



# NETBALL SOUTH – REGIONAL LEAGUE OPEN 2015/2016

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. Overview

Netball South Regional League (NS-RL) is a league competition organised by Netball South to enable clubs to compete against each other to determine a regional winner, whilst encouraging participation and development in netball through an open, fair, progressive and transparent league structure.

These regulations set out below outline the Rules and regulations (the Regulations) upon which NS-RL should be run.

The Regulations must be followed by all teams, players, officials, spectators and administrators in the management, administration and operation of NS-RL

The competition shall be known as Netball South-Regional League (NS-RL), and the name shall be preceded by the name of such sponsor Netball South Regional Management Board (NS-RMB) may direct from time to time.

### 2. Competition Structure

2.1 NS-RL shall comprise of the following divisions:

- NS-RL Division 1
- NS-RL Division 2
- NS-RL Division 3
- NS-RL Division Playoffs

2.2 The team which finishes top of NS-RL Division 1 will be eligible to enter England Netball Premier playoffs for promotion to Premier Netball 3.

- Should the winner of the NS-RL NOT gain promotion to the Premier Netball 3 competition through the playoffs, then they will be allowed to return the NS-RL Division 1.
- If a NS affiliated team is relegated from Premier Netball 3, then they will be allowed to re-enter the NS-RL Division 1.

2.3 Promotion and relegation between leagues:

**Division One:** The bottom team will be relegated to division 2.

**Division Two:** The top team will be promoted to division 1.  
The bottom team will be relegated to division 3.

**Division Three:** The top team will be promoted to division 2.  
The bottom team will be relegated to the county league

**The Competition Technical Support Group (CTSG) reserve the right to adjust the number of teams in each division based on the number of entries received. Further promotion and relegation between divisions will be by way of play offs, over the course of a weekend. The process as to how this will be achieved will be decided by the CTSG and details will be sent to teams**



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2.4 The CTSG reserve the right to charge a fee for the NS-RL promotion and relegation play offs.

### 3. Competition Organisation

3.1 The competition and all rights and properties associated with it shall be owned, controlled and managed by NS-RMB, which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to its sub-committee namely, the Competition Technical Support Group (CTSG).

3.2 Prior to the start of NS-RL, NS shall announce the following:

3.2.1 the Competition Referee; and

3.2.2 the person appointed to receive appeals of the decisions of the Competition Referee, as outlined in Section 8.

3.3 NS may alter the named Competition Referee during the Competition and will, through its best endeavours, inform all participating teams.

### 4. Competition Referees

4.1 As set out above, a Competition Referee will be appointed by NS for NS-RL

4.2 The Competition Referee will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising throughout the Competition including, but not limited to:

4.2.1 altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary;

4.2.2 determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction including the disqualification of any individual team or Player during the NS-RL and the Play Offs

- a) The use of an unaffiliated player will result in a deduction of 3 league points, the result of the fixture will still stand
- b) The use of an unregistered player or a player who is under age without written permission from the Competition Referee will result in a deduction of 2 league points, the result of the fixture will still stand
- c) If a team concedes or cancels a fixture without agreement of the CTSG: The team which concedes will incur a 5 point deduction, a **Fine\*** and will be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team, umpires or OTSG has incurred. The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) points
- d) Conceding on more than one occasion (e.g. 2 league fixtures) will result in expulsion from the League.
- e) Disqualification of any individual Player or Team.

4.2.3 Instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour or behaviour that brings the sport into disrepute, including instances of Teams predetermining, or attempting to predetermine, the outcome of a Match and/or the Competition;

4.2.4 Maintaining and being responsible for a confidential Competition Referees Log Book (if required)

4.2.5 Determine the score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance;

4.2.6 Uphold and enforce the decision of any medical advisor regarding the participation of the player

4.2.7 Any matter not covered specifically within the Regulations.

4.3 The Competition Referee may call upon, or delegate to, additional persons to assist with the Competition or consult with other persons prior to making any decision. However the final decision and accountability for the decision will rest with the Competition Referee.

4.4 During the NS-RL Play Offs, if a Player is suspended from a Match, or ordered to leave the court and take no further part in the Match, that Player and a Team Official, normally the Coach, will be required to attend a hearing before the Competition Referee immediately after the end of the Match. After the hearing the Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken.



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### 5. Pre Competition Management and Administration

#### 5.1 Team Entry and Eligibility

- 5.1.1 Entry to NS-RL shall be through the relevant County Leagues. The County must be affiliated to England Netball, Netball South and paid a full affiliation in this respect.
- 5.1.2 NS is entitled to charge an entry fee to compete in NS-RL and qualifying tournament, this must be paid in full within the permitted timescales to be eligible. This charge will include the costs associated with appointing the umpires
- 5.1.3 In order to qualify a team to participate in NS-RL a club shall either be accredited under England Netball's CAPS scheme, or working towards the same (where applicable).
- 5.1.4 By entering a team in NS-RL clubs/teams agree that:
- they are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the NS-RL
  - they will fulfil their obligations and responsibilities set out in the Regulations;
  - they are bound by the Competition Regulations;
  - they are bound by all of the rules, policies, regulations and by-laws of England Netball and NS including the England Netball Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Regulations, as may from time to time be in force
- 5.1.5 Where a second team of a club already in the NS-RL is applying for entry, the squad used in the tournament may not include players who are tied that season in any NS-RL or at a higher level competition including premier league play offs
- 5.1.6 A club may have 2 teams in the NS-RL, however they may not have 2 teams in the same division.

#### 5.2 Player/ Team Official Eligibility

- 5.2.1 In order to qualify to participate in the NS-RL a player and team officials must be an affiliated member of England Netball and Netball South having paid the full affiliation fee due and received confirmation of their affiliation in advance of submitting the Registration Form for the NS-RL. Individuals may affiliate via one of the following routes:
- Through affiliation to a Club
  - Through affiliation to a Young Persons Group
  - Independent Registered Participant through a County (team officials only)
- 5.2.2 To be eligible for NS-RL all players and team officials must affiliate to England Netball within the timeframe set out in the Regulations. The appropriate Affiliation Fee must be received by England Netball Head Office Membership Services not less than four (4) days before taking to the court, either as a player, or involved as a team official.
- 5.2.3 All players must be over 14 years old as at 11.59pm on 31st August immediately prior to the commencement of the NS-RL playing season unless they have completed the age banding consent form and submitted it with the team registration form.
- 5.2.4 During all matches of NS-RL, Team Managers must at all times carry proof of age for all Players under the age of 18 and a copy of Age Banding Consent Forms applicable to Players listed on the Squad Registration Sheet.
- 5.2.5 Proof of age comprises of one or more of the following:
- Copy of birth certificate;
  - Copy of passport;
  - Copy of medical card;
- 5.2.6 Pregnant players may not take part in matches in NS-RL beyond the twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) week of pregnancy.



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### 5.3 Registration of Squads

- 5.3.1 Participating teams must complete Squad Registration Sheets fully listing each player and affiliation numbers. These need to be lodged with NS league administrator two weeks prior to the commencement of the NS-RL playing season (Round 1)
- 5.3.2 Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their Squad Registration Sheet held by NS-RL administrator. (see Section 4.2.2 for the penalty for breach of this)
- 5.3.3 Any additions to the squad sheets must be lodged with the NS-RL administrator by 17.00 hours on the Thursday prior to the fixture weekend. Email additions will be accepted as long as the paperwork is sent with the results of the next fixture. Additional registration of players will not be accepted after 17.00 on the Thursday prior to round 11
- 5.3.4 Once a player has been named on a squad sheet and has played she can transfer but not play for another NS-RL team during the course of the current playing season and/or play for another team in that season in the NS-RL Playoffs. In extreme circumstances permission may be granted at the discretion of the CTSG
- 5.3.5 Each team must declare up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each match by completing a NS-RL Team Sheet and submitting it to the Officials Bench. This must be done fifteen(15) minutes prior to the stated start time for the match.
- 5.3.6 Only players who have taken to the court (played at least one (1) quarter) during the course of the season (rounds 1 to 11) will be eligible to compete for their registered team within the NS-RL Play Offs.
- 5.3.7 Clubs, which have a team participating in more than one division of NS-RL, will register all players identifying eight tied players who can only play in the higher division All non-tied players will be able to play in the higher division up to an equivalent of three matches (12 ¼s). Thereafter they will be tied to the higher division and identified as permanent members of that squad and will not be able to play down again
- 5.3.8 Permission of the CTSG, through League Administrator, must be sought for a higher division or league player to play in the lower division or league
- 5.3.9 Where a club has a team participating in the Premier League or more than one team in NS-RL the following provisos will control the movement of players.
  - 5.3.9.1 The club must identify a minimum of 8 tied players who can only play in the higher division or league, none of whom will be permitted to play in the lower division or entry tournament.
  - 5.3.9.2 All non tied players will be eligible to play NS-RL, including play offs until they have played the equivalent of three matches (12 ¼s) in the Premier League or higher division of NS-RL. Thereafter they will be tied to the higher league/ division and identified as permanent members of that squad and will not be able to play down again or for any team trying to enter the NS-RL through play offs.

### 5.4 Competition Venues

- 5.4.1 Matches will be played wherever possible on an indoor court with adequate surrounds and surface and with ancillary facilities, including changing and showering facilities for both teams and officials, unless otherwise agreed by NS.
- 5.4.2 The home team is responsible for arranging the venue, and for the cost of this
  - 5.4.2.1 It is the responsibility of the home team to conduct a risk assessment, using the Standard issued form, prior to each match and ensure that the umpires countersign this document. Umpires will undertake pre game checks to ensure the game is safe to play. It is within their jurisdiction to not allow a game to go ahead. In instances where risks have been identified, a copy should be sent to NS\_RL administrator alongside the Official Result sheet



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- 5.4.2.2 For all 'incidents' on or off the court at a Match a SR Accident Report form must be completed, and a copy sent to the NS-RL administrator with the Result sheet and which will be stored for insurance purposes.
- 5.4.3 The home team is responsible for providing hospitality for both teams and all match officials in the form of suitable and substantial refreshments served in a timely fashion after the match.

### 5.5 Accidents

- 5.5.1 If an accident occurs at any match where a player, coach, official (umpire or match bench), spectator or staff member is injured, the accident reporting procedure should be followed as detailed on [www.netballsouth.co.uk](http://www.netballsouth.co.uk)
- 5.5.2 This procedure should be followed for ALL injuries and accidents, regardless of whether or not medical treatment is given.

## 6. Playing and Competition

### 6.1 Competition Scheduling

- 6.1.1 All matches must be played as per the fixtures schedule
- 6.1.2 Each team in NS-RL will play the other teams in their division twice in a season, once at home and once away.
- 6.1.3 The start time of each match will be mutually agreed between the teams, but will not normally be earlier than 10.00am or later than 3:00 pm. Any dispute over start times will be determined by the Competition Referee at their absolute discretion
- 6.1.4 The home team must provide their opponents and the two umpires with confirmation in writing of the fixture (email is the preferred method), its start time, and travel directions (including postcode) ten (10) days prior to the date of the fixture.
- 6.1.5 The away team will be responsible for arranging its own travel and the cost of this. The away team should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays.  
If a team is delayed in arriving for a fixture, the following protocol must be observed:
  - a) Inform the opposing team and umpires as soon as they are aware of a delay
  - b) Any team which fails to arrive on time must take the court and be ready to play as soon as possible and in any event within 15 minutes of the agreed start time.
  - c) Any team taking to the court more than 15 minutes after the agreed start time will concede the match
- 6.1.6 No team may play a match with less than 5 players; any team with less than 5 players will automatically concede the game.
- 6.1.7 No team may postpone or cancel a match without agreement of the CTSG. Matches which are postponed due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances, e.g. flash flood, heavy snowfall will be played on the reserve date unless agreement has been given by the CTSG to play on an alternative date prior to the reserve date. A team may request permission in writing to the league administrator, which will be considered by the CTSG.
- 6.1.8 If a fixture is postponed or cancelled, it is the responsibility of the offending team to ensure that the League Administrator, the OTSG, the opposition and officials, are informed immediately
- 6.1.9 In the event of a game being conceded:
  - a) The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points for the match, and the team which conceded will have five (5) league points deducted from their total
  - b) The team which conceded may be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team has incurred, subject to the determination by the Competition Referee, or its nominee(s)



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- 6.1.10 In the event that a match is abandoned for any reason, (e.g., because of serious injury), the result of that match will be determined by the Competition Referee, or its nominee(s), having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.

### 6.2 Match Rules and Format

- 6.2.1 All Matches shall be played in accordance with the International Netball Federation Rules of the Game (2011) currently in force at the time of the relevant Match, except where specifically stated in the regulations.

### 6.3 Umpires

- 6.3.1 Neutral umpires will be allocated for all Divisions by the OTSG. Teams will be notified of their appointment prior to the fixture
- 6.3.2 If the OTSG reallocates an umpire they will provide your team with a replacement.
- 6.3.3 In the event that an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied:
- 6.3.3.1 If another umpire approved by the OTSG is available then she/he will umpire the match. Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire should be used
  - 6.3.3.2 The home team must inform the Regional League Administrator and the OTSG immediately after the match.
  - 6.3.3.3 NS will have responsibility for procedures which ensure that umpires conform to a standard of physical fitness which allows them to keep pace with the speed and variability of the game(s). Matches NS-RL may be used by for the purpose of umpire assessment

### 6.4 Match Bench Officials

- 6.4.1 The Match Bench Officials are: Umpires, Scorers and Timekeepers. The two (2) scorers and the two (2) timekeepers shall constitute the Officials Bench.
- 6.4.1.1 Each team must provide a competent scorer, either an umpire, match bench official or a person with working knowledge of scoring. Scorers will be required for all fixtures.
  - 6.4.1.2 Each team must provide a timekeeper for each match played. The time keeper should have a working knowledge of the INF (2011) rules.
- 6.4.2 Scorers are required to use the NS Score sheet (2015) for all matches available from the NS website

### 6.5 Team Officials

- 6.5.1 The Team Officials are: Coach, Manager and up to three (3) other personnel, at least one (1) of whom must be named prior to the start of the match on the team sheet, as a primary care person.
- 6.5.2 The Team Bench will be situated as agreed with the Umpires.

### 6.6 Match Timings

- 6.6.1 All matches shall be of one hour's duration (four quarters of fifteen (15) minutes each). Central timing may not be used.
- 6.6.2 All matches shall have a half time period of five (5) minutes.

### 6.7 Scoring

- 6.7.1 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:
- a) Five (5) points for a win;
  - b) Three (3) points for a draw;
  - c) Two (2) points if within 5 goals of the winners' score – i.e., 50-46 = 2 points, 50-45 = 1 point



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- d) One (1) point for more than 50 per cent of the winners' score
- e) Zero (0) points for a loss

6.7.2 NS-RL tables will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team. Where teams are level on points:

- a) Goal average (goals for divided by goals against) shall be used to determine their relative positions, i.e., the team with the higher average score over the course of the season shall take precedence
- b) In the event that goal average does not differentiate between the teams, then goal difference shall be applied, i.e., precedence shall be given to the team with the greater difference between goals scored and goals conceded
- c) In the event that goal difference does not differentiate between the teams, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence
- d) In the event that neither goal average nor goal difference nor goals scored can differentiate between the teams, the aggregate score in the match or matches played between them over the course of the season shall be calculated and precedence given to the team that gained the most points.

In the event that none of the above differentiates between the teams, then NS or its' nominee shall determine the means of differentiation

**Note - Where one of the teams has its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals scored affected by conceded fixtures, then all goals scored by and against conceding team(s) in all fixtures shall be omitted from the calculations of both teams level on points. Except where one of the teams level on points is the conceding team, at which point they assume a goal average of 0 and will be the lowest ranked team of those level on points.**

**For example, in the event that one team received 5 points for a conceded fixture, then the goals scored by and against both teams level on points, in all games against the offending team, will not be included when its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals is calculated**

### 6.8 Registration of results

- 6.8.1 The completed result sheet must be handed to the official table 15 minutes prior to the start of the match
- 6.8.2 The result to be entered by scorer **at the end of the match**
- 6.8.3 The result sheet must be checked and signed by the scorer(s), both captains and umpires after the match and **both** sheets sent by the **home** team to the League Administrator to be received within five (5) working days of the fixture
- 6.8.4 Results must be sent by text or email by both teams. to the league administrator (number to be confirmed prior to commencement of the season) by 20.00 hours on the day of the fixture, after which league tables will be published within 24 hours
- 6.8.5 The official score sheet must be retained by teams as this may be requested at any time

### 7. Competition Complaints Procedure

- 7.1 All queries and complaints (a Complaint) should be directed to the Competition Referee in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows:
  - 7.1.1 During NS-RL, where the Complaint relates to the playing of a Match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant Squad member or Team Official, must do the following:
    - a) Inform their opponents and the Umpires of their complaint;
    - b) Mark the Score Card with the words "Under Protest";
    - c) Send the marked Score Card to the Competition Referee, within seventy two (72) hours of the Match;
    - d) Attach a letter to the Score Card to explain the issue in full to the Competition Referee.
    - e) The Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken.



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7.1.2 The Competition Referee will acknowledge receipt of the query or complaint and make a decision on the matter within seventy two (72) hours of receipt of the query or complaint. The Competition Referees decision in relation to decisions taken under clause 7.1.1 is binding apart from where parties to the complaint have the right to appeal the decision under Section 8 below.

7.2 Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Competition by the Competition Referee, such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of NS.

7.3 Where the Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual Player or Team participating, volunteering or individual attending a Match which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations, such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the processes set out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations and should be referred to the Disciplinary Secretary of NS.

### **8. Appeal of Competition Referees Decision**

8.1 The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with section 7.1 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances: :

8.1.1 If the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition; AND

8.1.2 If there has been a failure by the Competition Referee to follow or act in accordance with these Regulations and/or the Competition Referee reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact.

These are the only grounds of appeal and any appeal must be submitted in accordance with the appeals process set out below:

8.2 An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the Team Manager of the appealing Team to the Chair of NS within seventy two (72) hours of the receiving the decision.

8.3 The appeal shall be accompanied by a cheque for £100 which shall be returned if the appeal is upheld or if there are any other extenuating circumstances. The Competition Appeals Committee (CAC) will decide whether the extenuating circumstance warrant the cheque being returned.

8.4 The Chair of NS will establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected the Competition. One of those individuals will be appointed as the Chair. The CAC will usually but not exclusively be 3 members of staff.

8.5 The Chair of the CAC will send the appeal to the opposing Team and any other Team the CAC believe could be affected by the outcome of the appeal. These Teams will be permitted seventy two (72) hours, from the date the appeal notice is sent from the CAC to submit any evidence or submission that they wish the CAC to consider.

8.6 All submissions and evidence must be submitted in writing. The Chair of CAC will have the discretion to determine the process, procedure and direction of the appeal.

8.7 The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions.

8.8 The CAC will notify all the parties that made submissions and presented evidence of its decision and any penalties and sanctions imposed within twenty four (24) hours of it reaching its determination. The CAC shall have the discretion to publish the decision through whatever means it considers appropriate.

8.9 The CAC shall have the delegated power of NS to make all decisions and impose and enforce any penalties and sanctions (including but not limited to, reprimands, the deduction of points, fines, suspensions and expulsions from the Competition) relating to the appeal.

8.10 The procedures set out in this section 8 shall be governed by the Arbitration Act 1996 (the Act) and amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of Section 6 of the Act.





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- 8.11 The parties also waive irrevocably their right to any form of appeal, review or recourse to any court or other judicial authority, or under England Netball's Disciplinary Procedures Manual or otherwise, insofar as such waiver may be validly made.
- 8.12 The seat of arbitration shall be England, the language used shall be English and the governing law of them regulations and these proceedings under Section 8 shall be English Law.
- 8.13 If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than provided for by this section 8, and all parties to the appeal consent, the timetable within which an appeal is raised, submissions made and the decision taken can be shorter than seventy two (72) hours stated in this Section 8. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised directions timetable which shall be binding on all parties.
- 8.14 In order to adhere to the timescales set out in Section 8, all communication will take place via electronic mail to the contact held by the NS-RL Administrator for the competition, which is submitted at the start of the season. It is the participating teams responsibility to ensure that these contact details are kept up-to-date.

### 9. Miscellaneous

- 9.1 England Netball and NS will not be liable to any person, whether in contract, tort (including negligence) or otherwise for any direct or indirect loss or injury of any nature, howsoever caused and howsoever arising from the matters covered by these Regulations, provided that nothing in these Regulations excludes or restricts England Netball's liability for any personal loss or injury caused by England Netball's own negligence, the negligence of its employees, or for fraud.
- 9.2 If any of these Regulations are held by any competent authority to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of the Regulations shall not be affected thereby.
- 9.3 These Regulations shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law.
- 9.4 NS will be entitled to amend these Regulations each year in advance of the Competition and such amendments will take effect from the first date of publication of the completed amended procedure on the NS website.

#### \*Definition: -

**Referee -** Competition Referee will be the Chair of CTSG

**Competition Appeals Committee (CAC)-** means a body of up to three (3) individuals who are independent of and not connected to the Competition that will hear a or a group of appeal(s) on the Competition Referee's decision as set out in section 8.

**Fines -** £25 for 1 game, £100 for 2 games