

1. The league shall be called the 'EPIC Netball League'. The league has a dedicated website www.epicnetballleague.co.uk.

2. MANAGEMENT

The management of the league will be vested in a committee consisting of:

- Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Umpires Secretary
- Affiliation Secretary

The officials shall hold office until they hand in an official resignation to the Committee and election of such officials shall take place at each Annual General Meeting, to which each club in the League will be entitled to send one voting representative, although all members may attend. The League Committee shall meet as and when summoned by the League Secretary.

Written notice of all nominations for office in the EPIC Netball League must be submitted to the League Secretary two weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting.

3. THE LEAGUE

- a) The League shall be for players of 15 years of age and over, and will be divided into the Divisions decided at the Annual General Meeting. A player is eligible to play in the league once they have had their 15th birthday.
- b) The League Committee reserves the right to accept or reject applications for entry into the League.
- c) Fixtures shall be played on the dates scheduled on the Fixture List.
- d) Postponement of any fixture throughout the season shall not be allowed.
- e) Teams are encouraged to try and source friendly matches rather than cancel games, this results in no fine and no deduction in points for the team who cannot field a full team.
- f) If a team cancels or doesn't turn up for a match, they must pay £30 towards their opponents payment and will have 3 points deducted*. The non-offending team shall be awarded 5 points plus 20 goals. The team cancelling should notify the Secretary, Umpires Secretary and the representative of the opposing team giving as much notice as possible. Failure to notify all relevant parties will incur an additional 5 point deduction.
NB: If you leave a message on an answer-phone or send a text you must ensure a reply is received. Failing to do so will still incur the penalties above. You must take all reasonable steps to contact the team with whom you are cancelling.

*Payment

- i. It is the responsibility of the team cancelling the match to ensure payment is made within 4 weeks of the unplayed fixture.
- ii. Any payment not made within 4 weeks, will increase to £40. The non-offending team should contact the Committee who will follow up payment on their behalf.
- iii. If payment is still unpaid after a further 4 week period, the offending team will be suspended from playing in the League until the non-offending team is in receipt of

outstanding amount. The result will be amended to penalise the offending team by deduction of a further 20 goals.

- iv. If the match is converted into a friendly game, then payment is not required.
- g) All teams will be responsible for scoring matches. Within a fixture one team is designated the 'Home' team and one team is designated the 'Away' team. The 'Home' team has scoring responsibility for the match either before or after their match fixture.
- h) Teams must consult the Scoring Rota and League Fixtures to ensure they fulfil all responsibilities. If a team cannot provide 2 scorers for their allocated scoring slot a fine of £5 will be charged to that team. A team may ask other teams to fulfil their scoring responsibilities, this agreement is to be done between teams and the Committee takes no responsibility for the organisation of this.
- i) Teams who fail to provide scorers for more than 3 matches will incur a further fine of £10.
- j) All winning teams must report the score of the match via text message to the website manager. The league tables will then be updated accordingly. In the event of a draw it is the Home team's responsibility for reporting the score.
- k) All league documents are available on the league website, along with links to the league tables. Any queries with the league tables should be sent to the League Secretary for investigation.
- l) Players who are pregnant should not take part in match play beyond the 12th week of pregnancy nor umpire beyond the 20th week of pregnancy.

4. AFFILIATION AND REGISTRATION

- a) All players must be affiliated to England Netball and registered on the Player List of their team to play in the league. Players who are affiliated to Welsh Netball must also affiliate to England Netball for insurance to be valid within the league, teams cannot 'Second Claim' them.
- b) A club may register a maximum of 15 players throughout the season. Registration can take place at any time.
- c) Teams or players not affiliated by the date of their first match will not be allowed to play until their affiliation payment has been received and cleared by England Netball.
- c) Clubs must provide proof of their players' affiliation by submission of the official confirmation of payment from England Netball to the Affiliation Secretary.
- d) Affiliation "Spot Checks" will be carried out by the Affiliations Secretary and offending teams penalised.
- e) Any teams fielding players not affiliated or registered to their club will have 5 points deducted for each match in which an unaffiliated/registered player has been played, and incur a fine of £5 (per unaffiliated/registered player). If the match is won by the offending team, then the points and goals awarded will be deducted from them and 5 points and 20 goals awarded to the opposing team. In cases where the non-offending team has won the match and scored more than 20 goals, their actual goal score will be counted.

5. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to the league shall be by post-dated cheques made payable to 'EPIC Netball League'. A list of the dates for the cheques will be sent with the registration form and the post-dated cheques must be returned with the registration form to the Secretary by the due

date. Any teams whose registration form and cheques have not been received by this date will incur a fine of £10 and may forfeit their place in the league. Teams incurring this fine will be notified and must forward their payment to the Secretary at the AGM.

Teams may pay via. Bank Transfer with notifications to the league Treasurer when payments are made.

Teams whose cheques are not honoured must pay any bank charges and administration costs applied by the bank. Any teams missing games, or dropping out of the league entirely, will not be entitled to a refund of subscriptions already paid. Any cheques not submitted for payment will be returned.

6. MATCHES

- a) The timing of each match will start with the timekeeper's whistle. All players should be in position on court when the whistle sounds. The match will begin on the umpires whistle whether or not both teams are present and ready to play. If one or other of the teams is not on court after the whistle is sounded, or has less than five players, the ball will be given to the team on side and play will commence, regardless of which team has first centre pass. If ten goals are reached before the other team arrives then they are awarded the game with 5 points and 20 goals. If the other team arrives before this, they can go on court after a goal has been scored.
- b) Matches will end on the umpires whistle.
- c) Spectators are allowed to sit on the benches either side of the sports hall, teams must not congregate around scoring tables or the middle partition between the courts. All bags and equipment must go on/behind the benches to ensure safety for players and umpires.

7. TRANSFERS from one CLUB to another

- a) The players own club must agree (in writing) to her transfer.
- b) The other club must agree (in writing) to accept the players transfer.
- c) These letters of agreement must be sent to the League Secretary, and the transfer of the player cannot take place until the League Secretary has notified both clubs that such a transfer is in order.
- d) Clubs with two or more teams in different divisions will be allowed to include in their senior teams up to three players from their teams in lower divisions for three matches without an official transfer being made. This is limited to 3 occasions in total, not 3 occasions per player.
- e) If a player is required for more than three matches, then an official transfer must be made. Clubs will not be allowed to use players from senior teams in lower divisions. In the event of a club having more than one team in any division, interchange of players will not be allowed without an official transfer.
- f) The secretary must be informed of any movement of players (in writing) before the game. A player must not play twice on the same evening for both the higher and lower team.
- g) Clubs failing to comply with the transfer rules will be fined £5, have their match points deducted and 5 points and 20 goals awarded to the opposing team.

NB: If you choose to play a player up, you must email or text the Secretary with the player's name and the team they are playing for so that a record can be kept.

8. POINTS

(a) Points for matches shall be as follows:

5 points for a Win

3 points for a Draw

2 points for a team losing by one goal

1 point where a team scores more than 50% of the winning team's score

0 points where a team loses by 50% or less of the winning team's score.

(b) The team with the highest number of points at the end of the season shall be the winner of the Division. If there are two teams with an equal number of points and they had played the same number of matches, then the winner of the Division shall be the team with the better goal difference.

In the event of two teams finishing the season with an equal number of points and the same goal difference, having played the same number of matches, a deciding match will be played at the end of the season. If both teams are agreed then the deciding match can take place at a venue and time agreed by, and at the expense of, both the teams concerned using umpires supplied by the league.

(c) Teams must play a minimum of 17 games for the results to count. If a team does not play 17 games due to their opponents cancelling, and they were available to play, then the results from these cancelled games will still stand. The results of any team dropping out of the league before the end of the season will not count. If there are less than 12 teams in a division, the committee will decide the number of games which must be played for the results to count.

9. PROMOTION & RELEGATION

A system of promotion and relegation from one division to another will operate, and the number of teams involved will be decided by the League Committee, and notified to teams at the Annual General Meeting.

10. UMPIRES

Matches will be played in accordance with the rules of the All England Netball Association. The decision of the Umpire shall be final and shall be given without appeal. Umpires, where possible, will not umpire any matches in which they are deemed to have an affiliation to any team or player in the match.

11. UNIFORMS

Appropriate playing uniforms must be worn for all matches. This will consist of either a dress, top, or skirt with bibs or patches which will have the playing position initials front and back. The kit colour must be consistent throughout the team. Tracksuit bottoms or leggings can be worn underneath the dress/skirt, but cannot replace the dress/skirt.

In the event that 2 teams are wearing similar colours which umpires may find hard to distinguish between, a set of bibs will be given to the 'Away' team to wear.

12. DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTES

a) Umpires must report to the Umpiring Secretary any disciplinary action taken before, during or after a match and the offences will be recorded and dealt with by the League Committee. The Umpire must advise the player that her name and details of the offence will be forwarded to the League Secretary for action at the next committee meeting.

- b) The League Committee reserves the right to suspend or terminate the registration of any player or club, whose conduct they believe, offends the character and interest of the League. NB This includes foul and abusive language to umpires or other players.
- c) Any team or player wishing to complain about any aspect of the match, including issues with the umpires, must do so via their club secretary or captain, using the Feedback/Complaints Form, within 5 clear days after the match. Forms are submitted to the League Secretary and will be dealt with by the League Committee. The Secretary will respond to the team either verbally or in writing depending on the situation. Complaints will not be followed up if the appropriate form is not used.
- d) Any objections about umpiring decisions can be followed up immediately after a match with the specific match umpires by the team captain only.
- e) The League Committee's decision is final.

13. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Notice of any proposed alteration to the Constitution shall be given in writing to the secretary not later than one month after the finish of the current season. No alteration or addition to the constitution shall be made except at a General Meeting and when two thirds of the votes are cast in favour.

14. DISBANDMENT of the LEAGUE

In the event of the League being disbanded, any funds held by the League will be donated to the following charities:

- Miles of Smiles
- Special Needs Netball Team
- Claire House
- Hospice of the Good Shepherd

oOo

Penalties & Payments

(*Refer to constitution for full description)

*Ref	Description	Penalty / Payment
3f	Cancelled Match	Cancelling Team pays opponents £30 and has 3 points deducted. Non-offending team awarded 5 points/20 goals
3f (ii)	Cancelled Match: Non-payment of penalty	After 4 weeks, payment increases to £40. If still unpaid after 8 weeks, team suspended until payment received, plus deduction of 20 goals.
3f (iii)	Cancelled Match: Failure to notify all relevant parties	Additional 5 points deducted
3h	Failure to supply a scorer	£5 per match.
3i	Failure to supply a scorer for more than 3 games	£10 fine.
4e	Fielding Non-Affiliated Player	£5 fine plus 5 points deducted per match per player. Non-offending team awarded 5 points/20 goals, or in cases where they have won the match, awarded their actual goal score if greater than 20.
4e	Fielding Non-Registered Player	£5 fine plus 5 points deducted per match per player. Non-offending team awarded 5 points/20 goals, or in cases where they have won the match, awarded their actual goal score if greater than 20.
5	Late Registration and/or Late submission of Cheques	£10 fine.
5	Bounced cheque	Team whose payment is not honoured by bank must pay any bank charges and administration costs applied by the bank.
6a	Team arriving late for match	If ten goals are reached before team arrives for match, non-offending team awarded 5 points and 20 goals.
7d	Club transfer of players between teams: Exceed 3 match limit	£5 fine plus 5 points deducted per match per player. Non-offending team awarded 5 points/20 goals
7d	Club transfer of players between teams: Player registered for higher division team being fielded for lower division team	£5 fine plus 5 points deducted per match per player. Non-offending team awarded 5 points/20 goals
7d	Club transfer of players between teams: Interchange of players between teams in same division	£5 fine plus 5 points deducted per match per player. Non-offending team awarded 5 points/20 goals
7d	Club transfer of players between teams: Player fielded for higher and lower team game on same evening	£5 fine plus 5 points deducted per match per player. Non-offending team awarded 5 points/20 goals