement weather is defined as weather that hinders play or is deemed to be dangerous and which could cause injury
- ii) Decisions on the postponement of fixtures due to inclement weather will be made by the members of the Executive Committee in conjunction with umpires at the time the fixtures are due to be played or by the Executive Committee alone prior to the day if the inclement weather looks likely to persist (eg if snow is laying on the ground and it is unlikely to thaw). An Executive Committee member will notify team contacts if a fixture is to be postponed. Unless notification has been received prior to the start of a game, all teams must present themselves at the playing courts in time for the game to progress at the date and time stated.
- iii) No team, umpire or group of teams has authority to cancel a fixture due to inclement weather alone without discussion & consultation with the Executive Committee.
- iv) If the Executive Committee decides to postpone or cancel any fixtures due to inclement weather, then any fixtures which had previously been cancelled by any team for whatever reason shall still be deemed to have been cancelled by that team and will not be re-scheduled when the other fixtures for that particular day are re-scheduled.

C. Postponements due to Injury or Illness or Inclement Weather

- i) If a game commences and needs to be stopped due to injury or illness or inclement weather during either the 1st, 2nd or first seven and a half minutes (7½) of the 3rd Quarters, then by-laws 8C(iii) and 8C(iv) will apply.
- ii) If a game is stopped due to injury or illness or inclement weather after the first seven and a half minutes (7½) of the 3rd Quarter or in the 4th Quarter, the score at the time stands.
- iii) Both teams can agree to apply to the Fixtures Secretary for the game to be replayed within 4 weeks from the date of the original fixture.
- iv) If both teams do not agree on a resolution of the outcome of the fixture, it is the responsibility of both teams to advise the WHNL Executive Committee who will consider the circumstances.

9. PROMOTION

- A. At the end of the season, the first two teams in the Second Division will be promoted to the First Division. The lowest two teams in the First Division will be demoted to the Second Division. If a space is available in the First Division, then the second from bottom team will stay in the First Division. If two spaces are available, then the bottom team also stays up.
- B. At the end of the season, the first two teams in the Third Division will be promoted to the Second Division. The lowest two teams in the Second Division will be demoted to the Third Division. If a space is available in the Second Division, then the second from bottom team will stay in the Second Division. If two spaces are available, then the bottom team also stays up.
- C. For all Divisions – in the event of a tie on points, promotion and demotion will be decided by goal difference. This will be calculated by subtracting the total number of goals against from the total number of goals for. In the event of a tie on goal difference, promotion and demotion will be decided on the total number of goals for.
- D. Each division can only have a maximum of three teams from the same netball club to ensure neutral umpiring is possible. It is noted that this may impact on promotions / demotions at the end of each season.
- E. Occasionally, circumstances may arise which call for special decisions to be made, for example, disruption to the playing season due to exceptionally bad weather or other circumstances or a club consisting of several teams leaves WHNL; in those circumstances the Executive Committee may use its discretion to arrange the teams in the Divisions to bring about the fairest and most practical solution.

10. PENALTIES

A. Penalties for missed Meetings

- i) A £35.00 fine and a 4 point deduction will be imposed for those teams not represented for the entire meeting by one team member at a League meeting or at the AGM or EGM. Representation will be determined by the presence of one team signature prior to the close of a League Meeting or the AGM or EGM. The team member is required to attend for the whole meeting, however, if a team member is late or has to leave early for a good reason, the Executive Committee may decide to waive the penalty. If there is only one team member present at any meeting, they must not leave before the close of the meeting. If a team member is not present for the entire meeting the team will be deemed to have had no representation at that meeting and the penalties for missing meetings will be applied.
- ii) If two meetings are missed, then by-law 10A(i) will apply for each meeting missed. The penalties imposed will be accompanied by a written response warning teams of future conduct.
- iii) Disqualification from WHNL for the following season will occur for teams that miss both league meetings and the AGM. By-law 10A(i) will also be applied.

B. Penalties General

All points deducted after the final game of a Winter Season will be carried forward and imposed at the commencement of the following Winter Season.

11. LEAGUE MEETINGS

- A. There shall be a minimum of two League Meetings and one AGM within one playing season. The WHNL Executive Committee can meet as many times as required within one playing season. A WHNL Executive Committee member is allowed to represent her team at the meetings.
- B. WHNL Executive Committee members do not have a right to vote except a casting vote by the Chairperson unless they are also in attendance as a representative of their team.
- C. See By-law 10A(i) to (iii)

12. GRIEVANCE/COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLICATIONS

- A. All communications and publications in relation to the WHNL in paper and electronic formats must be submitted to the WHNL Secretary prior to publication or distribution for approval.
- B. Any correspondence or Complaints must be submitted to the WHNL Secretary within one week of any incident arising.
- C. The WHNL Executive Committee will deal with all correspondence within four weeks of receipt.
- D. During a game, captains and a relevant player may approach the umpire to clarify a rule or to raise a health and safety issue. The umpires will manage this during the game. If a health and safety issue is not settled, the game must be stopped and an explanation in writing must be sent to the WHNL Secretary by the umpires and the teams. The WHNL Executive Committee will have the final decision.
- E. Complaints relating to player, team, umpire, coach, bench players or team members or spectators conduct which have not been managed during a game can be sent to the WHNL Executive Committee within a week of the game being played using the complaints form.
- F. The WHNL Executive Committee will review the complaint and decide to investigate or take no further action within one week of receipt. If an investigation is undertaken an outcome will be communicated within 4 weeks of the decision to investigate.
- G. An investigation will involve statements from all parties involved in the complaints being taken by a member of the WHNL Executive Committee and the complaint will either be upheld or not upheld and appropriate actions or advice communicated to those involved.
- H. A record will be kept by the WHNL Executive Committee of all complaints and outcomes. In the event that 2 complaints regarding the same conduct are upheld a warning will be issued to the player/team/umpire/coach
- I. If 3 complaints for similar conduct are upheld A Disciplinary Committee will be convened, as necessary, to discuss the complaints. The Disciplinary Committee will include members from the WHNL Executive Committee and two independent members from the WHNL league.
- J. In exceptional circumstances for serious breaches of conduct that is likely to bring disrepute upon WHNL players and/or spectators toward other participants and/or WHNL Executive Committee members the WHNL Executive Committee reserve the right to convene a Disciplinary Committee without the threshold of 3 upheld complaints being met

- K. The Disciplinary Committee can suspend a player, team, umpire, coach, bench players or team members or spectators from the WHNL for a specific length of time or for the rest of the season and/or disqualify a team from the WHNL for as long as it deems necessary.
- L. The Executive Committee may appoint an independent Appeals Committee to consist of a Chairperson plus two members to adjudicate on any appeal received against a decision taken by the Disciplinary Committee. Any appeal must be addressed to the WHNL Secretary and received within 14 days of the Disciplinary Committee's decision. The Appeals Committee may affirm, vary or rescind any decision taken by the Disciplinary Committee. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.

13. **PREGNANCY**

- A. In accordance with World Netball, England Netball (EN) strongly recommends that the pregnant participant;

- (i) Consults with their own appropriately qualified medical practitioner to inform them, on a voluntary basis, of their pregnancy and to obtain individual and specific professional medical advice before participating in netball (both during and following pregnancy), in particular regarding the risks of such participation;
- (ii) Acts in accordance with the medical advice received; and
- (iii) Attends regular check-ups with their medical practitioner throughout and following their pregnancy regarding their participation in netball, adjusting participation accordingly.

By participating when pregnant, the participant will be deemed to have consented to any risks (including any risk of injury to the participant and/or the unborn child) that may arise from such participation. Aside from liability for death or personal injury resulting from negligence, the participant will also be deemed to have waived any and all claims, causes and rights of action against World Netball, England Netball, event organisers, players and match officials, whether at law or in equity, of whatever nature and in any jurisdiction or forum, that she may have as a result of such participation. Members* should note that England Netball's centrally arranged programme of insurance excludes any loss or expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage, or any consequence thereof.

Commented [RH1]: Proposal 8

This section has been amended at the request of Hertfordshire County OTG and follows WN & EN guidance

14. PLAYING UNIFORM AND JEWELLERY

- A. Registered playing uniforms, which shall include playing position initials, shall be worn at all times during match time. Playing position initials shall be worn above the waist both front and back and shall be 150 mm (6 inches) high. All players must wear the same style/pattern/colour of kit and the team have 2 sets of bibs to avoid clashes with other teams.
- B. Any team wishing to change their playing uniform during any one season or between seasons, must write to the WHNL Secretary and obtain permission to do so. The WHNL Secretary will consult with the WHNL Executive Committee, who will discuss the request and reach a decision collectively and will inform the team or club of the decision made in writing.
- C. Fingernails shall be short and smooth before taking the court for a match.
- D. No item of jewellery, except a wedding ring or medical bracelet, shall be worn. Each shall be taped (or sweatbands can be worn for medical bracelets). Sub-dermal piercings need not be removed but MUST be adequately covered with soft tape. No other adornments or jewellery will be permitted to be taped or covered and must be removed before the player takes to the court.
- E. For medical bracelet holders - risk players should notify the WHNL Executive Committee in advance at the registration period and should consider additional insurance privately.
- F. Umpires and players should be advised of games if a risk player is taking part, either as an umpire or player.
- G. No adornment that may endanger players' safety shall be worn (ie peaked cap, bobble hat). Hats may not be worn but headbands and soft wrist bands are permitted at the discretion of the umpires. Hooded tops may only be worn if the hood is tucked on the inside of the top or inside an overhead bib.
- H. Gloves are not permitted unless supported by a doctor's certificate, which must be presented in advance of playing to the WHNL Executive Committee. Notification will be provided to team contacts who should inform their umpires. However, the individual must carry a copy of this paperwork with her at all games to verify the use of gloves if challenged.

15. INSURANCE COVER

Insurance is included as part of the EN membership.

16. STOPPAGES (INJURY OR ILLNESS)

- A. The decision to stop play and when to stop play will be at the discretion of the umpires. An on-court player can call time to stop the game if a player is injured or ill in accordance with the INF rules and guidance.
- B. It is the responsibility of the player or her team to complete an accident form and submit it to the Committee for its records and to report an accident or injury to England Netball.

17. FIRST AID EQUIPMENT

All teams must supply a properly equipped and up-to-date first aid kit at every match. This must include a nail file and clippers.

18. OFFICIALS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Umpires

- i) All umpires must be members of EN and registered to the WHNL. Proof of membership is required by the WHNL before an umpire is permitted to officiate.
- ii) Umpires must be aged 16 or over to umpire in the WHNL.
- iii) There shall be two umpires who will have control of the game and give decisions.
- iv) The umpires shall umpire according to the INF rules and decide on any matter not covered by the rules.
- v) The decision of the umpires shall be final and shall be given without appeal.
- vi) The captains have the right to approach an umpire during an interval or after the game for clarification of any rule.
- vii) Non-qualified umpires will be restricted to umpiring a maximum of 2 games per Saturday at WHNL.
- viii) Teams will be given the opportunity to vote for an umpire at the end of the season with a reason for the vote and an award to be given to the umpire with the most votes.
- ix) Umpires who have participated in the online IOA course can only umpire within the league after completing a group mentoring session delivered by a qualified EN tutor.

B. Scorers

- i) Teams playing in the first Division of the Welwyn Hatfield Netball League will provide a scorer/timekeeper for each game.
- ii) The same two will work together and must score the complete quarter
- iii) It is permitted for scorers to be changed after each quarter.
- iv) Teams will provide a scorer/timekeeper who will score on the same court as the team who provided them are playing.
- v) Scorers will be responsible for working together with each other and the umpire to:
 - a. Stand together and record each goal on the scorecard as it is scored
 - b. Record on the scorecard and cautions, suspensions & sendings offs against the players name who it is issued to
 - c. Agree the score with each other throughout the games
 - d. Agree the score and the next centre pass with the umpires during intervals
 - e. In the event there is a discrepancy between the two umpires on the next centre pass confirm the correct team to take the centre pass
 - f. Time the quarters and notify umpires when there are 30 seconds, 10 seconds and Time is up.
 - g. One scorer should call the score after each goal that is scored, and this should be agreed prior to the game starting
- vi) Scorers/Timers must be a minimum of 14 years in age to score in the Welwyn Hatfield Netball League
- vii) Scorer/Timers must be an EN umpire (IOA/C/B/A/Int Award) or have attended a scorers course provided by WHNL
- viii) If a scorer is used that is not a qualified umpire or have attended a scorers course provided by Welwyn Hatfield Netball League then the offending team will receive a 1 point deduction.
- ix) If a team fails to provide a scorer then a player with the required qualification or attendance at a scorer's course should take the role
- x) If no scorer is provided at all then the umpire impacted is able to umpire and score the game.
- xi) For the first two games in a season where no scorer is provided there will be no penalty, however after two failures to provide a scorer the team who has failed to provide a scorer will forfeit their game with a score recorded of 30 - 0
- xii) Scorers/Timers should not be involved with either team bench throughout play and are not permitted to cheer, encourage or be involved in the game in any way whilst scoring. For player/scorers they are permitted to approach the team bench during intervals in play when their scoring duties are completed.
- xiii) For scorers who incur expenses the re-imbursement of those expenses should be paid directly to the scorer.
- xiv) Scorers must record their name on the reverse of the scorecard and indicate with an S which quarters they scored in.

The WHNL does not provide scorers for any matches.

Scorers may be used in divisions 2 and 3 if the above requirements are met.

- C. Team Officials, spectators and bench players may not indulge in inappropriate comments and behaviour, including moving up and down the side lines or along the goal lines during play.
- D. Breaking the rules and/or the employment of any action not covered by the wording of the rules, in a manner contrary to the spirit of the game, is not permitted.
- E. Game management and discipline will be managed in accordance with INF rules.

19. ENGLAND NETBALL RULES

From time to time, INF, EN or Herts County Netball Association introduce new rules or official guidance. All new rules and guidance which have an effect on the WHNL shall be deemed to be introduced into the WHNL By-Laws at the time indicated for their commencement by EN or Herts County Netball without the requirement for an EGM. The Executive Committee will subsequently draft the new By-Law(s) to be adopted at the next AGM.