

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**.
- d. All players must be over 9 years old, only play up one age group and under the maximum age for the specific division as at 11.59 pm on 31st August immediately prior to the commencement of the playing season.
 - i. U10s (U9s are not able to play in this division)
 - ii. U11s
 - iii. U12s
 - iv. U13s
 - v. U14s
 - vi. U16s
 - vii. U19s
- e. All players must provide proof of age as random checks may be carried out. Proof of age comprises of a photo uploaded to Engage and team printed on paper which includes name, DOB, EN ID and photo. A copy should be securely held by the designated person within the club - ideally the coach or Team Manager - and be available at each match.
- f. A player may play for a club which is not her primary affiliated club provided both clubs have agreed, and her primary club has not entered the league.

REGIONAL PLAYERS ADDENDUM

Clubs intending to play regional players in BJNL must name their Regional squad players via email to the **CS** via email to berkshireleaguerevents@gmail.com, if any club players are added to the regional squad, an updated registration sheet must be sent to the CS. **These players will NOT be eligible to play in BJNL within their age group.** Submit Regional team sheet to the **CS** via email to berkshireleaguerevents@gmail.com by 5pm on the day of regional fixture. A player can play a MAXIMUM of 12 quarters in Regional League. Once they have played 12 quarters, they can no longer participate in the BJNL. A tactical change during the quarter counts as 1 quarter.

Regional players to play "up an age group".

U13 Regional Players may play Division 1 U14 BJNL

U14 Regional Players may play Division 1 U16 BJNL

U16 / U19 Regional Players are not able to play in BJNL

3. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

- a. All players must be registered members of England Netball and linked to the participating team via Berkshire Junior Netball League in ENGage by 17.00 hours on Thursday 3rd September 2026. Add Club to BJNL in ENGage in this exact format: -
Age, Club Name and Division e.g. U16, Stars Blue, Div1
Team Type must be set as Junior Team
- b. Squads must name a minimum of eight (8) players per team.
- c. There is no limit to the number of players that can be registered in ENGage for each squad.
- d. 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.
- e. Teams may only use players whose names appear on their squad registration list in ENGage.
- f. A minimum of five (5) registered players must be on court for the duration of the game. A maximum of two (2) players maybe borrowed per game.
- g. Each team may declare up to twelve (12) players on the **BJNL** results sheet prior to the start of each match.
- h. 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 12 quarters. **This must be indicated on the results sheet.** After 12 quarters, that player should be de-registered and re-registered with the higher team - maximum of three (3) players per season. A tactical change during the quarter counts as 1 quarter.
- i. Players may NOT play across in the same division.
- j. 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.
- k. From 18th December 2026 to 1st January 2027 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.
- l. Any team found to have provided false or misleading information regarding the identity of any player when registering players or naming them on team sheets shall forfeit its deposit and be expelled from the competition with immediate effect. All of that team's results shall be declared null and void. The club may also be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with England Netball guidelines.
- m. Any club that withdraws a team after 31st May 2026 from the **BJNL** or at any time in the season **will not** be eligible for automatic entry to the **BJNL** for season 2027-28. **There will be no refund of the monies paid.**

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. The winning team must be a club situated and training within the County. Subject to eligibility as per Netball South Rules & Regulations. If the winning team is not eligible to play off, the place will be offered to the 1st runner up only. 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 with agreement of the CSG, the non-offending team will be awarded 5 points and 40 goals. See section 10 for penalty.
- 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. All Matches **MUST** start at the stated time on the spreadsheet; the allocation of 90 minutes allows for a warm-up which needs to take place a minimum of 15 minutes before the match **starts**. If a team has less than five players at start of game, the opposition will be given one goal a minute, up to fifteen minutes (umpires to start game with goals added on) or the match should be played as a friendly and the non-offending team gets the points. Under no circumstances should the match finish late.
- 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. U10 and U11 match - this age group play six x 8 minutes with two minutes breaks (no tactical changes).
- f. No added time for injury, substitutions, tactical changes or stoppages, **the timer continues** for the allocated time. This stoppage should be controlled by the umpire, not the match officials. 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.
- g. Tactical changes - Use of the rule should be used in the correct spirit of the game and are at the umpire's discretion. If an umpire thinks a team or player is misusing the Tactical Change, they can refuse the request and or penalise the individual for delaying play. They are not to be used in the last 2 minutes of each quarter.
- h. 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.
- i. Post height will be 10ft for all matches and a size 5 ball will be used.
- j. Teams must vacate the courts promptly after their match to allow the next round of matches to start on time.
- k. Match officials must abide by the rules of the team bench.
- l. 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.
- m. There is no requirement for the on-court captain to wear identification, but it is good practice.
- n. 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.

- o. 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.
- p. Where no spectator viewing gallery is available (for example, Wellington Court 2), spectators may stand or sit courtside only on the left-hand side of the goalpost. Spectators must not stand or sit between courts, to ensure umpires have clear access and to protect player safety. Team coaches and umpires are responsible for ensuring this requirement is observed.

7. CONDUCT / TEAM BENCH AND SPECTATORS

- a. A team may have up to three (3) Team Officials. At least one Team Official must be a coach who holds a minimum of UKCC Level 2 qualification, ensuring that appropriate first aid is available for the team's athletes and officials.
- 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 L2 certificate, DBS and 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. Team officials and players must not move up and down the sidelines or along the goal line and should remain in the "bench area".
- e. Photography or video is not permitted in the U10, U11, U12, U13 and U14 age groups, (to abide by **EN** Duty of Care Guidelines).
- f. **U16 and U19 teams** may take photos or video recordings of matches for educational purposes only. Teams with any players who are unable to appear in video recordings must notify the League in advance. Photos and videos must be used for educational purposes only and must not be shared or published on social media. All teams should be aware that any video recordings may be used by the League in the event of a dispute or hearing.

8. MATCH OFFICIALS

- a. Match officials must remain neutral at all times (no coaching/supporting).
- b. **Both umpire and mentor need to be linked to BJNL in ENGage and approved by the BJNL Umpiring Secretary: bjnlumpire@gmail.com by Friday prior to the game.**
- c. To be eligible to officiate U10, U11, U12, and U13 div 2 matches, Umpires must have an active England Netball Membership and hold a Netball Europe Into Officiating (including passing their physical assessment) or above. Into Officiating umpires must have an adult mentor (Netball Europe C Award or above) who has a valid DBS court side. This cannot be the coach or primary carer. Mentors must introduce themselves to the opposition umpire and coach.
- d. 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 a valid DBS and it is recommended they have a safeguarding certificate, this can be a coach or primary carer.
- e. Each team is responsible for providing and paying for their own umpire and mentor.
- f. 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.
- g. There is no match limit for mentors in attendance.
- h. Umpires may not officiate if they have a family connection with players on the court.
- i. Umpires must not officiate more than two consecutive matches at any age group and no more than 3 games in a day.
- j. Each team will provide a competent scorer and home team to provide a timekeeper. **This cannot be a player named on the result sheet.**
- k. Mentors must remain neutral and attentive throughout the match, observing the umpire and providing feedback during intervals and at the end of the game. Mentors should position themselves away from the team benches to maintain their focus on the umpire. They are not required to walk the line with an umpire; however, they may move around the court where necessary to obtain the best position from which to observe.
- l. To continue to support and develop our umpires we will encourage feedback from clubs so they can be supported by the Umpiring CTSG. Email: bjnlumpire@gmail.com

9. RESULTS

The completed results sheet must be **checked, agreed and signed** by both team coaches and umpires **at the end of each game**. The winning team to complete the online google form (<https://forms.gle/45UMz7jcNt4bXrWTA>) 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.

Reg	Breach & Fine	Points Deduction	Other
2e	Failure to provide Photo ID.	5	Each player. Result will stand.
3a	Failure to register a team with a minimum of 8 named players in ENgage by 17.00 on Thursday 3 rd September 2026 will result in each team being penalised.	5	Additional players to be added by 5pm Friday before fixture.
3d	Playing an unaffiliated, unregistered or ineligible player.	5	Each player. Result will stand.
3j	Any team who provides false information regarding the identity of players when registering or naming players on team sheets.		Expelled from the competition with immediate effect and forfeit their deposit. All of that team's results shall be declared null and void. The club may also be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with England Netball guidelines.
3h	A player who plays more than 12 quarters for a team will become ineligible to play for her original team.	5	Each player. Result will stand.
5c	Conceding/cancelling a game without the agreement of the CSG.	5	The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points for the match plus 40 goals. The team will be liable to pay any costs (£50) that the non-offending team has incurred, subject to the determination of the CSG.
	Conceding two games.		Result in all games being forfeited and the offending team will take no further part in the BJNL.
6b	Less than 5 players to start game.		One goal per minute, up to 15 minutes. Umpires to start game with goals added on. Match should not finish late. After first quarter the non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points for the match plus 40 goals.
7a	The use of an unaffiliated, unregistered, or incorrect level of coach.	5	Result will stand.

8c, 8d & 8h	The use of an unaffiliated or incorrect level of umpire or mentor without the permission of the CSG.	5	Result will stand.
8j	The use of an unaffiliated or incorrect level of scorer/timekeeper.	5	Results will stand.
9	Incomplete and/or late score sheets.	5	Results will stand.

- 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 berkshireleaguereults@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.
- 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.
- e. 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.
- f. Sharp adornments e.g. knee or arm braces, must also be suitably taped.