

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS OF SURREY NETBALL LEAGUE 2019/2020**

### **1. HONORARY OFFICERS:**

The Honorary Officers shall be: The Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Umpiring Registration Secretary as elected at the AGM.

### **2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee shall consist of: a) The Honorary Officers b) One Representative from each Division. The Executive Committee shall be elected at the AGM by the Club representatives present at the meeting. No Club can be represented on the Executive Committee by more than one person. The Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Executive Committee as and when required; eight members present shall form a quorum. Their terms of reference are to decide on any matters.

### **3. GENERAL MEETINGS**

3.1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held once every calendar year on the second Monday in June. Notice of the AGM and a copy of the Agenda shall be sent to every Club not less than 14 days prior to the date of meeting.

3.2. Business to be transacted: i) To receive the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts. ii) To elect the Executive Committee. iii) To consider any proposals received from member Clubs. Twenty-four members present shall form a quorum.

3.3. No Rule or Regulation shall be amended, and no resolution passed at a previous General Meeting shall be rescinded, unless notice to this effect is given on the agenda.

3.4. Items for the agenda must be sent to the Secretary not less than 35 days prior to the AGM date.

3.5. All Clubs playing in the SNL must be represented at the AGM by one of their Club members. Failure to comply with this rule may lead to exclusion from the League.

3.6. If required, the Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary General Meeting. Twenty members present shall form a quorum and are entitled to vote.

3.7. Voting Procedure: All matters at a General Meeting shall be decided by a simple majority vote. Persons eligible to vote at General Meetings: 1. Each Club: one vote. 2. Each Honorary Officer: one vote. The Chairman shall have a second and casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

### **4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE**

When applying for membership to the Surrey Netball League ("SNL"), Clubs must state the location of the home ground and the name, address, telephone number and email address of the Club Secretary. If any of this information subsequently changes, the SNL Secretary must be informed of those changes in writing.

4.1. Application for membership of the SNL shall be considered each year by the Executive Committee.

4.2. All current Clubs must apply online by 30th April. Failure to do so may result in exclusion from the SNL for the coming season.

4.3. All Clubs must have their home ground within the defined Surrey County boundaries unless approved by the Executive Committee.

4.4. Should a Club/team persistently fail to comply with a SNL rule/rules the Executive Committee, at their discretion, may apply an additional penalty and/or exclude the Club/team from the SNL.

4.5. New clubs may apply in writing to the SNL at any time and may be accommodated in the SNL at any time during the season. (See 7.4)

4.6. Entry to a specific division may be determined by a play-off between teams of an appropriate standard arranged by the Executive Committee.

## **5. PLAYERS**

### **5.1. AFFILIATIONS - MEMBERSHIPS**

In order to participate in the SNL, a player must have a membership with EN and SCNA. All players must have their membership lodged with EN head office and it must be paid prior to participation in the SNL. Failure to do so will result in any points gained for any match(es) plus an additional penalty of 5 points, will be deducted. Player(s) will be excluded from further participation until they have a membership.

### **5.2. REGISTRATION**

i) A full list of all players (Registered Player), with complete names, must be submitted using the online registration form on the SNL Website by the Friday before the first fixture of the season. A Club has to complete separate online forms for each team they have in the SNL, with each player registered to one team only i.e. team A, B, C, etc. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the offending team being penalised any points gained for the match(es) concerned being deducted; together with the additional penalty of one-point deduction.

ii) No player registered to a Super league team may play in the SNL. Players who play in NPL, Premier, London Polytechnic, County/and or Regional teams must be registered in a Club's highest placed SNL team, but may not play for a team lower than Premier D, except under rule 5.2 vii). Failure to comply with this rule will result in the offending team being penalised any points gained in the match(es) concerned being deducted, together with the additional penalty of one-point deduction.

iii) Any team who knowingly and deliberately provides false information regarding identity of players when registering or naming players on result sheets may be subject to disciplinary action and may be expelled from the SNL. Disciplinary action may be taken against the Club.

iv) Clubs must re-register their players after the last match of the first half of the season and before the commencement of the second half. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the offending team being penalised any points gained for the match(es) concerned being deducted together with the additional penalty of a one-point deduction.

v) Additional players can be registered at any time during the season either online or by notifying the appropriate Division Representative(s) before the player participates in any match. Any telephone/texted registrations must be confirmed using the online registration form within three days. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the offending team being penalised any points gained for the match(es) concerned being deducted together with the additional penalty of one-point deduction

vi). If a player registered for a higher team is required by her Club to play permanently for a lower team, a request must be sent via the Divisional Representative to the Executive Committee for consideration. That player must not play down until permission has been granted. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the offending team forfeiting the match and the non-offending team being awarded 5 points for the match.

vii) Players registered for teams lower than SNL Premier D can participate in higher team matches in the SNL (including NPL, Premier, London Polytechnic, County/and or Regional team) on a maximum of 2 occasions in any one half-season (see re-registering requirements in Rule 5.2 (iv) above). Should a player registered for a lower team participate in a higher team match (including NPL, Premier, London Polytechnic and/or Regional teams) on more than two occasions, that player will be deemed to be a permanent member of, and registered to, the higher team and will be ineligible for lower team matches (see rule 5.2 (ii) above). Failure to comply with this rule will result in the offending team being penalised any points gained for the match(es) concerned being deducted together with the additional penalty of a one-point deduction.

viii) A player may not play for more than one Club in the SNL during the season. If a player wishes to transfer, the new Club must notify the appropriate Division Representative(s) before the player plays for her new Club. Failure to register the transfer by the new Club will result in any points gained for the match(es) concerned being deducted together with the additional penalty of a one-point deduction.

ix) All Players must be 14 years old or over.

x) Pregnant players should not take part in match play beyond the 12th week of pregnancy

## **6. FIXTURES**

6.1. The home team must confirm the fixture, including details of the venue to the away team in writing at least 28 days before the fixture date. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the offending team being penalised by the deduction of one point. Teams must use all means at their disposal to ensure the opposition has received such notification and that confirmation is received. Two emergency emails and telephone numbers should be supplied by Clubs; any difficulty in communication should be reported to Divisional Rep as soon as possible.

6.2. All matches must be played on the scheduled date and must start within 15 minutes of the appointed time. Matches must commence between the hours of 09.30 and 14.30 (14.45 to allow for the 15 minutes).

6.3. A match may only be postponed prior to the fixture date when team players are in national or regional organised events. Such postponements require the prior consent of the Executive Committee. The request should be made through the Divisional Rep at least 28 days prior to the fixture date. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the offending team being deducted one point. Once the Executive Committee's agreement to the postponement has been obtained, it is the responsibility of the team requesting the postponement to contact the opposing Club Secretary at least 21 days prior to the fixture date for the teams to agree the date on which to play the match. The rearranged fixture must take place before the end of the half season in which the postponed fixture was scheduled unless agreed by the Executive Committee.

6.4. Matches may be postponed on the day if the ground is unexpectedly unplayable and by agreement between a representative from each Club and/or the umpires. It is the responsibility of all Clubs to ensure that their courts are in a safe condition and are fit for play. In the event of a disagreement as to the condition of the court the decision of the umpires will be final and binding. It is the responsibility of the home team to contact the opposing Club Secretary within 7 days of the postponed fixture to propose a date(s) to play the match and within 14 days the teams should agree a rearranged date. The rearranged fixture must take place before the end of the half season in which

the postponed fixture was scheduled. The Divisional Rep must be advised of this date. In extreme weather conditions that would make travelling hazardous and/or a ground unplayable the home team must contact the opposition and the Division Rep to discuss whether to postpone the match. Failure to comply with above may result in one point being deducted by the Executive Committee.

6.5 Should a Club be unable to field a team on the fixture date a point will be deducted from that team's total score for the season and 5 points awarded to the other team for the match.

6.6. Should a team be unable to provide a qualified umpire that's holds a current membership on the fixture date a point will be deducted from that team's total score for the season and 5 points awarded to the other team for the match and the game result shall be null and void.

6.7 All SNL matches must comply with the Official Netball Rules of England Netball. Each team should have in their possession a copy of the current EN Rules and a copy of the SNL Rules and Regulations.

6.8. All Premier A, B, C & D and Division 1 and 2 teams must provide a competent scorer for the duration of each match; the scorer may be changed if necessary, during the course of the match. In the event that either team does not provide a scorer the match must still be played to a conclusion, however failure to do so may result in the team without a scorer being deducted one point.

6.9 All SNL fixtures must be completed by the last fixture date for the season or they will be declared void, unless there is a directive from the Executive Committee.

6.10 Should a team cancel more than 25% of their games in any one season that team may not be accepted into the SNL the following year.

## **7. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE**

7.1 All Divisions will normally comprise 8 teams.

7.2 The 2 teams finishing at the bottom of all divisions, other than the bottom Division, will normally be relegated to the next Division.

7.3 The 2 teams finishing at the top of all Divisions will normally be promoted to the next highest Division.

7.4 When a vacancy arises in any Division, the Executive Committee may invite teams to play in the Division most appropriate to their standard. (See also Rule 4.5)

## **8. UMPIRES**

8.1. No game in the Premier Divisions and Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 shall be counted as a League match unless a , ( minimum 'C'), qualified umpire, that holds a current membership, is provided by both teams. With the permission of the Executive Committee some of these matches may occasionally be used to test umpires.

8.2 No game in other divisions shall be counted as a League match unless both teams provide an umpire, preferably qualified. All umpires must hold a current membership to EN. Failure to provide an umpire will result in a point being deducted from that team's total score for the season and 5 points awarded to the other team. A competent umpire means a person that has attended a C award within the last 2 years

8.3 Pregnant umpires are allowed to umpire until the 20th week of their pregnancy

8.4 If an umpire umpires a match but does not fulfil the criteria required above, the team whose umpire it is will be penalised any points gained for the match(es) concerned being deducted together with the additional penalty of one-point deduction.

8.5 The umpires who start the match must complete the match unless an umpire is injured when they may be replaced by an umpire who is qualified for that division.

8.6 Play-offs will have 2 neutral, qualified umpires who will be appointed by the League.

8.7 All Clubs must provide the League with the names and addresses of their Club umpires (that hold a current membership) upon request. This information will be used only by the Surrey County Netball Association (SCNA) Umpiring Secretary and Surrey Netball League Umpiring Registration Secretary. Changes to email addresses must also be provided. This information will be sent to Surrey County and London and South East regional umpiring secretaries. Failure to comply with above, may result in a deduction of one penalty point if not received by the stipulated date.

## **9. DURATION OF MATCHES**

9.1 In all divisions, the duration of the game shall be 4 (periods) of 15 minutes each.

## **10. RESULTS**

10.1 Each team must send a fully completed results sheet to the Divisional Representative by the 5th day following the match. Scanned or faxed results will be accepted. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the loss of one point for the match in question.

10.2 Registered Players must sign the results sheet each time they participate

10.3 If a match is conceded the non-offending team must submit a claim for points in writing to their Divisional Representative by the 5th day following the match, (i.e. for games scheduled on a Saturday claims for points must be received by the Divisional Representative by the following Thursday)

10.4 Any team who persistently fails to send their results to the Divisional Representative within the time limit specified in 10.1 will be fined £5.00 and if the fine is not paid by the AGM will be excluded from further participation in the League.

10.5 Teams will be awarded points as follows: 5 points WIN 3 points DRAW 2 points for a score which is 5,4,3,2,1 goals from the winning team's score or 1 point for scoring more than 50% of the winning score

10.6 Where teams have equal points, positioning will be decided by goal average, which shall be calculated on the basis of goals for DIVIDED by goals against. If one of the teams concerned has been given a walkover, the score of the corresponding match, i.e. against the same opponents of the other team(s) involved shall not be included in the goal average calculations.

## **11. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

11.1 SNL has a constituted Disciplinary Committee, comprising 3 or 5 people, which is empowered to determine such disciplinary sanctions it considers appropriate in response to complaints received.

## **12. COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

11.2 The Disciplinary Committee will normally comprise the 5 Honorary Officers, unless any of those are in any way related to parties concerned. The Disciplinary Committee may include a SCNA Official.

12.1 All Clubs and players have a duty to respect umpires and a duty to behave responsibly towards other players and teams. They have a duty to play within the SNL Rules and within the spirit of the game of netball. It is in the nature of competitive sport that players often disagree with the decisions of match officials. However, they must respect and abide those decisions. In the event of a complaint against an umpire, or about a player or team, the following procedures must be followed.

12.2 All complaints about an umpire must be sent to your Divisional Rep within 48 hours of the in question. You must include an outline of the complaint; the name of the umpire who is the subject of the complaint; a report from your Captain including his/her full name and their contact details; the name of the other umpire and his/her contact details. Umpiring complaints will be held on file by SCNA for three years.

12.3 The Executive Committee will request reports from the other parties involved and these must be received within 14 days of this request. The complaint will be fully investigated in accordance with the SNL's Disciplinary Procedures and following receipt of all the required information you will be informed in writing of the Executive Committee's decision within 28 days. The Executive Committee's decision, together with all the reports will be forwarded to SCNA for their records.

12.4 Complaints about Players or a Team. All complaints must be in writing and sent to your Divisional Rep within 48 hours of the match in question. You must include an outline of the complaint and, if appropriate, the name of the player or team who is the subject of the complaint; a report from your Captain including her full name and contact details; the names and contact details of both umpires.

12.5 Matters relating to complaints about players or a team will be fully investigated in accordance with the SNL's Disciplinary Procedures and following receipt of all the required information you will be informed in writing of the Executive Committee's decision within 28 days THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE' S DECISION SHALL BE FINAL.