

MOONRAKER NETBALL LEAGUE RULES

2023-24

Registering Teams

1. Registration fee of £45 per team. Club Team registration forms, together with the appropriate fees, are to be paid to the League Treasurer at least 7 days before their first game. A copy of the registration form is to be sent to the League Secretary. All registration forms are to include the players' affiliation number and if under 14 years of age, their DOB, plus relevant All England Banding Form must be submitted to the Secretary. Cheques to be made payable to the Moonraker Netball League. Clubs may register as many players as they wish.

Failure to comply will incur a 2 point deduction per offending team from the Club involved.

2. One EN affiliated umpire must be registered per club teams holding a current qualification appropriate for the teams' playing division/s. The umpire's affiliation number, contact email address and phone number must be provided at the time of registration, to be included in the Team White contact list.

Failure to register an acceptable umpire will result in the team being refused entry into the league.

3. All teams are to have registered additional players, over and above the initial 7 (minimum) per team registered as in Rule 1, with the League Treasurer & League Secretary in writing by 5.00pm two days before their first match, i.e. For Tuesday matches players must be registered by 5.00pm on Sunday and for Thursday matches players must be registered by 5.00pm on Tuesday.

Failure to comply will incur a 2 point deduction per offending player from the team involved.

4. New teams will join the League in the lowest division unless the League Committee uses its discretion to place them in a higher division

Players

5. All players, including second claim members, must be affiliated to EN and the Wiltshire Netball Association to be able to play in the Moonraker League.

Failure to comply will incur a 2 point deduction per offending player from the team involved.

6. Players may only register/play for one club within the Moonraker league, through all the divisions, at any one time. If a player decides to change clubs mid-way through the season, this must be brought to the Committees attention before a change is made (time frames as per registering new players stand).

Failing to comply will incur a 4 point deduction per offending player.

7. No player under the age of 12 may play in the Moonraker League. Players aged 12 or 13 may not play in the league unless assessed & approved by an appropriately qualified assessor or UKCC Level 2 qualified coach. ***The EN age banding form must be received by the Moonraker League Secretary with that player's registration.***

Failure to comply will incur a 2 point penalty deduction per offending player.

Matches

8. No team can cancel a match whilst the league is being solely held at central venue. If a match is cancelled then the points will be given to the opposing team. The opposing team may contact the League Committee for a 'result' **If a club has more than one team then a 2 point deduction will be given to all teams in the club who cancel a match apart from the bottom team within that club.** I.e. if a club has three teams (A, B, and C) and the A team match is cancelled, then the A and B teams will be deducted 2 points each. The C team would not have any points deducted.

If a team cancelling a match are the **AWAY** team they have to pay the court fee to the **HOME** team – who would not be able to collect match fees to cover the cost.

9. If a team turns up with only 5 players and the match is due to start, the team must start on time. If the match is at 8.30pm and the previous match is overrunning, the match must start as soon as the early match has finished. If the team has less than 5 players, they have a maximum of 15 minutes for the other players to arrive and start the match. If the 15 minutes ends without the match starting, the match will be void and the points will go to the opposing team, providing they have 5 or more players present.

The exceptions to the rule is if players phone ahead to let the opposing team know they are running late or stuck in traffic. In this situation the game can be reduced to a minimum of 4 x 10 minute quarters.

10. If a match has to be cancelled due to **extenuating circumstances**, a minimum of 24hrs notice should be given. The cancelling team is responsible for contacting the Captain and the Club Secretary of the opposing team, both umpires and the Fixtures Secretary to notify them of the cancellation prior to the match. The cancelling team must ask for confirmation of receipt from the relevant parties. In addition to this, the cancelling team must notify the League Secretary.

Failure to take action will result in a 4 point deduction.

Even if a match has been cancelled, BOTH teams in the cancelled match are expected to fulfil their umpiring obligations.

Requests to rearrange a cancelled match must be received in writing by the League Chair person within 10 days of the original fixture. The reason for cancellation will be considered and a decision will be made whether to rearrange the match or not. (Please note that this will only apply in extenuating circumstances - not having enough players on a particular night is not extenuating). Should the teams be granted permission to rearrange the fixture, the CV Secretary will suggest two alternative dates/times from which the captains of both teams involved must agree to one. The League Umpiring Secretary will facilitate booking of umpires for any rearranged matches.

The Reserve Dates on the Fixture List, allocated by the Fixtures Secretary, should be kept free by all teams in case of cancellations due to bad weather etc.

11. Penalty for not informing the umpire(s) that they are no longer required due to a match being cancelled is the appropriate umpiring fee for the umpire (see rule 19). This money is to be paid to the umpire(s) to cover unnecessary travel expenses.
12. If a team fails to turn up for a match, without prior communication or extenuating circumstances raised the offending team will incur an additional **4 point deduction**, they will also be required to pay the other teams match fee, as per season cost, plus any relevant umpiring fees incurred.
13. Players from lower teams may play up to higher teams for a total of sixteen (16) quarters. On their 17th appearance on court for any higher team, the player in question must move up to the next higher team from the one they were first registered with, on a permanent basis. (Note: If a C team player plays up to the B team but also to the A team, any time spent on court for the A team will count towards their 16 quarters before they have to move up to the B team). If the player then plays (1 quarter) for a team higher than her new registration, she will be immediately re-registered to the next higher team.

A penalty of 4 points will be deducted per offending player for any violation of this rule. The team penalised will be the lower team that the player played down to illegally.

- i. Players can only be recorded on one team sheet (before the match starts) during matches that are played at the same time.

Failure to comply will incur a 5 point deduction per offending team from the Club involved.

- ii. No player who plays for a club in the Netball South West Regional League structure, similar or higher leagues shall play down in the Moonraker League subject to proviso below. Clubs with teams in higher leagues shall provide to the League Secretary by the start of the season their top 7 team members registered to play in the higher teams. These players will not be eligible to play in the League. Any club player who is not in the declared 7 and subsequently plays in regional or above matches will be deemed a member of the higher team when they have fulfilled the 'playing up rule' (16 quarters).
- iii. Any player who plays regional or higher league netball who is not declared in an initial 7 must be registered to their highest Moonraker League team.
- iv. If a player, not in the declared 7, plays for a regional team, the club must notify the League Secretary immediately of the number of quarters played, per match played.

A penalty of 4 points will be deducted per player per match.

- 14. If a team knowingly breaches rules set out by the league, they face a **5 point deduction** for each rule breached, and on each occasion. Subject to committee decision.
- 15. 'A' team players dropped to the 'B' team may not play back up until there has been three (3) 'A' games played, but may play immediately for the 'B' team. This rule applies equally to any number of other club teams. **No** players are to play down to any other team in their Club after Christmas. Extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration on a case by case basis. Requests to play players down must be received by the League Secretary and the Chair of the League in writing 7 days in advance of the match.

Failure to comply will incur a 4 point deduction per offending player from the team involved.

Umpires

- 16. All Moonraker umpires are considered to be neutral. Umpires may officiate games between any clubs within the league. Cases of biased umpiring should be reported to the league Umpiring Secretary within 10 days of the match. All cases will be investigated thoroughly. Qualification will always be more important than neutrality.
- 17. All Premier League and Division 1 matches **MUST** be officiated by an umpire with at least a C award umpiring qualification. All Division 2 matches **MUST** be officiated by an umpire with at least an Into officiating/Beginner award qualification.

Umpires working towards their next umpiring qualification may do so as long as they have been given permission by the Umpiring Secretary and are accompanied by their mentor through the duration of the match being played.

Under these conditions any umpire working towards an Into officiating qualification may umpire in divisions 2, 3 & 4; any umpire working towards a C qualification may umpire in divisions Prem, 1, 2, 3 & 4. An umpire working towards a C qualification may umpire in the Premier division only after consultation with the Umpiring Secretary and their mentor, having gained experience in Division 1.

- 18. Each team to supply an umpire according to the umpiring schedule. Penalty for not providing a suitable umpire **will result in a 4 point deduction**.
 - i. If no suitably qualified umpire, agreeable to both teams, is available to officiate the match, it will be cancelled. The offending team (i.e. the team who should have provided the umpire) will be fined as follows: £20 to the League (as in (i)), £20 to cover the umpiring costs for the rearranged fixture, £10 as compensation to the second umpire of the original match (if applicable), plus the cost of the court fees for the re-arranged match.
 - ii. Responsibility for ensuring umpires turn up for fixtures lies **with the Club** who arranged them. It is suggested that a 'two way' confirmation message is sent by clubs to their umpires in the 48 hours preceding a fixture.

iii. In the unlikely event that an umpire fails to turn up for a commitment, an appeal can be made to the League Chair providing that proof of two way communication with the umpire in question took place within the suggested 48 hour time period. Evidence of both sides of the communication must be submitted with the appeal. The appeal must be made within 7 days of the incident. Late appeals will not be accepted and the fines listed above will apply.

iv. In **extenuating circumstances** which prevent an umpire from carrying out a commitment, the League Chair, Umpiring Secretary and League Secretary should be notified at the earliest opportunity including the details of the surrounding circumstances. Where possible, umpires should find replacements for themselves. The Umpiring Secretary and League Chair will try to find a replacement umpire when reasonable time is given. Should no suitable replacement umpire be found, the match will be cancelled and rearranged at a mutually convenient time for both clubs, on a date chosen from at least two options offered by the Fixtures Secretary. Umpires for the rearranged match will be organised by the Umpiring Secretary.

19. £20 fee is to be paid to the umpires holding a C award or above. £15 fee is to be paid for ITO (Into Officiating) and £10 for unqualified umpires. Note that these fees apply regardless to level of match being umpired.

20. Scorers must be provided by each team in ALL divisions for the match in which they are playing. This may be a team player, parent, partner, boyfriend etc.

A penalty of a 2 point deduction for not providing a scorer, to be annotated on the Team score sheet by the umpire.

All Clubs are to make every effort to encourage potential umpires to attend courses and work towards having their own umpires, not only per Club but also per team.

General

21. All Premier Division games are to be completed by 31st March. All remaining Divisions games are to be completed by 31st May.

- i. The names of all players playing in a match must be entered onto the relevant results sheet provided to the league.

Failure to comply will result in a 2pt deduction per player per match from the team involved.

22. Correctly completed and signed results sheets are to be emailed to moonrakerscores@outlook.com by 5.00pm on the Friday of the week the match was played.

Failure to comply will result in a 2 point deduction

23. Points will be allocated on the following basis: 5 points for a win, 3 points for a draw, 2 points to the losing team if their score is within 5 goals difference (inclusive) of the winning team's score and 1 point to the losing team if their score is with 50% of the winning team's score.

24. Each team to pay the cost of the home game.

25. All teams are to adhere to the EN Rules.

26. All teams must have access to a first aid kit during matches and to have a nominated primary carer for each match.

27. Attendance at all AGM meetings is compulsory. If a club fails to attend they will be fined £50 for each meeting. The club will have 1 month from the date of the AGM to pay the fine. The club will not be able to play the following season until the fine has been paid.

28. All Clubs are to pay their Central Venue (CV) fees on time, or at the very latest within 30 days of the date stipulated on each of the invoices.

The penalty will be that Clubs will be fined £20, and each Club team will be docked 2 points.

29. If a Club wishes to withdraw a team from the League, the default team to be withdrawn will be that in the lowest league position. Exceptional circumstances, will be considered by the Moonraker Committee on a case by case basis.
- ii. Any team that withdraws from the league partway through the season will be considered as the relegated team i.e. that team will be relegated through each division so that no other team will be placed at a disadvantage. All match results against the withdrawing team will be deleted from the records. If players from the withdrawn team want to play in another team they must be re-registered to the new team.
30. Any disciplinary incident will be handled in the first instance by 3, non-conflicting, members of the Committee. If the incident is not covered by the Moonraker rules then it would be referred to the Wiltshire County Committee. In exceptional circumstances, Officers of the Moonraker Committee will have jurisdiction to apply any penalty that they deem fitting, that may not already be covered by these rules. Any item not covered by these rules will be dealt with at the League Committee's discretion.
31. Promotion and relegation will be 'two up, two down' within each division. The League Committee may make changes to this ruling at their discretion.
32. Any incident of persistent/repeated breaking of a league rule/s, as deemed by the league committee, will be subject to any penalty deemed proportionate to the incident. The penalty may be applied to a team or all teams within a club, depending on the nature of the incident
33. Any player who chooses to play whilst pregnant may be allowed to play at central venue as long as they have a letter/ email from their GP to say that they are fit to play netball and this is shown to the umpire prior to the match. No player shall play after they are 12 weeks pregnant.