



ESSEX METROPOLITAN NETBALL ASSOCIATION

LEAGUE RULES 2024/2025

AMENDMENTS TO LAST YEAR'S RULES ARE PRINTED IN BOLD BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS. PENALTIES ARE PRINTED IN *ITALICS*.

June 2024

1. **MEMBERSHIP**

(a) All members of clubs participating in the League, including players, C Award and Into Officiating Award umpires and officials must be individually Registered Members of England Netball and Essex Metropolitan by 12 September. This also applies to any non-playing C Award and Into Officiating Award umpires. B, A, International umpires and C Award umpires being assessed for the B Award need only hold a current England Netball membership.

PENALTY (a): ANY TEAM NOT SUPPLYING NAMES TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY BY THE APPROPRIATE DATE TO BE FINED £10.

(b) Registration for additional members during the year must be sent direct to the **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** and also to the Results Secretary with the member's signature, id number and, for a player, with the name of the team for which she will play.

(c) No player shall play in this League for more than one club of which she is a member in any one season without the prior permission of the Executive Committee.

(d) Every player must be **BIOLOGICALLY** female and aged 14 or over on 1st September **2024**.

PENALTY (a), (b), (c) and (d): THE OFFENDING TEAM'S POINTS FOR THE FIXTURE WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THEIR TOTAL POINTS, THE NON-OFFENDING TEAM WILL RECEIVE A TOTAL OF 6 POINTS FOR THE GAME.

2. Fees

(a) The League entry fee is £15.00 per team (if a club's Primary County is not Essex Metropolitan, the entry fee is £60.00 for the 1st team and £30.00 for any subsequent team). The membership fee per member is **£40.50 (£37.50 ENGLAND NETBALL, £1 LSER, £2 ESSEX MET), £18.50 18 AND UNDER* (£17.00 ENGLAND NETBALL, £1.50 ESSEX MET), £9.90 14 AND UNDER* (£8.90 ENGLAND NETBALL, £1 ESSEX MET)**
If a player/umpire's Primary County is not Essex Metropolitan and/or Primary Region is not LSER, each will need to pay the relevant fee of **£1.00 FOR OVER 18s TO LSER AND £2.00 FOR OVER 18s, £1.50 FOR THOSE AGED 18 AND UNDER*, £1 FOR THOSE AGED 14 AND UNDER* TO ESSEX METROPOLITAN.**

*** ON 1ST SEPTEMBER 2024.**

(b) Each team shall pay the appropriate fee for the hire of the facilities where the league is played, in the amounts and at the times required.

(c) Each club will pay a deposit of £100.00 for up to 2 teams, £150.00 for 3 – 4 teams, and £200.00 for 5+ teams with the Confirmation of League Entry form.
(i) any team which then withdraws from the League after the closing date for submitting this form, and before the start of the season will lose a £100.00 deposit, or be charged £100.00 if it is a club's 2nd or 3rd or any other team to withdraw.
(ii) any team which forfeits any of their first three matches of the season or forfeits three or more matches during the season may lose their deposit. The deposit will be returned when a club's team(s) have played at least 75% of their fixtures.
(iii) for cancelled games under Rule 10, the Treasurer shall reimburse the court fees of the non-offending team, utilising the deposit of the team cancelling the fixture.

(d) *****

3. Change of Secretary/Team Withdrawal

(a) Any club secretary taking office after the list of club secretaries has been circulated at the start of the season must notify the change in writing to the League Secretary, the Treasurer, the General Secretary, the Results Secretary and the other club secretaries in her Division(s).

(b) Teams dropping out must also inform the League Secretary, Results Secretary and clubs in their Division(s) immediately in writing via email.

(c) Any team withdrawing from the league will be required to meet the court fees of the opposing teams for any matches then unplayed.

4. Health and Safety

In the interests of the health and safety of players and umpires during games, teams are responsible for ensuring that:

- (a) their spectators, (including children) must watch from outside court (with the exception of Court 1, **10,11,12**), or for an indoor court, from the balcony: spectators are not allowed to watch from the court. **SPECTATORS MUST BEHAVE IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER AT ALL TIMES;**
- (b) items which are not required for netball, including but not limited to bicycles, chairs, buggies, prams or pushchairs are not allowed on court;
- (c) the team bench (the team officials and any substitutes) will be situated at the right of the post in their defending end at the start of the match: they do not change ends at any quarter time. This also applies to any ballbags, kit, etc. and
- (d) dogs are not allowed on court, as Redbridge does not allow dogs (except guide dogs) past the car park gates

Umpires are responsible for checking any potential infringement of this Rule. If a team infringes this rule, the umpires will note this on the Results Card.

PENALTY (a), (b), (c) and (d): ANY TEAM WHICH INFRINGES THIS RULE WILL BE FINED £15.00. ON THE THIRD OCCASION THAT THIS RULE IS INFRINGED, THE OFFENDING TEAM WILL BE DEDUCTED 6 POINTS. FOR ALL SUBSEQUENT GAMES WHERE THIS RULE IS INFRINGED, THE SAME PENALTY (DEDUCTION OF POINTS) WILL APPLY.

IF NEITHER TEAM ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY INFRINGEMENT OF THIS RULE, THE ABOVE PENALTY WILL BE APPLIED TO BOTH TEAMS.

ADDITIONALLY, IN (A), TEAMS AND/OR MEMBERS MAY BE SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND/OR ENGLAND NETBALL FOR ACTS OF INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT BY THEIR SPECTATORS.

5. Divisions

The League will be arranged as evenly as possible in sections usually consisting of a maximum of eight teams. Each team shall play the other teams in its section twice.

6. Registration

- (a) All members (excluding non-playing umpires) must be registered to a team in the League and complete Signature Lists scanned and emailed in pdf format (not photo) to the Results Secretary on or before the date of the first match. Non-playing members, and umpires do not need to be registered to a team but, if not so registered, they may not play.
- (b) Each team must name a minimum of seven playing members and provide signatures at the start of the season.

PENALTY (a) and (b): THE OFFENDING TEAM'S POINTS FOR THE FIXTURE WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THEIR TOTAL POINTS; THE NON-OFFENDING TEAM WILL RECEIVE A TOTAL OF 6 POINTS FOR THE GAME.

Any member not registered to a particular team shall be registered as a member of the team she first represents.

7. Players

- (a) A player must not play for a lower team of her club without the prior permission of the Executive Committee. Once this permission has been granted, further permission must be

granted by the Executive Committee before this player may play in a higher team on any occasion.

- (b) A player may only play in a higher team than the team for which she is registered on a total of **FIVE** occasions in one season.

If a player wishes to play for a higher team on a **SIXTH** occasion, then she may only play in that team for the rest of the season.

- (c) This rule also applies to clubs with two or more teams in any one Division.

PENALTY (a), (b) and (c): THE OFFENDING TEAM'S POINTS FOR THE FIXTURE WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THEIR TOTAL POINTS; THE NON-OFFENDING TEAM WILL RECEIVE A TOTAL OF 6 POINTS FOR THE GAME.

8. Substitutions

This rule is in addition to World Netball rule **10** relating to substitutes and team changes.

Up to five substitutes may be used during a game, with unlimited substitutions **provided each substitute signs the Results card prior to taking the court**, unless such substitution is due to injury or illness during a game, when that substitute shall sign at the next quarter break. It is the responsibility of team captains **AND UMPIRES** to ensure that all substitutes sign the Results card.

9. CAPTAINS & Colours

- (a) Players should wear a team uniform of distinctive colour and it is essential that they should also wear place bibs conforming to World Netball rules.
- (b) **THE ON-COURT CAPTAIN OF EACH TEAM MUST WEAR AN ARM BAND OR RIBBON/TIE ON A STRAP OF THE PLAYING UNIFORM AS IDENTIFICATION: THIS MAY BE OF ANY COLOUR AND FABRIC/MATERIAL (EXCEPT WOOL) AND DOES NOT NEED TO INCLUDE THE WORK 'CAPTAIN'**

10. Cancellations

- (a) Any team cancelling the fixture will be required to meet the court fees of the opposing team; the fees to be paid by the Treasurer from the deposit of the team cancelling the fixture. If the deposit is fully utilised, it is the responsibility of the team cancelling the fixture to pay such fees, at the written request of the other team and/or the Treasurer.
- (b) Any team cancelling the fixture after 8pm on the Friday before the fixture shall be fined £10.00.
- (c) if any team cancels five or more fixtures in one season, all results involving that team (played or cancelled) are discounted.
- (d) The secretaries of both teams must advise the **opposing Club Secretary, umpires and the Results Secretary** via email or text within 24 hours of the fixture. **Teams must also notify their umpires if they are no longer required to umpire, due to the game being used for an assessment or reassessment.**

PENALTY: (b) **A FINE OF £10.00 WILL BE LEVIED AS DESCRIBED.**
(d) **ANY DEFAULTING TEAM WILL BE FINED £5. IF NO ADVICE IS RECEIVED, BOTH TEAMS SHALL BE FINED £5 AND THE GAME WILL BE VOID.**

11. Postponements and Rearrangements

- (a) NO POSTPONEMENTS ALLOWED except
extreme weather conditions - **INCLUDING** severe snow, ice and dense fog. The grounds will be inspected and a decision made by Redbridge Sports Centre and a member of the Executive Committee; the information should be available on the Sports Centre's Hotline: 020 8498 1060 **AND ESSEX MET'S SOCIAL MEDIA**. Since this line is an answerphone, only the captain of each team should phone the Centre and advise their team members and umpire accordingly. The entire day's fixtures will be rearranged by the Executive Committee for a free date in the calendar.
- (b) Rearrangements of fixtures to another date will be permitted only if two or more players in one team are involved in:
- (i) National Schools/Colleges/Universities Tournaments/***, **LONDON PULSE TRIALS**, LSE Regional League and Challenge Cup fixtures.
- (ii) Any request for rearrangement in respect of LSE Regional League fixtures must be made prior to the beginning of the Season and for any of the remaining special reasons the request for rearrangement must be made at least four weeks prior to the fixture date, in writing via post or email to the League Secretary giving all the relevant information about the player(s) and team(s) involved. If the fixture was due to be played on an indoor court, the club requesting the rearrangement must also advise the League Secretary whether their booking will be taken by another team/club. If the club does not provide this information, that club will be responsible for payment of the total cost for that indoor court. The League Secretary will advise the Treasurer of all rearranged fixtures and the Treasurer will liaise with Redbridge Sports Centre regarding the invoicing/crediting the teams/clubs involved. The Executive Committee will decide on the date and venue of any such rearranged game. These exceptions do not extend to players in the Essex Met League involved in other counties'/regions' competitions.
- (iii) *****
- c) Rearrangements of Division 1 fixtures scheduled to be played outdoors will be permitted to a date prior to the fixture date on an indoor court, if both teams agree to the date, venue and payment of any court costs. Any such rearrangement must be notified **by both teams** to the League Secretary **and the Results Secretary** at least four weeks prior to the fixture date, giving all the relevant information about the rearranged game. The rearranged date and venue must be marked on the results card.

The teams playing the rearranged fixture must notify the teams nominating the umpires for that fixture, so that they can contact the nominated umpires to check availability and arrange a replacement, if needed.

The nominated umpires for the original fixture shall umpire the rearranged fixture if they are available. If they are not available, the team for which they were nominated shall select and appoint another available and suitably qualified umpire.

PENALTY:

(c) IF THE LEAGUE SECRETARY AND RESULTS SECRETARY DO NOT RECEIVE THE REQUIRED NOTICE, A PENALTY OF 3 POINTS WILL BE APPLIED TO THE OFFENDING TEAM(S). THE REARRANGED DATE MUST BE SHOWN ON THE RESULTS CARD.

12. **UMPIRES & SCORERS & COACHES**

(a) (i) ALL umpires officiating in the League must be aged 16 or over, qualified, **HAVE ATTENDED BOTH A 2024 RULES UPATE AND A GAME MANAGEMENT SEMINAR**, and have been successfully re-assessed as required. Both teams must supply a B or above qualified umpire for Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4 and a C or above qualified umpire for all other divisions and an Into Officiating Award Umpire for Divisions 11 and 12. **A C AWARD UMPIRE WORKING TOWARDS A B AWARD, AS CONFIRMED BY THE COUNTY OFFICIATING LEAD MAY UMPIRE FOR DIVISIONS 2,3, AND 4 AND MAY UMPIRE FOR DIVISION 1 ONLY AFTER PRIOR PERMISSION FROM THE COUNTY OFFICIATING LEAD.**

UMPIRES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT THEY ONLY UMPIRE GAMES FOR WHICH THEY ARE APPROPRIATELY QUALIFIED

(ii) Teams in Division 1 must supply an umpire who meets the criteria in paragraph (i) above. These umpires will be allocated to a game in Division 1 in accordance with the umpiring schedule provided with the fixture list: this will not be the game in which the team which nominated that umpire is playing. The teams playing each game are responsible for paying the umpires who are allocated to that game (not the teams which nominated those umpires).

*******THE TEAMS NOMINATING THE UMPIRES MUST ADVISE THE RESULTS SECRETARY, IN WRITING OF THE NAMES OF THEIR NOMINATED UMPIRES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NO LATER THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE FIXTURE DATE.*******

(b) All umpires shall be neutral. 'Neutral' means not members of or currently coaching the senior teams of the clubs playing, nor a close family member of a player in that fixture. All teams must contact and book a neutral umpire for each of their games.

(c) A list of qualified umpires, both active and inactive, who are members of each club must be submitted prior to the start of the season. Clubs with no qualified umpires who are members of their club must also return the form.

N.B. Teams may change umpires during a game (to take account of late arrival, illness or any similar reason) at any quarter time, provided that the substitute umpire is suitably qualified for that game. An umpire may become a player but a player may not become an umpire.

(d) If two or more complaints are received by the Executive Committee about an umpire in any one season, then that umpire will need to be reassessed.

(e) All teams must supply a competent scorer **aged 14 or older** for each of their matches. **The scorer must not coach teams/players whilst scoring**, including during intervals.

- They must have a working knowledge of scoring. Teams can identify more than one person to score throughout the season.
- They will use a simple scorecard.
- Both scorers **TO BE POSITIONED** on the side line, opposite the centre circle, or as otherwise agreed by the umpires and will note and call out the score after each goal. **THE SCORECARD MUST BE COMPLETED AT THE END OF EACH QUARTER.**
- At the end of the game, the scorers will advise the umpires of the final score and **the umpires will fill in the final score on the results card**, which will then be signed by both umpires on the front, and by both scorers. The scorers will also write the name of the club for which they are scoring.
- Nothing above precludes an umpire from maintaining a scorecard and calling the score, but the result will be that of the official scorers.
- The scorers are the official timekeepers of the game and must have a timer (preferably not a mobile phone).

In the event that an umpire fails to turn up, but the game is played as a friendly, this should be noted on the Results Card.

(f) For all games played indoors, the scorers must complete a Game Management Form (one form for each game). The Form will be provided before each game. The captains must sign the form at the end of the game. The winning team (or the home team in the case of a draw) must place the completed form in the Results Box on the date of the game, whether or not any game management actions were taken in that game.

(g) ALL CLUBS MUST SEND TO THE RESULTS SECRETARY THE NAME(S) & REGISTERED CLUB OF THEIR TEAM(S) COACH(ES) BEFORE THE FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON AND SEND TO THE RESULTS SECRETARY ANY CHANGES TO THOSE NAME(S) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER ANY CHANGES.

(h) A LIST OF QUALIFIED COACHES, BOTH ACTIVE AND INACTIVE, WHO ARE MEMBERS OF EACH CLUB MUST BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SEASON. CLUBS WITH NO QUALIFIED COACHES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THEIR CLUB MUST ALSO RETURN THE FORM TO THE COACHING SECRETARY

PENALTY (a) & (b): THE OFFENDING TEAM'S POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THEIR TOTAL POINTS, THE NON-OFFENDING TEAM WILL RECEIVE A TOTAL OF 6 POINTS FOR THE FIXTURE. See exception to this rule in (B) below.

(a)(i) AN UMPIRE WHO UMPIRES ANY GAME FOR WHICH THEY ARE NOT APPROPRIATELY QUALIFIED WILL BE FINED £20.

(a)(ii) TEAMS FAILING TO ADVISE THE RESULTS SECRETARY OF THEIR UMPIRES BY DUE TIME WILL BE FINED £10.00.

(B) ANY UMPIRE WHO FAILS TO FULFILL AN AGREED UMPIRING COMMITMENT OR WHO IS LATE TO ARRIVE FOR THE MATCH WILL BE FINED £25.00 AND WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO UMPIRE IN THE LEAGUE UNTIL THE FINE HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL. THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE INCLUDED ON THE FRONT OF THE RESULTS CARDS AND THE SCORE OMITTED. IN THIS EVENT, BOTH TEAMS WILL BE AWARDED 3 POINTS. ALL CLUBS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THIS FINE AT THE TIME IT IS IMPOSED.

(d) IF A CLUB FAILS TO SUBMIT THEIR LIST OF QUALIFIED ACTIVE AND INACTIVE UMPIRES, OR A NIL RETURN BY THE DATE OF THE FIRST MATCH, A FINE OF £10.00 WILL BE LEVIED.

(f) ANY DEFAULTING TEAM WILL BE FINED £5.00. ON THE THIRD OCCASION THAT A SCORER IS NOT PROVIDED, THE OFFENDING TEAM WILL BE DEDUCTED 6 POINTS. FOR ALL SUBSEQUENT GAMES WHERE A SCORER IS NOT PROVIDED, THE SAME PENALTY (DEDUCTION OF POINTS) WILL APPLY.

(g) IF A CLUB FAILS TO SUBMIT THE NAME OF THEIR COACH(ES) TO THE RESULTS SECRETARY OR ADVISES THE RESULTS SECRETARY THEY DO NOT HAVE A COACH BEFORE THE FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON, A FINE OF £10.00 WILL BE LEVIED.

(h) IF A CLUB FAILS TO SUBMIT THEIR LIST OF QUALIFIED ACTIVE AND INACTIVE COACHES OR A NIL RETURN BY THE DATE OF THE FIRST MATCH TO THE COACHING SECRETARY, A FINE OF £10.00 WILL BE LEVIED.

13. Umpiring Assessments & Mentoring

(a) The Executive Committee reserve the right to use any League fixture (up to and including Division 1) for any B Award assessments and B Award and above reassessments, and any League fixture (up to and including Division 5) for C Award and Into Officiating Award umpiring assessments and reassessments. Candidates for assessments and reassessments must be members of England Netball.

(b) The Executive Committee reserve the right to use any League fixture for a mentoring session for an Into Officiating, C or B Award umpire who is a member of Essex Metropolitan and is part of a recognised County or Regional mentoring scheme. The County Officiating Lead will notify clubs of any such allocation.

14. Times

All League matches shall be played under the rules of World Netball, except as otherwise set out in these Rules, and shall be played at the League Centre.

All matches must begin on time.

UMPIRES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING THIS. In the event of a match starting late and therefore being curtailed by the start of the next scheduled game, the umpires must make a note to this effect on the Results card.

Matches will be played for four quarters of 15 minutes each, with an interval of 3 minutes between the first - second and third - fourth quarters, and an interval of 5 minutes at half time.

The scorers are the official timekeepers of the game and must have a timer, (preferably not a mobile phone).

Stoppages for injury or illness, BLOOD OR AN OPEN WOUND shall be in accordance with World Netball Rule 10. Any one of the Team Officials for *** the player **WHO IS INJURED, ILL, IS BLEEDING OR WHO HAS AN OPEN WOUND** may enter the court, as the Primary Care Person, to attend to that player if a Primary Care Person is not available.

Teams must vacate the courts at least five minutes prior to the start of the next round.

In the event of sudden extreme weather conditions which, in the opinion of both umpires, make playing/umpiring dangerous, the umpires may agree to suspend play for up to ten minutes. If such weather conditions continue for more than ten minutes, the result for that game shall be the score when the game was stopped.

PENALTY: WHERE ONE TEAM IS LATE AND THE GAME IS NOT PLAYED, 6 POINTS WILL BE AWARDED TO THE TEAM ON TIME, AND 0 POINTS TO THE TEAM WHICH IS LATE. IF BOTH TEAMS ARE LATE, THE GAME WILL BE CONSIDERED VOID. THIS MUST BE CERTIFIED BY THE UMPIRES AND CAPTAINS ON THE RESULT CARD.

15. Results

(a) Results cards will be available to the 'home' team at the beginning of the season. The Results card must be signed by the starting line up of seven players of each team, and Essex Met membership numbers included, prior to the start of the match **in the presence of one or both umpires.** Latecomers shall sign at the next quarter break – **UMPIRES MUST ENSURE THIS.** The winning team, **(or the home team in the case of a draw)**, shall be responsible for the submission of the Results card which must be fully signed by the umpires, scorers and players, including substitutes, and contain the Essex Met membership number for each player. The umpires' membership numbers must also be shown. Printed names for absent players will not be accepted.

*****BOTH SCORERS MUST PRINT THEIR NAME LEGIBLY ON THE RESULTS CARD.*****

No pre-signed cards will be accepted by the umpires.

At the end of the game, each captain (or her delegate) is responsible for marking the Results Card to indicate which (if any) of her own team's players have played up at any time during that match.

(b) 6 points will be awarded for a win and 4 points each for a draw. The losing team will be awarded 3 points if its score is one goal less than the winning team's score or 2 points if its score is 10 goals or less than the winning team's score or 1 point if its score is at least 50% of the winning team's score.

(c) The **ORIGINAL** Results card (**NOT A PHOTO**) must be placed in the Results Box located near the office in the pavilion of the Sports Centre on the date of the match, and will be collected on behalf of the Results Secretary no later than 4.30pm.

PENALTY: (a), and (c): IF THE CARD IS NOT COLLECTED, THE MATCH IS VOID (I.E. NO POINTS AWARDED AND WINNING TEAM (OR HOME TEAM IN THE EVENT OF A DRAW) SHALL BE FINED £3.)

(a): MISSING MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS OF PLAYERS AND/OR UMPIRES WILL INCUR A FINE OF £3.00. MISSING OR INCORRECT SIGNATURES WILL INCUR A FINE OF £5.00. ON THE FOURTH OCCASION THAT THERE IS A MISSING OR INCORRECT SIGNATURE FROM THE SAME PLAYER, THE OFFENDING TEAM WILL BE DEDUCTED 2 POINTS. FOR ALL SUBSEQUENT GAMES WHERE THERE IS A MISSING OR INCORRECT SIGNATURE FROM THAT PLAYER, THE SAME PENALTY (2 POINTS DEDUCATION) WILL APPLY.

16. Draws

If two or more teams tie on points at the end of the season, their position shall be decided by goal difference. If this produces a tie, the team with most goals scored (excluding any void games) shall be the higher placed of those teams.

17. Promotion/Relegation

At the end of the season the top two teams in each Division (excluding the First Division) will normally be promoted to the Division above.

The two bottom teams in each Division will normally be relegated to the Division below.

The Executive Committee reserves the right to determine placings of teams in the event of a team withdrawing from the League.

18. New Teams/Assessment/Play-off

The placing of new and rejoining teams in the League shall be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Any new or existing teams in the League may request to be assessed for a higher placing or may be invited to participate in a play-off for such placing; any higher placing as a result of assessment/play-off is subject to availability. Such team(s) applying for assessment or invited to a play-off must designate the players participating in such assessment/play-off match and those players will be considered as being the players representing that team for the following season.

NB. Request for assessment must be made by letter accompanying the League Entry Form for the forthcoming season.

19. Club Title

Any club(s) or team(s) wishing to change name(s) may do so only on the League Entry Form for the forthcoming season.

20. Discipline

(a) All umpires have the right under World Netball Rule **19** to penalise a player for foul play. Details of any suspension or ordering off of players should be notified to the League Secretary on the day of the offence and a written explanation must then be sent to the Executive Committee within 7 days, stating the reasons for the **SUSPENSION/ORDERING** off.

(b) **ANY FORMAL COMPLAINT UNDER THE ENGLAND NETBALL DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS OR CODES OF CONDUCT MAY BE SENT DIRECTLY TO ENGLAND NETBALL. ANY COMPLAINTS SUBMITTED TO ESSEX METROPOLITAN UNDER THIS RULE WILL BE REVIEWED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BY THE RESOLUTION LEAD TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE COMPLAINT IS CAPABLE OF BEING RESOLVED LOCALLY I.E. WITHOUT A REFERRAL TO ENGLAND NETBALL. WHERE A COMPLAINT IS DEALT WITH LOCALLY, ESSEX METROPOLITAN RESERVES THE RIGHT TO IMPOSE ANY SANCTION IT CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.**

(c) If any member of a club playing in the Essex Met League is made subject to a sanction after a Disciplinary Hearing or an Appeal under the England Netball Disciplinary Regulations, that member and club for which she plays must comply fully with the terms of that sanction. If either that member or their club fail to do so, the Executive Committee reserve the right to take whatever action it considers appropriate for such failure, including disqualification of that club's team(s) from the League.

21. Venue

The venue of the league is Redbridge Sports Centre, Forest Road, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 3HD. The closest station is Fairlop Station on the Central line.

22. Team Order

Clubs must clearly identify the merit order of teams on the League Entry Form (e.g. 1,2,3 or a,b,c) irrespective of chosen title, (e.g. Panthers, Blue, Elan, etc.).

23. Trophies

All trophies must be returned to a designated member of the Executive Committee on or before 30 April each year.

PENALTY: IF THE TROPHY IS NOT RETURNED BY THAT DATE, THE OFFENDING TEAM WILL BE FINED £25; IF THE TROPHY IS NOT RETURNED AND THE FINE NOT PAID WITHIN 14 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE AGM, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL TAKE FURTHER ACTION AS IT CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE.

24. Competition Disputes & Complaints

A. Any dispute or complaint between Clubs or Teams in the League shall be dealt with as set out in this Rule.

B. ESSEX MET'S RESOLUTION LEAD, (TANIA LEGORE), IS THE DESIGNATED COMPETITION REFEREE FOR THE LEAGUE.

1. Competition Referee

1.1 A Competition Referee will be appointed by Essex Metropolitan for the League.

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

- 1.1.1 Altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary;
- 1.1.2 Determining if there has been a breach of the Rules and imposing an appropriate sanction (including disqualification of any individual, Player or Team), as specified in the Rules;
- 1.1.3 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 League;
- 1.1.4 Determine the score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance;
- 1.1.5 Any matter not covered specifically within the Rules.

1.2 The Competition Referee may call upon, or delegate to, additional persons to assist with the League 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.

2. Competition Complaints Procedure

2.1 All queries and complaints (a Complaint) should be directed to the Competition Referee in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows:

2.1.1 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 Results Card with the words "Under Protest";
 - c) Send the marked Results Card to the Competition Referee, within seventy two (72) hours of the match;
 - d) Attach a letter to the Results Card to explain the issue in full to the Competition Referee;
 - e) The Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken.
- 2.1.2 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 Referee's decision in relation to decisions taken under 2.1.1 is binding apart from where parties to the Complaint have the right to appeal the decision under 3 below.
- 2.2 Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the League by Essex Metropolitan, such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of Essex Metropolitan.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 **Complaints cannot be made in relation to a decision made by an umpire in line with World Netball's Rules of Netball.**

3. Appeal of Competition Referee's Decision

- 3.1 The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a Complaint submitted in accordance with 2.1.1 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:
- 3.1.1 If the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the League; AND
 - 3.1.2 If there has been a failure by the Competition Referee to follow or act in accordance with these Rules 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:

- 3.2 An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the Club Secretary of the appealing Team to the Competition Referee within 72 hours of receiving the decision, who will refer it to Essex Metropolitan.
- 3.3 The appeal shall be accompanied by a payment of £100 via bank transfer 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 payment being returned.
- 3.4 Essex Metropolitan will establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected to the League. One of those individuals will be appointed as the Chair.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 All submissions and evidence must be submitted in writing. The Chair of the CAC will have the discretion to determine the process, procedure and direction of the appeal.
- 3.7 The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions.
- 3.8 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.

- 3.9 The CAC shall have the delegated power of Essex Metropolitan 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 League relating to the appeal. There is no further right of appeal on this decision.
- 3.10 The procedures set out in this Rule 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.
- 3.11 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.
- 3.12 The seat of arbitration shall be England, the language used shall be English and the governing law of the Rules and these proceedings under this section 3 shall be English Law.
- 3.13 If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than provided for by this Rule, 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 Rule. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised directions timetable which shall be binding on all parties.

25. Communications

Any communications relating to any matter referred to the Executive Committee shall, in the first instance, be in writing only from the Secretary of the Club concerned to the relevant member of the Executive Committee.

THE SENDER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING RECEIPT OF ALL SUCH COMMUNICATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE SENDING BY POST-TO-BE-SIGNED-FOR OR BY REQUESTING AND RECEIVING A RECEIPT FOR AN EMAIL. IF THE SENDER DOES NOT HAVE CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT OF ANY COMMUNICATION THEN, IF THERE IS ANY SUBSEQUENT QUERY AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THAT COMMUNICATION WAS SENT, IT SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS NOT HAVING BEEN SENT.

26. AGM

Each club must be represented at the A.G.M. Failure will result in the club being fined £10.00.

RECOMMENDATIONS

PREGNANCY:

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 England Netball.

UMPIRES:

UMPIRES SHOULD NOT UMPIRE MORE THAN TWO GAMES, OR UMPIRE ONE GAME AND PLAY ONE GAME ON ANY ONE FIXTURE DATE. THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE MONITORED DURING THE CURRENT SEASON & REVIEWED. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT A FAMILY MEMBER OF ANY PLAYER DOES NOT UMPIRE A MATCH IN WHICH HER/HIS EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER IS PLAYING. SEE RULE 11(B) CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS ARE INELIGIBLE TO UMPIRE THEIR RELATIVES. UMPIRES ARE REMINDED THEY SHOULD BE WEARING CLOTHING THAT IS DISTINCT FROM THE PLAYERS' KIT, AND SUITABLE FOOTWEAR, WHILST UMPIRING (WN RULE 4.2)

CLUBS & THEIR UMPIRES:

EVEN IF THEIR UMPIRE IS BOOKED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON, CLUBS SHOULD CONTACT THEIR UMPIRES AT LEAST TWO NIGHTS BEFORE EACH FIXTURE TO CONFIRM THE GAME, WITH TIME AND COURT NUMBER, AND REPEAT THE PROCESS APPROX. 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED START OF THE GAME IF THEIR UMPIRE IS NOT THEN PRESENT. CLUBS AND UMPIRES SHOULD RETAIN COMMUNICATIONS SENT AND RECEIVED RELATING TO THEIR FIXTURES.

IF A BOOKED UMPIRE FAILS TO TURN UP, CLUBS SHOULD NOTE SAME ON THE REVERSE OF THE SCORECARD, WITH UMPIRE'S NAME, EVEN IF A REPLACEMENT IS FOUND.

UMPIRES SHOULD ARRIVE IN GOOD TIME BEFORE EACH GAME WHICH THEY UMPIRE, TO ENSURE THAT THEY CAN CARRY OUT THE REQUIRED PLAYER CHECKS, SUPERVISE THE SIGNING OF THE RESULTS CARD (RULE 15(A)) AND START THE GAME ON TIME (RULE 14).

IF A TEAM FAILS TO NOTIFY THE UMPIRE THAT THEIR GAME HAS BEEN CANCELLED, AND THAT UMPIRE TURNS UP FOR THAT FIXTURE, THE TEAM SHOULD PAY THE EXPENSES OF THAT UMPIRE AS IF THE GAME WAS PLAYED.

HEAD SCARVES:

THE PRIORITIES MUST BE TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN SPORT AND 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.

MEDIC ALERT BRACELETS: SEE CURRENT WN RULEBOOK (3.12)

HATS:

HATS WITH ANY FORM OF PEAK/BRIM OR WOOLLEN HATS **MAY NOT** BE WORN BY PLAYERS. HATS MADE OF FABRIC OR ANY OTHER SMOOTH MATERIAL AND WITH NO VISIBLE FIBRES OR EMBELLISHMENTS **MAY** BE WORN BY PLAYERS.

IT IS THE UMPIRES' RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK EACH HAT WHICH A PLAYER WISHES TO WEAR TO SATISFY THEMSELVES WHETHER OR NOT IT IS PERMISSIBLE; THE UMPIRES' DECISION SHALL BE FINAL.

THIS DOES NOT AFFECT THE RECOMMENDATION ON THE WEARING OF SCARVES.

GLOVES:

THE ENGLAND NETBALL DOMESTIC RULES GUIDANCE ON GLOVES APPLIES TO THE LEAGUE.

WHERE A PLAYER WISHES TO WEAR GLOVES FOR A MEDICAL CONDITION, THE PLAYER SHOULD PROVIDE A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE/LETTER TO THE LEAGUE SECRETARY. IF APPROPRIATE, THE LEAGUE SECRETARY WILL SEND THE PLAYER WRITTEN CONFIRMATION THAT GLOVES MAY BE WORN.

THIS WRITTEN CONFIRMATION SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO EACH LEAGUE GAME AT WHICH THE PLAYER WISHES TO WEAR GLOVES. IRRESPECTIVE OF THIS CONFIRMATION, IT IS THE UMPIRES' RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK THAT ANY GLOVES ARE SUITABLE ON EACH OCCASION ON WHICH THE PLAYER WISHES TO WEAR GLOVES.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

CLUBS ARE REMINDED OF THEIR DUTY OF CARE TO THEIR PLAYERS IN RESPECT OF PHOTOGRAPHY (INCLUDING VIDEO, MOBILE PHONES, ETC.). CONSENT SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM PARENTS/CARERS OF U18 PLAYERS TO THEIR CHILD BEING PHOTOGRAPHED AND ANY PERSON WISHING TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOULD REGISTER WITH THEIR CHILD'S CLUB.

COACHES AND UMPIRES SHOULD CHECK THAT ANY PERSON TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS HAS THE CONSENT OF BOTH CLUBS: IF NOT, S/HE SHOULD BE ASKED TO STOP TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS UNTIL SUCH CONSENT HAS BEEN OBTAINED. DETAILED GUIDANCE AND RELEVANT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE ENGLAND NETBALL WEBSITE (TAKING AND USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC AND RECORDED IMAGES OF YOUNG PEOPLE GUIDANCE).

FIRST AID KIT:

ALL TEAMS MUST HAVE A SUITABLY STOCKED FIRST AID KIT FOR MINOR INJURIES.

MANAGING COVID-19 WITHIN NETBALL:

ANYBODY WHO HAS TESTED POSITIVE OR IS DISPLAYING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 SHOULD NOT ATTEND ANY NETBALL ACTIVITY.

ALL CLUBS AND INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS SHOULD READ ENGLAND NETBALL'S PUBLICATION MANAGING COVID-19 WITHIN NETBALL AND COMPLY WITH ITS GUIDANCE. THIS INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, SANITISING HANDS AND NETBALLS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER EACH GAME AND MINIMISING THE SHARING OF BIBS. PLEASE REFER ANY QUERIES TO YOUR CLUB COVID OFFICER OR TO THE ESSEX MET LEAD COVID OFFICER.

ACTIVE UMPIRES:

EACH CLUB MUST HAVE AT LEAST 1 ACTIVE QUALIFIED UMPIRE FOR EACH 2 TEAMS PLAYING IN THE LEAGUE. THIS WILL BECOME A CONDITION OF ENTRY TO THE LEAGUE IN 2025/2026.