

## **West London Junior Netball League Rules – 2023/24**

The WLJNL follows the England Netball rules, all clubs must stay up to date with current rules.

<https://www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/be-involved/officiating/rules-and-updates/>

### **1. AGM**

Each club must send a least 1 club representative to the AGM prior to the start of the new season. Failure to attend and the team forfeits entry into the league at the Committee's discretion.

### **2. ENTRY FEE**

A League entry Fee shall be paid at the start of every season – details are included in the entry pack. This fee is non-refundable.

### **3. VENUE**

All matches will be played at a League designated venue. The League will be responsible for booking courts.

### **4. TEAM ENTRY**

4.1 The league age brackets are in line with school ages, starting on 1st September and finishing 31st August. The league will be divided into 6 age group sections:

- BEE – Year 5 and 6
- Under 12s – Year 6 and 7
- Under 13s – Year 7 and 8
- Under 14s – Year 8 and 9
- Under 15s – Year 9 and 10
- Under 16s – Year 10 and 11

4.2 Depending on entries there may be multiple divisions in each age group or combined age groups. A player may only be registered to play in one team in the league.

4.3 Players are only permitted to play up one age group. However, players in the England Netball Satellite, County Academies and or a Franchise Hub may be registered in up to 2 age groups higher than their own. For these players, a completed Age Banding Form must be sent to the WLJNL Committee 72 hours before their first fixture.

4.4 If a player is identified as playing in the incorrect division the offending team will be deducted 1 point for every offending match.

4.5 The league welcomes applications for entry from new clubs. If the league must split age groups into A&B divisions to cater for all entries, new teams will automatically be placed in the lowest division within their age group. However, an assessment may be requested for placement into a higher division.

4.6 Divisions will be based on last season results; the top half of the table will be in division A the lower half of the table will be in division B. If the division existed last season, teams will be allocated based on placing, where the bottom team in division A will be demoted and the top team in division B will be promoted.

4.7 The West London Junior Netball League is a female only league.

- A. A few children change their gender role at a young age, before starting school, or during their early years in school. Children in this situation up to the age of 12 may play competitive netball in their affirmed gender without restriction.
- B. Transgender girl – under 16 must follow England Netball guidance <https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/document/trans-inclusion-guidance/>

## **5. TEAM REGISTRATION**

5.1 Clubs may enter a maximum of two teams per age group.

5.2 Where an age division has extra places for additional teams, the league will offer a third place to current club within the league. The decision of entry will be based on first-come-first serve, once WLJNL have acknowledged entry request; the club will have 7-working days to make entry payment. Where payment has not been received the place will be offered to the next club.

5.3 Clubs must complete and submit, the registration forms for each team and a club roster showing; via ENGAGE before the start of their first league match.

5.4 Movement of players between teams is **NOT permitted**.

5.5 New players who are not registered for any other team in the league may be added to your ENGAGE registration at any point during the season.

5.6 All players must be England Netball affiliated to the league team they are registered in. 1 point will be deducted for each player unregistered to ENGAGE before the start of a fixture.

5.7 It is the club's responsibility to ensure the ENAGE team list shows an accurate representation of the players in their teams throughout the duration of the season.

5.6 The league reserves the right to complete random affiliation checks on all teams at any time.

## **6 WAITING LIST**

If a space becomes available in the league during the season a team can be promoted from the waiting list into the vacant spot and play the remainder of the season's games as friendlies. At the committee's discretion this team may compete for placing.

## **7. MATCH DURATION & START OF PLAY**

7.1 All teams should assemble outside the netball court area 5 minutes before the start of their match.

7.2 Teams should be warmed up and ready to take to the court immediately as the teams playing before having finished. 1 goal per minute will be awarded to a team if they are on court in position before the start of play and are waiting for the other team to take the court. If the late team have not arrived by the end of the 1st quarter, they will be penalised 5 points and the win is awarded to the other team (7's 15-0 or 5's 6-0).

7.3 Teams should ensure they have tossed for first centre pass and informed the umpires before the start of their matches<sup>4</sup>

7.4 All matches will be centrally timed and will start and stop on the umpire's whistle except when there is a combination of both Bee netball and seven a side matches being played at the same time.

- A. All Bee netball matches will be 24 minutes (4 quarters x 6 minutes). 1 minute and 3 minute halves.
- B. All U12, U13, U14, U15 and U16 matches will be 32 minutes (4 quarters x 8 minutes). 1 minute and 3 minute halves.

7.5 There is no injury time. Should teams need to substitute an injured player they should do so as soon as it is safe in accordance with England Netball Rules.

7.6 Substitutions may be made at quarter and half time intervals in accordance with England Netball Rules.

## **8. TEAM BENCH**

8.1 A Maximum of 12 players on the team bench for seven-a-side match

8.2 A minimum 7 and Maximum of 9 players for a Bee Netball match. (Rotation sheets provided).

8.3 Management staff on the bench: Head coach, Assistant Coach, Primary Carer & Scorer

8.4 NO PARENTS ARE PERMITTED WITHIN THE PLAYING ENCLOSURE

## **9. SCORING**

9.1 League points will be awarded as follows:

- 5 Points will be awarded for a win.
- 3 Points for a draw.
- 1 Point to the losing team if they score more than 50% of the opposition's score.
- 0 Points to the losing team if they score 50% or less than the opposition's score.

9.2 In the event of a tie on points at the end of the season the final positions will be decided as follows:

- Most matches won.
- Most goals scored.
- Goal difference
- If there is still a tie, positions will be decided on goals for followed by goals against.

9.3 Teams must provide a scorer for each match. The scores must be position next to each other for the duration of the game. Umpires will check scores are correct after each quarter and advice on the next centre pass.

9.4 All club are responsible for supplying their own score card for each match.

9.5 Any disputes with the score should be first dealt with the scorers and umpires but if a decision cannot be made then both teams will need to inform the **Dispute Co-ordinator** within 72 hours of the match ending. – Refer to section 16

9.6 Teams must ensure that the scorecards are shown to the host at the registration desk and recorded in the grid at the end of each match. All score cards need to be handed in at the end of each match, being mindful the morning hosts need cards promptly before their changeover at 1.00pm. (Hosts need to make sure all results are captured.)

9.7 Each team should keep a copy of their score card in case of disputes.

## **10 FULFILLING FIXTURES**

If a team is unable to fulfil a fixture, they should notify the opposition clubs and Umpire Coordinator, they are scheduled to play by 4pm on the Friday before the match that Sunday. If a team does not follow the procedure 5 points will be deducted for each fixture that was not played.

10.1 Fulfilling a fixture with a borrowed player

10.2 If a team is not able to fulfil a fixture with registered team members. The match will be classified as a friendly.

10.3 If the borrowing team fail to inform the host table and umpires before the start of the fixture 5 points will be deducted from that team.

a. The result will be 15-0 for seven-a-side or 6-0 for high five match.

10.4 If both teams have borrowed players in order to fulfil the fixture the final score will be 0-0 and neither team will be awarded nor lose any points (assuming they have both informed the host desk and umpires prior to the start of the game).

10.5 Seven-a-side fixtures as a minimum requirement teams must have at least 5 players to take to the court before the match can commence. If a team borrows a player to meet this minimum requirement the borrowing rules take effect.

10.6 Bee netball fixtures as a minimum requirement teams must have at least 7 players to take to the court before the match can commence. If a team borrows a player to meet this minimum requirement the borrowing rules take effect.

10.7 Bee netball teams are encouraged to fulfil fixtures as friendlies even if they only have 5 or 6 players available. At the end of each season a team's ability to fulfil fixtures will be assessed by the Committee and this may affect their application for the following year.

## **6. REARRANGED GAMES & SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

All league games will go ahead expect for:

- Extreme weather conditions (decided by the Committee 48 hours before the fixture date) Matters outside league control i.e., unavailability of facilities.
- If a match is stopped due to bad weather and more than half of that match has been played, then the score will stand. If less than half of that match has been played, then it will be rearranged and start from the beginning (0-0).

The League will aim to arrange fixture dates/ timings around clashes that they are aware of such as school holidays, exams, EN Pathway events & EN schools/clubs' tournaments. However, it is the club's responsibility to make the Committee and Fixtures Secretary aware of any potential clashes for fixture consideration before 30 August, thereafter no allowances will be made.

Should a team be affected (three or more players) by qualification of a school team for the National Finals/Regional rounds they should contact the Fixtures Secretary and due consideration may be given for fixture re-arrangement.

## **7. UMPIRES & GAME MANAGEMENT**

7.1 Umpires must hold England Netball Membership, be active and hold a Netball Europe into officiating Award or above.

7.2 White is the standard colour for umpires' attire. Umpires must wear a white top with any colour skirts/shorts/trousers. All jumpers and coats must also be white if worn whilst officiating a match.

7.3 The appropriate certification must be submitted to the League Umpire Co-ordinator prior to umpiring in the WLJNL.

7.4 It is the Team Managers responsibility to ensure that their players, parents, supporters, coaches, and support staff respect the umpires both on and off the court and that all exchanges between their team and any other parties are in the spirit of the game.

7.5 The umpire's decision is final, after all without them there would no league.

7.6 Any physical or verbal abuse from players, parents, supporters, coaches, and support staff directed towards anyone associated to the league will be dealt with in accordance with the EN Game Management procedure.

7.7 In extreme circumstances, the game will be stopped, and the offender immediately removed from the vicinity of the netball courts. Further action may be taken by the Committee at their discretion. This may include player/team suspension (6 match ban), permanent expulsion or deduction of a minimum of 5 points. A written report will be requested by the committee from the umpires and Clubs within 48 hours of the incident.

7.8 All other disciplinary matters not covered above will be dealt with at the Committees discretion.

## **8. LEAGUE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE**

8.1 All queries and complaints (a Complaint), which should be directed to the **League Resolution Co-ordinator Previously known as Disputes Officers** in the first instance, must be dealt with as follows:

8.2 Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a Match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant Team member or Team Official, **must** do the following:

- i. Inform their opponents and the Umpires of their complaint.
- ii. Inform the host, who will mark the Score grid with the words "Under Protest";
- iii. Send a copy of the Score Card to the League Resolution Co-ordinator, within seventy two (72) hours of the match.
- iv. Send an email with attached score cards to explain the issue in full to the League Resolution Co-ordinator.
- v. The committee will decide what action should be taken.
- vi. The League Resolution Co-ordinator will acknowledge receipt of the query or complaint and forward the relevant information to the committee who will decide on the matter within seventy two (72) hours of receipt of the query or complaint.
- vii. The committee in relation to decisions taken under clause vi is binding apart from where parties to the complaint the right have to appeal the decision under section 17 below.

8.3 Where the Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual Player or Team participating, volunteering or an individual attending a Match, or making an inappropriate comment about a fellow player, coach, official, volunteer or the governing body which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations (including through the use of social media technology), such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the processes set out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations.

## **9. APPEAL COMPLAINT DECISION**

9.1 Complaints should be made in writing within 72 hours of the incident to the Committee (westlondonjuniornetball@hotmail.co.uk). Teams must also send a text to the Chair/Dispute officer

advising they have submitted a complaint. Reports will be requested from both umpires and the opposing team which will be considered at the next Committee meeting. The parties involved will be informed of the outcome within 5 days of said meeting. The decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

9.2 A party may appeal in the following circumstances: -

If the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition.

- If there has been a failure by the committee to follow or act in accordance with these Regulations and/or the committee reached a decision based on an error of **fact**.

These are the only grounds of appeal, and any appeal must be submitted in accordance with the appeals process set out below:

An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the **Secretary** of the appealing Team to the **WLJNL** within 72 hours of receiving the decision, who will refer it to the **MCNA**

## 10. PHOTOGRAPHY CONSENT

10.1 All team managers should ensure that they have photography consent from the parents / carers of all their players.

10.2 By submitting the league entry form, teams are confirming that this consent has been obtained.

10.3 All clubs must ask permission from the umpire and opposing coach for consent to film/record matches.

## 11. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

Clubs are reminded that they are expected to abide by the England Netball Child Protection Procedures and Policies, Codes of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

In addition to the above, clubs must also:

- Supply a match ball (size 4 or 5)
- Wear clearly marked bibs (and have an alternative set in case of colour clash)
- Bring a fully stocked First Aid Kit to each fixture
- Ensure their players wear suitable clothing and footwear.
- Remove all litter and lost property from around the court and in their camp before leaving.
- Ensure all players and spectators are familiar with England Netball Rules All spectators should follow the following code:

- ✓ Respect managers, umpires, and players - both your own team and the opposition
- ✓ There will be no offensive language, remarks, or behaviour
- ✓ Pets may be allowed at league venues; however, the league requires dogs to be kept on a lead around the courts and asks that owners respect the other people in the venue.
- ✓ Adhere to the venues policy of No Smoking around the courts

✓ NO PARENTS on the courts unless fulfilling an official role.