****

**LEAGUE RULES 2021 - 2022**

**INTRODUCTION**

**1 General Information**

* 1. Any teams who knowingly and deliberately provide false information regarding identity of players in naming them on the score card will be subject to a penalty.
	2. The decisions of the DANA committee, or it’s nominee(s), in respect of these rules and regulations and any other matter relating to the league which is not provided for below, shall be consider final and binding on all parties (subject to the right of appeal)

**PRE COMPETITION AND MANAGEMENT**

1. **Eligibility**
	1. By entering a team in the league clubs/teams agree that:
		1. They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the league. Match fees are due at the end of each month and payable by bank transfer.
		2. They will fulfil their obligations and responsibilities set out in the regulations
2. **Playing Qualifications and Eligibility**
	1. All clubs, players and umpires must be a member of EN.
		1. Players can play for their “primary club” or “other club” as long as that club is registered to DANA and the player is paying the Derbyshire Netball Association county membership fee.
	2. Minimum age of players is 16 years of age. Any player under 16 years of age is required to have a completed age banding form. Players over 16 but under18 we require a parental consent form signed and returned to the Secretary before they can play in the league.
	3. England Netball Domestic Guidance must be followed regarding pregnancy, gloves, head coverings, eyewear, jewelry, medical alerts, hair, leg braces, uniform and medical aids, paragraph 5.  https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/app/uploads/2018/06/Domestic-Rules-Guidance-Final.pdf

**4 Code of Conduct (England Netball)**

4.1 Players, coaches, officials and parents/spectators MUST abide by the Code OF Conduct (can be found on the DANA website). If anyone is found in breach of this they and their team will be penalised at the discretion of the DANA committee.

 Players must never argue with an official during a game

4.2 Players must control their temper; understanding that verbal, emotional and physical abuse of Officials, Coaches, Spectators or other athletes, or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted behaviour in netball

4.3 Players must NOT consume alcoholic drinks or illegal substances either immediately prior to or whilst playing

4.4 All venues are no smoking or vaping areas.

4.5 All cautions are being recorded and may be dealt with by disciplinary procedures as below.

If players abuse the code of conduct the disciplinary procedure (15) will be followed.

**5 Registration of Squad members**

5.1 The Full Team Register will be submitted via ENgage. Player must be added to the team list a minimum of 7 days prior to their first match.

5.2 Transfers between teams will be dependent upon the current Covid situation, the Government and England Netball organised sport guidelines.

5.3 Where a player is found to have played for another team, a £10 fine will be incurred by either the player or the team as determined by the committee (over and above the guest rule).

**6 Penalties per match**

6.1 Loss of up to 5 points if a player is found NOT to be a member of EN or to Derbyshire. Or they are not listed on the Register.

 The offending team shall forfeit the match points every time an ‘illegal’ player takes the court and points up to the maximum of 5 are awarded to the opposition where applicable.

**7** **Guesting Players**

7.1Div 3 – 2 or 1 player can guest up to another team in div 2 or 1 and can play a maximum of 3 matches or part thereof within one season for the same team only

 Div 2 - 1 player can guest up to another team in div 1 and can play a maximum of 3 matches or part thereof within one season for the same team only.

 Div 1 - 1 player can guest up to another team **but only during prem v prem games** and can play a maximum of 3 matches or part thereof within one season for the same team only.

 If a player guests up please indicate this player clearly by writing a “G” next to their name on the card.

7.2 A team can only guest a maximum of 2 players in any one season e.g 3 games with 1 player and 3 games with 2nd player. Teams must inform the div rep by Monday at 9am at the latest if they will be using a guest player.

**Playing the Game**

All games shall be played to the INF Rules of Netball (2020), except where specific league rules and regulations apply.

**8 League Structure**

8.1 The league will consist of 3 divisions. The number of teams in each division will depend upon court capacity.

8.2 In the event of a tie on points, league positions will be decided on:

 i. games won

 ii. goal difference

 iii. goal average

**9 Fixtures/Matches**

9.1 All fixtures will be played as per fixture list unless notified by the Fixtures Secretary who will advise of re-arranged fixtures as necessary

9.2 Where a team cancels a fixture, they shall:

 Inform the DANA committee.

Fulfil both umpiring commitments - failure to do so will result in a loss of 5 points and a £10 fine

Pay both match fees

Concede the points - the opponents to be awarded 5 points and a 20-0 score to be applied

* 1. It is the responsibility of Captains to have teams on court at the stated time.

9.4 Players can request the game to start.

**10 Scoring of points**

5 points for a win

3 for a draw

2 points if score is within 5 of opponents score.

1 point if score 50% or more of opponents score.

In the event of a team ceasing to play part way through the season, all points will be deleted.

**11 Score cards and score card submission**

**The captain or manager of each team MUST FULLY complete score card including the date of match, team name(s) and player names.**

**11.1** Captains or team managers are to sign at the bottom of the card on behalf of their players declaring there is no misrepresentation of the individuals on court and that the team will abide by the league code of conduct.

11.1 Captains are to make sure results are submitted to the website within 48 hours of playing the match. Late submissions will incur a 1 point penalty each time.

11.2 Photographs of both the front and back of scorecards should attached to the online score submission form. Cards therefore do not need to be sent in, unless requested by DANA committee.

11.3 Points will be awarded on receipt of the scores being submitted on-line. Failure to submit a fully completed scorecard within 14 days of the match may result in points being deducted.

11.4 Points will be deducted if the scorecard is not completed in full.

##### 12 Umpiring

12.1 The decision of the umpire is FINAL on every matter arising during the match.

12.2 Each team must provide a qualified umpire according to the order of play who must be a minimum of 18 years of age in accordance with EN guidelines. Umpires under 18 must be authorized and agreed by the County TSG.

12.3 Certain 1.5 hr League matches, to be I/A/B qualified umpires and will be organised by the League

12.4 Any team failing to provide an umpire must provide an explanation to Div Rep.

 Failure to provide an umpire will result in a deduction of £10 from the deposit and a deduction of 10 points, each occasion there after a £15 fine will be required and further points will be deducted.

 Consistent offenders may be considered ineligible for future leagues. This is at the Committee's discretion.

*12.4.1 If umpires are more than 8 minutes late arriving, the team whose umpiring commitment it is will be deducted £5 from the team deposit and 5 points will be removed from the team unless a suitable explanation can be offered.*

12.5 All umpires should print their name on the scorecard and sign or initial it, **after** the players have signed it.

12.6 If a situation arises where there are NO umpires present, then each team shall drop one player each (qualified umpires first choice) from those on court to umpire the game.

12.7 If the situation arises where only ONE umpire is present then:

a) if the one umpire is happy to umpire alone and both captains agree - the match to proceed

b) if either the umpire or Captain(s) are not happy, then the 'sole' umpire to 'stand-down' and each team to drop a player as above

c) The expenses of the umpire who honoured the commitment to be paid in full by the defaulting team

* 1. Teams who decide to cover umpire expenses can do so, but the league would recommend no more than £10.00.

12.9 Newly qualified C award umpires will be given a grading by the umpiring committee. Some newly qualified umpires will be required to umpire in the second division before umpiring in the first division.

12.10 If the committee receive several complaints regarding the standard of an umpire, the league will liaise with the Derbyshire Netball umpiring sub-committee and the individual for an assessment. Mentoring may be required to try and rectify the situation.

12.10.1 If umpiring does not improve after mentoring sessions, the umpire will be unable to continue to umpire in the league, this is to help maintain the standard of the league.

**13 Scoring and scorers**

13.1 Competent scorers MUST be supplied by the teams playing on court for all matches.

13.1.1 Where a team does not supply a scorer, if BOTH team agree, that ONE scorer can score on their own.

* + 1. Where neither team can supply a scorer, BOTH umpires can agree to score the game. Otherwise, both teams are to drop a player to score the match i.e. Either both umpires have a scorer or both umpires score
		2. Both scorers must stand together during the match and agree the score at the end of each quarter.

**14** **Timekeeping**

14.1 Umpires should aim for matches to consist of 4 equal quarters in an hour time slot.

 Certain League matches shall last for 1 complete hour and consist of 4 quarters.

Umpires should aim for matches to consist of 4 equal quarters in an hour time slot

14.2 If after 5 minutes there is only one team present on court, then that team have the right to claim the points but this needs to be noted on the score card by the umpires and captains. A friendly can be played if/when the team arrive.

**Complaints and Appeals Procedure**

**15 Discipline**

15.1 Complaints should be made in writing by the named team contact (as indicated on the entry form) using the complaints form to the League Secretary by email or post. Complaints will be responded to within 2 weeks. Any action required will be determined by the Disciplinary Committee which may include advice from England Netball where necessary

15.2 If any dispute should arise with regard to discipline, the Committee should be notified and their decision shall be binding.

15.3 An umpire can log a complaint regarding a match/player(s) or a team for continuous disputes and offensive behaviour/language. This must be put in writing to the League Administrator. Complaints will be recorded and where persistent shall be dealt with as felt appropriate by the DANA Committee. This may result in loss of points, fines or other action.

15.4 In the event of a serious complaint e.g. Racism, Aggression, Dangerous Play, Verbal Abuse etc, DANA will appoint a disciplinary committee to determine any action required which may result in the expulsion of the Team from the league.

15.5 Umpires are required to report issuing of cautions to the division rep which will then be discussed and actioned by the committee as appropriate. Persistent offenders will be dealt with by the Disciplinary procedure, which could include suspension and expulsion from the league.

**Miscellaneous Proviso**

1. **Health and Safety**

First Aid and administering thereof to players is the responsibility of each team.

 Senior players in teams are responsible for junior players at all times both on and off the court.

 A junior player is anyone aged under 18 years of age

1. **Social Media**

DANA Netball league would like to remind you about the England Netball Code of Conduct which states

"I will not use Social Media technology to bring the game into disrepute or make an inappropriate comment about an athlete, coach, official, volunteer or the NGB".

We ask that you adhere to this Code of Conduct when posting messages to Facebook, Twitter or any other site of this type. If the committee should be notified of any proof of the misuse of social media as above, the committee will treat the incident in a similar way to any other dispute, please refer to rule 10.

**16 Injury Protocol**

16.1 In accordance with the inF rULES 2020, when an injury occurs the injured player must come off court within 30 seconds. An immediate substitution made be made or the position remain vacant and the play restarts. If the position remains vacant a player may take to the court after a goal is scored or during a further stoppage for injury/illness/blood or an interval.

16.1.1 Time will not stop so the player must clear the court as quickly as possible. Except for in Prem matches.

16.1.2 If it is a serious injury, i.e. head injury etc, the player should only be moved as soon as is safe to do so. The Game to recommence with the remaining match time. This is on the assumption that there are 5 players available to continue the match.

16.1.3 If it is a serious injury which occurs before half time then the game will be rescheduled by the Fixtures Secretary.  If it happens after half time then the game shall be deemed complete with the score at the time of injury being recorded as the final score.

16.2 As indicated in England Netball guidelines, a team can play with a minimum of 5 players.  If the affected team chooses not to continue with the game despite having 5 players once the injured player is removed from the court, then they will be deemed to have forfeited the game and the points will be awarded to the opposition.

16.3 Games will only be re-scheduled if the injury is of a serious nature.

1. **Covid Protocols**
	1. All persons involved with DANA (players, coaches, umpires, spectators etc) must take all Covid protocols seriously.
	2. DANA recommends each team to supply a match ball and this is to be sanitised before and after the match. Also recommended during the quarter intervals.
	3. If any persons test positive for Covid within 48hours of a DANA match, the committee is informed immediately so that they can follow the relevant protocols at the time.
	4. Bibs are recommended to be washed between matches.

Vaccination statement

“DANA strongly recommends all participants over 18 to have BOTH covid vaccinations. This is not only to keep you safe but also to prevent the possibility of isolation if you are in contact with a covid positive case during a match.”