



# County League

<https://www.middlesexnetball.co.uk/county-league.html#/>

## Rules and Regulations 2024 -2025

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### TITLE

The League shall be known as **THE COUNTY LEAGUE** hereafter to be known as the MCNL.

### OBJECT

The Object of the MCNL shall be to establish a Middlesex County Champion Team by promoting the game of netball in a spirit of friendly competition as part of the England Netball Competition Pathway.

### 1 ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 The MCNL shall be **governed** and **managed** by the Middlesex County Netball Association (hereafter to be known as Middlesex Netball) which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to a League Technical Support Group, known as the County League Committee (CLC), to **administer**.
- 1.2 The decisions of Middlesex Netball, in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matters related to the MCNL which are 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 Disciplinary Regulations).
- 1.3 The Chair of the CLC will be elected annually at the Middlesex Netball Annual General Meeting.
- 1.4 It is the responsibility of all Team Representatives, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players are conversant with the following Rules and Regulations.

### 2 PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 The MCNL shall be open to any Netball Club which is a Member of England Netball with full active paid membership of Middlesex Netball and which is situated within the area of jurisdiction of Middlesex Netball. (Middlesex Netball Constitution 4 – London Boroughs of Barnet, Brent, Camden, City of London, City of Westminster, Ealing, Enfield, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Richmond upon Thames and Tower Hamlets).
- 2.2 No player registered to a Netball Super League (NSL) team may play in the MCNL.
- 2.3 No player listed as one of the core 7 players of any National Premier League Team is eligible to play in the MCNL.
- 2.4 Club teams must apply for membership annually prior to the Annual General Meeting of Middlesex Netball and application will be accepted at the discretion of Middlesex Netball. Teams not represented at the Annual General Meeting of Middlesex Netball may not be included in the MCNL. All teams must also attend a half-season Re-registration meeting, if this is scheduled. Failure to do so will incur a £25 fine and their place in the MCNL may be jeopardised.
- 2.5 The Middlesex Netball will charge an entry fee to the MCNL to be reviewed annually.
- 2.6 By entering a team/s in the MCNL, clubs/teams agree that:-
  - All their participants and supporters are conversant with, and will abide by, these rules and regulations, the England Netball Codes of Conduct and the England Netball Disciplinary Regulations.
  - They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the MCNL.
- 2.7 In order to qualify to participate in the MCNL, a player shall be biologically female, a fully paid Member of England Netball and registered
  - through a Club which has full active paid membership of **Middlesex Netball for the current season** or
  - through a University/College within Middlesex – with additional England Netball Insurance
- 2.8 All players must have their Membership lodged with England Netball, their subscription paid and marked 'active' on the England Netball Membership System (ENGage), prior to their participation in the MCNL.

2.9 All players must be over 16 at midnight on 31 August/1 September prior to the commencement of the MCNL.

2.10 No player under the age of 14 at the date defined in 2.11.1 may play in the MCNL.

2.11 **TALENTED** youngster(s) outside the Age Banding guideline in 2.9:

2.11.1 All players must be 14\* at midnight on 31 August/1 September prior to the commencement of the MCNL. *\*This is official EN AB guidance for Adult play.*

2.11.2 A **separate** Age Banding Form must be completed for **EACH ATHLETE**, individually signed (**no electronic signatures accepted**), and submitted with their Team Registration to the Registration & Results Co-ordinator **AT REGISTRATION OR AT THE LATEST BY 6PM ON THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE THE PLAYER WISHES TO TAKE THE COURT.**

2.11.3 In relation to 2.10.1 athletes should not take the court until notification has been received from the Registration & Results Co-ordinator that their Age Banding Form has been accepted.

2.12 For season 24/25, it is strongly recommended by MCNA that only 3 age banded players be listed per squad on a match day. From season 25/26, it will be required that there will only be a maximum of 3 age banded players listed in a squad on match days. Failure to comply will result in a 3 points deduction for the offending team.

2.13 All players under the age of 18 must carry with them some photographic proof of age (e.g. copy/image on mobile phone of passport, driving licence, Oyster photocard) as random checks may be carried out.

2.14 **TEAM OFFICIALS** (Bench Officials)

- Must hold full, active England Netball Membership for the current season.
- Coaches must be over 18 years of age.
- Primary care person/s must be over 18 years of age.
- Captains must be over 18 years of age.
- Scorers must be over 16 years of age.

2.15 **PREGNANCY** – England Netball recommends that individuals (player, coach, umpire) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidelines issued by England Netball.

### 3 REGISTRATION OF TEAM MEMBERS

**Any team who knowingly and deliberately provides false information regarding identity of players when registering players or naming of players on team sheets may be subject to disciplinary action and may be expelled from the competition. Disciplinary action may be taken against the club.**

3.1 A player may only play for one MCNL Club in any one season except at the discretion of the CLC with ratification by the Middlesex Netball Management Committee.

3.2 Players registered to a NSL team may not participate in or be a registered player of a MCNL team.

3.3 Clubs which also participate in the National Premier League must submit their core 7 National Premier League players to the CLC when they register their MCNL teams. These players are not eligible to play in the MCNL (refer 2.3). Failure to comply will result in the offending MCNL team being penalised by the deduction of any points gained for the match(es) concerned together with the additional penalty of a two points deduction per match.

3.4 Players who play in the National Premier League, but are not named in the core 7, can be registered to play in the MCNL Premier Division and Division 1 only: they are not permitted to play in Divisions 2 and 3.

3.5 Clubs who have teams in a Senior Regional League may field registered players in the MCNL Premier Division and Division 1 only; they are not permitted to play in Divisions 2 and 3.

3.6 There are no restrictions on which team a player may be registered to within the MCNL for clubs who have Netball Performance League (NPL) players.

3.7 Any player wishing to play for a club in a Regional League which is not their MCNL Club should ensure that both they and their MCNL Club are fully aware of the MCNL and Regional League Rules particularly with regard to eligibility criteria for possible future playoffs for entry into the London & South East Region (L&SER) League.

3.8 Team Registration sheets must contain at least 10 **active** players for each participating team and must be completed fully. The sheets must be received by the MCNL Registration & Results Co-ordinator by 6pm on the date specified by the CLC, prior to the commencement of the MCNL.

3.8.1 **Team Registration sheets received after 6pm on the date specified by the CLC prior to the commencement of the MCNL will incur a 10 point deduction for each team.**

3.8.2 To simplify Membership checks, Clubs must also submit their Official Club roster report (from the England Netball Membership system - ENgage) showing players flagged as 'active' for the current membership year **by 6pm on the WEDNESDAY** prior to the first fixture of the MCNL. Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their Team Registration list held by the CLC.

3.9 Any additions to the Team Registration sheets must be lodged with the MCNL Registration & Results Co-ordinator by **6pm on the Wednesday evening** prior to the fixture in which they intend to play. These will be acknowledged by the Thursday evening. If no acknowledgement is received by the Friday morning, the matter should be followed up **prior to the fixture** to ensure no penalties are incurred.

3.9.1 If the Additional Registrations are also new England Netball Members to the Club, a copy of the relevant England Netball Membership Receipt must accompany the Registration.

3.10 Once registered, players are eligible to play up ONCE for another of their higher club teams during the first half of the season. If a player plays up on a second occasion for that team, they will then become registered to that higher team and unable to play for their own team again during that half of the season. (Please see MCNL Guidance notes appended and also available on the Middlesex Netball website for clarification.)

3.11 All Clubs must re-register their teams for the second half of the season. The DATE will be notified to all Clubs before Christmas.

3.11.1 **Team Registration sheets received after 6pm on the date specified by the CLC prior to the commencement of the second half of the season will incur a 10 point deduction for each team.**

3.11.2 The play-up eligibility for clubs with multiple teams will recommence at this point.

3.12 After Round 10 of matches any further additions to the Team Registration sheets will have to be approved by the CLC before participation in any MCNL fixtures.

#### 4 STRUCTURE OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY NETBALL LEAGUE

4.1 The MCNL will be divided into Divisions of, **normally**, eight teams, the number of the Divisions depending upon the entry. The Divisions will be called Premier, 1, 2 etc.

4.1.1 **As part of the England Netball Competition Pathway** the final structure of the MCNL and the Divisions cannot be determined until after National Premier League and L&SER League playoffs.

4.2 Only one team per Club may compete in **EACH DIVISION**.

4.3 Each team in a Division will play each other twice.

4.4 League points will be awarded as follows:

- 5 points for a win
- 3 points for a draw
- 2 points for within 5 goals (i.e. 40-36)
- 1 point for over 50%
- 0 for a loss

4.5 A League Table will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded. Where teams are level on points, positions will be decided on GOAL DIFFERENCE (goals for minus goals against). Failing that, GOAL AVERAGE (goals for divided by goals against) will apply. For either calculation, if one of the teams concerned has been given a walkover, the score of the corresponding match, i.e. against the same opponents of the other team(s) involved, shall not be included in the calculations. If there is still equality, the CLC will adjudicate.

4.6 The team that finishes top of the Premier Division is the MCNL Champion. As such that team will be eligible for promotion to the L&SER League Division 3, contesting a play-off involving the other County League Champions within L&SER and the lowest eligible team from the L&SER League Division 3 in order to pursue that promotion. Should the MCNL Champion Team already be represented in the L&SER League or not wish to go forward, the next highest Premier Division eligible team will be put forward. Any players who are registered for and have played in the MCNL for that team may play in the L&SER League playoff.

4.7 At the end of each season, any team or teams which are active members of Middlesex Netball and which are relegated from the L&SER League Division 3, will be automatically included within the Premier Division of the MCNL for the following season.

#### 5 PROMOTION & RELEGATION

5.1 Promotion and Relegation will **normally** be as follows (**subject to 4.1.1**):

- The winner of Premier Division – MCNL Champion – eligible for promotion to L&SER League.
- The winners of the lower Divisions (1,2 etc) of the MCNL will be promoted. **Promotion cannot be declined.**
- The bottom team in each Division will be demoted.
- The second from bottom and the second from top of consecutive Divisions will play off to determine their Division placings.

- If the MCNL has a full complement of teams per Division and there is a waiting list, the bottom team in the lowest Division will play off against the team(s) on the waiting list to complete that Division.
- 5.2 Should 4.6 above apply, normal promotion and relegation will be affected. In the event that the promotion and relegation of clubs under 5.1 would materially alter the structure of the MCNL or cause 4.2 to be broken, the Middlesex Netball Management Committee and the CLC will make arrangements for the structure of the MCNL as they deem appropriate.
- 5.3 PLAY-OFF Regulations:
- 5.3.1 The matches will be played under the current season's MCNL Rules and Regulations except where specific Play-off Regulations apply.
- 5.3.2 For inter-Divisional playoffs, only players who have been registered during the season to these teams, (or in the case of a club who also has lower team(s) within the MCNL, this also includes players registered to their lower team(s)), may play in the Play-off matches. Umpires will be provided by the MCNL but teams must provide scorers and pay umpire expenses.
- 5.3.3 For entry to Division 3, the bottom placed Division 3 team may only use players who have been registered to that team during the second half of the season. No new registrations are permitted.
- 5.3.4 For entry to Division 3, new teams who already have club players registered to the MCNL who have played in higher Divisions or Division 3 this season may only play a player who has been registered to their higher MCNL team(s) but who did not play at all during the season.
- 5.3.5 For entry to Division 3, teams cannot play anyone who may have been registered to a NSL team but not taken the court during the season nor can they play anyone who has played for a National Premier League team this season.
- 5.3.6 For entry to Division 3, a new team cannot use players who have played for another Club within the MCNL during the current season.
- 5.3.7 For entry to Division 3, each team may be asked to supply a non-playing umpire who is a minimum C award and who meets the fitness requirements as specified by the MCNL for the current and has been registered with the MCNL Umpiring Co-ordinator prior to the playoffs. Each team must provide a scorer for their games. This may be a player.
- 5.3.8 For entry to Division 3, the format of the play-off competition will depend on the number of entries.
- 5.3.9 For entry to Division 3, any new team will be required to pay a deposit of £100 should they wish to gain a place, be it by automatic entry if there is space or via play-offs. This £100 deposit is only refundable in the event that they participate in the play-offs and are unsuccessful in gaining a place. For the avoidance of doubt, a team who registers for entry, pays the deposit and then withdraws for any reason, will not be eligible for a deposit refund. Any new team who is successful at gaining a place will have the £100 deposit deducted from the registration fees for the coming season.
- 5.3.10 For entry to Division 3, any new team will be required to pay a non-refundable registration fee of £25 should they wish to gain a place, be it by automatic entry if there is space or via play-offs. This £25 deposit is only refundable in the event that the MCNL cannot permit any new teams to enter the league due to there being no spaces available.
- 5.3.11 Any team who successfully gains a place in the MCNL will be required to pay a £25 Bond which will be held in the MCNA account for the duration of time that the team is participating in the MCNL. This bond will be refunded to the team should they exit the MCNL at a future point.

## 6 FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS

- 6.1 Matches will be played at central venue/s arranged by the CLC in conjunction with Middlesex Netball, unless otherwise agreed by Middlesex Netball.
- 6.2 All matches **must** be played on the date specified on the fixture schedule, as agreed by CLC, Middlesex Netball and L&SER Netball Association. The first named team will be regarded as the Home Team for that fixture.
- 6.3 The start time of each match will be set by the CLC. Start time is fixed.
- 6.4 All teams will be responsible for arranging their own travel and for the costs thereof, allowing sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays. Any team that fails to present themselves at the agreed start time will forfeit the match, and the non-offending team will be awarded the points as winners by default.
- 6.5 If a fixture is cancelled before or on the day of the fixture:
- It is the responsibility of the offending team to ensure that the MCNL Registration & Results Co-ordinator and the opposition are informed immediately.
  - The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points for the match and the team that cancels will have five (5) league points deducted from their total.

- The team that cancels may be liable to pay any costs incurred by the match officials, subject to the discretion of the CLC.
- 6.6 In the event that a match is abandoned for any reason, e.g. adverse weather conditions, the result of that match will be determined by the CLC, having regard to the score and the circumstances prevailing when play was suspended.
- 6.7 In the event of cancellation or postponement due to adverse weather conditions or a National Emergency, the matches will be played on the spare date.

## 7 MATCH REGULATIONS

- 7.1 All games shall be played to the World Netball Rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time, except where specific MCNL regulations may apply.
- 7.2 All matches shall normally be of one hour duration (i.e. four x 15 minutes).
- 7.3 Half time interval will be 5 minutes, quarter time intervals will be 3 minutes
- 7.4 Each team may have a maximum of 12 players per match and up to 5 team officials.
- 7.5 Each team must provide their own scorecards for the match.
- 7.6 Before a match starts, each team must identify who is responsible for managing injuries to players in their team if no suitably qualified Primary Care Person is present with their team.
- 7.7 Stoppages – Injury/illness of a player or blood: Applied to All Divisions  
All injury/illness or blood stoppages will be 30 seconds. The player must leave the court within 30 seconds and receive any treatment off the court. Only Primary care person/s are permitted on the court to assess the player's medical condition. The player can either be substituted or the team can play with 6 and the player once fit and ready can come back on court at the next break in play. If the player is the Centre and no substitution is made, one player must move to play as Centre to allow the match to continue. In this case, to enable the player concerned or a substitute to return to the court, the umpire will hold time so that any player who moved to play as Centre can return to the previous playing position and the player or substitute takes the Centre position.

## 8 MATCH OFFICIALS

- 8.1 Umpires must hold full current season England Netball Membership, be active and hold a Netball Europe C Award or above (*Preliminary and Intermediate etc are not acceptable in this League*) and the allocation of umpires will be determined by the CLC and reviewed annually.
- 8.2 White is the standard colour for umpires' attire. Within ALL Divisions of the MCNL, umpires must wear a white top with either white or black skirts/shorts/trousers. Kit will ideally be Middlesex Netball Umpire Kit or England Netball branded kit. All jumpers and coats must also be white if worn whilst officiating a match.
- 8.3 All Umpires must meet the fitness requirements as specified by the MCNL for the current season.
- 8.4 **Premier Division** - Umpire who holds the B Award or above. The appropriate certification must be submitted to the MCNL Umpire Co-ordinator prior to umpiring in the MCNL.  
**Division 1** –Umpire who holds the B Award or above or who is a C award umpire who is actively working towards their B Award qualification and can satisfy the following criteria - attended a B Award course, passed their B Award written assessment and be working with a mentor accredited by Middlesex Netball. The appropriate certification must be submitted to the MCNL Umpire Co-ordinator prior to umpiring in the MCNL.  
**Division 2, etc** - Umpire who holds the minimum C Award. The appropriate certification must be submitted to the MCNL Umpire Co-ordinator prior to umpiring in the MCNL
- 8.5 The CLC may operate a central allocation of umpires for any or all Divisions during a season depending on umpire commitment levels. Their appointment, where possible, will be notified to the teams in advance of each fixture date.
- 8.6 All Teams must provide details of at least one suitably qualified umpire for their Division with full, current season England Netball membership on their team registration sheet.
- These umpires will be expected to join the central pool of umpires.
  - An umpire can only be nominated by one team in the MCNL.
  - If a team nominates just one umpire, this umpire will be expected to umpire at least 80% of the fixtures during the season.
  - If a team nominates more than one umpire, they will be jointly expected to umpire at least 80% of the fixtures during the season.
  - All umpires nominated by teams must sign the umpire declaration form to ensure they agree to the required commitment. If a team is unable to nominate a suitably qualified umpire by the MCNL registration date, the team will incur a 3 point penalty deduction.

- Nominated umpire commitment will be reviewed at the end of the first half of the season, at which stage, if umpires have not been able to accept the requested amount of allocated matches, the team will be required to provide an alternative umpire. In the event that an alternative cannot be provided OR the alternative umpire is unable to provide the required commitment by the re-registration date as notified by the CLC, then the team will incur a 3 point penalty deduction.
  - There may be fixtures dates when the CLC are unable to provide umpires for matches from the central allocation pool and teams will be asked to nominate their own suitably qualified umpire who holds full, active England Netball membership for the current season and meets the fitness requirements as specified by the MCNL for the current season to cover these matches.
  - All nominated umpires will receive full briefing details on any World Netball or England Netball specific rule updates and any necessary COVID risk mitigations from the MCNL Umpiring Co-ordinator.
- 8.7 Special dispensation may be given by the MCNL Umpiring Co-ordinator, in consultation with the Middlesex Netball Officiating Lead, to support the development of Middlesex Netball umpires working towards a qualification level to enable them to officiate MCNL matches.
- 8.8 Fitness levels may be assessed twice yearly as advised by the CLC and in conjunction with England Netball Officiating Department policy; and all umpires will be expected to meet the fitness requirements as specified by the MCNL for the current season. Failure to comply will incur the deduction of Penalty points as 10.1.4.
- 8.9 Umpires from outside of Middlesex Netball should contact the MCNL Umpiring Co-ordinator prior to umpiring any MCNL fixtures if central allocation is not in place.
- 8.10 Umpires must conform to the standards of physical fitness set out by the MCNL for the current season. However, if age, injury, illness or pregnancy is likely to affect the umpire's movement and positioning to the detriment of the game, they will be required to withdraw from officiating.
- 8.11 The umpires who start the match must complete that match unless they become ill or injured when they may be replaced by an umpire suitably qualified for that Division.
- 8.12 A non-playing umpire on a fixture date may umpire a maximum of two matches on that fixture date and it is recommended that there is a match length rest period between umpiring commitments. Failure to comply may incur the deduction of penalty points as 10.1.4 and/or the umpire may be removed from officiating at the MCNL.
- 8.13 A playing umpire on a fixture date may only umpire one match on that fixture date and they must umpire before they play or have a match length rest period before umpiring. Failure to comply may incur the deduction of penalty points as 10.1.4 and/or the umpire may be removed from officiating at the MCNL.
- 8.14 It is the responsibility of the umpires to ensure provision for the timing of the match duration, intervals and any injury/illness/blood stoppages.
- 8.15 If central allocation of umpires is undertaken, all umpires nominated for matches will receive an expense payment as confirmed by the MCNL at the start of the current season to be placed in an envelope and provided to the umpires prior to the commencement of the match.
- 8.16 Should an umpire not arrive at the appropriate time and place, the following emergency action should be taken:
- 8.16.1 If another umpire of the appropriate standard is available then they will umpire the match.
- 8.16.2 If there is no umpire available with the specified qualification, then the next best qualified available umpire should be asked to umpire the match. Penalty points will be deducted as per Rule 10.1 if central allocation is not in operation.
- 8.16.3 The MCNL Umpiring Co-ordinator must be informed immediately after the match.
- 8.17 Scorers will be required for all fixtures. Each team **must** provide a competent scorer. A dedicated scorer is preferable; however, the scorer may be a player and may be changed at an interval or stoppage for injury/ illness/blood if a substitution on court is called for and an alternative scorer is provided promptly by that team. Failure to provide a scorer will incur the deduction of Penalty Points as per 10.1.3.

## 9 RESULT FORMS INCLUDING GAME MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- 9.1 The first named team for each match will be deemed to be the **HOME team** and will provide the Results Form.
- 9.2 Both teams are required to complete the joint Result Form for each match which will be submitted electronically **by the HOME team**.
- 9.3 The full names of up to twelve (12) players for each team must be listed (starting positions) on the Result Form together with details of Coach, Primary Care Person, Captain and Scorers. All those players who have been age banded to play in the MCNL must be ticked on the form by the Captains.

This must be completed and handed to the Scorers before the match. A team cannot take to the court until this has been done and the umpires will employ World Netball Rule 3.4 if necessary.

9.4 At the end of the match, Captains should ensure that they have the score information and the umpires' names and EN Membership numbers to input to the Results Form.

9.5 All Game Management actions are to be accurately logged on the Results Form by the Scorers in conjunction with the Umpires and Captains. Captains should tick or cross to confirm whether Game Management actions were taken as applicable.

9.6 **On the day of the matches:**

**9.6.1 The HOME team must electronically submit the Results Form after the match to the Registration and Results Co-ordinator to be received by 9pm on the day of the match.**

9.6.2 The **HOME Team** should also text the results to the Website Results Service **by 9pm** on the day of the match. Full details of information required is in the MCNL Guidance notes.

9.7 All Results Forms will be acknowledged within 48 hours by the CLC.

9.8 Results Forms not received on the day of the fixture from the **HOME Team** will result in a deduction of 2 (two) league points. **THE CLC WILL NOT ENTER INTO ANY CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING LATE PAPERWORK.**

## 10 LEAGUE ADJUDICATION

10.1 The CLC will have the power to determine the penalty to be imposed on teams and players who are in breach of the Rules and Regulations regarding the playing of matches in the MCNL. Such penalties may include reprimands, the deduction of league points, fines, suspensions and expulsion from the competition, except as specified below:

10.1.1 The use of a player without full, active England Netball Membership – Deduction of 3 (three) league points

10.1.2 The use of an unregistered or ineligible player (including player without acknowledged age banding) – Deduction of 2 (two) league points

10.1.3. Failure to provide a scorer – Deduction of 2 (two) league points

10.1.4 Failure to provide a suitably qualified or eligible umpire – Deduction of 3 (three) league points if central allocation of umpires is not in use

10.1.5 Should an appointed umpire fail to arrive for a match and no spare eligible umpire is available resulting in the match not being played, the non-offending team will be awarded 5 points. An additional 5 (five) penalty points will be deducted for not fulfilling the fixture.

10.1.6 **The late arrival of, or failure to send in, the Results Form by the HOME Team – Deduction of 2 (two) league points**

10.1.7 **Failure to tick the box for each player who has an age banding in place – Deduction of 2 (two) league points.**

10.1.8 For each error on the Results Form – Deduction of 1 (one) league point.

a. Incorrect player name listed

b. Failure to provide the scorer's name/s

c. Failure to provide the captain's name

d. Failure to provide the umpires' names and EN Membership numbers

10.1.9 Failure to play on more than one occasion may result in suspension of the team from the MCNL.

10.1.10 The use of an inaccurate / old Result form – Deduction of 1 (one) point.

10.1.11 From season 25/26, the use of more than 3 age banded players in a matchday squad - Deduction of 2 (two) league points

10.1.12 If a team is unable to nominate a suitably qualified umpire by the MCNL registration / re-registration dates, the team will incur a 3 point penalty deduction.

10.1.13 The provision of an umpire who is unable to fulfil the required commitment of 80% of matches as specified in rule 8.6 – Deduction of 3 (three) league points.

## 11 COMPETITION REFEREE

11.1 The Competition Referee for the MCNL will be the Chair of the CLC.

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

11.2.1 Altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary;

11.2.2 Determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction as detailed in 10 LEAGUE ADJUDICATION.

11.2.3 Instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour or behaviour that brings the sport into disrepute, including instances of Teams predetermining, or attempting to predetermine, the outcome of a Match and/or the Competition;

- 11.2.4 Determine the score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance;
- 11.2.5 Any matter not covered specifically within the Regulations.
- 11.3 The Competition Referee may call upon, or delegate to, additional persons to assist with the **MCNL** 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.

## 12 LEAGUE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

- 12.1 All queries and complaints (a Complaint), which should be directed to the **MCNL Resolution Co-ordinator** in the first instance, must be dealt with as follows:
- 12.1.1 Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a Match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant Team member or Team Official, **must** do the following:
- Inform their opponents and the Umpires of their complaint;
  - Mark the Score Card with the words "Under Protest";
  - Send a copy of the marked Score Card to the League Resolution Co-ordinator, within seventy two (72) hours of the match;
  - Attach a letter to the Score Card to explain the issue in full to the League Resolution Co-ordinator.
  - The Competition Referee** will decide what action should be taken.
- 12.1.2 The League Resolution Co-ordinator will acknowledge receipt of the query or complaint and forward the relevant information to the Competition Referee who will make a decision on the matter within seventy two (72) hours of receipt of the query or complaint. The Competition Referee's decision in relation to decisions taken under clause 12.1.1 is binding apart from where parties to the complaint have the right to appeal the decision under Section 13 below.
- 12.2 Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the **MCNL** by the CLC such complaints will be dealt with under the Resolution Procedure of **Middlesex Netball**.
- 12.3 Where the Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual Player, Official or Team participating, volunteer or an individual attending a Match, or making an inappropriate comment about a fellow player, coach, official, volunteer or the governing body which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations (including through the use of social media technology), such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the processes set out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations.
- 12.4 No team may automatically claim a fixture.

## 13 APPEAL OF COMPETITION REFEREES DECISION

- 13.1 The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with section 12.1.1 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:
- 13.1.1 If the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition; **AND**
- 13.1.2 If there has been a failure by the Competition Referee to follow or act in accordance with these Regulations and/or the Competition Referee 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:
- 13.2 An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the **Secretary** of the appealing Team to the **Competition Referee** within 72 hours of receiving the decision, who will refer it to **Middlesex Netball**.
- 13.3 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.
- 13.4 **Middlesex Netball** will establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected with the MCNL. One of those individuals will be appointed as the Chair.
- 13.5 The Chair of the CAC will send 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.
- 13.6 All submissions and evidence must be submitted in writing. The Chair of CAC will have the discretion to determine the process, procedure and direction of the appeal.
- 13.7 The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions.



- 13.8 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.
- 13.9 The CAC shall have the delegated power of **Middlesex 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 Competition) relating to the appeal. There is no further right of appeal on this decision.
- 13.10 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.
- 13.11 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, insofar as such waiver may be validly made.
- 13.12 The seat of arbitration shall be England, the language used shall be English and the governing law of the regulations and these proceedings under Section 3 shall be English Law.
- 13.13 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.

#### 14 SUPERVISION AND FIRST AID

- 14.1 All teams will be held responsible for their players, officials and spectators.
- 14.2 It is the responsibility of each team to provide adequate first aid cover for its players and officials, which shall also be made available to the match officials on request.

#### 15 DOMESTIC GUIDANCE FOR PARTICIPATION - For further details on all areas refer to EN Domestic Rules Guidance September 2022. (ENDRG) **WILL BE AMENDED ONCE EN ISSUE UPDATED VERSION FOR SEASON 24/25**

- 15.1 Neither EN, nor the club will be held liable for any pregnant individual participating in recognised and authorised 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. (Further detail is available in the Guidance Notes). **(ENDRG – Pregnancy)**
- 15.2 All players on court should wear team uniform as registered with the MCNL. 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 World Netball Rules and EN Domestic Rules Guidance. Umpires should therefore use common sense when applying the rules. **(ENDRG – Players' Uniform)**
- 15.3 It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that they comply with the World Netball Rule 3.12. 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 15.6 relating to 'Head Coverings'. They may also choose to contain their hair in a net. ALL jewellery must be removed when playing netball and players wearing jewellery (including body piercing) will not be allowed on court. The following exceptions will apply:
- Only a wedding ring may be worn but **MUST** be taped. No engagement or other rings may be worn under taping.
  - Medic alert bracelets may be worn but must be secured in such a manner that they will not constitute a danger to an opponent, i.e. with clear tape, and in such a way that it cannot be removed/lifted off by any accidental contact.
  - Dermal piercings (that are located below the skin and cannot be easily removed) and flat religious 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. **(ENDRG – Jewellery/ adornments and medic alerts)**
- 15.4 The medical evidence regarding a Daith/Tragus piercing is only anecdotal at this time with some Doctor's 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 the CLC 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. **(ENDRG - Daith/Tragus Piercing)**

- 15.5 No form of gloves may normally be worn when playing netball. England Netball Domestic Rules Guidance September 2022 advises that in extreme weather or climatic conditions, or with a medical conditions, gloves may be worn. The CLC are to be notified in advance if a player needs to wear gloves for medical conditions. A copy of the medical certificate is to be held by the CLC and also a copy kept by the player to show to the umpire at each match. The umpire will check that the gloves conform to the supplementary guidance notes provided by England Netball in relation to gloves worn for medical reasons prior to each fixture (further detail is available in the Guidance Notes). The nails of the player will also be checked in accordance with World Netball Rule 5.1.1(iv)(c). **(ENDRG – Gloves)**
- 15.6 In order to encourage increased participation in sport, with sensitivity to religious practices and cultural differences, together with the safety of all participants:
- If head coverings or trousers need to be worn because of religious practices, the player and the coach must ensure that the material used for the head covering is soft, without embellishments which might constitute a danger to any other player on court, and with potential flowing/flapping edges held securely around the neck or tucked into the shirt collar as neatly and securely as possible.
  - Headbands that meet the requirements as above will be allowed.
  - Peaked baseball or 'tennis type' caps do not meet the requirements as above and will not be allowed. **(ENDRG – Head Coverings)**
- 15.7 As per World Netball Rule 5.1.1 (iv)(c) Fingernails shall be short and smooth. If their fingernails conform to this rule then they can participate, whether their nails are square or round. Please beware that should a player be wearing Acrylic nails which do not conform to the above, then they should not participate according to the rule. If the players Acrylic nails do conform to the rule, and they subsequently suffer damage to their nail(s) then, they participate at their own risk and they would not be covered by any England Netball Insurance.
- 15.8 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 as a player, official or coach. However, sunglasses may be worn for genuine medical reasons when participating in the MCNL. The CLC are to be notified in advance if sunglasses need to be worn for medical conditions. A copy of the medical certificate is to be held by the CLC and also a copy kept by the player/official/coach to show to the umpire at each match. **(ENDRG - Eyewear)**
- 15.9 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. **(ENDRG – Hair)**
- 15.10 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.* **(ENDRG – Medical Aids)**
- 15.11 Player monitoring devices may be worn provided they are secured within the playing uniform.