

1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- a. The competition shall be known as **Berkshire Junior Netball League (BJNL)**.
- b. The competition and all rights and properties associated with it shall be owned, controlled and managed by the **Berkshire Netball Management Board (BNMB)**; which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to the **Competitions Secretary (CS)** who chairs the **Competitions Sub-Group (CSG)** or other nominees (s) administering the BJNL.
- c. The decisions of the **BNMB, CSG** or nominee(s) in respect of these rules and regulations, and on any other matter relating to the **BJNL** which is not provided for below, shall be considered final and binding on all parties.
- d. All clubs will be responsible for the overall conduct of their players, officials and spectators.
- e. Matches will be 7 a-side and teams must consist of **females** only as per World Netball rules.

2. QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

- a. Entry into the BJNL will be determined by the CSG subject to rules and regulations at its absolute discretion. Teams entering the league must be a member of **England Netball (EN), Netball South (NS)** and **Berkshire Netball (BN)**.
- b. In order to participate in the **BJNL** teams shall either be accredited under the **EN CAPS** scheme or working towards. Please note for this season this rule has been relaxed due to EN suspending all CAPS Assessments.
- c. By entering a team in the **BJNL**, all clubs/teams agree that:
 - i. They will abide by these rules and regulations.
 - ii. They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the **BJNL**.
 - iii. Players in the U11 League may be Y5 / 6 from 1st September (no younger than U10).
 - iv. Players in U12 League may be Yr6 / 7 1st September.
 - v. Players in U13 League may be Yr7 / 8 from 1st September.
 - vi. Players U14 League may be in Yr 8 (U13) or Yr 9 (U14) from 1st September.
 - vii. Players in the U16 League may be in Yr 9 (U14), Yr 10 (U15) or Yr 11 (U16) from 1st September.
 - viii. Players in the U19 League may be in Yr 11 (U16), Yr 12 (U17) or Yr 13 (U18) or 18 from 1st September.
 - ix. A player may play for a club which is not her 1st claim affiliated club provided both clubs have agreed, and her 1st claim club has not entered the league.

REGIONAL PLAYERS ADDENDUM

Clubs intending to play regional players in BJNL in their correct age group must name their core 7 Regional players via email to the **CS** via email to berkshireleaguereults@gmail.com. **These 7 players will NOT be eligible to play in BJNL within their age group.** Regional players playing within their age group at BJNL (apart from the named 7), will have a cap on the number of quarters they can play at regional games. Submit team sheets to the **CS** via email to berkshireleaguereults@gmail.com by 5pm on the day of Regional fixture.

A player can play a MAXIMUM of 15 quarters in Regional. Once they have played their 16th quarters, they can no longer participate in the BJNL within their age group.

Regional players will be allowed to play "up an age group" with no quarter restriction.

U13 Regional Players may play U14 BJNL no quarter restrictions

U14 Regional Players may play U16 BJNL no quarter restrictions

U16 Regional Players may play U19 BJNL no quarter restrictions

3. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

- a. All players must be registered members of England Netball and linked to the participating team via ENgage to BJNL by 31st August 2023.
- b. There is no limit to the number of players that can be registered in ENgage for each squad.
- c. Any additions to the squad registrations must be lodged by 17.00 hours on the Friday prior to the fixture. Email additions will be accepted to the **CS** berkshireleaguereults@gmail.com but still need to be updated in ENgage.
- d. Teams may only use players whose names appear on their squad registration list in ENgage.
- e. Each team may declare up to twelve (12) players on the **BJNL** results sheet prior to the start of each match.
- f. Players can play up one age group for their club, e.g. U13 players can play in the U14 team; or they can play up a division within the same age group, e.g. U16 Div 2 players can play up for the U16 Div 1 team. This can be for a maximum of 8 quarters. **This must be indicated on the results sheet.** After 8 quarters, that player can be de-registered and re-registered with the higher team.

- g. Players may play across in the same division for no more than 8 quarters. **This must be indicated on the results sheet.**
- h. The **CSG** may, at its absolute discretion, agree for players to transfer between two clubs during the course of the playing season. Such requests must be made in writing for consideration by the **CSG** and must outline the reason for the transfer request.
- i. From 17th December 2023 to 1st January 2024 clubs may de-register a maximum of two (2) players from each squad and re-register with an alternative squad within the same age group E.g. only two (2) players could be de-registered from the A team and re-registered with the B team and vice versa.
- j. Any team who knowingly and deliberately provides false information regarding the identity of players when registering or naming players on team sheets will forfeit their deposit and will be expelled from the competition with immediate effect.
- k. All results will then be treated as null and void. Disciplinary action will be taken against the club in accordance with **EN** guidelines.
- l. Once fixtures have been circulated any club that withdraws a team from the **BJNL** at any time in the season **will not** be eligible for automatic entry to the **BJNL** for season 2024-25. There will be no refund of the monies due.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

- a. The **BJNL** will be contested between as many teams and divisions as shall be determined by the **CSG** in consultation with the **BNMB**.
- b. Teams will be awarded league points as follows:
 - 5 points for a win
 - 3 points for a draw
 - 2 points if within 5 goals of the winner's score – i.e. 50-46 = 2 points, 50-45 = 1 point
 - 1 point for more than 50 per cent of the winner's score
 - 0 points for a loss
- c. Where two teams are level on points:
 - i. Goal difference shall be used to determine their relative positions In i.e. precedence shall be given to the team with the greater difference between goals scored and goals conceded.
 - ii. In the event that goal difference does not differentiate between the teams then the team with the greater number of goals scored shall take precedence.
 - iii. In the event that neither goal average, 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 is given to the winning team.
 - iv. Where one team has its goal average, goal difference or a total number of goals scored affected by cancellations, then all goals scored by and against defaulting team(s) in all fixtures 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 its goal average, goal difference or a total number of goals is calculated.

The winner* of the U19 section will go through to represent Berkshire at the U19 Div 2 SR playoffs. *Must be a club situated and training within the County. Subject to eligibility as per Netball South Rules & Regulations. Players registered by the county teams for the playoffs must meet the criteria below.

- a. Been registered with the Team in a league in the County they will be representing prior to round 11 of NS-RL U19 Div 1 competition.
- b. Played for the County team during the current league season.
- c. Not played 12 or more quarters for any Regional U19 or above during the season.

5. FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS

- a. Matches will be played at various venues allocated by the **CSG**.
- b. Matches that are postponed by the **CSG** due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances e.g. flash floods, heavy snowfall, will be played on a mutually agreed date or as determined by the **CSG**.
- c. Teams who are unable to fulfil their fixture will be asked to field a friendly team to give their opposition a match. If the match is cancelled the offending team will be deducted 3 points and be asked to pay a fine of £35 which will be used to reimburse the non-offending team. The non-offending team will be awarded 5 points and 40 goals.

- d. In the event that a match is abandoned for any reason (because of serious injury etc), the result of that match will be determined by the **CS** in consultation with the **CSG**; giving regard to the score and the time remaining at the time which play was suspended.

6. MATCH REGULATIONS

- a. All matches shall be played to the World Netball Rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time, except where specific regulations may apply.
- b. Each fixture is allocated 90 minutes of court time to allow for warm-up, match play and cool down.
- c. U13, U14, U16 and U19 - all matches shall be 60 minutes (i.e. four quarters of 15 minutes each) with two minutes (2) between 1st and 2nd quarters and 3rd and 4th quarters, and five minutes (5) at half time.
- d. U12 match quarters should be four x 12 minutes each with quarter breaks as above.
- e. U11 match quarters - this age group play six x 8 minutes with two minutes breaks.
- f. No added injury time, the timer continues for the allocated time. Usual World Netball rules apply, stoppages will be 30 seconds. If a player calls time for injury, the player must leave the court within 30 seconds. They can either be substituted or the team can play with 6 and the player once fit and ready can come back on court after a goal, at another stoppage for injury/illness or blood or the next interval, whichever comes first.
If a game is abandoned due to serious injury to a player or any other unforeseen extraordinary circumstances, the first named team must inform the **CS** immediately after the match with the score and time remaining at the time which play was suspended.
- g. Post height will be 10ft for all matches and a size 5 ball will be used.
- h. Teams must vacate the courts promptly after their match to allow the next round of matches to start on time.
- i. Match officials must abide by the rules of the team bench.
- j. The **first** named team (named on the left of the fixtures) are responsible for providing a timekeeper. A 2-minute warning for the start of the game must be given to the umpire and the umpires request a 30-second warning prior to the whistle/horn (do not walk up and down following them). The timekeeper is also responsible for timing the breaks between quarters.
- k. Both teams must provide a scorer. The scorers must agree on the score at the end of each quarter. Table officials must sit with each other near the centre of the court.
- l. In the event of a clash of colours of bibs, a toss of a coin between the two captains will decide which team retains their original-coloured bibs. All teams must have alternative bibs for all fixtures.
- m. Match day squads should be no more than 12.

7. CONDUCT / TEAM BENCH AND SPECTATORS

- a. A minimum of UKCC Level 2 Netball coaches are required to be in attendance at all fixtures. This ensures the attendance of adequate first aid cover for its athletes and officials. However, if this is not possible an L1 will be acceptable providing 18+ and there must also be a qualified first aider on the bench. This should be indicated on the results sheet.
- b. All coaches must hold full, active England Netball Membership for the current season and be assigned to their Team (via roles) in ENGage. Their qualifications should also be added to ENGage eg. UKCC L1 or L2 certificate, their corresponding First Aid certificate and Safeguarding certificate. There will be no exceptions.
- c. All players, coaches, officials, volunteers, spectators, and parents must adhere to the appropriate code of conduct as set out on the Berkshire Netball Website and also on the England Netball Website.
- d. When possible, at the start of the game the team bench will be at their team's defending end, to the right of the netball posts. Do not change ends at halftime.
- e. Team officials and players must not move up and down the sidelines or along the goal line and should remain in the "bench area".
- f. A representative from each team must sit in a central position courtside in order to score/timekeeper (this may not be a player) and be available to the umpires.
- g. Photography or video is not permitted in the U11, U12, U13 and U14 age groups, (to abide by EN Duty of Care Guidelines).
- d. **U16 and U19 teams** wishing to take photos or video recordings of matches for exam/educational purposes must email the opposition and all officials 10 days prior to the fixture to request permission. If the agreement is not received from all parties, then no photos or video recordings will be allowed at the fixture. The agreement cannot be requested on the day of the fixture. These photos and videos should be used for training/educational purposes only and not shared or published on social media. All teams must be aware that any video recordings may be used in the event of any dispute or hearing required to be decided by the league.

8. MATCH OFFICIALS

- a. To be eligible to officiate U11, U12, and U13 div 2 matches, Umpires must have an active England Netball Membership and hold a Netball Europe Into Officiating or above. Into Officiating umpires must have a mentor (Netball Europe C Award or above) on-site. This cannot be the coach or primary carer. Both umpire and mentor needs to be approved by the BJNL Umpiring Secretary: bjnlumpire@gmail.com by Friday prior to the game.
- b. To be eligible to officiate U13 Div 1, U14, U16 and U19 matches, Umpires must have an active England Netball Membership and hold a Netball Europe C Award or above. An U18 C Award must have an adult mentor who has completed their safeguarding course, this can be a coach or primary carer.
- c. Each team is responsible for providing and paying for their own umpire.
- d. 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 appropriately qualified umpire is available, then she/he will umpire the match. Failing that the next best-qualified umpire should be used.
The first named team must inform the **CS** immediately after the match.
- e. There is no match limit for mentors in attendance.
- f. It is advised that all umpires do not have any family connection with players on the court. To continue to support and develop our umpires we will encourage feedback from clubs so they can be supported.
- g. Umpires must not officiate more than two consecutive matches at any age group. They may take a break and umpire a 3rd but that **MUST** be the limit.
- h. Each team will provide a competent scorer and timekeeper. **This cannot be a player named on the result sheet.**

9. RESULTS

The completed results sheet must be checked and agreed upon by both team coaches and umpires **at the end of each game**. The winning team to complete the online google form (<https://forms.gle/wQ21QeJ81jmkPf1X8>) and submit both score sheets (a photograph is acceptable) by 18.00 hours (6 pm) on the day of the fixture. Any issues, email: berkshireleaguerevents@gmail.com

10. PENALTIES, QUERIES, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

- a. The **CSG** will determine the penalty to be imposed on teams and players who are in breach of these rules and regulations, regarding the playing of matches in the **BJNL** and the notification of results.
 - i. The use of an unaffiliated, unregistered, or ineligible player will result in a deduction of 3 points.
 - ii. The use of an unaffiliated, unregistered, or incorrect level of coach without the permission of the CSG will result in the deduction of 3 points.
 - iii. The use of an unaffiliated or incorrect level of umpire without the permission of the CSG will result in the deduction of 3 points.
 - iv. The use of an unaffiliated or incorrect level of mentor without the permission of the CSG will result in the deduction of 3 points.
 - v. A team not providing a competent scorer/timekeeper will result in the offending team receiving a deduction of 3 points.
 - vi. Incomplete and/or late score sheets will result in a deduction of 3 points.
 - vii. Late email and incomplete information on more than 2 occasions will result in a deduction of 3 points.
 - viii. If a team cancels a match without the agreement of the **CSG**:
 - ix. The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points for the match plus 40 goals.
 - x. The team which cancels may be liable to a 3-point deduction of league points for the match and will be liable to pay any costs (£35) that the non-offending team has incurred, subject to the determination of the **CSG**.
 - xi. **EACH** conceded game will result in the non-offending team receiving 5 points and a score of 40-0 goals. Conceding t three (3) games will result in all games being forfeited and the offending team will take no further part in the **BJNL**.
- b. Any team or match official who intends to raise a query or complaint regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must inform their opponents and the umpires **on the day of the match**.
- c. Any queries or complaints regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must be submitted in writing to the **CSG** via email to berkshireleaguerevents@gmail.com within seven (7) working days. Advance notice of such query or dispute should also be provided by telephone within 48 hours of the fixture date.

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- d. All queries, complaints and disputes regarding the playing of a match and/or its result will be determined in the first instance by the **CSG**, which will use its best endeavours to determine the course of action within ten (10) days of receiving the query, complaint or dispute.
- e. In the event that any team wishes to appeal against the decision of the **CSG**, it must notify **BNMB's** Disciplinary Secretary within seven (7) working days of receipt of the decision. In this event, the matter will be considered in line with the **EN** Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures Manuals.
- f. Any team which wishes to appeal against the governance and management of the **BJNL** by the **BNMB** or the **CSG**, or against specific decisions made by it, must follow the procedures laid out in **EN's** Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures Manual.
- g. Any team which fails to observe the procedures laid out in the preceding clauses will invalidate its right to raise a query, complaint or appeal.
- h. Any complaint which does not concern the playing of a match and/or its result, but which is made in respect of a disciplinary offence, will be dealt with according to the procedures laid out in **EN's** Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures Manual.

11. RESPONSIBILITIES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISOS

- a. **BNMB** and the **CSG** accept no liability whatsoever in respect of personal loss or injury that athletes, officials or spectators may sustain.
- b. No form of glove may be worn when playing netball. If gloves are required for medical reasons, the umpires may allow seamless leather or cotton gloves to be worn on the production of an appropriate medical certificate, provided that they are satisfied that any gloves worn do not present an obvious hazard to other players.
- c. If scarves need to be worn because of religious practices or medical reasons, the players and the coach must ensure that the material used for the head covering is soft, without embellishments that might constitute a danger, and with potential flowing/flapping edges held securely around the neck and securely as possible.
- d. No jewellery of any kind may be worn. No taping is permitted. A medical alert/faith bracelet may be worn providing that it is secured and taped/covered in a suitable manner that will not constitute a danger to an opponent.
- e. Sharp adornments e.g. knee or arm braces, must also be suitably taped.