



Worcester City Netball League Rules 2026/2027 Edition

1) Definitions, Interpretation & Governance

- 1.1) These rules have been adopted to best meet the needs of the WCNL. Where no rule or accompanying policy exists, England Netball (“EN”) and World Netball (“WN”) rules apply.
- 1.2) These Rules must be read in conjunction with the WCNL Policies. All policy documents are available on the WCNL website.
 - 1.2(a) Breach of any of the respective WCNL Policies will be treated in the same way as a breach of these Rules, and the sanctions outlined in the following will apply at the discretion of the WCNL Committee.
 - 1.2(b) Where there is inconsistency between a WCNL Policy and these Rules, interpretation and clarity is to be provided by the WCNL Committee on the matter.
- 1.3) All Rules will be upheld by the WCNL Committee, who have been elected by the registered participants of the WCNL. The WCNL Committee will ensure the needs and interests of all members are dealt with equally and fairly.
- 1.4) The Rules will, unless otherwise stated, utilise the following definitions:

‘WCNL’	Meaning the Worcester City Netball League.
‘the League(s)’	Referring to the WCNL Winter League and/or WCNL Summer League respectively.
‘WCNL Committee/ the Committee’	As outlined in the WCNL Constitution, available on the WCNL Website, and to consist of the position referred to there.
‘Affiliation Year’	From September 1 st of a year, the August 31 st of the next.
‘Club’	An affiliated organisation governing multiple teams. Where a team acts independently and is not governed by a broader organisation, they are also a Club for the purposes of these Rules.
‘Regional Player’	Any netball player in the following leagues within the specified timeframes: a) Any division of an EN Women’s Senior Regional League (such as West Midlands Netball Senior Regional League) within the same Affiliation Year; or b) The premiership division of the England Men’s & Mixed Netball Association (“EMMNA”) National League within the previous or current Affiliation Year.



‘Elite Player’

Any player who has been named to, or competed with, the following teams or programmes:

- a) EN Premier League and its divisions;
- b) NxtGen League;
- c) Under 19s Roses Pathway
- d) Netball Super League

- 1.5) The organisation and structure of the WCNL, including the number and composition of divisions and teams placed therein, is at the total discretion of the Committee, and will be outlined in the WCNL Competition Structure Policy.
- 1.6) The WCNL Committee reserves the right to issue guidance to participants in the WCNL throughout the season if required, including but not limited to umpires, players, coaches, and spectators. Guidance issued by the WCNL Committee is to be followed as far as practicable in the context of the situation in which it is being applied.

2) League Structure

- 2.1) League divisions will be decided at the discretion of the Committee.
 - 2.1(a) Any new teams entering either League will be reviewed prior to entry and will be placed into the appropriate division provided that there is a place vacant in that position.
 - 2.1(b) Teams are responsible for informing the WCNL Fixtures Secretary of any alteration which may affect their divisional placings (e.g. amalgamations). Abuse of this rule, determined by the WCNL Committee, will result in:
 - 2.1(b)(i) Re-assessment of the offending team’s divisional placing; and
 - 2.1(b)(ii) Re-assessment of the offending team’s re-entry into the League.
- 2.2) Points will be awarded to each team following a fixture as per the following:
 - 2.2(a) A winning team will be awarded 5 (five) points; or
 - 2.2(b) Both teams will be 3 (three) points for a draw; or
 - 2.2(c) A losing team will be awarded 2 (two) points for a loss within 5 (five) goals or less of the winning score; or
 - 2.2(d) A losing team will be awarded 1 (one) point for a loss if 50% of the winning score was achieved.
- 2.3) In the event of teams finishing on equal table points at the end of the League, goal difference will determine the final placings.
- 2.4) The number of divisions in both Leagues of the WCNL will depend on entries to each League and will be decided by the Committee.

3) Eligibility and Registration

- 3.1) All players and umpires who are to participate in the WCNL must be affiliated online using ENgage, including having affiliation paid for, prior to the participating in a WCNL fixture. Players paying by direct debit must provide a screenshot of proof of registration as they will show as not affiliated until the 1st payment is taken.

WORCESTER CITY NETBALL LEAGUE



Version 1

- 3.1(a) A copy of the team player lists must be sent to the WCNL Fixtures Secretary prior to the first match of the season.
 - 3.1(a)(i) Teams must notify the WCNL Fixtures Secretary, in writing, of any players who they intend to name to their team prior to that player's first fixture and provide evidence of their completed affiliation. This applies whether joining prior to the League or after it has commenced. Further, this applies to first and second claim players.
 - 3.1(a)(ii) It is a Team/Club's responsibility to ensure that their players are compliant with affiliation and registration rules. This will be checked via spot checks throughout the season to ensure compliance.
- 3.2) A Regional Player may only be named to a WCNL Team in Division 1 or above. No Regional Player may be named to a Team competing in Division 2 of the WCNL Leagues or below.
- 3.3) No Elite Player shall be named to any Team within the WCNL.
- 3.4) A Club may write to the Committee with evidence and reasons as to why they believe a Regional or Elite player should be categorised differently. The Committee has discretion over the outcome of such a request. The player concerned may not participate until the determination of the request by the Committee.
- 3.5) A Club may not make a request under Rule 3.4 if the following circumstances have taken place. Any request in those circumstances must be submitted in line with the WCNL Appeal Process:
 - 3.5(a) That player has already competed in the current WCNL League;
 - 3.5(b) A complaint has been received by the WCNL Committee regarding the ineligibility of said player;
 - 3.5(c) The Committee has already issued sanctions in respect of a breach of Rule 3.3 and/or 3.4 regarding that player.
- 3.6) All Teams must have a minimum of 7 (seven) players to be in the WCNL. A squad may only have a maximum of 12 (twelve) players on a fixture score sheet for each game.
- 3.7) Transfer of players between clubs after the start of a season must be requested in writing to the General Secretary and will be considered by the Committee. Approval must be received from the Committee before the transfer is considered complete, and the player is permitted to play for their new Club in the WCNL.
- 3.8) A Player is assigned to a WCNL division in the following ways:
 - 3.8(a) Where a player has not been listed on a registration sheet upon the allocation of teams to divisions that player will be allocated to the division in which they play their first game
 - 3.8(b) Where a Player has been listed on a registration sheet upon the allocation of teams to divisions, that Player is allocated to the division of the team whose Player Sheet they are named, regardless of whether they have played a fixture for that Team yet.
- 3.9) A Club with two or more teams competing in a WCNL League must abide by the following when moving players between Club teams:
 - 3.9(a) A Club with two or more teams will not play players from a higher division to a lower division.
 - 3.9(b) A Club with two or more teams will not play players between teams who are in the same division.



- 3.9(c) A Club with two or more teams may play players from a lower division into a higher division on a maximum of two occasions, an occasion being any part of a match. They must be indicated on the result card by using the initials 'PU'. On the third occasion with a higher division team, that player may not return to any other lower division team, and they will be deemed to have chosen to play with that team for the rest of the season.
- 3.10) Each team or club entering WCNL requires a named Club Safeguarding Officer as per England Netball requirements. The Club Safeguarding Officer must be named when a team or club affiliates to WCNL and their details are to be shared on all league entry forms. All clubs/teams must adhere to the WCNL Safeguarding Policy.
- 3.11) Players cannot play in WCNL until they reach their 14th birthday. Individual teams have a duty of care for players Under 18. The Committee must be notified of any players that are under 14 that it is anticipated will play for a team once they turn 14.
- 3.12) All teams who enter the WCNL must have a suitably qualified umpire (as per the Umpiring Policy) recorded on their league entry form and available to umpire for them throughout the season.

4) Umpiring and Umpire Procedures

- 4.1) Umpires should follow the Umpiring Policy at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, completing pre-match checks to ensure:
 - 4.1(a) The fingernails of all players are cut short and are smooth.
 - 4.1(b) No jewellery, adornments or accessories are worn by players, and that any wedding rings are suitably taped.
 - 4.1(c) No player is chewing any substance.
 - 4.1(d) Medical aids are suitably secure, evidenced by a doctor's letter where required, and that glucose monitors are secured with tape and covered.
- 4.2) All games in the WCNL will be scored by the umpires. In exceptional circumstances and only with the prior approval of the WCNL Committee, may scorers be used in games.
- 4.3) All umpires must be over the age of 18 as of 31st August of the affiliation year.
 - 4.3(a) Any qualified umpire not over the age of 18 as of 1st September of the affiliation year who wishes to umpire within the WCNL must submit a request in writing to the Umpiring Secretary and this will be considered by the Committee. Approval must be received from the Committee prior to umpiring in the WCNL.
- 4.4) It is the responsibility of the coach or captains to approach the umpires, prior to the commencement of a match, to determine the area of the field of play or court surround to be designated for the designated coach and up to 5 (five) additional players on the team bench.
- 4.5) Supporters will be given a designated area, set by the umpire, where they are permitted. Umpires are empowered to ask supporters to move if they are not in an appropriate area of the court surround, field of play, or playing enclosure.



5) Club, Team and Fixture requirements

- 5.1) All league games must be started with allocated umpires, and the number of players present at the time on the fixtures. Failure to play the game due to lack of players or an allocated umpire will result in the non-offending team claiming 5 (five) points from the offending team. Games can be played with a minimum of 5 (five) players per team.
- 5.2) If a team does not turn up to play, their opponents must claim the points within three days of the fixture by submitting a score sheet and stating reason.
 - 5.2(a) Teams conceding matches will be deemed to have lost the game by 20 (twenty) goals and will be deducted 5 (five) points. Failure to comply will trigger Rule 6.6.
- 5.3) All matches are to be played on the date/time stated on the fixtures. Any revisions to the fixtures will only be decided by the Committee.
- 5.4) If a team concedes more than two games within one season, then this will be alerted to and discussed by the Committee, which may result in a penalty being imposed.
- 5.5) Umpiring fees are the discretion of each team where a match is conceded.
- 5.6) Teams unable to fulfil a fixture other than in extreme circumstances must advise a member of the opposition within a timely manner personally (i.e. not by leaving a message and not via the divisional WhatsApp groups) as soon as possible prior to the match. If this has not been possible then a member of the team cancelling the match must turn up at the venue.
- 5.7) Any team cancelling a fixture will be liable for all initial venue costs (please refer to Cancellation Policy for further information). Umpires' costs remain an arrangement between each team as usual.
- 5.8) Postponement of matches due to severe weather conditions, where games have not been cancelled in advance by the Committee, that may affect the safety of the players will rest with the umpires and captains. The final decision rests with umpires.
- 5.9) If after commencement of the third quarter games are abandoned due to severe weather conditions the score at that time will stand. The decision to abandon rests with umpires and captains. The final decision rests with umpires.
- 5.10) Result cards must be received by the Fixture Secretary within 3 (**three**) days of the fixture date. The home team provides the score sheet, but each team should submit a copy of the fully completed score sheet. Should neither copy be received or not fully completed then the match will be void. Club Affiliation number and players' full First and Surname (as per their affiliation) **MUST** be printed on the score sheets.
- 5.11) A team representative from each team currently entered into any WCNL competition must be in attendance at the Annual General Meeting. The penalty for not attending will be a fine of £25.00. If a team fails to attend the AGM but have won a winner/runner up prize this will be honoured.
- 5.12) Each team entering the WCNL must designate a Treasurer and Team Captain within their team, who will be responsible for payments to the WCNL. Name to be submitted on the WCNL entry form. The designated treasurer and Team Captain will be held responsible for any monies outstanding.



6) Conduct and Discipline

- 6.1) Teams must adhere to the WCNL Kit Policy.
- 6.2) No affiliated member of the WCNL shall use social media as a means of bringing any individuals, players, umpires, teams or the WCNL into disrepute. Any breach of this rule brought to the WCNL Committee's attention will be deliberated by the WCNL Disciplinary Committee.
- 6.3) Any player that is sent off under the Game Management rules repeatedly, being more than twice, will be reported to the WCNL Committee. The decision to impose a penalty, and what penalty of the WCNL Committee. Please refer to the Umpiring Policy.
- 6.4) All affiliated members and any spectators shall uphold the aims, objectives, ethos, and all Rules and Policies of WCNL at all times. Any instances of unacceptable conduct that is brought to the WCNL Committee's attention will be deliberated by the WCNL Committee, at which point the decision to impose a penalty, and what that penalty will consist of, will be at the WCNL Committee's discretion.
- 6.5) No dog shall be brought onto grounds where a WCNL fixture or competition is being held by any spectator, player, umpire or other party at any time, in line with venue rules.
- 6.6) Teams and the Umpires of teams who do not comply or break any of the WCNL Rules of associated policies during a fixture will have their points deducted for that affected game.
 - 6.6(a) Teams and Umpires of Teams who breach engage Rule 6.6 repeatedly, being more than twice, in a League will have their total points at the end of the season halved.
 - 6.6(b) Subsequent offences beyond Rule 6.6(a) will be dealt with by the WCNL Disciplinary Committee.
- 6.7) Any team withdrawing from the leagues will be fined a minimum of £25.00 plus any already incurred fees which is payable upon withdrawing and must accompany the notification of withdrawal.
 - 6.7(a) Teams withdrawing may not be allowed in the same division the following season and will be assessed prior to entry.
 - 6.7(b) All matches played up to the time of withdrawal will be made void so as not to give advantage.
 - 6.7(c) Any players from a team withdrawing from the league that owes money to the league will not be permitted to play in any other team until the outstanding money is paid in full. This will be at the discretion of the Committee.
- 6.8) Invoices must be settled in full by the date stated on the invoice, failure to do so will result in an 8% surcharge being added. Any refunds or invoice amendments will be made by the committee at the end of the season. See WCNL Finance Policy.
- 6.9) All outstanding monies owed to WCNL by a team must be paid in full prior to the team entering the next season.