

HERTFORDSHIRE NETBALL LEAGUE - 2013/2014 SEASON

RULES & CONSTITUTION

CONSTITUTION

1. The league shall be called "The Hertfordshire Netball League".
2. Officers: who will be affiliated to the AENA
 - (a) *Chairman*
 - (b) *Fixture Secretary*
 - (c) *League Secretary*
 - (d) *Treasurer*
 - (e) *Umpiring representative*
 - (f) *Coaching representative*
 - (g) *Equity and Welfare Officer*
3. Subscriptions:

The subscription shall be £15 per team per annum for teams who pay their subscription on the night of the AGM. Those who do not pay at this time will be charged £20 per team.

Court fees for the central venue are payable by all teams, half yearly in advance. Amounts to be paid, to be issued by the League Treasurer, as agreed by the League Committee.
4. Committee:

The Committee shall be formed of the Officers of the League and ONE (1) VOTING Representative from EACH TEAM. If necessary, proxy vote may be used. Quorum to be 30.
5. AGM / HALF WAY MEETING:

In order to qualify for ENTRY into the forthcoming Season on your end of season placing, ONE (1) VOTING Representative from EACH TEAM MUST BE PRESENT at the AGM.

The penalty for any team not represented will be DEMOTION by ONE (1) Division in place of the bottom placed team(s) in that Division, except in the case

of the lowest Division where they will be required to compete in the Qualifying Tournament (see 7).

Each CLUB must be represented at the HALF WAY MEETING. Any CLUB not represented will be deducted 5 points from each TEAM belonging to that CLUB.

6. **EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened by the Honorary Secretary:-

- a) by order of the Committee
- b) at the request, in writing, of four affiliated clubs or educational institutions.
The requisition in this case must be signed by an official of each club or educational institution.

Each requisition for an EGM must be made, in writing, to the Honorary Secretary and must state the purpose for which a meeting is required and shall set out, in full, any resolution which it is desired to propose.

The meeting shall be held within 60 days of receipt of the requisition by the Honorary Secretary and 30 days notice of the meeting and of any resolution proposed shall be given to every member entitled to vote.

7. No alterations shall be made in the Constitution except at an AGM or EGM. Any suggested amendments MUST be sent to the LEAGUE SECRETARY IN WRITING AT LEAST ONE (1) MONTH BEFORE THE MEETING. A majority of 2/3 will be necessary to pass any such amendments.

8. **Promotion & Demotion Process of the League:**

As stated above (see 5), if any team(s) fails to attend the AGM they will be DEMOTED One (1) Division in place of the bottom team(s) in that Division, based on their end of season placing.

The last and second to last placed teams in a Division will change with the 1st and 2nd placed teams of the Division below, except in the case of the lowest Division. Here the last and second to last placed teams shall take part in a Qualifying Tournament with the top team of each Local League, to decide these places for the next season.

In the event that a team withdraws from the League, either during or at the end of the season, they will be deemed to be the last placed team in that Division for the purposes of demotion and promotion. They shall similarly be placed last in all lower Divisions until they are demoted from the lowest Division.

ERNL Promotion and relegation in Herts League.

The winner of the 1st Division will go forward to the ERNL play offs. If successful, all teams will move up one position. If not successful, the team will

revert back to the 1st Division top place. Note that the ERNL may be willing to consider a Herts League runner-up if the 1st team does not wish to proceed to the play-offs, but this is a Herts League decision. If relevant, a team relegated from ERNL will be placed in the 1st Division and all other teams will move down (this will be a maximum of two teams).

9. Play shall be to the current Rules of England Netball.

10. Duty of Care

The League accepts the principles and core values of the AENA Duty of Care guidelines.

There must be a signed agreement completed for each game by both teams for any video/photography to take place. Form has to be signed by both umpires prior to the game and completed form to be sent to the Fixture Secretary with result sheet.

11. In the event of the dissolution of the League, all monies shall go to the Hertfordshire County Netball Association.

12. All Officers and members of the Committee shall be indemnified by the league against all costs and losses which they may incur or sustain in relation to the execution of their duties of their offices, or by reason of any duty performed for or with the authority of the Committee.

13. Equity Policy Statement

This League is committed to ensuring that equity is incorporated across all aspects of its development. In doing so it acknowledges and adopts the following Sport England definition of sports equity:

Sports equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognizing inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society.

... The League respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their sport, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.

... The League is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.

... All League members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.

... The League will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to league disciplinary procedures.

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R U L E S

1. The League will consist of:

<i>Division One</i>	:	<i>10 teams</i>
<i>Division Two</i>	:	<i>10 teams</i>
<i>Divisions Three</i>	:	<i>10 teams</i>

Or as deemed appropriate to the number of entries to the league in each relevant season.

2. The League will play all matches at a central venue, so no Home and Away rules apply. Games will be 4 quarters of 15 minutes with a half time of no more than 5 minutes. No time will be allowed for lateness. If a team fails to be on court and ready for play at the assigned game time, then the team present may claim the points, i.e. 5 points and 10 goals to be awarded to the non-offending team, 0 points and minus 10 goals to offending team.

Results MUST be sent IN WRITING, preferably on the official Score Card provided, complete with Players and Umpires signatures, by the Winning team to the FIXTURE Secretary within ONE Week from the date of the game being played. In the event of a Score Card not being received within one week, Proof of Postage MUST be produced for that result to stand. Otherwise points for a DRAW will be awarded (No Goals).

3. (a) Cancellations will only be allowed for:

- (i) Extreme weather conditions (snow, fog or ice).

An inspection of the courts will be made by a committee member, at an appropriate time, before games are due to be played.

The first named team contact will be notified if the game is to be cancelled.

If, on arrival, all team officials and umpires deem the court to be unplayable then a note must be sent to the committee who will re-arrange the game.

Division 1 and 2 games (indoors) will continue to be played unless extreme weather conditions mean that driving to central venue is dangerous.

- (ii) Any request for a cancellation shall be made to the opposing team and the Fixture Secretary at least 2 weeks before the scheduled fixture date. All cancellations shall be notified to the League

Secretary.

All possible efforts will be made by the Fixture Secretary so that no fixture will clash with any other Team/Player netball commitments.

- (b) If a team concedes a fixture they will concede 5 points, (-5), non offending team awarded 5 points and 10 goals for, offending team 10 goals against.
- (c) In the event of an abandonment of a game in progress due to injuries, leaving a team with less than 5 players, teams concerned are to arrange to replay the game at a mutually convenient date, via the Fixture Secretary.
- (d) If a team wishes to abandon a game in progress, due to injuries, whilst still officially having enough players to continue (i.e. 5 or 6) non-offending team to be awarded points, goals to stand.
- (e) In the event of an injury during an indoor game, where a player cannot be moved and the game cannot be completed within the allocated time, the following will apply:
 - If more than 3/4 (three quarters) of the game has been played, the result will stand
 - If less than 3/4 (three quarters) of the game has been played, the match will be abandoned and replayed.

The Fixtures Secretary will be responsible for organising the date and time of the rearranged match.

- (f) At the discretion of the team officials and the umpires of the match being abandoned due to extreme weather conditions, the signed score card is to be forwarded to the committee, with the time remaining of the match. The result will be decided by the committee: either the result to stand or the game to be replayed.

A decision should be made as to whether to replay or not within one week of the date of the game, Fixture and League Secretary to be informed ASAP.

In the event of any dispute over the above, Chairman and League Secretary to decide.

4. Officials:

4.1 Umpires

(i) **Division 1**

Neutral umpires will be allocated to all Division 1 games. In the event of an assigned umpire being unavailable, a reserve umpire will be allocated to the game.

All umpires used in the neutral allocation will be a minimum B umpire or a C umpire who is working towards the B award within the Hertfordshire mentoring programme, **who has successfully completed an assessment. (OTG to advise Herts. League of eligible umpires).**

Where an umpire has received 2 match observations, which are below the recommended level, the Officials Technical Group will be informed. The OTG will notify Herts League who will decide if that umpire can continue to umpire in Div 1.

(ii) **Division 2**

Both teams must provide a qualified umpire who shall be a minimum B award umpire, or a C umpire who is working towards the B award within the Hertfordshire mentoring programme. (OTG to advise Herts. League of eligible umpires).

All Matches will be played with Neutral Umpires.

The **0930** game, **Herts League will provide an umpire. The 1045 game,** will provide an umpire for the **1200** game and vice versa and the **1315** game will provide an umpire for the **1430** game and vice versa. No Umpire shall umpire for their club.

(iii) A team who fails to provide an umpire of the correct standard for their allocated game will automatically forfeit 5 points.

If an umpire is available on the side lines and is fit and able to umpire regardless if they are neutral or not then they will umpire and the game will continue.

If there is no umpire available then the game will be rescheduled at the expense of the offending team.

(iv) **Divisions 3**

All Matches will be played with Neutral Umpires who must be a C Award minimum standard.

Umpires will move on the next court. E.G. Teams who are playing on court 1 will provide umpires for the game on court 2 which is playing at the same time, the teams who are playing on court 2 will provide umpires for the game on court 3, and so on. No Umpire shall umpire for their club.

- (v) A team who arrives without an umpire must either:
 - (a). Drop a player who is qualified to officiate to the standard required by that Division, or
 - (b) Concede the match with the penalty of conceding 5 points (-5), and non-offending team awarded 5 points and 10 goals for, offending team 10 goals against.

In this case the neutral umpire allocated to the offending team will move across one more court to umpire.

- (vi) After any match, a team (i.e. a team with 7 players and an umpire) found not providing a suitably Qualified Umpire will either:
 - (a) If the offending team wins, the offending team will FORFEIT FIVE (5) points and 10 goals against, the non offending team will be awarded FIVE (5) points and 10 goals for.
 - (b) If the non offending team wins, the offending team will FORFEIT FIVE (5) points and goals stand, the non offending team be awarded FIVE (5) points and goals stand.

(vii) Any Division

If there is a problem with the standard of an umpire, details/complaints are to be sent to the committee in writing. If 2 complaints are received from 2 different clubs for an umpire in one season, the umpire will be referred to the OTG for a re-assessment against the published competencies to at least the standard required for that Division.

4.2 Scorers/timekeepers

Divisions 1 & 2

There shall be 2 scorers for each game working and standing together. They will record each goal scored for each team as they are scored and they will call the centre pass if appealed to by an umpire. They will also time the game and monitor stoppages for injury. Scorers will have no further input with the game and will remain neutral.

Each team must provide a scorer to score their own game. If no scorer is present the team who arrives without a scorer must drop a player.

The scoreboard MUST remain on the table and be operated by the scorers.

Divisions 3

The league encourages scorers to attend the games in preparation for future rules which govern this. If a team decides to bring a scorer along that scorer must score their own game and stand on the same side as their umpire. Play can continue if there is only 1 scorer. In this case, the umpire's score card is the official result.

4.3 Primary Carers

Players need to be aware of the duty of the Primary Carer. Before players take to court they must declare to the umpires who their team's Primary Carer is. The Primary Carer is the person who goes on court to deal with an injury. The Primary Carer should have basic First Aid Knowledge. It is recommended that each team nominates a Primary Carer in their team in preparation for future rules which govern this.

5. Scoring: Points to be awarded as follows:

5 points for a WIN

3 points for a DRAW

2 points for coming within 5 goals of the winning team (e.g. 40-35 = 1 point, 40-36 = 2 points).

1 point for more than 50% of winning team (e.g. 50-26 = 1 point, 50-25 No points)

In the event of a tie for the Winners of the Division, or for bottom positions, it shall be decided on Goal Difference.

6. Players:

- (a) Shall be affiliated through the County of Hertfordshire and to the club they are playing for and must only play for ONE Hertfordshire Netball League CLUB in any one season (see (d) below). 2nd claim members, whose first claim club is outside the League, may not take over a Hertfordshire League position, either by merging with or by changing the name of a club already in the League.
- (b) Any players who, for any reason is required to play "Down", MUST stay in the lower team for at least 3 Matches and the FIXTURE SECRETARY

and LEAGUE SECRETARY MUST BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING BEFORE THE MATCH. Any player who has court time in the higher divisions in more than twelve (12) quarters will be ineligible to play in the lower team for the rest of the season. Score cards must have the amount of quarters a players has played up, otherwise deemed as having player four (4) quarters.

If a team plays a player "up" or "down" from a lower/higher placed team in the Hertfordshire League, **this must be stated alongside the relevant player's signature on the score card and the team that player normally plays for MUST be stated.** If an "upgraded" player normally does not play in a Hertfordshire League team but in a "Local League" team, **this must be stated and the league concerned should be noted also.**

- (c) No player shall take part in a game of netball (i.e. playing) after the 12th week of pregnancy. No umpire shall take part in a game of netball after the 20th week of pregnancy. This adheres to England Netball guidelines.
- (d) A player may change clubs within the League once only in one season providing:
 - a. They have the agreement of both clubs.
 - b. They notify the league (Fixture Secretary) in writing two (2) clear days before appearing for their new club.
 - c. They re-register (2nd claim) with their new club.
 - d. That two (2) clear week-ends elapse between club appearances.
- (e) Herts League will not be open to the named 8 players registered with the Super League, Premier League or any Regional League. Players will be able to play up and register, if required, during the season and are 1st claim to that club. The 8 named players registered to Premier or any Regional League will not be able to play down. Regional players outside of the East region are not eligible to play in the Herts League.

For Herts League, any other player who subsequently has court time in the Regional or Premier league in more than twelve (12) quarters will be ineligible to play in the Herts League for the rest of the season. Teams playing players subject to this rule will be deemed to be playing an illegal player and will be subject to deductions as determined by the rule 6.f.

- (f) If a team uses an illegal player or a regional player the penalty will be:
 - (i) If the offending team wins, the offending team will FORFEIT FIVE (5) points and 10 goals against, the non offending team will be awarded FIVE (5) points and 10 goals for.
 - (ii) If the non offending team wins, the offending team will FORFEIT FIVE (5) points and goals stand, the non offending team be awarded FIVE

- (5) points and goals stand.
7. All Netball teams in the Hertfordshire Netball League MUST name their players BEFORE the FIRST MATCH of the Season and these names, with their signatures and affiliation numbers, MUST then be sent to the FIXTURE Secretary. Any team who plays their first League fixture **BEFORE** naming their players in writing, with signatures where possible, to the FIXTURE Secretary will CONCEDE that fixture, therefore conceding five (-5) points and 10 goals against. This will also apply to each subsequent fixture played until that team has named its players in writing, with signatures and affiliation numbers where possible, to the FIXTURE Secretary.
- Any team who wishes to add players to their squad after the start of the season must:
- (a) ensure the player is affiliated to Hertfordshire County Netball Association, and to the club they are playing for.
 - (b) write to the FIXTURE Secretary (copy to League Secretary), **preferably before the first game that the new player takes part in**, with details of the player's name, affiliation number and obtain their signature onto this letter, or attachment to it.
- This will then be added to that team's list of players for that season.
- If new additions are made to the team at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances, Team Captain or Secretary **must** write ASAP after the fixture, preferably sending in details with the score card.
- If signatures of new players or those playing up/down are not legible, **THEY MUST PRINT THEIR NAME ALSO** alongside the signature.
- (c) If a team uses an unnamed player the penalty will be:
 - (i) If the offending team wins, the offending team will FORFEIT FIVE (5) points and 10 goals against, the non offending team will be awarded FIVE (5) points and 10 goals for.
 - (ii) If the non offending team wins, the offending team will FORFEIT FIVE (5) points and goals stand, the non offending team be awarded FIVE (5) points and goals stand.
8. Matches in the first half of the Season to be completed by 31st JANUARY, except in the case of Rule 3(a). A Half Way Meeting will be held after this date. The LAST PLAYING DATE shown on the fixture list will determine the END OF SEASON, except in the case of Rule 3(a). No games shall be played after the End of the Season unless permission is given by the League & Fixture Secretaries.

9. In the event of any disagreement amongst the Clubs, the LEAGUE Secretary will act as mediator.
10. No alterations shall be made to the Rules except at an AGM or EGM. A majority of two-thirds (2/3) will be necessary to pass any such change.

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11. Appeals Committee

In the event of any disagreement which cannot be agreed by the League Secretary to the satisfaction of the parties involved, they have the right to refer the matter to an Appeals Committee. A request for the Committee to sit must be made **in writing** to the League Secretary (copy to Chairman) as soon as possible, with full details of the incident/matter involved if this has not already been done. The Appeals Committee will then be called together where they will discuss the matter concerned and come to a decision, **which shall be final**. The decision will be made available in writing to all parties concerned as soon as possible after the meeting. The Appeals Committee shall comprise: - Chairman, League Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Treasurer, Umpiring Representative and Coaching Representative. In the event that any of the above members of the teams are involved in the dispute, replacements, who shall be impartial, shall be nominated to sit on the Committee by another member of the Committee not involved in the dispute.

12. Disciplinary Procedure

The League Committee shall have the power to discipline any League members who have been guilty of conduct considered by the Committee to be disgraceful or prejudicial to the interest of the County, League or the game of Netball.

The power to discipline shall include the power to suspend or remove a member from membership of the league.

Discipline shall only be administered after the following procedures taken place:

Notification in writing will be requested from all parties involved in an incident, describing their actions and events.

All paperwork must be circulated to members of the Disciplinary Committee before a meeting takes place.

All persons involved in the incident must be invited to the Disciplinary Meeting to give evidence.

The League Committee shall appoint a Disciplinary Committee consisting of two

League Officers and one Honorary Officer of the County Committee.

Arrange a date and venue convenient to all concerned for the hearing.

A member who has been the subject of disciplinary action by the committee has the right to appeal to an Appeal Committee.

It shall consist of three Honorary Officers who have not served on the Disciplinary Committee concerned with the subject of the Appeal.

The Appeal Committee may affirm, vary or rescind any action decided by the Disciplinary Committee or substitute any other decision, as it considers appropriate.

All paperwork must be circulated to members of the Appeal Committee before a meeting takes place.

All persons involved in the incident must be invited to the Appeal Meeting to give evidence.

Arrange a date and venue convenient to all concerned for the hearing.

The Appeal Committee decision will be final.

Guidelines in the event of injury

Injury time – please refer to Rule 7: Stoppages in the England Netball rule book.

Notwithstanding the England Netball rule (7.1, allows 2 minutes) regarding injury time, the safety and welfare of the injured player must take priority.

- Do not move the injured player unless they feel able to do so.

If, due to a player being seriously injured, the game is significantly delayed or other players have to accompany the injured player for treatment, then the two captains should decide whether it would be more appropriate for the game to be replayed. As a generality a delay of less than 15 minutes should not result in a replay.

Don't forget to warm up before restarting. Up to five minutes should be allowed for this.

Summary of Rules Penalties

Rule & Description	Offenders Penalty	Non-Offenders Award
2. Failure to take to the court...	0 Points and -10 goals	5 Points and +10 goals
3.(a). Cancellation for weather	Rearrange	Rearrange
3 (b) Cancellation prior to fixture	- 5 points and -10 goals	5 Points and +10 goals
3(c) Abandoned due to injury & less than 5 players	Replay	Replay
3 (d) Abandoned due to injuries. 5 plus players	0 points and goals stand	5 points and goals stand
3 (e) Abandoned due to weather	Committee to decide result	Committee to decide result
4.1 (iii) Division 2 Failure to provide an umpire for their allocated game 4.1 A team whose Umpire umpires for their own club	-5 points and goals stand	-
4.1 (v) (b) Division 3 & 4 Failure to provide an umpire	-5 points and -10 goals	5 points and +10 goals
4.1 (vi) (a) Division 3 & 4 Illegal umpire if offending team win	-5 points and - 10 goals	5 Points and +10 goals
4.1 (vi) (b) Division 3 & 4 Illegal umpire if non offending team wins	-5 points and goals stand	5 points and goals stand
6 (e) Regional League Players if offending team wins	-5 points and - 10 goals	5 Points and +10 goals
6 (e) Regional League Players, if non offending team wins	-5 points and goals stand	5 points and goals stand
6 (f) Illegal Player, if offending team wins	-5 points and - 10 goals	5 Points and +10 goals
6 (f) Illegal Player, if non offending team wins	-5 points and goals stand	5 points and goals stand
7 (c) Un-Named Players, if offending team wins	-5 points and - 10 goals	5 Points and +10 goals
7 (c) Un-Named Players, if non offending team wins	-5 points and goals stand	5 points and goals stand