



TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

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

1. RULES OF THE GAME

- All games shall be played to the IFNA Rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time of the Tournament, except where specific Tournament Regulations apply.

2. TOURNAMENT REFEREES

- Tournament Referees will be appointed by England Netball.
- All queries should be directed to the Tournament Referees in the first instance.
- If the Tournament Doctor or Physiotherapist has advised a player that she should take no further part in the Tournament on medical grounds, the Doctor or Physiotherapist will inform the Tournament Referees who will uphold that decision.
- The Tournament Referees reserve the right to alter or amend the playing schedule as necessary.
- Tournament Referees may make decisions on any matters arising during the Tournament and are authorised to adjudicate on any matter not covered by the Tournament Regulations.
- The Tournament Referees have the right to disqualify any individual or team that does not comply with any of the Tournament Regulations listed.
- The Tournament Referees decision is binding and final.
- The Tournament Referees will maintain and be responsible for a confidential Tournament Referee Log Book

2.1 DISCIPLINE

- If a player is suspended from a game, or ordered to leave the court and take no further part in the game, that player will be required to appear in front of a disciplinary panel immediately after the end of the game.
- At the end of the game the Team Manager/Coach and the player concerned must report immediately to the Tournament Referees, who will convene the disciplinary panel.
- The designated panel will then make decisions as to whether the player in question takes any further part in the tournament.

3. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS / AFFILIATION / AGE BANDING

3.1 U19 NATIONAL CLUBS

- All players must be Registered Participants affiliated to their Clubs via a County Association.
- Qualification is via Registered Participant through a Club or Young Persons Group Membership
- All player affiliations must be received by England Netball by the 7th October (finals only).

3.1.1 AGE BANDING

- U19 = All players must be over 14 years of age and under 19 years of age
- At midnight on 31st August/1st September immediately prior to the Tournament.
- All players must play within their appropriate age group unless the National Performance Director has given prior approval in writing.

3.2 NATIONAL SCHOOL FINALS

- Entry is open to Schools holding England Netball Schools Membership.
- The England Netball office must have received all affiliations by 7th January
- All players must be in full time education and be registered with the School they are representing on the day of the Tournament. Should a pupil leave school on a Friday she is considered to be a registered member of that School only until the Monday immediately following her day of leaving. A player re registering with another School then becomes eligible to represent that School from the date of her registration and is not considered to have played for any other team in the Championships.
- Schools may enter one team in each age band.
- All players must play within their appropriate age group as at midnight on 31st August/1st September immediately prior to the Tournament unless the National Performance Director has given prior approval in writing.

3.2.1 AGE BANDING

YEARS 8 & 9 (U14) = All players must be over 12 years of age and under 14 years of age

YEARS 10 & 11 (U16) = All players must be over 14 years of age and under 16 years of age

YEARS 12 & 13 (U19) = All players must be over 14 years of age and under 19 years of age

3.3 U14 NATIONAL CLUBS

- All players must be Registered Participants affiliated to their Clubs via a County Association.
- All player affiliation must be received by England Netball by the 7th March prior to the commencement of the Championships.
- Qualification is via Registered Participant through a Club or Young Persons Group Membership

3.3.1 AGE BANDING

- U14 = All players must be over 12 years of age and under 14 years of age
- At midnight on 31st August/1st September immediately prior to the Tournament.
- All players must play within their appropriate age group unless the National Performance Director has given prior approval in writing.

4. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

4.1 U19 NATIONAL CLUBS

- Team Managers must check in with the Tournament Referees prior to the commencement of the Tournament.
- All teams will be required to have available on the day of the Tournament, copies of *Proof of Age for all players, Should a player's age be challenged, the Tournament Referees will ask the player concerned to produce a copy of their Proof of Age. This will then be checked by the Tournament Referees against the eligibility requirements for the Tournament and returned to the player immediately.
- *Proof of Age for each player at Tournament registration – copies of a birth certificate or authorisation signed by a school's Head Teacher.*
- The maximum number of players allowed in a squad is twelve (12)
- No player, other than the 12 nominated on the Registration Form may play without the prior permission of the Tournament Referees.
- Registration Forms must be completed and lodged with the Events Department at the England Netball Head Office prior to the event.
- Once the Tournament has commenced and a player has been named on a Registration Form she cannot transfer to another team once she has played.
- Teams will be asked to confirm that the Registration Form submitted is correct.
- Any amendment to the Registration Form must be made to the Tournament Referees prior to the commencement of the Tournament.
- Amendments must be accompanied by proof of affiliation – (see Rule3)

4.2 NATIONAL SCHOOLS FINALS

- The maximum number of players allowed in a squad is twelve (12).
- No player, other than the 12 nominated on the Registration Form may play without the prior permission of the Tournament Referees. Those teams who qualify for the Finals must have Squad Sheets completed and lodged at the England Netball Head Office prior to the event.
- Once the Tournament has commenced and a player has been named on a Registration Form she cannot transfer to another team once she has played. A player may only play in **ONE** age group, for which she is **FIRST NOMINATED** throughout all stages of the Tournament.
- Any amendment to the Registration Form must be made to the Tournament Referees prior to the commencement of the Tournament. Any amendments must be accompanied by proof of age. All teams will be required to have available, on the day of the Tournament, copies of *Proof of Age for all players. Should a player's age be challenged, the Tournament Referees will ask the player concerned to produce a copy of their Proof of Age. This will then be checked by the Tournament Referees against the eligibility requirements for the Tournament and returned to the player immediately.
**Proof of Age for each player at Tournament registration – copies of a birth certificate or passport, if these are not available then either a copy of a medical card, or a letter of authorisation signed by a school's Head Teacher.*

4.3 U14 NATIONAL CLUBS

- Team Managers must check in with the Tournament Referees prior to the commencement of the Tournament (see Special Regulations)
- All teams will be required to have available on the day of the Tournament, copies of *Proof of Age for all players, Should a player's age be challenged, the Tournament Referees will ask the player concerned to produce a copy of their Proof of Age. This will then be checked by the Tournament Referees against the eligibility requirements for the Tournament and returned to the player immediately.
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5. TEAM BENCH

- The Team Bench will be the area at the team's defending end at the start of the game to the right of the netball posts. Do not change ends at half time.
- The Team Officials, in addition to the five players not on court, shall constitute the 'Team Bench'.
- The Team Officials and bench players may not move up and down the side lines or along the goal lines outside the court during play.
- Coaching is only permitted from the Team Bench.

6. MATCH OFFICIALS & COURT MANAGERS

6.1 FINALS - UMPIRES

- England Netball will appoint Umpires from their Database of Neutral Umpires
- The minimum standard will be Netball Europe B Award
- Umpires appointed will be required to submit evidence that they have reached a minimum level 5.1 of the Multi Stage Fitness Test
- Umpires are not responsible for the score
- Umpires need to be fully conversant with the Regulations and the additional Officials Information which can be found in this document.

6.2 FINALS – SCORERS

- Each Team must provide a Scorer who should ideally be of minimum FENA ‘C’ Umpiring Award or hold an IFNA Scorers Accreditation.
- However, where this is not possible, the Scorers who have been named should have a working knowledge of scoring and must be approved by their County Committee.
- Scorers need to be fully conversant with the Regulations and the additional Officials Information which can be found in this document.

6.3 FINALS – COURT MANAGERS

- England Netball will appoint Court Managers from their Database of Support Workforce. They will supervise and support the Umpiring Team allocated to their courts.

7. CENTRAL TIMING

- Central timing, normally sounded by a hooter, will be used, but matches will start and finish on the Umpires whistle.
- The hooter will sound at the beginning and end of an interval.
- A warning will be given before play is due to commence.
- Duration of matches – matches will be 7 minutes each way, one minute at half time and two minutes between rounds.

8. BALLS AND BIBS

- Each team must provide a size five (5) netball, which must be clearly marked for identification purposes.
- All players must wear positional bibs and teams must have a spare set in a different colour in case of a clash of colours.
- In the event of a clash of colours, a toss of a coin between the two captains will decide which team retains their original colours.

9. START OF PLAY AND LATE ARRIVALS

- Captains should toss for centre pass well before the start of each game.
- All teams must be on court, in position and ready to play, at the time and on the court stated in the playing schedule.
- No team may start a game with less than five (5) players.
- Any team late on court will forfeit the match points.
- The forfeited points will be awarded to the team on court, in position and ready to play at the correct time.
- The match may be played but the Umpires must record on the score card the name of the team who arrived late before the match is played.
- If a reserve plays because of the late arrival of a player, she shall continue to play until half time, when the late arrival may substitute. The ‘Substitution’ rule must be obeyed.
- If a reserve is not used, late arrival(s) may only join the game with permission of the Umpires, immediately after the scoring of a goal and only in the vacant position(s). At half time, positions may be changed and the ‘Team Changes’ rule must be obeyed.

10. SUBSTITUTES AND TEAM CHANGES

- Play may be stopped if the umpire deems it necessary but, **ONLY** injured or ill players may be substituted during a game owing to the short games. No other changes can be made at this time by either side.
- During the half time interval, substitutions/team changes may be made by both teams providing they take place immediately. The opposing team captain must be given adequate time to substitute, if she so wishes.
- No extra time will be allowed for injury or illness.
- Officials are requested to take great care in moving an injured player or ill player from the court.
- Should the Umpires feel that a player’s injury is critical i.e. head, neck or back and she will be better left on court for the medical staff, the Umpire must note the time lost during treatment and report to the Tournament Referees who will adjudicate. (England Netball accepts most Netball injuries i.e. knee, ankle etc. fall outside this exemption clause).

11. RESULTS

- Captains must check the scores with both Scorers and if satisfied must sign the Score Card. A runner will then take results to the recorders table.
- The Score Card represents the official score of the match and once the score card has been signed, no dispute can be lodged.
- If a Team Captain is not in agreement with the final score, or does not wish to sign the Score Card for any other reason, her Team Manager must advise their opponents. The Scorers and both Umpires (who must print their names on the reverse of the Score Card) and state reasons for their non-compliance with this regulation and report immediately to the Tournament Referees.
- In the event that Court Runners are not provided, it is the responsibility of the winning Team Captain to take both Score Cards to the recorders table after they have been signed by both Scorers and Team Captains.
- In the event of a draw, each Team Captain will take responsibility for taking a card to the Recorders table.
- In the event of a team being 'non competitive' for any reason, their results and those of their opponents will not be included on the master score sheet.
- Match points will be awarded as follows:
 - 5 points for a win
 - 3 points for a draw
 - 1 point to the losing team if scoring over 50% of the goals scored by the winning team.
- In the event of a tie on points, goal average will decide placings (goals for divided by goals against).
- If goal average is tied then goal difference will be applied (the difference between goals for and goals against).
- If goal difference is tied, the result of the group match between the two teams will be the decider.
- In the event of a further tie, the team with the most goals will be adjudged the winner.
- Quarter, Semi and Finals (where applicable) – in the event of a draw at full time, extra time of 2 minutes each way will be played, changing over at half time without a break. Teams will toss for centre pass and change ends. In the event of a draw at full time, play will continue without a break, until the next goal is scored.

12. GLOVES/JEWELLERY/MEDIC ALERT BRACELET/SCARVES

- No form of glove may be worn when playing Netball.
- If, for medical reasons, gloves are required, then on the production of an appropriate medical certificate, the Tournament Referees may allow seamless leather gloves to be worn.
- These players are advised to have personal liability insurance.
- Umpires are reminded that they still have to be satisfied that any gloves worn do not present a hazard to other players.
- All jewellery and body piercing must be removed.
- A wedding ring must be taped if worn.
- Players wearing jewelry will not be allowed on court.
- Only a medical alert bracelet may be worn during a netball match.
- The bracelet must be secured in such a manner that it will not constitute a danger to an opponent i.e. with clear tape, suitably taped to ensure that it cannot be removed/lifted off by any accidental contact.
- Head Scarves – If these need to be worn because of religious practices, the player, together with the Coach should 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. It should be as neat and secure as possible.

13. HEALTH & SAFETY

When the Tournament Doctor or Physiotherapist has declared a player unfit to go on court, the Tournament Referees will be advised and will uphold that decision and the player in question will take no further part in the competition.

14. SPECIAL REGULATIONS

14.1 PREGNANT PLAYERS AND UMPIRES FITNESS

- Pregnant players may not take part beyond 12th week of pregnancy.
- Umpires are expected to conform to a standard of physical fitness, (Multi Stage Fitness Test Levels submitted prior to Appointment) which allows them to keep pace with the speed and variability of the game(s). However, if age, injury, illness or pregnancy is likely to affect the umpires movements and positioning to the detriment of the game, she/he will be required to withdraw from officiating.
- At the discretion of England Netball an appropriate penalty may be imposed on the umpire concerned.
- England Netball, reserve the right to withdraw an umpire from the Tournament should this become necessary. The decision will be made by two nominated Court Managers in consultation with the Umpire Co-ordinator and after observation of the Umpire concerned.

14.2 PLAYERS AND BLEEDING

Please note Rule 7 clearly states the procedure regarding players and bleeding. However, where no time is allowed for injuries the following should apply:

- If the bleeding is not profuse, the player should be asked to cover the injury at the next interval.
- If the bleeding is very heavy, the player will be asked to leave the court for the dressing of the injury and to return according to rule 7.
- In these shorter matches, it is not the intention to penalise a team with an injured player and Umpires will need to be very aware of the time of the next interval, in order to keep a player on court unless it is absolutely necessary to have the injury covered. A sticking plaster could be used in order to stem the flow until the next interval.
- **PLEASE NOTE: IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TEAM OFFICIALS TO HAVE FIRST AID DRESSINGS AVAILABLE AT THE SIDE OF THE COURT.**
- If dressings are not available, then a substitute would have to be used or the team would have to play on with only six players.

14.3 UMPIRES AND BLEEDING

- Play may be stopped for injury or illness or any other cause. This would allow the Umpires to stop the game if she/he sustained and injury herself/himself.
- In tournament play where no time is allowed for stoppages, the Umpire should try to wait until the next interval before dealing with her/his injury. If the injury is bleeding, the Umpire should avoid touching the ball. This may mean that she/he should request the other Umpire to take any Toss Up that she/he may award, until she/he can deal with her/his own injury. It may now be advisable for Umpires to keep an Elastoplast about their person in order to deal with any small injury that may occur. In the event of a major injury to either a player or an Umpire, the game would have to be stopped and the Tournament Referees would have to make a decision as to how the emergency situation would be coped with.

14.4 CLOSE RANGE PHOTOGRAPHY

- The England Netball Safeguarding guidelines require that any person wishing to engage in any video, zoom or close range photography should register their details with staff in the Registration area before carrying out such photography.