



# NETBALL SOUTH REGION CONSTITUTION 2023

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## 1. NAME

The Association shall be called Netball South Region, otherwise known as Netball South.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Netball South is a member of England Netball and will be bound by the policies and procedures of England Netball and accountable to the Board of Directors for the growth and development of the game in the Region in accordance with the strategic plan.
- 2.2 Netball South will serve as a forum to co-ordinate activities, organise regional competitions, arrange technical courses and elect representatives to serve on the Regional Management Board (RMB). RMB members shall be expected to serve on Technical Support Groups (TSGs) and/or National Committees.
- 2.3 Netball South will seek to develop facilities for the game of netball within the South Region in line with plans and strategies approved by the England Netball Board of Directors.
- 2.4 Netball South shall pay such membership fees and receive such rights and privileges as may be determined by the EN Board of Directors.

## 3. MISSION STATEMENT

Netball South supports and endorses England Netball's vision, mission and strategic goals.

Netball South's Mission Statement is: -

- a. To establish and promote netball in the South Region as the first-choice sport
- b. To encourage participation by players, coaches, officials and volunteers across all levels of the game.

## 4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1. The Region shall comprise the geographical area of the Netball Counties of: -

Berkshire	Guernsey	Hampshire
Isle of Wight	North Bucks	Oxfordshire
South Bucks	Sussex	

4.2. Upon payment of the appropriate annual Netball South and England Netball membership fees, the members of the Region shall be:

- each Life Member of the Region
- each individual paying a Netball South membership fee
- each county association within the South Region
- each club in membership of England Netball and Netball South
- each school in membership of England Netball and Netball South

- each England Netball registered primary school within the Region

The voting members of Netball South shall comprise a representative from: -

- each constituent County Association in membership of the region
- each club in membership of the Region and England Netball
- each school (qualifying as a primary or a secondary school) in membership of the Region and England Netball

No one may represent more than one member. Membership is not transferable.

- 4.3. Voting can only be valid if complying with the above criteria and the process set out for the AGM or EGM; this may take the form of a face to face or electronic meeting using an appropriate technology solution (e.g., via Zoom or similar as deemed appropriate by the RMB).

For example, in order for a vote to be valid, if it is necessary to register within a specified time and be in attendance at the meeting within a specified time, then failure to comply with this, will result in the vote not being eligible.

## 5. REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

- 5.1. The RMB shall comprise of the following elected voting members, (with the exception of the Honorary President who shall be a non-voting Director) and be known as Executive Directors, all of whom must be members of England Netball and Netball South.

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Finance Director
- President (Honorary non-Voting Director)

- 5.2. In addition to the Executive Directors, the membership of Netball South will appoint a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 8 General Voting Members who will carry out a Functional Director Role or a Special Projects Role as General Members. (see professional expertise point 5.2.3)A Special Projects Role may also be carried out by a non Board member at the discretion of the Executive team.

5.2.1. The Functional Director Roles are currently:

- Player and Coaching development
- Competitions
- Governance (which includes safeguarding, disciplinary and volunteering)
- Marketing & Media
- Officiating

Statement:

Albeit the Netball South accountability/organisation structure may vary from time to time, the principle will remain, that a Functional Director will apply for General Membership and the Leadership role of the Function.

Netball South embraces the Working as One England Netball principles and will seek where possible to apply the 'skills first, netball second' principle to recruitment for it's Board.

5.2.2 The RMB may Co-Opt a general member for their professional Expertise. If they do not have membership of England Netball, then Membership will be paid by Netball South.

5.3. No member of the RMB may be an employee of EN apart from those employed under zero-hour contracts.

5.4. The RMB may not include more than 2 elected members from a single County Netball Association Board.

5.4.1 The RMB may not include more than two members (full) from any South membership club. In addition no more than one person from any County will sit in the Executive Team on the RMB. (This comprises of the chair, vice-chair and treasurer).

5.5. A member of England Netball's Regional or National staff will attend RMB meetings as appropriate.

5.6. The Regional Co-ordinator, or equivalent will attend all RMB meetings in the role of minute- taker, and in their absence, the RMB will appoint a minute taker.

5.7. All Elected Members shall serve until the end of the Annual General Meeting immediately following the third, (3rd) anniversary of their appointment. At the end of their term of office any elected member is entitled to stand for re-election. The period for any elected member will usually be limited to 9 years (in total), or the end of their election period if this expires after the 9 years. In exceptional circumstances, if no suitable alternative candidate applies and or can be identified, the Chair can invite the existing elected member reaching the expiry of their term to apply to continue for an additional rolling 12 months. This is to allow time for identification, recruitment and mentoring of a suitable alternative candidate, to ensure continuity and to reduce the risk of disruption to the ongoing operation of the Board.

5.8. In the case of resignation of a Director during their term of office (3 years) the following will apply: ,

5.8.1. The Chair, the Vice Chair will adopt the position of Chair until the next AGM

5.8.2. The Vice Chair, a Functional Director will adopt the position until the next AGM.

5.8.3. The Finance Director, the Executive Team will Co-Opt a suitably skilled person

5.8.4. The Functional Director- The Vice Chair of the TSG will be invited until the date of the next AGM and/or the Executive Team will co-Opt a suitably skilled person

5.9. The Chair shall: -

- chair all meetings of the RMB where possible.
- be responsible for conduct of the RMB in managing the affairs of the region.
- co-ordinate the work of the RMB.
- be entitled to attend any meeting of the Technical Support Groups.
- be responsible for the preparation of the Annual Report.
- attend EN meetings as required.

5.10. The Vice-Chair shall: -

- be expected to attend all RMB meetings where possible
- in the absence of the Chair, chair all meetings of the RMB.
- in the absence of the Chair be responsible for conduct of the RMB in managing the affairs of the Region.
- support the Chair in co-ordinating the work of the RMB.
- be entitled to attend any meeting of the Technical Support Groups.
- support the Chair in the preparation of the Annual Report.
- attend EN meetings as required.

5.11. The Finance Director shall: -

- be expected to attend all RMB meetings, where possible, and to report on the region's finances.
- be responsible for providing financial advice to the Region.
- oversee the production of annual Accounts.
- contribute to the production of the annual operational budget.
- be responsible for the preparation and monitoring of quarterly operating statements against budgeted figures.
- contribute costings to support strategic plans.

5.12. Functional Directors shall be

- expected to attend all RMB Meetings where possible
- prepared to chair that function's TSG.

5.13. All Members of the RMB, with the exception of the Honorary President, will have one vote at RMB meetings. In the event of a tie in votes cast on any item of business the Chair shall have a casting vote.

5.14. Any role on the RMB will be vacated if: -

- The Member concerned gives notice of resignation to the Chair
- A member is absent from meetings without justifiable reason
- the Member is requested to resign by a majority vote of the RMB (normally in accordance with a disciplinary process)
- a member becomes an employee of EN.

5.15. In recognition of service, the RMB may select and recommend to members at the AGM, a member of the Region to serve as President. This individual will have provided outstanding service and contribution to the Region over a period of time.

- Will serve for 5 years, after which such person shall retire but shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- The President may attend RMB meetings, contribute to the discussions, provide information and knowledge to the members but will have no voting rights.
- Will not hold any other office on RMB, unless appointed as a General Voting Member by the membership.

## **6. ROLE OF THE REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD**

- 6.1. The RMB will plan, support and co-ordinate the development of netball within the Region in accordance with its Mission Statement and strategic plan. This should meet the requirements of national plans determined by the England Netball Board of Directors. The RMB will work with counties to formulate and implement plans responding to the specific needs of the game.
- 6.2. The RMB will provide direction, support and guidance to regional and sub- regional sporting partnerships to ensure that the overall policies and strategies for the development of netball are communicated consistently and effectively. Any additional funding opportunities within the Region should be identified, secured and used in line with EN and regional priorities.
- 6.3. The RMB shall submit to the Annual General Meeting an Annual Report with independently examined accounts on the significant activities held by the Region at Regional and County level.
- 6.4. The RMB may, at the request of England Netball, nominate appropriate individuals to serve on any national committees. Such nominees need not be members of the RMB.
- 6.5. The RMB may establish any number of technical support groups and determine their membership and terms of reference
- 6.6. At Netball South RMB meetings 5 voting members of the Board shall form a quorum.

## **7. PROCEDURE FOR ELECTIONS TO THE REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD**

- 7.1. Any Voting Member may nominate a person (who must be an individual member of England Netball and Netball South) to stand as a candidate for any vacant position, which must be signed by another Voting member and signed by the nominee. Nominations must be returned to the Regional Office at least 5 weeks before the AGM.
- 7.2. The RMB has the power to reject any nomination proposed on the basis that the nominee does not fulfil the criteria set by the RMB for the post for which she/he is nominated.
- 7.3. Candidates may be required to introduce themselves at the AGM.
- 7.4. If there are the same number of candidates for any post as there are vacancies, such person(s) shall be declared elected unopposed at the AGM. If there are more candidates for any post than there are vacancies, an election shall be held at the AGM to elect the required number of members.
- 7.5. The requisite number of candidates recording the highest number of votes shall be declared elected at the AGM to fill the vacancies that have arisen. In the event of a tie, each person entitled to attend, and vote shall be permitted to cast one vote, and re-voting between the tied candidates will continue until the matter is resolved.

## **8. LIFE MEMBERS**

8.1. The RMB may recognise special service to the Region by the appointment of Life Members. These will be announced at the AGM following their nomination.

Life Members shall be eligible to attend all general Meetings and may vote if attending as the representative of the eligible voting members laid out in 4.2.

## **9. GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE REGION**

9.1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held annually on a date to be determined by the RMB. It will be held either in person or virtually (e.g. via Zoom or similar).

9.2. The date of the AGM shall be fixed, displayed on the website and circulated to Counties, Clubs and member schools not less than 8 weeks prior to the date of such meeting.

9.3. An Agenda and details of all motions to be considered shall be displayed on the website and circulated to Counties, Clubs and member schools 3 weeks prior to the meeting.

9.4. The Chair of the Region shall act as Chair of the Annual General Meeting or the Vice Chair if the Chair is absent. If neither are present a Chair shall be elected from the RMB members present.

9.5. Business to be transacted at the AGM shall be: -

- to receive the financial and other reports.
- to elect members of the RMB from those who have been nominated in accordance with Section 7, each of whom will hold office to the end of the General Meeting at which their successor is appointed.
- to consider any proposed resolution submitted in writing to the Regional Co-Ordinator or equivalent 4 weeks before the date of the General Meeting, which has been proposed by one Member and seconded by another.
- to approve the annual subscription for the year following the regional financial year, such subscription shall be collected by England Netball and redistributed to the Region.

9.6. An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting may be convened at any time on 3 weeks' notice. It will be held either in person or virtually (e.g. via Zoom or similar).

- by order of the RMB.
- upon written request from five or more of the Voting Members stating the purpose for which a meeting is required and setting out any resolution it is desired to propose.

9.7. The following shall be entitled to attend and speak at a General Meeting.

- those listed in Section 4.2.
- members of the Regional Management Board.
- an England Netball designated representative.
- Directors of England Netball.

9.8. Only those listed in Section 4.2 shall be entitled to vote at a General Meeting of the Region.

9.9. The voting procedure at General Meetings shall be as follows: -

- each person entitled to attend, and vote shall be permitted to cast one vote.
- no proxy voting will be allowed.
- no postal voting will be allowed.
- a simple majority only of those present and entitled to vote shall be required to pass any resolution.
- In the event of an equality of votes on matters other than the appointment of RMB members, the Chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

9.10. No decisions may be made at any General Meeting unless a quorum of ten voting members representing at least three different counties is present.

## **10. INDEMNITY**

10.1. Any member of the RMB shall be indemnified by England Netball against all reasonable costs and losses which they may incur or sustain in relation to the proper and lawful execution of the duties of their office, or by reason of any duty properly performed with the authority of the RMB.

## **11. ARBITRATION AND MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

11.1. If any dispute shall arise on the interpretation of this Constitution or the need to deal with any matter not provided for in the constitution, the Chair shall refer the same to the England Netball Board of Directors.

## **12. DISCIPLINARY POWERS, PROCEDURES AND APPEALS**

12.1. Netball South shall follow the principles and processes set out in the current England Netball Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Regulations which shall apply to and bind all members of the Region.

12.2. Netball South shall appoint a Resolution Lead Officer who will: -

- administer the process of any complaints under the terms contained within the England Netball Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Regulations
- Report to the Board as they consider appropriate and under guidance from England Netball.

## **13. DISSOLUTION**

13.1. In the event of a winding up and or dissolution, any assets/surplus remaining after the settlement of any debts and liabilities, shall be dealt with in a manner to be determined by resolution of a General Meeting, in accordance with the aims of Netball South's Mission Statement and the laws applicable in the UK