

The Yardley Competitive Junior League is aimed at teams who wish to play netball at a competitive level similar to that of the National Clubs Competition. Teams will be required to follow the Rules and Regulations detailed below. This is not a qualifying league for the National Clubs Competition but the teams placed first and second may be asked to continue to play towards qualifying for a place in the Regional round of the Competition. This Competition is organised by the Derbyshire Netball Competition Group and the Yardley Netball League Working Party.

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1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 The Yardley Competitive Junior League (YCJL) shall be governed and managed by the County Management Board, which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to the Competition Technical Support Group (TSG) and the Yardley League Secretary.
- 1.2 It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players are conversant with the following rules and regulations.
- 1.3 All clubs will be held responsible for the Overall Conduct (behaviour, demeanour and actions) of all members associated with the club (players, officials and spectators).

2. INTEGRITY CLAUSE

- 2.1 Any team who knowingly and deliberately provides false information regarding identity of players at registration and the naming of players on team sheets will forfeit their deposit and may be expelled from the competition. Disciplinary action may be taken against the club.

3. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 Application for entry to the YCJL shall be open to any club or team which is affiliated to England Netball through the County Association.
- 3.2 Entry to the YCJL will be determined by the County Management Board at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the rules and regulations laid out herein, and having due regard to the playing standard of teams which wish to participate. In the same way, such casual vacancies as may appear from time to time will be addressed by the Competition TSG in whatever way it sees fit.
- 3.3 The Yardley Netball League will charge an entry fee to the YCJL.
- 3.4 All Clubs are required to pay a refundable deposit on entering the competition. The deposit will be returned at the end of the competition provided all commitments have been fulfilled. In accordance with 10.1.7a, part deposits may be retained.
- 3.5 By entering a team in the YCJL, clubs/teams agree that:
- They will abide by these rules and regulations
 - They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the YCJL
 - They will participate in a sporting manner and play within the spirit of the game
 - They are bound by all the rules, policies, regulations and by-laws of England Netball, including the England Netball Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Regulations
- 3.6 In order to qualify to participate in the YCJL, a player shall be in membership of England Netball as a Registered Participant and be affiliated to the club they are representing in the League. Second claim affiliations are acceptable
- 3.7 All players and bench officials must have their membership lodged with the England Netball Head Office, and their subscription paid, prior to their participation in the Yardley League.
- 3.8 All players must be over 14 and under 16 years of age at 31st August 2015 to compete in the U16 League and over 12 and under 14 years of age to compete in the U14 league unless they have completed the Age Banding Consent Form and submitted it to the Yardley Results Secretary with the Squad Registration form
- 3.9 Pregnant players may not take part in YCJL matches beyond the twelfth week of pregnancy. Pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage or any consequences thereof is a policy exclusion from England Netball's Insurance
- 3.10 A club may only enter TWO teams into the YCJL, but players may only play for one team for the duration of the league

4. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

- 4.1 Registration Sheets for each participating team must be completed fully for each player and lodged with the Yardley Fixtures Secretary at least fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the YCJL
- 4.2 Teams may register as many players as they wish
- 4.3 Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their Registration Sheet held by the Results Secretary
- 4.4 Any additions to the Registration Sheet must be lodged with the Results Secretary by midnight on the Sunday prior to playing the fixture so that affiliation checks can be carried out.
- 4.5 Each team may declare up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each match by completing a team sheet/result card
- 4.6 Only players named on the Team Sheet at the beginning of the game will be allowed to play or sit on the team bench

5. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

- 5.1 The YCJL will be contested between as many teams as shall be determined by the Competition TSG from time to time. The number of teams will be determined by the number of entries
- 5.2 Matches will be played as scheduled by the Yardley Fixtures Secretary.
- 5.3 The season's schedule of matches is to be organised with a fair allocation of starting times at the discretion of the Yardley League Secretary
- 5.4 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:
- 5 points for a win
 - 3 points for a draw
 - 2 points if scoring 75% or more eg 20-15 = 2 points
 - 1 point if scoring 50% or more eg. 50-25 = 1 point
- 5.5 The team which finishes top of each age-group league at the end of the season will be the winners.
- 5.6 The league will restart the following season through open entries
- 5.7 A YCJL table will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team.
Where two teams are level on points:
- Goal average shall be used to determine their relative positions, ie. the team with the higher average score over the course of the season shall take precedence
 - In the event that goal average does not differentiate between the teams, then goal difference shall be applied, ie. precedence will be given to the team with the greater difference between goals scored and goals conceded
 - Where one of the teams has its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals scored affected by cancellations, then all goals scored by and against defaulting team(s) in all games shall be omitted from the calculations of both teams level on points. For example, in the event that one team received 5 points for a cancelled fixture, then the goals scored by and against both teams level on points in all games against the offending team, will not be included when goal average, goal difference or total number of goals is calculated. In the event that neither goal average nor goal difference 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 winning team
 - In the event that none of the above differentiates between the teams, the Competition TSG shall determine the means of differentiation
- 5.8 The Competition TSG will have power to determine the penalty to be imposed on teams and players who are in breach of these Rules and Regulations. Such penalties include reprimands, the deduction of league points, fines, suspensions and expulsion from the competition, except as specified in 10.1.4-10.1.7

6. FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS

- 6.1 Matches will be played on a Tuesday evening as scheduled by the Yardley League Fixtures Secretary
- 6.2 All matches must be played on the date, and at the time and venue specified in the fixtures
- 6.3 Matches which are postponed by the Yardley League Secretary due to extreme and adverse weather conditions or unforeseen problems with the venue will be re-arranged in consultation with the Competition TSG
- 6.4 If a team cancels a match:
- The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points for the match, and the team which cancels will have five (5) league points deducted from their total
 - The team which cancels will be liable to pay both teams match fees
- 6.5 If a fixture is cancelled, it is the responsibility of both teams to ensure that the Yardley League Secretary is informed immediately the cancellation is known

- 6.6 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 Yardley League Secretary, having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended
- 6.7 Following each match, the score sheet must be sent to the Yardley Results Secretary

7. MATCH REGULATIONS

- 7.1 All games shall be played to the IFNA (2011) Rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time, except where specific regulations may apply.
- 7.2.1 Where there is a clash of colours deemed likely by the umpires, the toss of a coin by the two captains shall decide which team retains their original colours (NB a reversal of bib colours is unlikely to be sufficient)

8. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 8.1 Teams must provide a non playing C Award umpire who will be neutrally placed
- 8.2 In the event that an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied:
- If another umpire of the appropriate standard is available then she/he will umpire the match
 - Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire should be used
 - The League Secretary must be informed immediately after the match.
- 8.3 Teams must provide someone to keep score and time the game for all fixtures. Timekeepers may not be members of the squad named for that match and must officiate for the whole game. Scorers and timekeepers may not coach or comment during the game.
- 8.5 The Team Bench will be the area designated by the umpires at the start of the game. This will normally be on the right hand side of the post and at the team's defending end. Teams will occupy the same team bench throughout the game.
- 8.6 Up to five Team Officials, in addition to the five players not on court shall constitute the 'Team Bench'. Team Officials will consist of Coach and four other people, one of which must be designated as the Primary Carer
- 8.7 Only the Primary Carer will be allowed on court in the event of illness/injury.

9. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

- 9.1 Both teams are required to complete an official Team/Score Sheet during each match, entering the names of each player and indicating which players have played
- 9.2 The two official Team/Score Sheets must be checked and signed by both scorers, timekeepers, captains and umpires.
- 9.3 The score sheet should then be sent to the Yardley Results Secretary. Any team which fails to do so may be penalized (see 10.1.7).
- 9.4 The score for the match will not be registered until both score sheets have been received
- 9.5 The result of each match must be submitted on-line via the Yardley Web-site by both teams no later than midnight of the Thursday following the match. Any team which fails to do so may be liable to a fine

10. COMPETITION REFEREES

- 10.1 The Yardley League Secretary, Umpiring Secretary and the Competition TSG Chairman have been appointed as Competition Referees by Derbyshire Netball Association for the YCJL. The Competition Referees will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising throughout the

Competition including, but not limited to:

- 10.1.1 Altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary;
 - 10.1.2 Determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction (including disqualification of any individual, player or team) as follows:
 - 10.1.3 The use of an unaffiliated player will result in a deduction of 3 league points; the result of the fixture will still stand
 - 10.1.4 The use of an ineligible player will result in a deduction of 2 league points; the result of the fixture will still stand. An ineligible player includes:
 - (a) an unregistered player
 - (b) a player who is under age without submitting an age banding form
 - 10.1.5 In the event that a team fails to play, the non-offending team will be awarded 5 points for the match and the offending team will have 5 points deducted from their total
 - 10.1.6 Failure to play on more than one occasion (e.g. failure to play in 2 league fixtures) could result in expulsion from the YCJL
 - 10.1.7
 - (a) If a team cancels a game, the offending team will pay both match fees to cover the court costs
 - (b) Not submitting the result through on time - the fine will be the loss of 1 point
 - (c) Late or incomplete score sheet - the fine will be the loss of 1 point
 - (d) Failure to provide an umpire - the fine will be the loss of 1 point
 - (e) Deliberately providing false information may result in expulsion from the competition
 - 10.1.8 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;
 - 10.1.9 Determine the score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance
 - 10.1.10 Any matter not covered specifically within the Regulations
- 10.2 The Competition Referees 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 Referees.

11. COMPETITION COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

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

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

11.1.2 The Competition Referees 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 Referees' decision in relation to decisions taken under clause 10.1.1 is binding apart from where parties to the complaint have the right to appeal the decision under Section 12 below

11.2 Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Competition by the Competition TSG such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of the Derbyshire Netball Association

11.3 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

12. APPEAL OF COMPETITION REFEREES' DECISION

12.1 The decision of the Competition Referees in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with section 11.1.1 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

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

12.1.2 If there has been a failure by the Competition Referees to follow or act in accordance with these Regulations and/or the Competition Referees 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:

12.2 An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the appropriate member of the appealing Team to the Competition Referees within 72 hours of receiving the decision, who will refer it to County Disciplinary Secretary

12.3 The appeal shall be accompanied by a cheque for £100 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 cheque being returned

12.4 The County Disciplinary Secretary will establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected with the Competition. One of those individuals will be appointed as the Chair

12.5 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

12.6 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

12.7 The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions

12.8 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

12.9 The CAC shall have the delegated power of Debyshire Netball Association 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

12.10 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

12.11 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, in so far as such waiver may be validly made

12.12 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

12.13 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.

13. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISOS

13.1 No first aid will be provided by the League

13.2 It is the responsibility of each team to provide adequate first aid cover for its players and officials, which shall also be made available to the match officials on request

14. CLOSE RANGE PHOTOGRAPHY

14.1 Photography may take place any week. Clubs must notify the Yardley League Secretary prior to the commencement of the League if there are any members of the club who do not wish to be photographed during the League

15. HEALTH & SAFETY

a) Umpires and bleeding

Play may be stopped for injury or illness or any other cause. This would allow the Umpires to stop the game if she/he sustained and injury herself/himself

b) Pregnant players and umpires' fitness, Gloves, Jewellery, Headscarves, Leg Braces, Uniform

England Netball Domestic Guidance must be followed and can be found
http://www.englandnetball.co.uk/officiating/Rules_Directives.php

Official Netball Rules 2011: 1.4.3 states

"No item of jewellery, except a wedding ring and/or medical alert bracelet, shall be worn. If either are worn, each shall be taped."

"No item of jewellery" includes micro-dermal piercings

c) Accident Reporting

An England Netball Accident form must be completed for all accidents and sent to the League Secretary. A copy of the Accident Form and the results sheet will be sent to England Netball where they will be stored in the event of an insurance claim

If an accident occurs at a Netball match where a player, coach, spectator or staff member is injured, the accident reporting procedure should be followed as detailed below: this procedure should be followed for ALL injuries and accidents, regardless of whether or not medical treatment is given.

A Team Official - i.e. coach, team manager or other team representative - should complete the Accident Report Form, making sure to include as much information as possible. This may include a diagram or further explanation which may be completed on a separate piece of paper or on the back of the form. Additional pages should be stapled or clipped securely to the original form.

The names, addresses and contact details of any witness(es) present should be recorded. It may also be necessary, in some circumstances, to obtain an Umpire's Report as evidence. This is essential for any follow up queries England Netball or its insurers may have.

The form should be sent to the League Secretary within 3 (three) days of the incident taking place who will retain a copy and forward to England Netball. A copy should be kept by each team and filed for future reference.

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

16. DISCLAIMER

Derbyshire Netball 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 Derbyshire Netball's liability for any personal loss or injury caused by Derbyshire Netball's own negligence, the negligence of its employees, or for fraud.

