

**WESTON AND DISTRICT NETBALL LEAGUE
LEAGUE REGULATIONS**

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1. THE COMMITTEE

- 1.1 The Committee shall comprise of the following representatives;
- Chairperson
 - Treasurer
 - League Secretary
 - Umpire Secretary
 - Registration Secretary
 - Fixtures Secretary
 - Results Secretary
 - Press Officer
- 1.2 Committee Members will be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). All members will stand down each year but may offer themselves for re-election as in accordance with rule 1.3.
- 1.3 All league members are eligible for selection to the Committee, providing they:
- Offer themselves for election prior to the AGM. Existing Committee Members may make this offer verbally to the Committee. Potential Committee Members, who are not currently serving on the Committee, should complete a nomination form (which will be sent out at least 2 weeks prior to the AGM, in accordance with rule 2.3). Any nominations not received by the committee prior to the AGM will not be considered, unless a position has not been elected for at the time of the AGM.
 - Are proposed and seconded (signatures to accompany the nomination form).
 - Attend the AGM.
- 1.4 Voting for Committee Members at the AGM will be on a one team, one vote basis.
- 1.5 The full minutes of the Committee meetings will be held by the League Secretary for viewing by any individual, however, the Committee reserves the right to protect the identity of individuals and teams which may have been discussed at the meetings.
- 1.6 Any decisions made by the Committee will require a quorum of five members to be present at a meeting. The majority vote will be accepted.
- 1.7 Elected Committee Members should regularly attend Committee meetings and perform their agreed duties. The Committee has the right to submit a vote of no confidence and dismiss any member not performing in their role.
- 1.8 The Committee have the right to co-opt further Committee Members during the season in the event of an existing member resigning, or the creation of a new Committee position.

2. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

- 2.1 The Weston and District Netball League will hold their AGM in April/May. The Committee will set the date and venue, giving at least two weeks notice.
- 2.2 Each team must send a representative to the AGM. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10.00. Non-attendance of a team will render their vote null and void. Votes by proxy or post will not be accepted.
- 2.3 The agenda, details of items for discussion, voting slips for Most Sporting Team, Umpire of the Year and Clubman of the Year, and nomination forms for potential Committee Members will be sent out at least two weeks prior to the AGM. Other papers relating to the agenda may also be sent at this time.
- 2.4 Any decisions requiring a vote will be on a one team, one vote basis. The Committee has the casting vote, with the Chairperson having the casting vote within the Committee.

3. AFFILIATION

- 3.1 Each club must affiliate to the County and each player to the AENA as stipulated in the Constitution. Players are affiliated through a club or team. Once affiliated players may participate in up to four different leagues however, those players that participate in both Avon and Weston Leagues, should first affiliate through Avon and secondary affiliate through Weston League.
- 3.2 The Weston & District Netball League Chairperson will contact the Avon County Affiliations Secretary during August giving details of all clubs/teams participating in the Weston Winter League.
- 3.3 It is the team captain's responsibility to advise the Avon County Affiliations Secretary of any additional players joining the club/team during the year. Please refer to your AENA affiliation form for further details.
- 3.4 The AENA has the right to carry out spot checks throughout the year to ensure all players are affiliated. Any clubs/teams playing unaffiliated players will lose their points and goals scored for those matches. The League Registration Secretary will carry out spot checks for Avon County throughout the year.
- 3.5 Costs and membership details for affiliation are set out by the AENA.
- 3.6 Insurance for players should be paid through Avon County and is compulsory for all players except juniors.
- 3.7 Avon County Netball may charge a levy per team affiliated to AENA through the Weston & District Netball League. The costs are set out by Avon Netball league.
- 3.8 Teams may not use players that require secondary affiliation to AENA (i.e. play in another league) in the second half of the winter season (i.e. in second round matches), unless the committee has provided dispensation.
- 3.9 Affiliation issues that occur in the event of a first round match postponement should be referred to the committee prior to the match.

4. REGISTRATION

- 4.1 All players in the Weston & District Netball League must be registered to a particular team. Players can only play for the team to which they are registered, unless that team forms part of a club (c.f. 4.6.1). Teams wishing to form a club should register their intention at the beginning of the season, using the team registration form.
- 4.2 A registration fee of £3.00 per player must be paid to the Registration Secretary. Any number of players can be registered to one team.
- 4.3 A team qualifies as a youth team, if at least five players are aged 16 years or below, as at the 1st of September preceding the start of the season.
- 4.4 **Registering a Team for the Winter Season**
- Complete the "Team Registration Form" and hand it to the Registration Secretary at the Annual General Meeting, along with a non-refundable deposit for £20.00. (This is only required upon initial entry to the league.)
 - Complete the "Player Registration Form" and send to the Fixtures Secretary **before the 31st of July** preceding the start of the season. Include a fee of £3.00 per player.
- 4.5 **Registering Additional Players**
- Further registrations may be made throughout the year. However, teams cannot register any new players that require secondary affiliation to AENA (i.e. players that currently play in another league) in the second half of the winter season (second round matches) unless the committee has provided dispensation. To make additional registrations:
- Contact the Registration Secretary prior to 6.00pm on the eve of the match. Complete the "Additional Player Registration Form" and send, along with the appropriate fee (£3.00), to the Registration Secretary **within seven days** of registering a player. If the Registration Secretary is unavailable contact may be made through another Committee Member but the "Additional Player Form" and registration fee should still be sent to the Registration Secretary.
 - Team captains are reminded that it is their responsibility to affiliate new players to AENA, in accordance with rule 3.3.
 - If the Additional Player Registration Form and fee is not received within seven days, the team will be deemed to have played an unregistered player. Any team playing an unregistered player will lose points gained and goals scored.

4.6 A player may leave an existing team and join another part way through the season, providing the following conditions apply;

4.6.1 In the event of players moving between teams that form part of a recognised club (cf. 4.2):

- Players from a lower division team may play for a higher division team. However, once that player has played two matches in the higher division team then they are deemed to be a member of that team. The team captain should then notify the registrations secretary using the additional player registration form. No fee is payable.
- It would be deemed against the spirit of the game for a player to play in a lower team in order to strengthen that team.

4.6.2 In the event of players moving between teams that **do not** form part of a recognised club (cf. 4.2):

- Players should apply in writing to the Committee. The player will only be eligible to take to the court with her new team once written confirmation is received from the Committee Chairperson. The Committee reserves the right to approach the teams involved for relevant information, prior to making a decision. On gaining confirmation from the Committee the player will be required to re-register with the new team and pay a further registration fee.
- players may only make one transfer during any one season
- Players whose team has completed their matches for a season may not transfer to a new team until the season is complete.
- Players moving to a new team in another division will forfeit any nominations for 'player of the match'.

4.7 Registering a Team for the Summer League:

- Complete the "Summer League Registration Form" and hand it to the Fixtures Secretary at the Annual General Meeting.
- Include a non-refundable deposit of £10 per team.

4.8 During the Summer League only, players may play for any team, at any time. However, all players participating in the Summer League must be affiliated to AENA in accordance with rule 3.

5. MATCHES

- 5.1 All matches will be played on Wednesday nights on dates arranged by the Fixtures Secretary, unless otherwise stated. All matches will be played indoors. Two matches will be played at Wyvern School, Broadoak School and Priory School each week. Matches will start at either 7.00pm and 8.30pm, or 6.30pm and 8.00pm.
- 5.2 Matches will consist of four, 15 minute quarters (one hour matches), with a two minute interval between the first and second and third and fourth quarters and five minutes at half time. It is the umpire's responsibility to time the intervals. Matches will be governed by current AENA rules.
- 5.3 Match fees will be £20.00 for a senior team and £14.00 for a youth team. Each team will be required to pay match fees on invoice at the end of January and by the AGM. Late payments will result in teams being fined £10.00. Teams will not be allowed to play any further matches until payment is received and all points previously gained and goals scored will be lost.
- 5.4 Points will be awarded as follows:
- 5 points for a win
 - 3 points for a draw
 - 2 points for achieving within 5 goals (inclusive)
 - 1 point for achieving within 50% of the winning teams final score (inclusive).
- 5.5 Both teams must complete a "Results and Nominated Player Form" and either post or hand it to the Results Secretary, to be received by the Wednesday following the match. **If the Results Form is not received then the team will lose the points gained.** Missing points will be shown on the league tables. In the event of a match postponement or cancellation both teams should still complete the "Results and Nominated Player Form". To secure an entry in the Weston Mercury, the Publicity Officer should receive the results and match report no later than the Sunday following the match.
- 5.6 Players will take to the court once both umpires are present and play will start provided both teams have five or more players. However, extra time allowance may be given for players who have been umpiring at a different venue. Teams MUST take to the court with five players. In the event that there are less than five players present, the following shall apply (as in accordance with AENA Rule 21 (Sept 1998)):
- **At the beginning of a game:** a maximum period of five minutes shall be allowed for at least five players of a team to arrive. If, at the end of this time, there are fewer than five players present, the game shall be awarded to the non-offending team.
 - **At an interval:** the umpire shall instruct the teams to take the court 30 seconds before the end of the interval. If a team fails to take to the court at the end of this time, the umpire shall give a one minute warning and require the team to take the court within that time. If a team fails to take the court within the final minute warning, the game shall be awarded to the non-offending team.

- 5.7 If there is a valid reason why the absent team were late than they should put this in writing to the Committee, who will decide if a re-match should take place.
- 5.8 In the event of only one umpire being present the match will be postponed. The team captains should contact the League Chairperson and a timeframe for replaying the match will be given. **TEAMS MUST STILL FULFIL THEIR UMPIRING OBLIGATIONS.**
- 5.9 Postponements are only allowed at the discretion of the Committee Chairperson. Teams should first obtain agreement from the opposing team, before contacting the Committee Chairperson, in writing, by the Saturday prior to the match. The timeframe for replaying the match will be given; however, the teams must make their own court and umpire arrangements to replay the match. The team postponing the match should also contact both umpires. Both teams must also complete a "Results and Nominated Player Form". **TEAMS MUST STILL FULFIL THEIR UMPIRING OBLIGATIONS.**
- 5.10 If teams cancel any of their matches the Captain is responsible for contacting the other team captain, the two umpires and the Chairperson. Both teams must also complete a "Results and Nominated Player Form". Points will be automatically awarded to the non-offending team. A cancellation fee will be charged to cover court costs. **TEAMS MUST STILL FULFIL THEIR UMPIRING OBLIGATIONS.**
- 5.11 The committee reserves the right to postpone or cancel matches due to unforeseen circumstances or poor weather conditions. In this event the Committee will advise the teams and umpires by 5.30pm on the day of the match. Matches will be re-arranged at the end of the season.
- 5.12 All umpiring decisions are final. The team captains have the right to approach an umpire during an interval or after the game for clarification of any rule as in accordance with AENA Rule 3.5.2 (Sept, 1998).
- 5.13 Registered playing uniforms must be worn at all times. No black soled shoes that mark surfaces. Umpires have the right to prevent a player taking to the court if improperly dressed.
- 5.14 No jewellery (including any body piercing) or sharp adornments to be worn, except wedding rings, which must be taped. Fingernails must be short. The umpire has the right to ask any player to remove jewellery or cut nails before taking to the court. Shoulder length hair should be tied back.

6. DISCIPLINE

- 6.1 Teams are reminded that they are responsible for their players. Rough or dangerous play, verbal or physical intimidation, misconduct or other inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to AENA's discipline code.

7. INJURIES

- 7.1 All injuries should be reported to the venue immediately and details entered into their accident book. Insurance claims may be declined if this does not happen.
- 7.2 An injury stoppage time of two minutes is allowed (AENA Rule 7.1 (Sept, 1998)). It is the umpire's responsibility to time the injury break.
- 7.3 To make an insurance claim contact Avon County Affiliation Secretary for the appropriate forms.

8. UMPIRES AND UMPIRING

- 8.1 Each team must supply an appropriately qualified umpire (Premier Division; C award, Divisions 1 & 2; Beginners Award) to officiate at their designated matches as shown on the fixture list. Failure to do so will result in loss of deposit and the team will incur all the expenses of the rearranged match. The deposit must be repaid by the date stipulated by the League Chairperson to enable the team to continue playing in the league.
 - 8.1.1 Second and subsequent offences of failing to provide an umpire will result in loss of points. Persistent offenders may face suspension from the league.
 - 8.1.2 A team who is unable to fulfil their umpiring commitment must notify the relevant teams and umpires by 6pm on the eve of the match.
- 8.2 Teams who do not have an appropriately qualified umpire registered to their team may use the pool umpires to fulfil their umpiring obligations. However, if no effort is made to attend courses or take umpiring tests then that team may face demotion to a lower division and/or lose points. Teams should enter the names of their registered umpires and qualifications on their team registration form.
- 8.3 In the event of only one umpire being present the match will be postponed. The team captains should contact the League Chairperson as stipulated in 5.9.
- 8.4 Umpires should wear clothes distinct from players and preferably white or cream in colour. Suitable shoes should also be worn (AENA Rule 3.1.5 (Sept, 1998)).
- 8.5 Any comments or complaints about umpires or umpiring should be made to the Umpiring Secretary and will be dealt with on an individual basis.
- 8.6 Each Team must provide expenses at the rate of £10 per match to their nominated Umpire.
- 8.7 Each Team in the Premier Division must also provide an official scorer to accompany the umpire. There must be two scorers at each match.

9. GENERAL

9.1 Rules of Promotion and Relegation

- 9.1.1 At the end of each season a minimum of two teams will be promoted and two teams demoted. In the event of teams dropping out and new teams entering the league the Committee reserves the right to re-evaluate the number of teams in each division.
- 9.1.2 At the end of the season, any teams with equal points who are involved in promotion or relegation will play a match with neutral umpires on a day arranged by the Committee.

9.2 Unsporting Behaviour

- 9.2.1 If teams feel that they have been subjected to unsporting behaviour, team captains should contact the Committee, who will investigate the matter.

9.3 Best Defence Trophy

The Trophy will be awarded to the team allowing the least number of goals scored throughout the season, based on a pro rata system for the number of games played.

9.4 Rule Amendments/Additions

- 9.4.1 The Committee will endeavour to make amendments or additions to the rules at the AGM unless circumstances do not allow this. The Committee reserves the right to make any decision, amendment or additional rules to the constitution within the spirit of the game.
- 9.4.2 From September 2005 all previous Rules and Regulations of the League are hereby revoked.

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