



NATIONAL U14 CLUBS

Regional Tournament Regulations 2018

It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players are conversant with the regulations at every level of this competition

1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

1.1 The competition in its entirety is known as the England Netball National U14 Clubs.

1.2 For the purposes of these Rules and Regulations and their provision, and unless otherwise determined by England Netball, National 14 Clubs shall be deemed to comprise of County and Regional Rounds. These are separate competitions with separate regulations which provide a pathway through to the National Finals.

1.3 This Regional Round of the Competition is the sole responsibility of the London & South East Regional Netball Association, an autonomous organisation independent of England Netball. England Netball shall not be responsible or liable for any claim in respect of the Feeder Competition or any Competition round except the National Finals.

1.4 The decisions of London & South East Region, or its nominee(s), in respect of these Rules and Regulations and on any other matter related to the National U14 Clubs Regional Round 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 in sections 10 and 11).

1.5 It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches, Captains, Officials and all other participants within National U14 Clubs to ensure that they are conversant with the following Rules and Regulations.

1.6 All clubs will be held responsible for the **Overall Conduct*** of their players, officials and spectators.

2. ENTRY AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Entry to the National U14 Clubs Regional Round shall be open to any club or team (one team per affiliated club) which is affiliated to England Netball, and which has paid a full affiliation in this respect.

2.2 Entry to the National U14 Clubs Regional Round will be determined by London & South East Regional Netball Association (L&SERNA), at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the Rules and Regulations laid out herein.

2.3 L&SERNA is entitled to charge an entry fee to the National U14 Clubs Regional Round.

2.3 By entering a team in the National U14 Clubs Regional Round, clubs/teams agree that:

- a) they are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the Competition;
- b) they will fulfil their obligations and responsibilities set out in the Regulations;
- c) they are bound by the Competition Regulations; and
- d) they are bound by all of the rules, policies, regulations and by-laws of England Netball, including the England Netball Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Rules and Regulations, as may from time to time be in force.

2.4 In order to qualify a team to participate in the National U14 Club Regional Round a club shall either be accredited under England Netball's CAPS scheme, or registered and actively working towards the same, prior to submitting the Registration Form for the Regional Round.

2.5 In order to qualify to participate in the National U14 Clubs Regional Round, a player and Team Officials (see 7.5) shall be in membership of England Netball as affiliated Registered Participants via one of the following qualifications:

- a) Through affiliation to a Club
- b) Through affiliation to a Young Persons Group
- c) As an Independent Registered Participant through a County (Team Officials only)

2.6 All players and team officials must have their membership lodged with the England Netball Head Office, their subscription paid, and the payment cleared, **no less than four (4) days** before the competition round.

2.7 All players must be over 11 years of age and under the age of 14 years old at 11.59 pm on **31st August 2017**.

2.8 All Team Managers must be over the age of 18 years old prior to the day of the competition.

2.9 During the Competition, Team Managers must at all times carry proof of age for all Players and a copy of Age Banding Consent Forms applicable to Players listed on the Squad Registration Sheet.

2.10 Proof of age comprises of one or more of the following:

- a) Copy of birth certificate;
- b) Copy of passport;
- c) Copy of medical card.

2.11 England Netball recommends that individuals (Player, coach, umpire) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidelines issued by itself.

The England Netball Personal Accident insurance cover excludes any loss or expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage or any consequence thereof. If for example, a member who is pregnant is involved in an accident not related to the pregnancy, subject to the conditions of the policy, the relevant benefits would be payable. However if any situation (such as hospitalisation) was prolonged as a direct result of pregnancy, pregnancy complications or even early childbirth, then this portion of any claim is not covered.

3. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

3.1 Squad Registration Sheets for **each participating team** must be completed in full for each player and lodged with the Tournament Organiser (Jenny Harrold) by **Monday 2nd April 2018**.

3.2 Teams may use up to twelve (12) players whose names appear on their Squad Registration Sheet held by L&SERNA.

3.3 All players must be affiliated to the club that they are representing in the competition.

3.4 Any additions, or alterations to the Squad Registration Sheets must be lodged with L&SERNA's Tournament Referee prior to the start of the Regional Round.

3.5 No changes may be made to the Squad Registration Sheet once the Team Manager has signed it during the Registration Period of the **Competition Day***, even if the Registration Period has not closed.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

4.1 The National U14 Clubs Regional Round will be contested between as many teams as shall be determined by L&SERNA from time to time.

4.2 The winners and runners up from the National U14 Clubs Regional Round shall progress to the National U14 Club Finals, providing they meet the eligibility criteria outlined in these regulations. If a winner or runner up is ineligible the next placed eligible team will progress to the National U14 Club Finals.

4.3 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:

- 5 points for a win
- 3 points for a draw
- 1 point for **more than** 50 per cent of the winners' score
- 0 points for a loss

4.4 National U14 Clubs competition tables will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team.

Where two 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 competition stage 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 result of the group match between the two teams will be the decider.
- d) In the event that the group match result does not differentiate between the teams, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence
- e) In the event that neither goal average nor goal difference nor the group match result nor goals scored can differentiate between the teams, the winner will be decided by a playoff game(s), the format of which shall be determined by the Competition Referee.
- f) Playoff game(s) where applicable – in the event of a draw at full time the following will apply:
 - i. There will be extra time of two (2) minutes each way;
 - ii. **Teams change ends immediately after full time, and the centre pass is taken by the Team entitled to the next centre pass**
 - iii. The Teams will change over at half time without a break;
 - iv. In the event of a draw after the full period of extra time, play will continue without a break, until the next goal is scored, whereupon the Team which scores that goal will be the winners.

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. 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

5. VENUE ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 L&SERNA is responsible for arranging the venue and conducting a risk assessment.

5.2 For all 'incidents' on or off the court at the selected venue an England Netball Accident Report form must be completed by the Competition Referee and a copy sent to England Netball which will be stored for insurance purposes using Standard issued forms.

5.3 All matches must be played as the schedule published by L&SERNA, and take place as stated, unless otherwise agreed by the Competition Referee.

5.4 Clubs will be responsible for arranging their own travel, and for the costs of this, and should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays.

5.5 If the tournament is postponed or cancelled, it is the responsibility of L&SERNA to ensure that the teams and umpire are informed immediately the postponement or cancellation is known.

6. MATCH REGULATIONS

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

6.2 All matches shall be played in a format as decided by L&SERNA.

6.3 Start of Play and Late Arrivals

6.3.1 Team Officials must ensure that:

- a) Before the start of each Match the Captains have tossed for centre pass, and inform the Umpires and Match Bench Official;
- b) All Teams are on court, in position and ready to play, at the scheduled time in accordance with the playing schedule and the central timer;
- c) No Team starts a Match with less than five (5) Players.

6.3.2 Any team not on court as per 6.3.1 a) to c) will concede the match. 0 points will be awarded to the team conceding the match and 5 for a win will be awarded to the team on court, in position and ready to play at the correct time.

6.3.3 The Umpires must record on the Score Card, the name and arrival time of the team who arrived late

6.4 Central Timing.

6.4.1. All matches shall be 14 minutes in duration (7 minutes each way), with one minute at half time and 2 minutes between matches.

6.4.2 Central timing, normally sounded by a hooter, will be used, but matches will start and finish on the Umpires whistle.

6.4.3 Central Timer will signal the end of each half to the Umpire (usually by a hooter), whose whistle shall end each half.

6.4.4 The hooter will sound at the beginning and end of each half.

6.4.5 Prior to the start of the competition a warning will be given 5 minutes before play is due to commence.

6.5 Substitutes and Teams Changes.

6.5.1 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.

6.5.2 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.

6.5.3 No extra time will be allowed for injury or illness.

6.6 Injuries and Accidents -Team Officials must have basic First Aid knowledge and material readily to hand.

- 6.6.1 Play may be stopped if the umpire deems it necessary due to the injury or illness of a player.
- 6.6.2 Team Officials are required to take great care in moving an injured player or ill player from the court.
- 6.6.3 Should the Team Officials feel that an injury is critical (e.g. head, neck or back) and that the injured Player should not be moved without the assistance of medical staff the Umpires should note the time lost during treatment and report to the Competition Referee who will adjudicate. (Most Netball injuries i.e. knee, ankle etc fall outside this exemption clause)
- 6.6.4 For all accidents or injuries on or off the court at the Competition, where any Player, Team Official, Umpire, spectator, Volunteer, Staff Member or any other individual connected to the Competition is injured, the Competition Referee must complete an England Netball Accident Report Form and return to England Netball.
- 6.6.5 This procedure should be followed for all injuries and accidents, regardless of whether or not medical treatment is given.
- 6.6.6 In the event that a Match is abandoned for any reason, for example because of serious injury, the result of that Match will be determined by the Competition Referee, having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.

6.7 Kit and Equipment.

- 6.7.1 Each team must provide a size five (5) netball, which must be clearly marked for identification purposes.
- 6.7.2 All players must wear positional bibs and teams must have a spare set in a different colour in case of a clash of colours.
- 6.7.3 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.

7. MATCH OFFICIALS

7.1 Umpires who actively hold a Netball Europe Award ('B' or above,), will be allocated to the competition by L&SERNA and will be organised on the day by an Umpire Co-ordinator.

7.2 Teams will contribute to the umpires' travel expenses, via an entry fee which shall be determined by the L&SERNA and paid prior to the commencement of the competition.

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

- The Umpire Co-ordinator must be informed immediately
- If another umpire of the appropriate minimum standard (B Award) is available then she/he will umpire the match
- Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire should be used.

7.4 **The Match Bench Officials** -The match officials are the Umpires and **Scorers**. The two (2) scorers shall constitute the Official Bench.

7.4.1 **Scorers** will be required for all matches. Each team must provide a competent scorer; either an Umpire, Match Bench Official or a person who has either attended a Match Bench Course or has a working knowledge of scoring.

7.5 The Team Officials – for the National U14 Clubs L&SE Regional Round

7.5.1 The Team Officials (max 3) are the Coach, Team Manager and/or Primary Carer. If there is no designated Primary Carer either the Coach or the Team Manager must have knowledge of First Aid.

7.5.2 The Team Officials and up to five (5) players not on court shall constitute the **Team Bench**.

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7.5.3 The **Team Bench** will be situated in the area at the Team's defending end at the start of the match to the right of the netball posts unless otherwise agreed with the Umpires. The Team Bench does not change ends during any intervals.

7.5.4 Team Officials and Bench players may coach while play is in progress provided that they remain seated or standing at their Team Bench.

8. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

8.1 L&SERNA's Official Scorecard must be checked and signed by the Scorer(s) and both Team Managers. Once the official scorecards have been signed no dispute can be lodged unless clearly marked 'under protest'. If the final score is not in agreement then the process outlined in 10.1.2 should be followed.

8.2 A legible copy of the L&SERNA's official scorecard must be submitted to the Recording Table immediately after the match by the winning Team Captain, Team Manager or Scorer. In the event of a draw the Team Captain, Team Manager or Scorer of each team will take responsibility for delivering their own Scorecard.

9. COMPETITION REFEREES

9.1 Competition Referees will be appointed by L&SERNA for the Regional Round.

9.2 Competition Referees will have all necessary authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising during the **Competition Day** including, but not limited to:

- a) altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary;
- b) determining if teams and/or players are in breach of the Rules and Regulations and imposing an appropriate penalty (including disqualification of any individual player or team);
- c) maintaining and being responsible for a confidential Competition Referee Log Book
- d) upholding the decision of any medical advisor regarding the participation of a player;
- e) instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour or behaviour that brings the Sport into disrepute, including instances of teams predetermining the outcome of a match;
- f) determining the result should any match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstances;
- g) altering the length of the matches set out in 6.4;
- h) determining any matter not covered specifically within these Regulations.

9.3 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.

9.4 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.

10 COMPETITION COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

10.1 On the Competition Day, all queries and complaints (a Complaint) should be directed to the Competition Referee in the first instance to be dealt with as follows:

10.1.1 Where the Complaint relates to the competition format or management, including (but not limited to) the schedule, the opposing team, playing surface or other playing arrangements, a protest must be made before the start of the match (or as soon as possible after the issue becomes apparent during the match) to the Competition Referee by the relevant Team or Match Official. The Complaint must then be acknowledged by the Competition Referee who will decide what action should be taken;

10.1.2 Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant 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) take the marked score card to the Competition Referees straight after the match;
- d) explain the issue in full to the Competition Referee.

10.2 The Competition Referee decision in relation to decisions taken under rules 10.1.1 and 10.1.2 is binding. Parties to the Complaint shall have the right to appeal the decision under rule 11 below.

10.3 Where the Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the competition by L&SERNA, such Complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the processes set out in England Netball’s Disciplinary Regulations.

10.4 Where the Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual player or team, volunteer or individual attending the competition or to the use of social media technology to bring the game into disrepute or make an inappropriate comment about a fellow player, Team Manager, coach, official, volunteer or the Governing Body which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball’s Disciplinary Regulations, such Complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures set out in England Netball’s Disciplinary Regulations and should be referred to the Disciplinary Secretary of L&SER.

11 APPEALS AGAINST THE DECISION OF THE COMPETITION REFEREE

11.1 The decision of the Competition Referees in relation to a Complaint submitted in accordance with sections 10.1.1 or 10.1.2 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

- 11.1.1 if the decision of the Competition Referees has a potential impact on a Match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition; **and**
- 11.1.2 there has been a failure by the Competition Referees to follow or act in accordance with these Regulations and/or the Competition Referees has 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 following process.

11.2 An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the Team Manager of the appealing Team to the Regional Office within 72 hours of receiving the decision. A Competition Appeals Committee (CAC) will then be established consisting of individuals that are independent of and not connected to the Competition.

11.3 The appeal must be accompanied by a cheque for £100 made payable to L&SERNA sent to the Regional Office. The cheque will be returned if the appeal is upheld or if there are any other extenuating circumstances. The CAC will decide whether the extenuating circumstance warrant the cheque being returned.

11.4 The Chair of the CAC will give notice of 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 time the appeal notice is sent from the CAC to submit any evidence or submission that they wish the CAC to consider.

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

11.6 The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within 72 hours of receiving the evidence and submissions.

11.7 The CAC will notify all the parties who presented submissions and evidence of its decision and any penalties and/or sanctions imposed within 24 hours of it reaching such decision. The CAC shall have the discretion to publish the decision through whatever media it considers appropriate.

11.8 The CAC shall have the delegated power of the L&SERNA to make all decisions and impose and enforce any penalties and/or sanctions (including but not limited to, reprimands, the deduction of points, fines, suspensions and expulsions from the competition) relating to the appeal.

11.9 The procedures in this Section 11 shall be governed by the Arbitration Act of 1996 and amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of Section 6 of that Act. For the avoidance of doubt, there shall be no further right of appeal against the decision of the CAC.

11.10 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.

11.11 If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than provided for by this rule 11, and all parties to the appeal agree, the timetable within which an appeal is raised, submissions made and the decision taken can be shorter than the 72 hours stated in this section. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised timetable which shall be binding on all parties.

12. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISOS

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

12.1.1 **Players and Bleeding** - As there is no time allowed for injuries, the following will apply:-

- a) if a player is bleeding, she may be asked to leave the court immediately for treatment.
- b) a substitute may take the place of the player with bleeding, as/immediately after that player has left the court. **NO OTHER CHANGES CAN BE MADE AT THIS TIME, BY EITHER TEAM.**
- c) if a substitute is not available, the team must play on with only six players. If the player with bleeding is the Centre, one player must take the place of the Centre.

12.2 L&SERNA 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.

12.3 All participants acknowledge that participating in the sport of netball involves a risk of personal injury and by taking part in National U14 Clubs, whether as a player, team member, team official, other official or spectator, each participant does so at their own risk.

12.4 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.

12.5 These Regulations shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law.

12.6 Any questions regarding these Regulations can be addressed to the Regional Office.

13 JEWELLERY/MEDIC ALERT BRACELET/HEADCOVERING/GLOVES

13.1 **All jewellery must be removed** when playing netball, and players wearing jewellery (**including body piercing**) will not be allowed on court.

The following exceptions will apply:

- a. **Wedding rings** may be worn, but must be taped
- b. **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.

13.2 **Head Covering**

The priority must be to encourage increased participation in sport, with sensitivity to the religious practices and cultural differences, together with the safety of all participants. With this in mind the player, together with the coach/teacher/parent etc. 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 shirt collar. It should be as neat and secure as possible.

Baseball caps etc are not permitted.

13.3 **Gloves**

No form of glove may be worn when playing netball. If for medical reasons gloves are required, then on production of an appropriate medical certificate, the Tournament Referee may allow gloves to be worn. Umpires are advised that if a medical certificate is produced and gloves are worn they should be plain, soft, leather type gloves, seamless or with internal seams. These players are then to be advised to have Personal Liability Insurance. Umpires are reminded that they still have to be satisfied that any gloves worn do not present an obvious hazard to other players.

Please note that if gloves are worn this does not supersede the International ruling on nails.

14.4 **Hair**

In the interest of safety, players who have long hair tied in a pony tail must ensure that it does not present a hazard by allowing it to swing in the faces of other players.

13.3 CLOSE RANGE PHOTOGRAPHY

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

**Definitions:*

Overall Conduct = you will be responsible for the behaviour, demeanour and actions of all those associated with your club. See Codes of Conduct.

Competition Day = the day(s) when a tournament is played as determined by the L&SERNA