



COVID Policy

WCNL takes the responsibility of netball very seriously for everyone involved. In order to be able to re-commence netball, the following policy outline the rules and responsibilities that apply to our game for the foreseeable future – this is determined by government guidelines & All England Netball.

The aim is to maintain a game that is not too far away from the usual rules of netball but reduce the incidences where face to face contact at less than 1m, particularly when this is non-fleeting contact (more than 3 seconds).

Everyone who decides to take part in this version of netball have a responsibility for ensuring they adhere to the modifications put in place. They have been introduced to significantly reduce face to face interactions, players should ensure they actively seek to remove these from the game.

Disclaimer:

With every sport, especially team sports, there are risks of COVID-19. Safety is everyone's responsibility. WCNL will put all reasonable measures in place to ensure the game is as safe as possible. However, everyone involved has a part to play, it is each player/umpire's decision and risk to play, you must own this decision.

COVID Officers:

WCNL have appointed a COVID Officer – Fiona Lawson, Chairperson, will oversee all COVID related matters – any queries should be directed to chairwcnl@gmail.com. It is the responsibility of the WCNL COVID Officer to ensure it is safe to resume netball and to carry out necessary risk assessments which includes risk mitigation.

Every club and team must also have a nominated COVID officer and it will be necessary to record your COVID officer on ENgage. On behalf of their club/team, the COVID Officer must carry out necessary risk assessments which includes risk mitigation. The COVID Officer is responsible for:

- leading the development of the plan and monitoring how compliance is being observed within their netball organisation
- ensuring all relevant guidance is communicated across their organisation
- familiarising both their players and umpires with the temporary rules for modified netball

WORCESTER CITY NETBALL LEAGUE



General:

- Each team is allowed a maximum of 10 players and one coach/manager/responsible adult at each game – those sitting on team benches must maintain 2m social distancing; this may mean they have to sit away from the court or stand outside of the court cage (CWLC)
- No other spectators are permitted – this includes family members, children or dogs. Spectators can remain in their cars but are not able to gather around the courts
- As mentioned above, safety is everyone's responsibility – if a player turns up/plays with any symptoms or when they are quarantined, they will be banned from playing for the remainder of the season and the following season
- Each team must ensure they have sanitising wipes available as well as a carrier bag to dispose of used wipes – this bag must be taken away to be disposed of. Each player must have sanitiser gel available to use
- Each team must have a match fit ball – this must be sanitised prior to play and will be considered a clean ball. The home team ball will be used for play but the other team ball must also be sanitised and clean in case the match ball becomes contaminated and needs to be swapped out
- If you live in an area which goes into lockdown or you have team members who cannot play because they have to self-isolate you must let your captain/COVID Officer know ASAP – you must adhere to the lockdown and not play. If the whole team is unable to play due to lockdown rules and you have to pull out of the league, no penalties will apply. If you pull out of the league for reasons other than lockdown, your team will be penalised as per the usual WCNL rules.

Before the game:

- All players, coaches, officials, volunteers and others attending should check themselves and anyone else in their household for COVID-19 symptoms. If they or anyone else in their household has any symptoms, they should not attend
- If you have any symptoms, you must let your captain/COVID Officer know you are unable to play/ umpire ASAP – if you are not able to field a team or supply an umpire for your game and you have to cancel please ensure you give as much notice as possible to the other team. The other team will claim the points for that game under the usual WCNL rules
- Current government COVID rules you must not travel together for games – please ensure you are aware of the current government guidelines and you adhere to them

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Arriving for your game:

For the WCNL Summer League, games will start at:

CWLC (Monday, Wednesday & Thursday)

Start 7.00pm (arrival from 6.45pm and not before)

Bishop Perowne (Wednesday)

Start 7.00pm (arrival from 6.45pm and not before)

WSFC (Wednesday)

6.45 pm games (arrival from 6.30pm and not before)

8.15 games (arrival from 8pm and not before, do not enter the court area until the previous game has finished and the players have left the court – maintain social distance whilst waiting/warming up)

Each venue has a court plan (sent out with the fixtures and available on the WCNL website) and each match has been assigned to a specific court.

Each quarter will be 12 minutes and stoppage time will not apply for any instance including wiping/ changing balls if necessary.

- Each game will be played on an allocated court – captains must ensure their players know which court they are playing on (venue plans will be supplied and will be available on the WCNL website)
- Neutrals umpires will not apply for the Summer 2021 season
- Each team will be responsible for getting one post out each and returning the post following their game (if posts are not already put out)
- Upon arrival you must go straight to your court, maintain social distance from your team members, where you can warm up and have nails/jewellery checks carried out – you must arrive ready to play/umpire.
- Please limit bags around the court other than the team kit bag
- Team talks must be conducted in socially distant circles on the court to avoid congesting the bench area.
- Players must sanitise their hands at the start and end of each quarter.
- Players must not share water bottles.
- A clean set of bibs must be used, no sharing of bibs is permitted. If you have players joining the game, they must have their own bib to wear or the whole team must change into a new set of bibs to ensure no sharing of bibs.
- Central timing will be in place for all games – if you are not ready to start on time you will not be able to make up time and the usual WCNL rules will apply
- Match officials will now be required to be at least 2m from activity where possible

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Throughout the game:

- All players must sanitise their hands at the start and end of each quarter
- The posts must be sanitised at the end of each quarter and throughout the game if anyone touches the post – the team who put the post out/in is responsible for their post throughout the game
- Shouting is not permitted
- Modified rules will apply until at least mid-June 2021 – it is envisaged normal rules will apply from the mid-point of the season, however, this will be determined by government guidelines & All England Netball.
- Centre pass – all players must start 4 ft from each other
- Idle play – whilst players are not active in the game, they must maintain a 4 ft distance from each other
- GS/GK must be in the 'D' at the centre pass (socially distant)
- No face marking
- If the ball touches someone who is not actively playing/umpiring their game the ball must be sanitised or swapped for a new clean ball

At the end of the game:

- Handshaking, goal celebrations are not permitted
- The captain/COVID Officer for each team must wipe down the post they are responsible for and return it (if applicable)
- It is each teams responsibility to clear up any rubbish, sanitising wipes, etc, and take the rubbish home with them for disposal
- Score cards – home team should complete a score card after they have sanitised their hands and pass to the away team and then the umpires
- Both captains should take a photo of the completed score card and email to fixtureswcnl@gmail.com or WhatsApp to Sarah Edwards – 07704 049168

All who take part in this version of Netball have a responsibility for ensuring they adhere to the modifications put in place.

These modifications have been introduced to significantly reduce the number of face-to-face interactions that may occur but players should ensure that they actively seek to remove these from the game.

Any persistent breaches of these modifications will result in players being dealt with under Game Management rules which could be accelerated to protect the safety of other players.