

PREMIER NETBALL 1&2 2007/2008



REGULATIONS

1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

1.1 The competition shall be known as the England Netball Premier Netball 1&2 ("Premier Netball 1&2"), and the name shall be preceded by the name of such sponsor as England Netball may direct from time to time.

1.1.1 For the purposes of these rules and regulations and their provision, and unless otherwise determined by the England Netball Board of Directors, the Premier Netball 1&2 shall be deemed to comprise two divisions, Premier Netball 1 and Premier Netball 2

1.2 The competition and all rights and properties associated with it shall be owned, controlled and managed by England Netball through its Board of Directors, which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to any sub-committee or individual(s).

1.3 The decisions of the England Netball Board of Directors, or its nominee(s), in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the Premier Netball 1&2 which is not provided for below, shall be considered final and binding on all parties (subject to the right of appeal which is specifically provided for under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations).

1.4 These rules and regulations shall be subject and secondary to the application of England Netball's rules and regulations, especially Playing Regulations 2, 3.4 and 4.

1.5 It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players are conversant with the following rules and regulations.

2. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Application for entry to the Premier Netball 1&2 shall be open to any club or team which is affiliated to England Netball, and which has paid its subscription in this respect.

2.2 Entry to the Premier Netball 1&2 will be determined by the England Netball Board of Directors at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the rules and regulations laid out herein, and having due regard to the playing standard of teams which wish to participate. In the same way, such casual vacancies as may appear from time to time will be addressed by the England Netball Board of Directors in whatever way it sees fit.

2.3 The England Netball Board of Directors may be entitled to charge an entry fee to the Premier Netball 1&2

2.4 In order to qualify a team to participate in the Premier Netball 1&2 shall either be accredited under England Netball's CAPS scheme, or working towards the same.

2.5 By entering a team in the Premier Netball 1&2, clubs/teams agree that:

- They will abide by these rules and regulations

- They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the Premier Netball 1&2

2.6 In order to qualify to participate in the Premier Netball 1&2, a player shall be in membership of England Netball as a Registered Participant via one of the following qualifications:

- Through affiliation to a club or a County Association
- Through a Young Persons Group Membership

2.7 All players must have their membership lodged with the England Netball Head Office, and their subscription paid, prior to their participation in the Premier Netball 1&2, as detailed below:

- Players who wish to participate prior to 5 October must be listed on either MAR or supplementary forms received in the England Netball Head Office by 5 October
- Players who wish to participate for the first time during the period October to June should be listed on MAR or supplementary forms received in the England Netball Head Office by 5 January

2.8 All players must be over 16 at midnight on 31st August/1st September prior to the commencement of the Premier Netball 1&2 playing season:

- All players under the age of 18 must carry with them some form of proof of age as random checks may be carried out

2.9 Pregnant players may not take part in matches in the Premier Netball 1&2 beyond the twelfth week of pregnancy

3. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

3.1 Squad registration sheets for each participating team must be completed fully for each player and lodged with England Netball's Competitions and Events Department by 7th September 2007 prior to the commencement of the Premier Netball 1&2 playing season

3.2 Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their squad registration list held by England Netball's Competitions and Events Department.

3.3 Any additions to the squad sheets must be lodged with England Netball's Competitions and Events Department by 1700 on the Thursday prior to the fixture weekend. Additional registrations of players will not be accepted after 1st March 2008.

3.4 Once a player has been named on a squad sheet and has played she cannot transfer to another Premier Netball 1&2 team during the course of the current playing season

- England Netball Board of Directors may at its absolute discretion debar any player from transferring between two Premier Netball teams during the course of the playing season if it believes that such transfer will be to the detriment of the competition.

3.5 Each team may declare up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each match by completing a Premier Netball Result Sheet.

3.6 Registered players are not permitted to play more than 6 quarters of domestic competition netball in any one weekend of England Netball Competition including the National League, Premier League, Regional League and Challenge Cup). For the purposes of this clause a weekend shall be defined as extending from a Friday to Monday inclusive. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in the a ban from domestic competition netball for that player implemented during the following weekend of competition.

- 3.7 Only players who have been recorded on Premier Netball Results Sheets in Rounds 1-18 during the course of the season will be eligible to compete for a team within the Play Off Weekends for that season.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

- 4.1 The Premier Netball 1&2 will be contested between as many teams as shall be determined by the England Netball Board of Directors from time to time

- 4.2 Each team in Premier Netball 1 and Premier Netball 2 will play the other teams in its division twice, once at home and once away.

- 4.3 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:

- 5 points for a win
- 3 points for a draw
- 2 points if within 5 goals of the winners' score – i.e., 50-46 = 2 points, 50-45 = 1 point
- 1 point for more than 50 per cent of the winners' score
- 0 points for a loss

- 4.3 Premier Netball 1&2 league tables will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team. Where two teams are level on points:

- Goal average 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
- 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
- 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
- Where one of the teams has its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals scored affected by cancellations, then the goals scored by and against defaulting team(s) shall be omitted from the calculations. For example, in the event that one team received 5 points for a cancelled fixture, then the goals scored by the other team against the offending team will not be included when its goal average or goal difference is calculated
- 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 winning team

- 4.4 The team which finishes top of Premier Netball 1 at the end of the season will be the Premier Netball 1 champions. The team which finishes bottom of Premier Netball 1 will be relegated directly to Premier Netball 2, unless otherwise determined by the England Netball Board of Directors.

- 4.5 The team which finishes top of Premier Netball 2 at the end of the season will be the Premier Netball 2 champions, and will be promoted directly to Premier Netball 1, unless otherwise determined by the England Netball Board of Directors.

- 4.6 Promotion and relegation between Premier Netball 1 and Premier Netball 2 will otherwise be determined in accordance with procedures laid down from time to time by the England Netball Board of Directors.

- 4.7.1 At the end of the 2007-08 season, the teams which finish in eighth and ninth position in Premier Netball 1 will contest a play-off together with the teams which finish in second and third places in Premier Netball 2. Each team will play the others once: the two teams with the best results will participate in Premier Netball 1 in the following season; the remaining two teams will participate in Premier Netball 2
- 4.8 Promotion and relegation between Premier Netball 2 and the Regional Leagues will otherwise be determined in accordance with procedures laid down from time to time by the England Netball Board of Directors.
- 4.8.1 At the end of the 2007-08 season, the nine Regional League winners or nominees will contest play-offs against the teams which finish in, eight, ninth and tenth positions in Premier Netball 2. These 12 teams will be divided into three groups of four, with the three Premier Netball 2 teams spread across the groups. The teams in each group will play off against each other over the course of a weekend at a single, central venue. The three group winners will be promoted to/retain their place in Premier Netball 2.
- 4.9 Any additional team relegated from Premier Netball 2 through these procedures will participate in the following season in the Regional League operated by the Regional Association within whose boundaries it is based.
- 4.11 Any revenue which is generated through the staging of the play-offs in any way howsoever shall be retained by England Netball in its entirety, and its disbursement determined by the Board of Directors.

5. FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS

- 5.1 Matches will be played wherever possible on an indoor court with adequate surrounds and ancillary facilities for approximately 30 participants, including changing and showering facilities for both sexes, unless otherwise agreed by the England Netball Board of Directors.
- 5.2 The home team is responsible for arranging the venue, and for the cost of this.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 The home team must provide their opponents with confirmation in writing of the fixture, its start time, and travel directions (including a map) ten (10) days prior to the date of the fixture.
- 5.5 All matches must be played on the weekend specified by the fixture schedule published by England Netball, and take place on either a Saturday or a Sunday, unless otherwise agreed by the England Netball Board of Directors.
- 5.6 The start time of each match will be mutually agreed between the teams, but will not normally be later than 3:00 pm. Any dispute over start times will be determined by the England Netball Board of Directors, or its nominee(s), at its absolute discretion.
- 5.7 The away team will be responsible for arranging its own travel, and for the costs of this, and should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays. Any team which fails to arrive within 30 minutes after the agreed start time will forfeit the match, and the non-offending team will be awarded the points as winners by default.
- 5.8 No team may postpone or cancel a fixture without the agreement of the England Netball Board of Directors, or its nominee(s). Matches which are postponed due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances, e.g., flash flood, heavy snowfall, must be played before the next scheduled fixture date unless otherwise agreed by the England Netball Board of Directors, or its nominee(s). Injuries do not quantify unforeseen circumstances. The primary responsibility

for rescheduling such fixtures shall reside with the home team, and any dispute over rescheduling shall be determined by the England Netball Board of Directors, or its nominee(s), at its absolute discretion.

5.9 If a team cancels a match:

- The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points for the match, and the team which cancels will have five (5) league points deducted from their total
- The team which cancels may be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team has incurred, subject to the determination of the England Netball Board of Directors, or its nominee(s)
- Cancelled fixtures may be rearranged subject to both teams agreeing a mutually convenient date and time, and this being approved by the England Netball Board of Directors, or its nominee(s).

5.10 If a fixture is postponed or cancelled, it is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that the England Netball Board of Directors, or its nominee(s), the opposition and both umpires are informed immediately the postponement or cancellation is known.

5.11 In the event that a match which are abandoned for any reason, e.g., because of serious injury, the result of that match will be determined by the England Netball Board of Directors, or its nominee(s), having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.

6. MATCH REGULATIONS

6.1 All matches shall be played to the IFNA Rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time, except where specific regulations may apply.

6.2 All play-off matches shall be played to a result. In the event that a play-off match is drawn at the end of 60 minutes' play, the INFA rules for playing to a result will apply

6.3 All matches shall be of one hour's duration (i.e., four quarters of 15 minutes each). Central timing may not be used.

7. MATCH OFFICIALS

7.1 Neutral umpires who actively hold a Netball Europe 'A' Award or above, who have been identified by England Netball, will be allocated to each fixture by the England Netball Board of Directors, or its nominee(s), and their appointment will be notified to the teams in advance of the fixture.

7.2 The home team shall be responsible for providing both named umpires with confirmation in writing of the fixture, its start time, and travel directions (including a map) ten (10) days prior to the date of the fixture.

7.3 The home team will contribute to the umpires' travel expenses a payment which shall be determined by the England Netball Board of Directors, or its nominee(s), in line with England Netball guidelines, and paid prior to the commencement of the fixture.

7.4 In the event that an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied:

- If another umpire of the appropriate standard is available then she/he will umpire the match
- Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire should be used
- The England Netball Board of Directors, or its nominee(s), must be informed immediately after the match.

7.5 England Netball 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) by submitting multi stage test minimum level 6.1 twice during the season as identified by England Netball

7.6 Table Officials

Scorers will be required for all fixtures. Each team must provide a competent scorer who is either a 'C' Award umpire, or certified as competent by his/her County Association prior to the start of the season.

7.7 Teams will be required to utilise the England Netball/IFNA Official Scoresheet.

7.8 Each team should ideally provide a timekeeper for each match played. Failing this, it will be the responsibility of the home team to provide a timekeeper, who will be responsible for timing the match.

8. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

8.1 Both teams are required to complete official result sheets after each match, including entering the names of each player.

8.2 The two official result sheets must be checked and signed by the scorer(s), both captains and umpires and sent separately to England Netball's Competitions and Events Department Administrator to be received within three (3) working days of the match.

8.3 A legible copy of the INFA Scoresheet must be forwarded with the Premier Netball Result Sheet to England Netball's Competitions and Events Department.

8.4 Each team must text their match result directly to England Netball. Each team must submit their results within two (2) hours from the end of the match to the Competition and Events Results Line.

9. QUERIES, COMPLAINTS & APPEALS

9.1 Any team or match official who intends to raise a query or complaint regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must inform their opponents and the umpires on the day of the match.

9.2 Any queries or complaints regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must be submitted in writing to the England Netball Board of Directors, or its nominee(s), within two (2) working days. Advance notice of such query or dispute should also be provided by telephone within 48 hours of the end of the fixture.

9.3 All queries, complaints and disputes regarding the playing of a match and/or its result will be determined in the first instance by a sub-committee convened by the England Netball Board of Directors, which will use best endeavours to determine the issue within ten (10) days of the fixture.

9.4 The England Netball Board of Directors will have the power to determine the penalty to be imposed on teams and players who are in breach of these rules and regulations regarding the playing of matches in the Premier Netball 1&2. Such penalties will include reprimands, the deduction of league points, fines, suspensions, and expulsion from the competition, except as specified below:

- The use of an unaffiliated player will result in a deduction of 3 league points
- The use of an unregistered player or a player, who is under age without written permission from the National Performance Director, will result in a deduction of 2 league points

- Failure to play on more than one occasion will result in expulsion from the League. If a team cancels, the offending team will meet any costs incurred by the non-offending team.

9.5 In the event that any team wishes to appeal against the decision of this sub-committee, it must notify the England Netball Board of Directors, or its nominee(s), within two (2) working days of receipt of the decision. In this event, the matter will be considered under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations 10 and 12, which allows for an Appeals Panel to be convened. The decision of the Appeals Panel will be final and binding on all parties. The Appeals Panel will have the power to:

- Endorse the decision of the England Netball Board of Directors, and uphold any penalty imposed
- Endorse the decision of the England Netball Board of Directors, and increase or decrease any penalty imposed
- Overturn the decision of the England Netball Board of Directors, and increase, decrease or remove any penalty imposed

9.5 Any team which wishes to appeal more generally against the governance and management of the Premier Netball 1&2 by the England Netball Board of Directors, or against specific decisions made by it, must also observe the procedures laid out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations 10 and 12.

9.7 Any teams which fails to observe the procedures laid out in the preceding clauses will invalidate their right to raise a query, complaint or appeal.

9.8 No team may claim victory by default in any match without first submitting itself to the procedures laid out in these rules and regulations.

9.9 Any complaint which does not concern the playing of a match and/or its result, but which is made in respect of a disciplinary offence, will be addressed in the first instance by an Investigation Committee convened under and acting in accordance with in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations of England Netball. Such Committee shall have the power to refer the complaint to a Disciplinary Panel, which shall proceed in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations of England Netball.

10. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISOS

10.1 All clubs will be held responsible for their players, officials and spectators.

10.2 It is the responsibility of each team to provide adequate first aid cover for its players and officials.

10.3 England Netball, its Board of Directors and agents accept no liability whatsoever in respect of personal loss or injury which players, officials or spectators may sustain.

10.4 Clothing:

- No form of glove may be worn when playing netball. If gloves are required for medical reasons, the umpires may allow seamless leather gloves to be worn on production of an appropriate medical certificate, and provided that they are satisfied that any gloves worn do not present an obvious hazard to other players
- All jewellery, including body piercing, must be removed when playing netball, and players wearing jewellery will not be allowed on court. The following exceptions will apply:
 - Wedding rings may be worn, but must be taped
 - Medic alert bracelets may be worn, but must be secured in such a manner that they will not constitute a danger to an opponent, i.e., with clear tape, and in such a way that it cannot be removed/lifted off by any accidental contact

- If scarves need to be worn because of religious practices, the player and the coach must ensure that the material used for the head covering is soft, without embellishments which might constitute a danger, and with potential flowing/flapping edges held securely around the neck or tucked into the shirt collar as neatly and securely as possible