

CONSTITUTION AND LEAGUE
RULES



2024-25
BNL RULES















BIRMINGHAM NETBALL LEAGUE
(www.birmingham-netball.co.uk)
And facebook





LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

1. The League shall be called "The Birmingham Netball League" herein after referred to as BNL. All playing courts must be within the Birmingham City boundary.
2. The objectives of the BNL shall be;
 - a) To promote and encourage the game of netball.
 - b) To foster and encourage sportsmanship between all clubs.
 - c) To raise the standard of play, umpiring and coaching.
 - d) Membership of the BNL shall be open, and not unreasonably restricted on the grounds of sex, race or of political, religious or other opinions to any person in the area prepared to accept and support the objectives of the BNL. No club member, participant, volunteer or official will receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of gender, marital status, social class, colour, race, ethnic origin, creed or disability, or will be disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be relevant to their participation in the BNL.
3. The BNL Committee may confer Honorary Life Membership on any member whom they consider to have consistently given faithfully service to the BNL.
4. An Annual General Meeting shall be held at the close of each season at which the BNL Committee shall be elected. Each club must be represented at the Annual General Meeting. Failure to be represented at the AGM may result in admittance to the BNL being refused. Each registered CLUB has one vote.
5. A Committee of up to 12 members shall govern the BNL and be referred to as the BNLC. From this Committee, a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be appointed at their Committee meeting, such Chairperson AND vice Chairperson having given at least twelve months service on the Committee. One third of the BNLC shall resign annually in order of seniority of service but shall be eligible for re-election. In the event of a casual vacancy the BNL may appoint another eligible person to act until the next AGM. Committee members are expected to attend a minimum of 4 meetings per season.
6. **FINANCES:**
 - a. All monies generated by or on behalf of the BNL shall be applied towards the objectives of the League and for no other purpose.
 - b. All League monies will be banked in a bank account held in the name of the BNL. The Club Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the League however at least 1 other Committee member shall approve each payment.
 - c. The financial year of the League is 30/05/YEAR
 - d. An annual financial statement shall be presented by the Treasurer at each AGM.
7. The BNLC shall deal with all matters not governed by the Constitution and League Rules.
8. The BNLC shall place teams in divisions appropriate to their standard of play whenever possible.
9. Each division shall consist of eight teams wherever possible.
10. The BNLC shall have power to refuse admittance, suspend, or expel any club, team or individual whose conduct they consider to be detrimental to the objectives of the BNL as stated in No. 2 above.
11. The BNL Constitution and Rules may in no way be altered unless approved by an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting of which fourteen days notice has been given of the intention.

  = fines and / or point deduction

<u>Part 1</u>	<u>GENERAL RULES ALL TEAMS</u>	
1 a	All matches shall be governed by the current rules of EN and the by-rules of the BNL as detailed herewith.	
b	League matches shall be of a duration of 60 minutes (4 quarters of 15 minutes). Intervals of 3 minutes between the first-second and third-fourth quarters and an interval of 5 minutes at half time. EN Rules 2.1	
c	Points shall be awarded for League games as follows: 5 points for a win 3 points for a draw 2 points if within 5 goals of winners score (W-L = 5 or less) 1 point for 50% or more of winners score.	
	There will be annual fee of £15 per team (unlimited registrations) Entry fee and any outstanding payments from the previous season must be paid with the application form or that team will not be allowed to enter the League. An admin charge of £10 will be added for any unpaid amounts.	
e	All new CLUBS to send a holding cheque / holding payment of £10.00 each, which will be banked and returned at the end of the current season. Teams dropping out of the league during the season will automatically forfeit the holding fee.	
f	The divisional composition of BNL including which divisions are in Central Venue (CV) dates, venues and times of fixtures will be provided on an annual basis before the start of the season.	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CENTRAL VENUE</u></p> <p>Teams will provide a representative to support the committee during the season and will be shown on the CV fixtures to help manage the Central Venue. The representative should arrive at least 15 minutes before the match start time. <i>Failure to provide a representative will result in a £15 fine.</i></p>	
<u>Part 2</u>	<u>PLAYER REGISTRATION ALL TEAMS</u>	
 	All players must be registered to the BNL and affiliated to EN at the time they play for that team. All CLUBS must register each team on Engage & provide printed copies (as per example 1) of the Team affiliations and the BNL registration form (updated – as example 2) to the appropriate Divisional Secretary or CV Committee. If a new player is added or is transferred from a lower Club team (eg: after play ups) they must be moved to the new team on Engage and an updated affiliation sheet provided. The playing of an unregistered or unaffiliated player equals an automatic 2 points deduction and £10 fine. The BNLC have the right to query any player.	
b	All players must be in school year 9 (i.e. 13/14 years) or older on the date of the match.	
c	Each team must register a squad of at least seven players to unlimited registrations, at the beginning of the season prior to the first fixture weekend.	
d	No player must be registered for more than one club or team simultaneously	
 	<p>Specimen signatures must be provided for all registered players prior to any match played by the player. Failure to do so will result in a £5 fine & or loss of points.</p> <p style="color: blue;">Rule 2e temporarily suspended while new methodology is trialed for registration forms (refer example 2) and match cards (example 3)</p>	

	<u>CENTRAL VENUE</u>	<u>NON CENTRAL VENUE</u>
f	<p>Player Registrations may be altered during the season by completing the player transfer form at the CV desk.. The player leaving club and receiving club will be jointly notified <u>in writing at least 7 days before the next BNL match the leaving player is due to play</u></p>	<p>Any player wishing to leave a club must inform that club in writing with the leaving date and copy to the Higher Divisions (HD) Secretary and the receiving team in writing <u>at least 7 days before the next BNL match the leaving player is due to play.</u></p> <p>The HD secretary will confirm the position to all parties</p>
<p><u>Part 3</u></p> <p> </p>	<u>PLAYER REGISTRATIONS RELATING TO SUPER LEAGUE / REGIONAL / PREMIER PLAYERS</u>	
a	Registration within the BNL	
b	Regional Players MUST NOT play in teams below division 3 of the BNL	
c	Clubs with Regional Teams must name and submit 7 REGIONAL ONLY players who cannot play in the BNL (we will then verify these with the Regional Secretary)	
d	Div 1-3 Clubs <i>with or without</i> Regional Teams may field any number of players registered to Regional in their squads (excluding the named 7 of rule 3b)	
e	In case of serious injury to the named 7, Clubs may petition the BNLC for that players inclusion in the BNL (div 1-3) for rehabilitation	
e	Senior (over 19 level) players in Prem or Super League MAY NOT play in the BNL at all.	
<p><u>Part 4</u></p>	<u>PLAYER PROMOTIONS AND DEMOTIONS ALL TEAMS</u>	
a	<p> <hr/></p> <p>A player who is registered in a higher team and has played as a higher team member cannot be demoted to a lower team in their club after the beginning of the 2nd half of the season without written prior consent. Requests must be made to the HD Secretary for Division 1 to 3 or CV league administrator.</p>	
b	<p> <hr/></p> <p>No player who is demoted to a lower team in her club may return to a higher team during the remainder of the season.</p>	
c	<p> <hr/></p> <p></p> <p>A player for a lower team in a club may play in a higher team for a maximum of three times per higher team. Upon playing a 4th time for a team, that player will be permanently transferred to that team. Once this promotion has taken place, she may not be demoted for the remainder of the season. Any player found to be playing in a lower team following promotion and with no approval to do so will result in a £10 fine & -2 points deduction from the lower team.</p>	

Part 5		<u>ARRANGING THE MATCH</u>	
		CENTRAL VENUE	NON CENTRAL VENUE
a		All games will be held at an agreed central venue with prearranged match times.	Matches ARE TO BE arranged from 10.00am onwards on FIXTURE Saturdays unless mutually agreed by both teams to play at a date earlier, or on the Sunday of the fixture weekend. Once a match has been rearranged and a date and time agreed, then the match must take place as arranged.
b	 	Teams may ONLY request to re-arrange with a minimum of 2 weeks prior consent from the BNLC and with a valid reason. Teams are not permitted to privately re-arrange, and then inform the BNL of their arrangements – this will be considered to be defaulting on League Fixtures, as set according to 5a, and both teams will be liable for a fine.	If there is a request for further alteration then the date and time may only be changed if both teams agree. If they cannot agree then the last mutually agreed date and time must stand. This agreement must be confirmed in writing to the HD Secretary by both teams. If a match cannot be arranged then the original fixture date must be observed.
c			The “HOME” team must give to the “AWAY” team details and directions to their home ground, their colours and the start time of the match, at least FOURTEEN days before the match.
d		Teams affected by two or more named players selected for International, Regional or National School’s commitments, which coincide with fixtures, must inform the HD Secretary for Div 1 to 3 or the Umpire Secretary for CV at least three weeks before the date of the league match together with the individual players affected. This match must then be played on the Sunday of the same weekend or mutually agreed date and time.	
e	 	All conceded matches will incur a 5-point deduction plus costs incurred payable to the BNL. In addition 10 goals will be awarded to the non-offending team in order not to penalise them in terms of goal difference. A game is conceded if the team fails to turn up.	
f		If a team concedes 3 games during the season they will be withdrawn from the League	
Part 6		<u>WEATHER CONDITIONS AFFECTING PLAY</u>	
		CENTRAL VENUE	NON CENTRAL VENUE
a		No match shall be postponed except for the state of the ground or adverse weather conditions. Decisions in such cases must be made by the Centre Managers of the central venue, the BNLC and the officiating umpires.	No match shall be postponed except for the state of the ground or adverse weather conditions. Decisions in such cases must be made by the Centre Managers of the facilities being used and the officiating umpires.
b		Teams will be informed when a ground is unplayable by a BNLC member.	When the ground is unplayable, for example after a heavy snowfall, the home team may recommend to the umpires that the match be postponed. The Away team must be informed as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary travelling.

c	When a match is thus postponed the teams will be notified of the alternative fixture date by the League Secretary	When a match is postponed, the match must be played as soon as possible. The Home team must inform the HD Secretary immediately of the postponement and notified of the agreed new date in writing.
<u>PLAYING THE MATCH</u>		
Part 7		
a £	All players on court must play in the consistent agreed team colours on each match day as defined at the start of the season. Failure to do so may result in a £2 fine for the team, per incorrectly attired player.	
b	Players will have the nails and jewelry check by the officiating umpires	
c £ P	<p>Temporary revision while trial new format: It is the responsibility of both teams to PRINT all players first & surnames clearly and legibly on the match card, clearly marking any players who are 'playing up' (PU) from a lower team or who are 'permanently transferring' (PT) from a lower team. The card will then be retained by the umpire until the end of the game, so they can record the scores. Any unused players should be crossed off. Match cards will no longer be used to record 'exceptional sportsmanship' in matches. BNL reserve the right to make spot checks that players listed match those present. (Fine & points)</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the 2 teams to ensure the match card is completed correctly prior to the start of the game. Umpires will witness that each player sign the match card. Substitutes / Late arrivals must print their name & sign the card before taking to the court. Failure will result in £5 fine The card will then be retained by the umpire until the end of the game. Spot checks on players may be made by the BNLC</p>	
d	Teams should arrive at least fifteen minutes before the arranged start of play.	
e P £	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CENTRAL VENUE</u></p> <p>If any team is not on court, with a minimum of five players at the arranged time, they will forfeit the game.</p> <p>The forfeiting team will receive a 5 point deduction and the opposition awarded 5 points and 10 goals. The offending team will also be asked to pay the cost of the court hire and umpire fees to be paid to the committee who will then reimburse the non-offending team.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NON CENTRAL VENUE</u></p> <p>The game shall start at the agreed time. However, up to five minutes from the agreed time is allowed for the late arrival of players. After 5 minutes the game must be started.</p> <p>The forfeiting team will receive a 5 point deduction and the opposition awarded 5 points and 10 goals. The offending team will also be asked to pay the cost of the court hire and umpire fees to the non-offending team.</p>
f	<p>Temporary revision - trial: At the end of the game the umpires will confer with the scorers, complete the match result card with the relevant score and will hand it to the teams to cross off any unused players, record the Player of the Match and to return the BNLC at the Committee hut. Teams will reimburse the Umpires with their expenses.</p>	<p>At the end of the game the match result card must be sent electronically by the home team and be received by League administrator within two days of the date of the match. Failure to send card on time / or an incomplete card may result in fine or loss of points. new £ P</p>

	At the end of the game the umpires will complete the match result card with the relevant score and will return it to the BNLC whereupon both umpires will be reimbursed their travelling expenses.	
g £	No player or team will leave the court before the official end of a match without prior consent from the umpires and discussion with team captains (e.g. due to safety concerns). A team who does not fulfil this commitment will be fined £75. Following a review of any such incident the team may not be able to continue playing in the BNL for the rest of that Season.	
Part 8	INJURIES DURING PLAY	
	<u>CENTRAL VENUE</u>	<u>NON CENTRAL VENUE</u>
a	Stoppage time for an injury will not be added on at the end of a game.	EN stoppage Rule 9 applies. <i>(amended)</i>
b	Teams should ensure that first aid equipment is available as players must immediately cover an injury involving an open wound / blood. Substitutes may immediately take to the court and players may change positions providing there is no delay in play.	Teams should ensure that first aid equipment is available as players must immediately cover an injury involving an open wound / blood.
c	An umpire may request that a player leaves the court until the injury has been properly dealt with, however, where possible, because of the no stoppage time rule players should be allowed to cover an injury without the player leaving the court.	
d	In the event of an injury of a serious nature (e.g. the injured player may not be moved) that umpire must use their own time device to add on extra time.	
Part 9	<u>UMPIRES</u>	
a	All Umpires must hold at least an EN Into Officiating Umpiring Award. Umpires for division 1 to 2 MUST hold a minimum of an EN C Award, Divisions 3-4 at the discretion of the BNL Umpiring Secretary.	
a (i) new	Prior to the start of the BNL season, all umpires must show written proof of their current affiliation to the BNL umpiring team in order to officiate in the League. Until proof is submitted, they will not be allowed to participate.	
b	All Umpires to attend a County Umpires Forum each season to continue Umpiring in the BNL, forming part of their ongoing CPD. 2 or 3 dates will be offered annually by BNA (Birmingham Netball Association)	
c	Umpires shall be reimbursed for travel expenses the amount of which shall be set at each AGM to apply for the following season. The amount set for this coming season is £20.	

<p>d</p> <p>e</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CENTRAL VENUE</u></p> <p>Umpires must notify the Committee Umpiring Team of their availability each week, who will then allocate timeslots according to weekly needs of league.</p> <p>Central Venue games will be umpired by a neutral umpire</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NON CENTRAL VENUE</u></p> <p>Both teams shall provide a qualified umpire for each match from the BNL approved list, neutral if possible.</p> <p>If an umpire fails to attend, the match may continue with one umpire's agreement to officiate on his/her own. Indication should be made on the match card that the match was umpired by one person only, and both teams should reimburse that person with their £17 expenses (ie: £34.00)</p> <p>If the umpire is not in agreement to officiate the game then the match will be re-arranged to suit the non-defaulting team (the team with an umpire) the resulting cost of the re-arranged match will be met by the defaulting team.</p>
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