**DANA LEAGUE RULES 2023 – 2024**

**INTRODUCTION & ORGANISATION**

1. **General Information**

1.1Clubs will be held responsible for the overall conduct (behaviour, demeanour, and actions) of all members associated with the club (players, officials and spectators).

1.2 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 (Penalties 1.2)

1.3 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 considered final and binding on all parties (subject to the right of appeal)

**PRE-COMPETITION AND MANAGEMENT**

1. **Eligibility**

By entering a team in the league clubs/teams agree/understand that:

* They will abide by these rules and regulations.
* 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.
	+ - They will fulfil their obligations and responsibilities set out in the regulations.
		- They will participate in a sporting manner and play within the spirit of the game.
		- They are bound by the England Netball Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Regulations.
		- They are able to provide a C Award or above, dedicated, active umpire.
1. **Playing Qualifications and Eligibility**
	1. All clubs, players and umpires must be a member of England Netball.
	2. Players can play for their “primary club” or “other club” providing that club is registered to DANA and the player is paying the Derbyshire Netball Association County membership fee.
	3. Minimum age of players is 14 years of age. Any player under the age of 18 (as of the 1st of September) is required to fill in a parental consent form. For any player under the age of 16 (as of the 1st of September) the coach is also required to sign the parental consent form to confirm that the player is of sufficient ability to play the age band above.

Forms to be returned to DANA before they can play in the league – dananetball@gmail.com

* 1. DANA league is run in accordance with England Netball’s regulations and policies with respect to the inclusion of Transwomen, for the latest information and guidance,

please refer to <https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/document/trans-inclusion-guidance/>

* 1. England Netball Domestic Guidance must be followed regarding pregnancy, gloves, head coverings, eyewear, jewellery, medical alerts, hair, leg braces, uniform and medical aids, paragraph

<https://d2cx26qpfwuhvu.cloudfront.net/englandnetball/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/02110540/2022-Domestic-Rules-Guidance-FINAL-September-22-update-1.pdf>

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

 DANA, in line with England Netball, is working to establish a safe, fair, and inclusive sporting environment. We ask that all those involved in netball follow The England Netball Code Of Conduct to ensure that all games are played in the best spirit of the game.

England Netball Code Of Conduct can be found here:

<https://d2cx26qpfwuhvu.cloudfront.net/englandnetball/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/07164639/Codes-of-conduct.pdf>

1. **Registration of Squad members**
	1. Penalties apply for players who take to court without EN membership or are not on the team register. (Penalties 5.1)
	2. Players must be added to the team register by midnight, 3 days prior to their first match (as matches are played on a Monday, this would be midnight on the preceding Friday). Penalties apply for failing to complete (Penalties 5.2)
	3. Teams may register up to 20 players.

5.4 Transfer of players between teams is permitted – See “7. Transfer Of Players”

5.5 Where a player is found to have played for another team, a 3-point deduction or a £10 fine will be incurred by either the player or the team as determined by the committee (over and above the guest rule) (penalties 5.5)

**6** **Guesting Players**

6.1Div 3 – 2 or 1 player(s) 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 a prem 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.

6.2 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 league (dananetball@gmail.com) by Monday at 5pm at the latest if they will be using a guest player. Penalties apply for late registration (Penalties 6.2)

**7. Transfer of Players**

7.1 Players may transfer from one team to another. Please be aware of the following:

* All transfer requests are at the discretion of the committee. A transfer request from must be submitted.
* The transfer is not likely to be approved near the start or end of the season.
* Both teams must be aware of the player transfer request prior to the submission of the transfer form.
* The transfer is requested with a two-match delay (meaning the player must not play in the DANA league for 2 games prior to transferring to the new team).

**COMPETITION**

**8. League Structure**

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

8.2 Teams in each Division will play each other twice.

8.3 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:

* 5 points for a win
* 3 points for a draw
* 2 points if within 4 goals e.g., 50-46 = 2 points
* 1 point if scoring 50% or more e.g., 50-45 = 1 point

 The League table for each division will be based upon points awarded. Where two teams are level on points, league positions will be decided on:

 i. games won

 ii. goal difference

 iii. goal average

1. **Playing the Game**

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

9.1 Umpires should aim for matches to consist of 4 equal quarters in an hour time slot, 4x12minutes.

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

* 1. 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 both of the umpires and the team captain(s). A friendly can be played if/when the team arrive.
	2. Teams may play up to 12 players each match.

**10. Fixtures/Matches**

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

* 1. It is the responsibility of Captains to have teams on court at the stated time.
	2. Players can request the game to start.
	3. If agreed with the opposition prior to the start of the match, a game may be played as a friendly. In such case the penalties and points detailed in 10.5 will be applied with the exception of match fees with individual match fees being paid by both teams. If a friendly game is not agreed 10.5 applies.

10.5 Where a team cancels a fixture, they MUST:

 Inform the DANA committee by noon of the day of the match at the latest.

Fulfil both umpiring commitments - failure to do so will result in a loss of 5 points and incur a £20 fine (Penalties 10.5).

Pay both match fees

Penalties apply depending when the match is declared cancelled to the Committee

10.6 In the event that a match is abandoned for any reason, e.g. serious injury, the result of the match will be determined by the Committee, using knowledge of the score and the time at which play was suspended.

**11. Score cards and score card submission**

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

11.2 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.

11.3 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, (Penalties 11.3)

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

11.5 Points will be awarded on receipt of the scores being submitted online.

11.6 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 (C award or above) according to the fixtures 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 Officiating TSG.

12.3 Certain 1.5 hr League matches, to be IUA/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 the Committee.

 Failure to provide an umpire will result in a fine of £20 and a deduction of 5 points, each occasion there after a £30 fine will be imposed and further points will be deducted. (Penalties 12.4)

 Persistent offenders (>2 incidences in a season) may be asked to withdraw from the league and incur match fee penalties and considered ineligible for future leagues (Penalties 12.4).

This is at the Committee's discretion.

12.5 If umpires are more than 8 minutes late arriving, it is deemed as “failure to provide an umpire”, the team whose umpiring commitment it is will be fined £20 and 5 points will be removed from the team unless a suitable explanation can be offered and is accepted by the committee. Only extreme and unavoidable circumstances will be accepted as a suitable explanation.

12.6 All umpires should print their name on the scorecard and sign or initial it.

12.7 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.

12.8 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 an **on court** 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 £15.00.

12.10 Newly qualified C award umpires will be provided guidance by the Derbyshire Officiating TSG as to which division of DANA is appropriate for them to umpire.

12.11 If the committee receive several complaints regarding the standard of an umpire, the league will liaise with the Derbyshire Officiating TSG and the individual for an assessment. Mentoring may also be provided to support the umpire in question.

12.11.1 Umpires may be advised to umpire in particular divisions until mentoring is given and individuals are able to reach the standards expected.

12.12 Division 1 matches may only be officiated by an umpire named on the “approved division 1 list”. To be added to the list, Derbyshire Officiating TSG will observe umpires a minimum of twice and provide feedback and guidance for future divisions.

12.13 Umpires must not umpire more then 2 matches in 1 evening. OR play one match and umpire one match. Any umpires who do not adhere to this rule, may be asked not to umpire in the league moving forwards (this is at the discretion of the committee).

**13. Injury Protocol**

13.1 In accordance with the inF Rules Of Netball (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.

13.1.1 Time will not stop so the player must clear the court as quickly as possible. In Prem matches time will be held.

13.1.2 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 will recommence with the remaining match time. This is based on the assumption that there are 5 players available to continue the match.

13.1.3 If it is a serious injury which occurs before half time then the game will be rescheduled by the Fixtures Secretary.  If the injury happens after half time and th game cannot continue, then the game shall be deemed complete with the score at the time of injury being recorded as the final score.

13.2 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.

* + 1. Games will only be re-scheduled if the injury is of a serious nature.

**14. Scoring and scorers**

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

14.1.1 Where a team does not supply a scorer, if BOTH teams 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. If the umpires decline to score, both teams must drop a player to score the match i.e., Either both teams have a scorer or both umpires score

14.2 Both scorers must stand together during the match and agree the score at the end of each quarter.

**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) to the League committee by email. 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 Committee. 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 player and/or Team from the league.

15.5 Umpires are required to report issuing of cautions to the Committee (by indicating these on the score card) 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 regarding social media 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 15.

**DANA – League Procedures and Penalties**

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| 1.2 | Intentionally misleading information on card | DANA Committee disciplinary action  |
| 2. | Team Withdrawal from league during season | All remaining matches of the season will be classified as cancelled – match cancellation penalties above apply.(At DANA Committee discretion) |
| 15. | Complaints received regarding inappropriate conduct of players or teams | Penalties will be considered by the Committee in accordance with the offence. Persistent complaints may result with players or teams being suspended for a defined number of games or excluded from the league. |
| 5.1 | Players with NO England Netball Membership | The offending team shall forfeit the match points every time an ‘illegal’ player takes the court, and 5 points are awarded to the opposition. 5 point deduction |
| 5.1 | Players NOT registered on the Team Register | As above with 3-point deduction |
| 5.2 | Late Player registration | 1-point deduction |
| 5.5 | Player is found to have played for another team | 3point deduction and a £10 fine |
| 6.2 | Guested player not informed the committee – by 5pm | 3-point deduction |
| 10.4 | League match cancelled, played as friendly | 5-points awarded to the non-offending team and a 20-0 score appliedProvide/Pay both umpires |
| 10.5 | Match Cancellation (by 12 noon) | Opponents to be awarded 5-points and a 20-0 score to be appliedPay both match feesProvide/Pay both umpiresFailure to fulfil both umpiring - 5-points deduction and a £20 fine  |
| 10.5 | Non-attendance of a team – without prior cancellation/ informing committee(or not informing the committee by 12 noon) | 5 points deducted for not informing the committeeOpponents to be awarded 5-points and a 20-0 score to be appliedPay both match feesProvide/Pay both umpiresFailure to fulfil both umpiring - Additional 5-points deduction and a £20 fine  |
| 10.5 | Multiple match cancellations or non attendances during a season | DANA Committee discretionPotential Expulsion from the league |
| 11.3 | Non submission of match score within 48hours of match | 1 point deduction each time |
| 12.2 | Fielding an unqualified umpire | 5 points deduction£20 fine |
| 3.1 | Fielding an unaffiliated umpire | 5-point deduction£20 fine |
| 12.4 | Failure to provide and umpire | 5points deduction and£20 fineFurther occasions there after a £30 fine will be required and further points will be deducted.Persistent offenders (>2 incidences in a season) may be asked to withdraw from the league and incur match fees penalties and considered ineligible for future leagues. |
| 12.5 | Umpire arriving more than 8minutes late | 5 Points deduction and£20 fine/deduction from depositUnless an extreme circumstance and an explanation can be offered. |
| 15 | Complaints / Discipline | All Disciplinary action will be considered on an individual basis depending on the level of the offence. Persistent offences may result with players or teams being excluded from the league. |