



AGM Process & Rule Change Policy

1. Purpose

This policy sets out the process by which Worcester City Netball League (WCNL) considers and agrees amendments to its League Rules and Policies and manages those matters through its Annual General Meeting (AGM). The purpose of this policy is to ensure that:

- all affiliated teams and members have the opportunity to propose changes;
- teams are consulted on proposed League Rule changes;
- all suggestions and feedback are properly considered;
- decisions are made consistently and in the interests of the League as a whole; and
- there is a clear distinction between consultation, Committee decision-making and matters requiring a wider team vote

2. Governance Principle

The WCNL Committee is responsible for the effective management and operation of the League. The Committee has oversight of the League as a whole and receives feedback, complaints and queries throughout the year from teams, players, umpires and other relevant parties. This enables the Committee to identify recurring issues and consider the wider implications of proposed changes across all teams and divisions. Individual teams may understandably experience or view a Rule differently according to their own circumstances. The Committee's responsibility is to consider the effect upon the League as a whole, including fairness, consistency, practicality and enforceability. For this reason, affiliated teams are **consulted** on proposed League Rule changes, whilst responsibility for reaching a decision rests with the Committee where a clear Committee majority can be achieved. Where the Committee cannot reach a majority decision, the matter will be referred to affiliated teams for a vote at the AGM.

3. Proposing Changes

Any affiliated team, member or Committee member may submit a proposed amendment to a WCNL League Rule or Policy **at any time throughout the year**. Proposals should be submitted in writing to the Committee and, where applicable, should include:

- the existing Rule or Policy
- the proposed amendment
- the reason for the proposed change and
- any relevant information supporting the proposal

All suggestions received will be considered by the Committee. The Committee may also propose changes arising from complaints, feedback, recurring issues or circumstances identified through the operation of the League.

4. Policy Changes

WCNL Policies support the administration, governance and effective operation of the League. Policies will be reviewed and may be introduced, amended or withdrawn by the Committee **throughout the year where appropriate**. Any suggestions received from teams or members regarding Policies will be considered by the Committee. Where a proposed Policy change would conflict with or require an amendment to the WCNL Constitution, the Constitution will take precedence, and the appropriate constitutional amendment process must be followed.

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5. League Rule Changes

Unlike Policies, amendments to the WCNL League Rules will only be made **once annually as part of the AGM process**. Proposed Rule changes may arise from:

- suggestions submitted by teams or members
- suggestions submitted by Committee members
- complaints or feedback received during the year
- recurring issues identified during the season
- umpiring or match-related issues
- ambiguity or difficulties applying an existing Rule or
- changes considered necessary for the fair and effective operation of the League

The Committee will initially review all proposed changes and determine the amendments to be put forward for consultation.

6. Consultation with Teams

Proposed amendments to the League Rules will be circulated to all affiliated teams as part of the annual AGM process. Teams will be given **28 days** to review the proposed amendments and submit:

- comments
- objections
- alternative wording
- suggested amendments or
- any other relevant feedback

The consultation is intended to provide teams with a meaningful opportunity to contribute before the Committee reaches its final decision. **The absence of comments or objections from a team will not be treated as a vote in favour of, or formal agreement to, a proposed Rule change.** It will simply mean that the team has not submitted any comments or objections during the consultation period.

7. Consideration Following Consultation

At the end of the 28-day consultation period, the Committee will consider all feedback received. In reaching its decision, the Committee will consider matters including:

- comments and objections received from teams
- the original reason for the proposed change
- complaints and issues experienced during the year
- fairness and consistency across the League
- impact upon teams, players and umpires
- practicality and enforceability
- interaction with other League Rules and
- any potential unintended consequences

The Committee may amend the wording of a proposed Rule following consultation where feedback identifies a need for clarification or improvement.

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8. Committee Vote

Following consultation and consideration of all feedback, eligible Committee members will vote upon each proposed Rule change. Each eligible Committee member will have one vote. A proposed Rule change will be:

- **Approved** – where a majority of eligible Committee members vote in favour
- **Rejected** – where a majority of eligible Committee members vote against.
- **Referred to the AGM for a team vote** – where the Committee is unable to reach a majority decision

Committee members must not vote on an issue relating specifically to their own team where they have a pecuniary interest, in accordance with the WCNL Constitution. Committee voting outcomes will be formally recorded.

9. Team Vote at the AGM

Where the Committee has been unable to reach a majority decision on a proposed League Rule change, the matter will be referred to affiliated teams for a vote at the AGM. Each affiliated team will have **one vote**. Committee members will **not receive an additional vote in their capacity as Committee members**, as they will already have considered and voted upon the proposal during the Committee decision-making stage. Where a Committee member is also the authorised representative of an affiliated team, they may exercise that team's vote on behalf of the team but will not receive a separate Committee vote on the same matter. A simple majority of team votes cast will determine the outcome. In the event of an equal team vote, the proposed change will not be carried and the existing Rule will remain in place.

10. Communication of Decisions

Following completion of the annual Rule review process:

- approved Rule changes will be communicated to all affiliated teams
- rejected changes will not be implemented
- where a proposal was originally submitted by a team or member, they will be advised of the outcome
- where appropriate, the Committee will provide an explanation for significant decisions
- the updated League Rules will be circulated and/or published

Approved League Rule changes will take effect from the AGM unless a different implementation date is specifically stated.

11. Annual General Meeting

The WCNL AGM will be held on the **first Monday in September each year**. Notification of the AGM will be provided at least **28 days in advance**. Registration will be at the documented start time, any teams who are not present for registration will be deemed a no show. The AGM agenda will identify any proposed League Rule changes which require a team vote because the Committee was unable to reach a majority decision. Any proposed amendments to the WCNL Constitution will be identified separately and dealt with in accordance with the Constitution.

12. Constitutional Amendments

The WCNL Constitution is the governing document of the League and takes precedence over this Policy and the League Rules. Amendments to the Constitution cannot be made through the Rule or Policy amendment procedures contained within this Policy.



13. Transparency & Accountability

WCNL is committed to ensuring that its decision-making process is open, fair and understandable.

The Committee will therefore ensure that:

- teams and members can propose Rule and Policy changes throughout the year
- all suggestions received are considered
- Policies may be amended throughout the year where appropriate
- League Rules are only amended annually as part of the AGM process
- proposed Rule changes are circulated to all affiliated teams
- teams have 28 days to provide feedback or suggest amendments
- consultation responses are considered before final decisions are made
- a lack of response is **not** treated as agreement or approval
- Committee decisions and voting outcomes are recorded
- matters on which the Committee cannot reach a majority are referred to teams for a vote at the AGM

This process is intended to balance meaningful involvement and consultation with affiliated teams with the Committee's responsibility to consider the needs, fairness and effective operation of WCNL as a whole.

14. Policy Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually by the WCNL Committee to ensure that it remains clear, fair, transparent and consistent.