



WORCESTER CITY NETBALL LEAGUE RULES 2018/19

LEAGUE RULES – AFFILIATED AND GOVERNED BY THE INTERNATIONAL NETBALL FEDERATION (INF) RULES OF NETBALL

ALL RULES WILL BE UPHELD BY A COMMITTEE WHO HAVE BEEN ELECTED BY THE REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS WHO WILL ENSURE THAT THE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF ALL MEMBERS ARE DEALT WITH EQUALLY AND FAIRLY.

THE WINTER AND SUMMER LEAGUES WILL OPERATE WITHIN THE OFFICIAL NETBALL SEASON, WHICH RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER 1ST TO AUGUST 31ST. BOTH LEAGUES WILL BE OPEN TO NETBALL TEAMS THAT HAVE BEEN FORMED FROM THE REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS OF THEIR CLUB.

1. The number of divisions should depend upon the entries to the League.
2. New teams entering the League may be assessed prior to entry and may be placed in the appropriate division providing that there is a place vacant in that division.
 - 2.1. League divisions will be decided at the discretion of the Committee. Teams are responsible for informing the Fixtures secretary of any alteration which may affect their divisional placings, i.e. amalgamations. Abuse of this rule will result in re-assessment of their present divisional position and re-entry to the league.
3. Points awarded to each team will be:-
5 (five) points for a win, 3(three) points for a draw, 2(two) points if 5 (five) goals or less of winning score and 1(one) if 50% of winning score was achieved. In the event of equal points the goal difference will determine the end result.
4. Both teams to provide coloured bibs with position letters on front and back, netball for the match that fulfils INF regulations, being provided by the home team and approved by the umpires.
5. All Premier to Division three teams must have a qualified INF Into Officiating or above umpire to umpire for them throughout the season. All other divisions must have a match fit INF Into Officiating (or in training) umpire, to umpire for them throughout the season. Umpires cannot be substituted during a match unless through illness or injury.
 - 5.1 All umpires must be affiliated to INF through a club or as an individual and be over the age of 18 at 31st August of the affiliation year. Membership can be obtained directly through INF on-line.
 - 5.2 Umpires must check the finger nails of all players. Finger nails must be cut short as per INF ruling and NO JEWELLERY/ADORNMENTS/ACCESSORIES to be worn. If wedding rings are worn they must be taped. The chewing of any substance will not be permitted during a match. T-shirts/uniforms of the same colour must be worn at all times during matches. Teams will be observed during the playing season and any abuse of the INF ruling will incur a fine. Please also refer to INF rules. Umpires must adhere to INF rules regarding dress.
6. Prior to commencement of a match, it is the responsibility of the coach or captains to approach the umpires to determine the area of the court to be designated for the qualified coach and 5 (five) additional players of each team and supporters. Should this not be the case then the umpire will designate the area to be used.
7. All players have to be affiliated on line and paid for prior to playing. A copy of the MyNET affiliation receipt Must be sent to the fixtures secretary prior to the first match of every season. For any subsequent players either affiliated or 2nd claim throughout the season, the receipt must be submitted to the fixtures secretary prior to their first match.
 - 7.1 Teams shall have a minimum of 7 (seven) players upon entry to the leagues plus a qualified umpire.
 - 7.2 Transfer of players between teams after the start of a season must be requested in writing to General Secretary and will be considered by Committee.



- 7.3 A Club with two or more teams may play a lower division team player to higher division team(s) a maximum of 2 (two) occasions. On the 3rd (third) occasion with any higher division team that player may not return to any other team. Any part of a match constitutes 'an occasion'. The match played after the 2nd occasion will be deemed as the team that player has chosen to play with for the rest of the season. This must be indicated by using the initials 'PU' on the result card.
- 7.4 A Club with two or more teams will not play players from a higher division to a lower division.
- 7.5 A Club with two or more teams cannot play players between teams who are in the same division.
- 7.6 A player affiliated within the current INF year playing in the Senior Regional and National Clubs League may only play in Division 2 and higher.
- 7.7 The maximum number of players that can be played up, on any occasion, in any match, for a higher division team game is 3 (three). Therefore, at least 4 players on court at any time must be players that are registered for that team.
- 7.8 Individual teams have a duty of care for players Under 18 and must have written parental/carer consent, if an age banding form is required, before participating in league matches.
- 7.9 All teams/clubs with any players under the age of 18 must have a named, suitably qualified safeguarding officer.
8. All league games **MUST** be started with the number of players present at the allocated time on the fixtures. Failure to play the game due to lack of players must 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.
9. 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. The offending team will incur all costs (court fees and umpiring) which can be claimed for by the non-offending team directly from the offending team.
10. All matches to be played on the date stated on the fixtures. If in extreme circumstances a team is unable to honour a fixture on the arranged date and if their opponents and Fixtures Secretary agree, they may play the game by 31st August (Summer League), or the game will be void. Should the teams not agree, the original team unable to play must concede the game and be deducted 5 (five) points.
- 10.1 Teams unable to fulfil a fixture other than in extreme circumstances must advise a member of the opposition **PERSONALLY** (i.e. NOT by leaving a message) 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. Penalty as in rule 10.
- 10.2 Postponement of matches due to severe weather conditions that may affect the safety of the players will rest with the umpires and captains. Final decision rests with umpires. Should they agree to postpone a match the Fixtures Secretary must be notified in writing by the home team. All postponed matches must be played by the 31st August (Summer League). In the event of both teams not being able to agree on a rematch date the committee will set the rematch date.
- 10.3 If after commencement of third quarter games are abandoned due to severe weather conditions the score at that time will stand. Decision to abandon rests with umpires and captains. Final decision rests with umpires.
- 10.4 Teams entering competitive netball games/tournaments outside Worcester League which may affect their fixtures must notify fixtures secretary in writing prior to the commencement of the appropriate league. Players representing regions or national squad must notify the Fixtures Secretary in writing. Otherwise games must be fulfilled.
11. Result cards must be received by the Fixture Secretary, within **3** days of the fixture date. Home team to provide the score sheet, but each team to send in one copy of the fully completed sheet. Should neither copy be received or not fully completed then the match will be void. Club Affiliation number and players' full Christian and Surname **MUST** be printed on the score sheets.



12. Team representation must be made at the Annual General Meeting. Penalty for not doing so will be a fine of £25.00.
13. Any team withdrawing from the leagues will be fined a minimum of £25.00 payable upon withdrawing and must accompany the notification of withdrawal. Teams withdrawing may not be allowed in the same division the following season and will be assessed prior to entry. All matches played up to the time of withdrawal will be made void so as not to give advantage.
14. Each team should designate a person within their team responsible for payments to the WCNL. Name and signature to be submitted on the WCNL entry form. In the event of no name being put forward the Club Secretary will be held responsible for any monies outstanding.
15. All outstanding monies owed to WCNL must be paid in full 2 weeks prior to the start of the next season. A team with outstanding monies at this date will not be permitted to enter the next season. It will therefore be deemed that withdrawal is being made by the offending team and rule 13 will apply.
16. Invoices sent to teams must be paid in full. Any refunds or invoice amendments will be made by the committee at the end of the season.
17. Under no circumstances should any affiliated member of WCNL use social media as a means of bringing any individuals, players, umpires, teams or the league into disrepute. If any such conduct is brought to the league's attention the associated person/s will be put to the league's disciplinary committee.
18. Teams who do not comply with any WCNL Rule will have their total points gained at the end of the season halved. Any subsequent offence will be dealt with by the disciplinary committee.