

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL SENIOR LEAGUE	
1.0	ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION
1.1	The West Midlands Regional Netball League (hereinafter called the “League”) will be administered by a Regional Committee (RLC) and chaired by the Regional Management Board (RMB) member with responsibility for Competition.
1.1.2	The RLC whilst autonomous will be fully accountable to the RMB and the RMB appraised of all “League” progress and matters directly.
1.2	A Regional League Administrator (RLA) will be appointed by the West Midlands RMB and will be a member of the RLC.
1.3	All games will be played according to the INF Netball Rules.
1.3.1	Rules will be in line with England Netball competition rules and may be reviewed by the RMB as and when required and operative immediately. The RMB will have jurisdiction over any matters not covered herein.
1.4	It is the responsibility of all Team personnel to ensure that all are conversant with, and abide by, the rules and regulations.
1.5	A Central Venue system will operate unless otherwise deemed appropriate. Division 1 = Arena 2. Division 2 = Arena 3. Division 3 = Arena 1.
1.6	Emergency cancellation, only in exceptional circumstances, will be decided by the RLC.
1.7	All fees and costs are to be administered by the RLA in conjunction with the Netball West Midlands Regional Office
1.7.1	All fees are to be paid by the dates specified. In case of difficulty please contact the RLA.
1.7.2	Clubs will NOT be allowed to participate in the “League” until the required fees have been paid.
2.0	LEAGUE STRUCTURE
2.1	The Region will operate a Senior League on Saturdays, usually from September to Easter. This League is the Qualifying competition for the England Netball Premier League.
2.2	A Club can only be represented once in the “League”.
2.3	Games will be 1 hour’s duration (i.e. four quarters of 15 minutes each) with injury/stoppage time in accordance with current INF rulings. Care should be taken in moving injured players.
2.4	The highest placed eligible Club will qualify for the Premier League play-offs. This Club will be expected to represent the West Midlands Region in the Premier League Play-off Competition organised by England Netball.
2.4.1	Should that Club fail to participate in the Premier League Play-off Competition they will be excluded from the “League” the following season.
2.4.2	Re-entry to the “League” will be via the Qualifying League/Competition at the end of the excluded season.
2.5	Where possible, this “League” will operate Promotion and Relegation on a two up/two down basis, depending on the availability of places in the Premier League and any relegation from the Premier League.
2.6	Points awarded for each game are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5 points for a win ▪ 3 points for a draw ▪ 2 points for a loss but scoring within 5 goals of the winning team’s score, for example Final score 50- 46 = 2 points to losing team. ▪ 1 point for a loss but scoring 50% or more of their opponents score, for example Final score 50-45 = 1 point to losing team In the event of a conceded match 5 points will be awarded to the non-offending team.
2.6.1	If teams are equal on points at the end of the season “League” positions will be decided by Goal Average, then Goal Difference, then by the result of the matches between the teams. If Goal Average is needed to decide “League” positions at the end of the season, then the goals of the teams involved in conceded matches will be ignored in the table calculations.
2.7	The season’s schedule is to be organised with a fair allocation of starting times.
2.8	Postponement requests may be considered in exceptional circumstances by the RLC with the consent of the opposing team.
2.8.1	Should a postponement be granted, the team requesting the postponement must make the arrangements for replaying the fixture and cover all costs. Games must be played within 4 weeks of the original date with the date and venue agreed by the opposing team and the RLC.
3.0	PLAYING QUALIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY
3.1	Clubs shall either be accredited under England Netball’s CAPS scheme, or working towards same. Accreditation must be achieved before the final fixture of their second season. If not, they will not be allowed to participate in the “League” the following season. Re-entry to the league can only be achieved through the qualifying league/competition at the end of the following season.
3.1.1	CAPS accredited Clubs must ensure that expired accreditation is renewed before the start of the next playing season.

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3.1.2	A CAPS accredited /or working towards Club bears the responsibility for ensuring that all its members and associated members (including parents/spectators) adhere to the Policies and Codes of Conduct inherent in the CAPS process as well as the Rules and Regulations of the “ League”.
3.1.3	Failure to comply with this rule may result in loss of points or other sanctions as determined by the RLC
3.2	ALL players MUST be members of England Netball (at the time of playing) with the Club they are representing in this “League”. Proof of membership, which will be a copy of the Club Roster from the EN membership system ENgage, should be submitted at the time of registration.
3.2.1	All players must be over 16 years of age prior to the commencement of the “League” season. Talented players capable of playing at a higher level may be exempted from this regulation, providing a copy of a completed age-banding permission has been received by the RLA at the time of registration.
3.3	New registrations will not be allowed after the Tuesday prior to Week 16 of the current season in accordance with rule 3.4
3.3.1	Players who are registered in the Senior Super League in the current season will not be eligible to compete in the “League”.
3.3.2	Players who are registered in the Premier League and have played in twelve quarters or more, in the current season will not be eligible to compete further in the “League”.
3.3.3	Exceptional circumstances may apply to this rule. Application should be made in writing to the RLA for consideration by the RLC.
3.4	Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their squad registration list held by the RLA. Any additions or alterations may be made to the squad registration list by registering with the RLA by 11.59 p.m. of the Tuesday prior to the fixture.
3.4.1	Any infringement of these eligibility rules will result in points automatically being awarded to the opposition.
3.5	The use of an “unaffiliated player” (non member) will result in the loss of points for that game(s) plus a further deduction of 3 points. The use of an “unregistered player” will result in the loss of points for that game and a fine.
3.5.1	The match points (5 points) will be awarded to the opposition.
3.6	Once a player has been named on a squad registration list and has played, only one transfer per season shall be allowed, subject to there being no outstanding issues with the original team during the playing season.
3.6.1	Only under exceptional circumstances will a transfer be allowed after a player has taken to the court in four Regional League games for the original Club.
3.6.2	Any such requests should be made in writing to the RLA who will put the request to the RLC. The player should not take to the court until a decision has been made. The RLC will endeavour to make a decision within seven (7) working days of the request being received.
4.0 OFFICIALS	
4.1	Neutral umpires will be appointed by the Regional Umpiring Lead for Divisions 1, 2 and 3. Umpires will hold Netball Europe ‘B’ Award or above. County recommended ‘C’ Award Umpires with a Mentor may also be appointed.
4.2	Each team must provide a competent Table Official (scorer) for each of their fixtures. A Table Official (scorer) may not participate in the current match as a player, coach or Primary Carer.
4.2.1	Failure to comply with this rule may result in loss of points or other sanctions as determined by the RLC.
4.3	Each team must provide someone to operate the ‘score flip chart’ (who may be from the bench) for their own fixture. This is a visual aid for players and spectators only. This person is not a table official and may have no input to the recorded final score.
4.3.1	Failure to comply with this rule may result in loss of points or other sanctions as determined by the RLC.
4.4	The Regional Umpiring Lead reserves the right to use “League” matches for the purpose of Assessment.
5.0 MATCH DAY	
5.1	The first named team on the fixture schedule is designated as the “Home” team.
5.2	The ‘Home Team Bench’ will be deemed to be on the left hand side on entering the arena (both team benches will be to the left of the Umpire on each side of the court). Second named team is the “AWAY” team and should change bibs if requested to do so by the Umpires.
5.3	Team Bench Personnel should only include players listed on the Match Team Sheet, and may have up to 5 Team Officials, which will include a coach and at least 1 Primary Carer (able to treat injury/illness). The identified Primary Carer may not have another role and they must wear something, such as an armband, which visually identifies them to the umpires. There must be an identified on court Captain.
5.4	A Match Team Sheet for each fixture is to be completed. It is the responsibility of the “Home” team to ensure that the Match Team Sheet is completed by both teams and lodged with the Score Table fifteen (15) minutes before the start of the fixture.

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5.4.1	Up to 12 players may be nominated for each match and must be entered on the Match Team Sheet before the match. Only players recorded on the Match Team Sheet at the beginning of the match will be eligible to play in that match.
5.4.2	ALL parts of the Match Team Sheet must be completed, including names of captains, scorers, players and substitutes (any not actually playing should be deleted after the match). The starting seven should be entered on the Match Team Sheet in their playing positions. Any changes and substitutions must be notified to the Score Table at each interval.
5.4.3	At the conclusion of the match these Match Team Sheets must be completed by the Table Officials (scorers) and signed by the captains and umpires, then placed in the prepared envelope provided and placed in the Score Table box. In the event of a discrepancy or dispute, “ under protest ”, should appear in the signature space on the official match team sheets.
5.5	Only those named as Players or Team Bench Personnel will be allowed in the court arena and those not actually playing must remain on the appropriate team bench during play. No-one else should be on the bench or enter the court arena unless in the case of an emergency.
5.6	All spectators must use the viewing gallery.
6.0	GENERAL
6.1	Please ensure that mutual respect and courtesy is shown between and to all officials, players, volunteers, spectators and centre employees.
6.2	Kit bags and equipment must not be left where they may cause an obstruction.
6.3	Whilst the University of Wolverhampton Walsall Campus has first aid, it is the responsibility of each team to provide their own. Each team must now provide their own highly visible Primary Care identification to be used each match.
6.3.1	Failure to comply with this rule may result in the loss of points or other sanctions as determined by the RLC.
6.4	Any accidents must be reported to the University of Wolverhampton Walsall Campus and recorded appropriately.
6.4.1	A Netball West Midlands Incident Record sheet provided as part of your Club pack should be completed and placed in the envelope provided along with the Match Team Sheet.
6.5	The RLC, RMB and the University of Wolverhampton Walsall Campus cannot be held responsible for any loss, damage, injury, or accident.
6.6	Any photography and/or video recording (for coaching and educational purposes only) must be approved and details lodged with the Table Officials where a badge will be issued. Permission from teams and umpires must be obtained prior to the start of the match. Flash photography is not permitted. Such photography and/or video recording may only be posted on closed social media forums. The RMB reserves the right to comply with this rule for Business and Marketing purposes
7.0	COMPLAINTS
7.1	Any complaints or queries must be submitted in writing to the RLA within five (5) working days. The RLA will acknowledge within 48 hours any such submission.
7.2	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 England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations.
7.3	All queries, issues and disputes regarding the playing of a match and/or its result will be determined in the first instance by the RLC which will use best endeavours to resolve the issue within ten (10) working days of receipt of correspondence.
7.3.1	The RLC will have the power to determine the penalty to be imposed on teams and players who are in breach of these West Midland Regional League rules and regulations. Such penalties may include reprimands, the deduction of league points, fines, suspensions, and expulsion from the “League”.
7.4	In the event that any team wishes to appeal against the decision of the RLC it must notify the RMB via the Regional Office in writing within seven (7) working days of receipt of the decision.
7.4.1	A cheque for £100 should be sent to the Regional Office. This must be received before the appeal process can start. The £100 shall be returned if the appeal is upheld.
7.5	An Appeals Panel which shall be independent of the RLC will be convened within seven (7) working days to consider the matter. The conclusion of this Appeals Panel will be final and binding on all parties. The Appeals Panel will have the power to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce, increase, quash or confirm the penalty imposed by the RLC. ▪ Make such other order or determination as it may think right or just.