



Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy

WCNL adopts England Netball Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy Guidance which can be found here: [Gender Eligibility and Participation Policy and Documents - EN knowledge Centre - England Netball Knowledge Centre](#).

Under this policy England Netball recognise three distinct participation categories:

- **'Female'** - For those born female, irrespective of gender identity
- **'Male'** - For those born male, irrespective of gender identity
- **'Mixed'** - For all, allowing players to compete under the gender with which they identify

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 are 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

WORCESTER CITY NETBALL LEAGUE



WCNL Eligibility

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

WCNL define eligibility as the following; -

- 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) are 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 rule and WCNL 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 the current rules
- 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 opponent 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) 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