



NETBALL SOUTH REGIONAL PERFORMANCE LEAGUES RULES AND REGULATIONS 2021/2022

1. Overview

Netball South Regional League (NS-RL) is a league competition organised by Netball South to enable clubs to compete against each other to determine a regional winner, whilst encouraging participation and development in netball through an open, fair, progressive, and transparent league structure.

These regulations set out below outline the Rules and Regulations ('The Regulations') which govern the operation of the NS-RL.

The Regulations must be followed by all teams, players, officials, spectators and administrators in the management, administration, and operation of NS-RL

2. Competition Structure

2.1. The competition shall be known as Netball South-Regional League (NS-RL), and the name shall be preceded by the name of such sponsor Netball South Regional Management Board (NS-RMB) may direct from time to time.

2.1.1. There are two distinct elements of the Competition; the League structures and the Open and U19 League Play Offs and the Junior entry Tournaments. These Competition Regulations cover all matters relating to the League structures.

NS-RL shall comprise of the following leagues

- NS-RL U13. Two divisions of 8 teams** - Four pools of 5 teams **
- NS-RL U14. Two divisions of 8 teams**
- NS-RL U16 Two divisions of 8 teams**
- NS-RL U19 One division of 16 teams**
- NS-RL Open – Divisions 1, 2 and 3 with 8 teams in each division

Note: For the purposes of these regulations U13, U14 & U16 will be referred to as Junior Divisions and U19 & Open will be referred to as Senior Divisions

**NS reserve the right to amend as necessary

2.1.2. The team which finishes top of NS-RL Open Division 1 will be eligible to enter England Netball Premier playoffs for promotion to Premier Netball 3.

- Should the winner of the NS-RL NOT gain promotion to the Premier Netball 3 competition through the playoffs, then they will be allowed to return to the NS-RL Open Division 1.
- If a NS registered team is relegated from Premier Netball 3, then they will be allowed to re-enter the NS-RL Division 1.



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2.2. Promotion and relegation between Open leagues ***

Division One: The bottom two teams will be relegated to division 2.

Division Two: The top two teams will be promoted to division 1. The bottom two teams will be relegated to division 3

Division Three: The top two teams will be promoted to division 2. The bottom two teams will be eligible to enter playoffs to re-enter division 3.

Under 19: The top team will be eligible to enter play offs for División 3 The bottom two teams will be eligible to enter playoffs to re-enter Under 19 division two** (see 2.7)

2.6. The winner of the U19 League will be eligible to enter the Division 3 play offs, subject to the regulations covering the number of teams from a club in the Open Divisions.

2.7. The next placed 8 teams will constitute U19 division 1. The remaining teams will become Division 2. The bottom 2 teams will be eligible to enter playoffs to re-enter Under 19 division 2. If the team that enters play offs for division 3 is successful only 1 team will enter the play offs to re-enter the league

2.8. Counties will be eligible to send a team to Play Offs according to the separate Play off Regulations that are published.

2.9. NS reserves the right to charge a fee for the NS-RL play offs and entry tournament.

***** Provisos:**

Should a team be relegated to NS-RL from Premier Netball 3

1. Only the top team from Division 2 will be promoted to Division 1.
2. Only the top team from Division 3 will be promoted to Division 2.

Should a team be promoted from NS-RL to Premier Netball 3 or a team leave the NS-RL from Division 1.

1. Only the bottom team from Division 1 will be relegated to Division 2.
2. Only the bottom team from Division 2 will be relegated to Division 3.

Should a team leave the NS-RL

1. Only the bottom team from that Division will be relegated.

Should a team be unable to take a promotion place in a higher division due to 5.1.2

1. Only the bottom team from the higher Division will be relegated.

The number of spaces available to teams at NS-RL playoffs in Division 3 and U19's will be adjusted because of the provisos above

2.10. The Winner and Runner Up of the U16 and U14 regional league will progress to the National Club Finals

2.11. There is no promotion or relegation between the U13, U14, U16 Divisions

3. Competition Organisation

3.1. The competition and all rights and properties associated with it shall be owned, controlled and managed by NS-RMB, which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to its sub-committee namely, the Competition Technical Support Group (CTSG).

3.2. Netball South is responsible for the organisation and management of NS-RL as well as the NS-RL Play-offs. County Leagues (or other mechanisms used by the counties) that feed into the NS-RL playoffs are the responsibility of the County Netball Associations. These competitions may have different regulations to those set out in this document.



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- 3.3. Prior to the start of NS-RL, NS shall announce the following:
- 3.3.1. the Competition Referee; and
 - 3.3.2. the person appointed to receive appeals of the decisions of the Competition Referee, as outlined in Section 8.
- 3.4. NS may alter the named Competition Referee during the Competition and will, through its best endeavours, inform all participating teams in the event that an alteration is made.

4. Competition Referees

- 4.1. A Competition Referee will be appointed by Netball South for the NS-RL
- 4.1.1. The Competition Referee will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters not covered specifically within the Regulations or arising throughout the Competition including, but not limited to:
 - 4.1.2. Altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary.
 - 4.1.3. Determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction including but not limited to:
 - a) The use of an ineligible player in a fixture or fixtures will result in a deduction of 3 league points, but the result of the fixture will still stand
 - b) The use of an unregistered player or a player who is under age without written permission from the Competition Referee will result in a deduction of 2 league points, the result of the fixture will still stand
 - c) If a team concedes or cancels a fixture the non-offending team will be awarded 5 points for the match and the conceding team will have 5 points deducted from their total, a fine* and will be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team, umpires or OTSG has incurred.
 - d) Conceding on more than one occasion (2 league fixtures) may result in expulsion from the League.
 - e) Failure to provide Technical Officials as required by 6.4 will result in a fine* for the offending team. If the home team agrees in writing to provide all Technical Officials as per 6.4.1.3 and does not, they will be fined.
 - f) Disqualification of any individual Player or Team.
 - 4.1.4. 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 Competition;
 - 4.1.5. Determine the score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance;
 - 4.2. 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.

5. Pre Competition Management and Administration

- 5.1. **Team Entry and Eligibility**
- 5.1.1. Entry to NS-RL Open League Division 3 shall be through the relevant Netball South County Leagues. Entry to the U13/14/16 leagues shall be through the Netball South Entry Tournament.
 - 5.1.2. A club may have a maximum of 2 teams in the Open NS-RL; however, they may not have 2 teams in the same division. A club may only have 1 team in each of the U13/14/16 or U19 regional leagues.
 - 5.1.3. NS is entitled to charge an entry fee to compete in NS-RL and qualifying tournaments, this must be paid in full within the permitted timescales to be eligible. This charge will include the costs associated with appointing the umpires where these are allocated by NS.
 - 5.1.4. In order to qualify to participate in NS-Junior RL a Club will be required to be CAPS accredited. With effect from 2022/2023 season ALL NS-RL Clubs will be required to be CAPS accredited.



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5.1.5. By entering a team in NS-RL or the NS-RL Entry Tournament clubs/teams agree that:

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

5.2. **Player/ Team Official Eligibility**

5.2.1. To qualify to participate in the NS-RL players and team officials must be a registered member of England Netball, Netball South and a South Region County, having paid the full membership fee due and received confirmation of their membership in advance of submitting the Registration Form for the NS-RL.

5.2.2. To be eligible for NS-RL all players and team officials must be members of England Netball within the timeframe set out in the Regulations. The appropriate membership fee must be received by England Netball by 17:00 hours on the Thursday prior to the fixture

5.2.3. All players must be over 11 years old and under the maximum age for the specific division as at 11.59pm on 31st August immediately prior to the commencement of the NS-RL playing season. Any player under the age of 14 at the start of the season playing at U16 or above must have completed a NS age banding consent form and submitted it with the team registration form.

5.2.4. Players registered for the NS-RL Senior Divisions may only play for one club in the Senior Divisions.

5.2.5. Players registered for the NS-RL Junior Divisions may only play for one club in the Junior Divisions.

5.2.6. A player and/or club can only participate in one regional competition within that specific age category

5.2.7. To allow player progression players can play for a different club in the Senior divisions to the club they play for in the Junior divisions provided that the Junior club do not have a team in the Senior Divisions.

5.2.8. Transfer Window:- A transfer window will operate for all divisions at the mid-point of the regional leagues season.

The transfer window will open:

- U13 -The scheduled date for Week 4 = 11th December 2021
- U14/U16 - The scheduled date for Week 8 = 4th December 2021
- U19 - The scheduled date for Week 7 = 12th December 2021
- Open - The scheduled date for Week 7 = 5th December 2021

Players may request a transfer between Regional Clubs under the following conditions

5.2.8.1.1. Players may ONLY transfer provided the transferring player has taken to the court in less than 12 quarters of the NS-RL games

5.2.8.1.2. The request will be made in writing to the relevant administrator of the NS-RL using the transfer form with reasons and must be agreed by all parties concerned.

5.2.8.1.3. Players must NOT play in the NS-RL for 2 games prior to transferring and can start playing for the new team following confirmation the transfer is complete from the league administrator.

5.2.9. Netball South 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.



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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.

5.3. Registration of Squads

5.3.1. Participating teams must set up a Regional Team on Engage in this exact format:-

Club Name (e.g. Allstars)
Age Group or Division (e.g) U14 or Division 3
Team Type (e.g. Regional)

Listing a minimum of 8 players,

Notification of players selected in a higher level of netball** must be emailed with their membership numbers to relevant league administrators prior to the commencement of the NS-RL playing season (Round 1) as instructed or following the entry tournament (where applicable)

- 5.3.2. Any additions to the squad or changes to players selected in a higher level of netball** must be lodged in Engage and emailed to the NS-RL administrator by 17:00 hours on the Thursday prior to the fixture. Additional registration of players will not be accepted after 17.00 on the Thursday prior to round 11 for U14/U16, U19 and Open. U13's prior to the scheduled fixture of Week 3 of round 2 of fixtures.
- 5.3.3. Once a player has been named on a squad sheet and has played in a NS-RL match she can transfer but not play for another NS-RL club at any age group during the course of the current playing season and/or play for another team/club at any age in the NS-RL Playoffs unless covered in by reason stated in 5.2.8 or 5.2.9. The CTSG may in extreme circumstances, at their absolute discretion allow a Player to transfer between two NS-RL clubs/teams during the course of the playing season e.g. should that Player move house / relocate to an area where playing for her original team would not be practical.
- 5.3.4. Each team must declare up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each match by completing a NS-RL Team Sheet and submit it to the Technical Officials. This must be done fifteen (15) minutes prior to the stated start time for the match.
- 5.3.5. Only players who have taken to the court (played at least one (1) quarter) during the course of the season (rounds 1 to 11) will be eligible to compete for their registered team within the NS-RL Open Play Offs unless they have been tied to a higher team, including Premier league and Superleague
- 5.3.6. All NS-RL players who are aged 18 or below at the start of the season may only play eight (8) quarters in NS-RL over a weekend.
- 5.3.7. Clubs, which have a team participating in more than one Open NS-RL will register all players identifying eight tied players who can only play in the highest division in which they have a team.
- 5.3.8. All non-tied players in Senior Divisions of NS-RL will be able to play in any higher division up to fifteen (15) quarters. Once the sixteenth (16th) quarter is played they are tied to the highest Open team they have played for. Likewise all registered players in the Junior divisions will be able to play in any higher Junior Division team up to fifteen (15) quarters, once the sixteenth (16th) quarter is played they are tied to the highest Junior team they have played for. Players are required to be registered separately for Junior and Senior Divisions if playing in both.
- 5.3.9. Permission of the CTSG, through the League Administrator, must be sought for a player registered to a higher division or league to play in a lower division or league and will only be granted in extreme circumstances
- 5.3.10. Where a club has a team participating in the England Netball Premier League the following provisos will control the movement of players.
- 5.3.10.1. The club must identify a minimum of 8 tied players who can only play in the higher division or league, none of whom will be permitted to play in the lower division.
- 5.3.10.2. All non-tied players will be eligible to play NS-RL, including NS play offs until they have played 15 ¼'s. Once the sixteenth (16th) quarter is played they are tied to the Premier League. .



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5.3.10.3. A player, once registered with a Super League team (VNSL), may play in the Regional League up to the start of the Super League Competition.

5.4. Competition Venues

- 5.4.1. Matches will be played wherever possible on an indoor court with adequate surrounds and surface and with ancillary facilities, including changing and showering facilities for both teams and officials, unless otherwise agreed by NS
All venues must be within a SR County unless otherwise agreed by the CTSG through the League Administrator
- 5.4.2. The home team is responsible for arranging the venue, and for the cost of this.
- 5.4.2.1. It is the responsibility of the **home team** to conduct a risk assessment, using the standard issued form, prior to each match and ensure that the umpires countersign this document. Umpires will undertake pre game checks to ensure the game is safe to play. It is within their jurisdiction to not allow a game to go ahead. In instances where risks have been identified, a copy should be sent to NS-RL administrator alongside the Official Result sheet.
- 5.4.2.2 Where venues are deemed unsuitable for the fixture on the day, one of the following will apply:
- i) Rearrangement played as an away fixture and original home team incur all costs
 - ii) Home Team concede
- 5.4.2.3 For all 'incidents' on or off the court at a Match, a NS Accident Report form must be completed, and a copy sent to the NS-RL administrator with the Result sheet and which will be stored for insurance purposes.
- 5.4.3. The home team is responsible for providing hospitality for both teams and all match officials in the form of suitable and substantial refreshments served in a timely fashion after the match, maintaining Government Guideline and sanitation protocols.

5.5. Accidents

- 5.5.1. If an accident occurs at any match where a player, coach, official (umpire or match bench), spectator or staff member is injured, the accident reporting procedure should be followed as detailed on www.netballsouth.co.uk
- 5.5.2. This procedure should be followed for ALL injuries and accidents where the game is stopped for longer than 30 seconds, regardless of whether or not medical treatment is given.

6. Playing and Competition

6.1. Competition Scheduling

- 6.1.1. **All matches MUST be played on the specified fixture dates**
- 6.1.2 The start time of each match will be mutually agreed between the teams, but will not normally be earlier than 10.00am or later than 3:00 pm. Any dispute over start times will be determined by the Competition Referee at their absolute discretion
- 6.1.3. The home team must provide their opposition, the two umpires and the OTSG with re-confirmation via email of the fixture, its start time and travel directions (including postcode) ten (10) days prior to the date of the fixture.
- 6.1.4 The away team will be responsible for arranging its own travel and the cost of this. The away team should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays. If a team is delayed in arriving for a fixture, the following protocol must be observed:
- a) Inform the opposing team and umpires as soon as they are aware of a delay
 - b) Any team which fails to arrive on time must take the court and be ready to play as soon as possible and in any event within 15 minutes of the agreed start time.
 - c) Any team taking to the court more than 15 minutes after the agreed start time will concede the



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match unless otherwise agreed by the Competition Referee.

- 6.1.5. No team may play a match with less than 5 players; any team with less than 5 players will automatically concede the game.
- 6.1.6. Teams may request to postpone or cancel a match where **2** or more registered players of the team are involved in a higher level of netball** or County rounds of National Schools. These players must have taken to the court in a NS-RL game for the relevant age group that the request is being made for and be listed as players selected in a higher level of netball where this is the basis of the request to rearrange.
- 6.1.7. Any request to postpone or cancel due to COVID-19 **MUST** be received in writing (email) by your league age group administrator as soon as the issue is identified and **MUST be agreed before contacting the opposition**. The CTSG will assess the request based on the Government Guidelines in place at that time.
Teams may be asked to provide evidence of positive tests
- 6.1.8. No team may postpone or cancel without **PRIOR** agreement with the CTSG.
- 6.1.9. Matches postponed or cancelled by the CTSG or OTSG due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances, e.g. flooding, heavy snowfall, Covid19 will be played at the earliest possible opportunity prior to the last last round of the season
- 6.1.10. In the event of a game being conceded:
 - a) The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points and 5-0 score for the match. The team which conceded will have five (5) league points deducted from their total and incur a fine.
 - b) The team which conceded may be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team, umpires or OTSG has incurred.
- 6.1.11. In the event that a match is abandoned for any reason, (e.g., because of serious injury), the result of that match will be determined by the Competition Referee, or its nominee(s), having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.

6.2. Match Rules and Format

- 6.2.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the International Netball Federation Rules of the Game currently in force at the time of the relevant match, except where specifically stated in the regulations.

6.3. Match Officials

- 6.3.1. Neutral umpires will be allocated, by the OTSG, for all divisions of the Open League.
 - 6.3.1.1. If the OTSG reallocates an umpire they will provide your team with a replacement.
 - 6.3.1.2 Each Junior Division 1, Junior Division 2 and U19 Division must provide an active* umpire with the minimum of a C award and notify the CTSG of the name at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the fixture.
- 6.3.2. Teams will be notified of the umpire appointments in advance of the fixtures. Any changes made immediately prior to the fixture will be notified to the teams by the OTSG.
- 6.3.3. In the event that an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied:
 - a) If another umpire approved by the OTSG is available then she/he will umpire the match.
 - b) Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire should be used
 - c) If the appointed umpire arrives late and the game has already commenced, the umpire that started the game will continue for the entire duration of the match.
 - d) The home team must inform the Regional League Administrator and the OTSG immediately after the match.
- 6.3.4. NS will have responsibility for procedures which ensure that umpires conform to a standard of physical



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fitness which allows them to keep pace with the speed and variability of the game(s). NS-RL matches may be used for the purpose of umpire assessment.

- 6.3.5. Teams wishing to raise concerns relating to the level of umpiring must email the OTSG Chair at netballsouth_officiating@outlook.com within 7 days of the said fixture. The OTSG will investigate the concern and determine whether any further action is required.
- 6.3.6. Teams wishing to take photos or video recordings of matches must email the opposition and all officials 10 days prior to the fixture to request permission. If agreement is not received from all parties then no photos or video recording will be allowed at the fixture. These photos and videos should be used for training purposes only and not shared or published on social media
- 6.3.7. If you wish to live stream a match, you must check with the opposition and umpires well in advance of the fixture date – not on the day – and provide details of where the recording will be streamed and who will have access to it to enable the opposition to make an informed decision. In every case however, the video must be password protected and only available to the 2 teams playing

6.4. Technical Officials

- 6.4.1. The Technical Officials are the Scorers and Timekeepers and shall constitute the Officials Bench. The Technical Officials do not need to have an EN membership and cannot hold any other role.
 - 6.4.1.1. Each team MUST provide a competent scorer, either an umpire, technical official or a person with a working knowledge of scoring. Scorers will be required for all fixtures.
 - 6.4.1.2. The home team MUST provide at least 1 timekeeper for each match played. The timekeeper(s) MUST have a working knowledge of the INF rules currently in force.
 - 6.4.1.3. If agreed in writing (email is sufficient) between both teams, the home team can provide all Technical Officials for a fixture, The league administrator must be informed of this happening.
- 6.4.2. Scorers are required to use the current NS Score sheet for all matches available from the NS website

6.5. Team Officials

- 6.5.1. A team may have up to five (5) Team Officials. These will include a coach and at least one primary care Person who must hold full membership to EN
- 6.5.2. A primary care person:
 - Must be qualified to diagnose and treat injury or illness (for example, doctor or physiotherapist) with a minimum of a First Aid qualification or completed a recognised certified First Aid course
 - Must wear Primary Carer identification
 - Is permitted on the court during a stoppage for injury/illness of a Player or blood issues
 - Must advise the umpires if a Player is too ill/injured to be removed from the court within 30 seconds and/or if assistance is required
- 6.5.3. Team Officials may be fewer than specified and may therefore undertake several duties. However, primary care person/s must not also be a Player and it is preferable that they do not hold any other role.
- 6.5.4. The Team Officials and up to five (5) players not on court shall constitute the Team Bench
- 6.5.5. The Team Bench will be situated as agreed with the Umpires.

6.6. Match Timings

- 6.6.1. All matches shall be of one hour's duration (four quarters of fifteen (15) minutes each). Central timing may not be used.
- 6.6.2. All matches shall have an interval of five (5) minutes at half time, and intervals of three (3) minutes at quarter and three quarter time.

6.7. Scoring

- 6.7.1. Teams will be awarded league points as follows:
 - a) Five (5) points for a win;
 - b) Three (3) points for a draw;
 - c) Two (2) points for a loss if within 5 goals of the winners' score – i.e., 50-46 = 2 points, 50-45 = 1 point



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- d) One (1) point for a loss if more than 50 per cent of the winners' score
- e) Zero (0) points for a loss

6.7.2. NS-RL tables will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded. Where 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 season 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 team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence
- d) In the event that neither Goal Average nor Goal Difference nor goals scored can differentiate between the teams, the aggregate score in the match or matches played between them over the course of the season shall be calculated and precedence given to the team whose scores were greatest.

In the event that none of the above differentiates between the teams, then NS or its' nominee shall determine the means of differentiation

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. Except where one of the teams level on points is the conceding team, at which point they assume a goal average of 0 and will be the lowest ranked team of those level on points.

6.8. Registration of Results

6.8.1. The completed result sheet must be handed to the official table 15 minutes prior to the start of the match. The result sheets must be agreed and signed by the scorer(s), and sent to the League Administrator by the HOME team in a readable format, to be received by email within five (5) working days of the fixture. Failure to do so will result in a two (2) point deduction. Emails sent to the League Administrators must be detailed in the subject line as: Age Group, Division or Pool and Teams (**Eg: Open Div 2 HOME TEAM v OPPOSITION**).

6.8.2. Each team must send their match result directly to the relevant WhatsApp group by **20.00** hours on the day of the fixture, after which league tables will be published within 48 hours where possible.

6.8.3. The official result sheet and score sheet must be retained by the individual team as this may be requested at any time.

7. Competition Referees

7.1 A Competition Referee will be appointed by the Chair of the CTSG for the Netball South Regional Leagues.

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

7.1.1.1 Altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary;

7.1.1.2 Determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction (including disqualification of any individual, Player or Team); reference 4.1.3

7.1.1.3 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 Competition;

7.1.1.4 Determine the score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance;

7.1.1.5 Any matter not covered specifically within the Regulations.

7.2 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.



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8. Competition Complaints Procedure

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

8.1.1 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 Score Sheet with the words "Under Protest";
- c) Send the marked Score Sheet to the Competition Referee, within seventy two (72) hours of the match;
- d) Attach a letter to the Score Sheet to explain the issue in full to the Competition Referee.
- e) The Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken.

8.1.2 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 clause 7.1.1 is binding apart from where parties to the complaint have the right to appeal the decision under Section 8 below.

8.1.3 Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Competition by the CTSG such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of the South Region

8.2 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.

8.3 Complaints cannot be made in relation to a decision made by an umpire in line with the INF rules of netball.

9. Appeal of Competition Referees Decision

9.1. The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with section 7.1 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

9.1.1. If the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition;

AND

9.1.2. If there has been a failure by the Competition Referee to follow or act in accordance with these Regulations 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:

9.2. An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the Team Manager of the appealing Team to the Competition Referee within 72 hours of receiving the decision, who will refer it to Chair of Netball South.

9.3. 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 warrants the payment being returned.

9.4. The Chair of NS will establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected to the Competition. One of those individuals will be appointed as the Chair.

9.5. The Chair of the CAC will send the appeal to the opposing Team and any other Team the CAC believes 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.



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- 9.6. All submissions and evidence must be submitted in writing. The Chair of CAC will have the discretion to determine the process, procedure and direction of the appeal.
- 9.7. The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions.
- 9.8. 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.
- 9.9. The CAC shall have the delegated power of NS 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 Competition) relating to the appeal. There is no further right of appeal on this decision.
- 9.10. The procedures set out in this section 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.
- 9.11. 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.
- 9.12. The seat of arbitration shall be England, the language used shall be English and the governing law of the regulations and these proceedings under Section 3 shall be English Law.
- 9.13. If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than provided for by this section, 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 Section. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised directions timetable which shall be binding on all parties.

10. Miscellaneous

- 10.1. England Netball and NS 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.
- 10.2. 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.
- 10.3. These Regulations shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law.
- 10.4. Any questions regarding these Regulations can be addressed to the relevant League Administrator.
- 10.5. NS will be entitled to amend these Regulations each year in advance of the Competition and such amendments will take effect from the first date of publication of the completed amended procedure on the NS website.



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*Definitions: -

Referee - Competition Referee will be the Chair of CTSG or League Administrator as advised. Contact details can be found on www.netballsouth.co.uk

Competition Appeals Committee (CAC)- means a body of up to three (3) individuals who are independent of and not connected to the Competition that will hear a or a group of appeal(s) on the Competition Referee's decision as set out in section 8.

Active Umpire C or above umpire who currently umpires at variety of leagues & Levels

** Higher Level of Netball –

- **National team fixture**
- **National Academy**
- **Franchise NPL U21 and U19 official league fixture**

Fines - £25 for conceding 1 game,
£100 for conceding 2 games and expulsion from the league.
£10 for not supplying the required technical officials

Teams will be invoiced for any fines due and failure to pay within 10 working days will mean a team **may not** be allowed to enter the league the following season.