



## Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy

Taken from the England Netball Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy Guidance

file:///C:/Users/FionaLawson/Downloads/Gender%20Eligibility%20&%20Participation%20Policy%20Guidance%20(1).pdf

The Equality Act 2010 allows sports organisations to restrict or prohibit participation by transgender people in activities where the sport is gender-affected.

- Any restrictions can only be made to ensure fair competition or the safety of competitors
- All sports organisations need to have an evidence- based approach to making any decisions on whether the sport is gender-affected

The unique heritage of netball lies in its creation as a sport for women and girls, and England Netball know the vital role the sport continues to play in bridging the gender participation gap in sport.

### We're a Netball League

England Netball states "Netball Leagues enable competitive netball opportunities for thousands of people on a regular basis. Competition regulations often define who is eligible to play"

- Registered Netball Leagues are required to operate in line with the Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy as part of Recognised & Authorised netball activity. This policy serves as a minimum operating standard.
- Within the Competition regulations, leagues should stipulate who is eligible to play. The eligibility must include membership, age, and gender as a minimum.
- There should be a consistent approach for managing compliance and sanctions for all categories of eligibility not just gender

### WCNL Eligibility

	FEMALE Category	MALE Category	MIXED Category
Female at birth Age 14 years+ EN Membership	Eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible

# WORCESTER CITY NETBALL LEAGUE



- Only individuals who meet the eligibility criteria be included on the team registration sheet as a player
- All WCNL competitions (winter league, summer league and tournaments) is in the female category as per the EN Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy
- All players must be 14 years and over – clubs/teams with players under 18 must meet the WCNL rules (7.9.1) and safeguarding policy
- Any player who takes to court without meeting the eligibility criteria will be defined as an ineligible player and the club/team will be sanctioned in line with rule 19
- If during the play there is a complaint or concern relating to eligibility and the playing of an ineligible player, the Team Captain must do the following;
  - Respectfully inform the Team Captain of the opponents and the umpires of the nature of the complaint/concern
  - Mark the scoresheet with the words “under protest”
  - Send the marked scoresheet to the WCNL Fixtures Secretary ([fixtureswcnl@gmail.com](mailto:fixtureswcnl@gmail.com)) and attach a letter to the scoresheet to explain the eligibility concerns
- This will then be investigated by WCNL Committee in line with their complaints policy