

**STRATFORD AND DISTRICT NETBALL LEAGUE**  
**CONSTITUTION**

1. The league shall be called “The Stratford and District Netball League” and shall comprise of an outdoor winter season.
  
2. The objectives of the league shall be:
  - a) Organisation and promotion of the Stratford League.
  - b) Encouragement for all ages in a fun and friendly, participative sport.
  - c) Development and support of young players in the Stratford League.
  - d) Support all new and existing teams.
  - e) Communication of netball issues in Stratford and South Warwickshire.
  - f) Support the development of umpires in the Stratford League.
  
3. Registration fees and fines to be determined by England Netball and the Committee, both are non returnable.
  
4. An Annual General Meeting shall be held yearly at the end of each playing season at which the Committee shall be elected. The meeting will be attended by two representatives of each registered team. Each team is entitled to one vote only.
  
5. The league shall be governed by a Committee comprising of the Executive Committee [as below] and a representative from each team:
  - Chairperson
  - Vice Chair
  - League Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Fixtures Secretary

The committee will need to cover the following roles:

- Registration / Results Secretary
  - Court Official
  - Umpires Representative
  - Tournament Organiser
  - Publicity Secretary
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6. Each season the league will operate on a division basis. When there is more than one division, normally at the end of each season, the bottom two teams in each upper division shall be relegated and the top two teams in each lower division will be promoted. New teams joining the league shall be placed in a division appropriate to their standard of play. The number of teams in each division will be decided by the

Committee at the beginning of each season. Any variance to this shall be at the discretion of the Committee.

7. The Committee shall have the power to refuse admittance, suspend or expel any team, or individual whose conduct they consider detrimental to the objectives of the league as stated in paragraph 2. However any team or individual has the right to appeal, and any such appeal will be heard by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, in conjunction with the Committee, shall deal with all matters not covered by the Constitution and Rules. In case of disagreement, the Executive Committee may decide the final ruling.

8. The Constitution and Rules may in no way be altered unless approved by the Committee at an AGM, such amendment or deletions to be put in writing 21 days prior to such AGM to the Secretary of the league.

9. All teams wishing to join the Stratford and District Netball League must be affiliated to England Netball.

## STRATFORD AND DISTRICT NETBALL LEAGUE

### RULES

#### Game Rules

1. All matches shall be governed by the current rules of England Netball.
2. League divisions will be decided at the discretion of the Committee. A team must consist of a minimum of 7 named registered players.
3. All Teams must be registered and England Netball affiliated. No player shall be registered for more than one club within the Stratford League.
4. Each game shall be 60 minutes duration, comprising 4 periods of 15 minutes each. A maximum half time break of 5 minutes is permitted.
5. Matches will start at the agreed time. In the event that a team is incomplete, the match will begin provided that team has a minimum of 5 players. If a team is not present, or has less than 5 players to begin the match at the agreed time, the non-offending team should take the court. For every minute that the offending team fail to take the court, 1 goal will be awarded to the non-offending team.
  - i.e. If a team are only able to begin the game 8 minutes after the agreed start time, they would begin the match 0-8 down.

Minutes will be rounded up – i.e. if the team takes the court at 7 ½ minutes past the agreed start time they will concede 8 goals. No extra time will be added to the first quarter, so if the game starts 8 minutes late, the playing time will be just 7 minutes. The umpires will be responsible for keeping time until the actual start of the match and will announce the starting score BEFORE the first whistle.

6. Umpires will hold time for injury or illness upon appeal from an on-court player, for blood when noticed, or for an emergency or other circumstance as appropriate. In the case of injury/illness, England Netball rules state that the affected player must leave the court within 30 seconds and receive treatment off court.

As there are no secondary timers and/or primary carers within the Stratford League, the following will apply:

- The player will need to leave the court in what is deemed a sensible period of time.
- If the player needs assistance from another player to do this and to make them comfortable / begin any treatment, this is acceptable.
- The umpires should apply common sense and get the game restarted as soon as is practicable
  - Both teams may make substitutions and/or team changes during the stoppage.

7. Players can play in the Stratford Netball League if their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday falls within or before the playing season.
8. The chewing of any substance during a game is forbidden.
9. The wearing of gloves is not allowed, unless for medical reasons and you have a relevant medical note obtained from a Doctor.
10. The wearing of sun glasses is not allowed, unless for medical reasons you have a relevant medical note obtained from a Doctor.
11. Players may not play after 12 weeks of pregnancy.

## League Rules

1. All outstanding fines and fees must be paid prior to commencement of the season. All player registration forms must be submitted 2 weeks before the start of the season. Failure to do this will mean that the team cannot participate. They will forfeit the next game and every subsequent one until they have resolved any outstanding matters. No player may be registered for more than one team within the Stratford League simultaneously within a season. If a player wishes to transfer to another team, this must be identified to the Registration / Results Secretary in writing and once the transfer has taken place, that player must remain registered with that club until the end of the season.

A team may register new players during the season by contacting the Registration / Results Secretary a minimum of 24 hours prior to the game. The notification should be made by **telephone conversation or email**. Any subsequent fees arising from the new player registration should be submitted before that player's first match. It is not acceptable to make contact on the morning of the match. An R should be placed beside the name of any newly registered player on the results sheet for the first game that they play. Teams will be fined £10 if a non-registered player plays and the game will be forfeited 35-0.

- 2 All clubs must ensure that their teams fulfil their fixtures commitments. Any club failing to fulfil three fixtures during any one season may be withdrawn from the league.
- 3 A: All matches must be played on the date stated on the fixtures. Anyone unable to field a team will concede the game 35-0. Conceding teams must personally speak to the non offending team, leaving a message is not acceptable. Conceding teams will also notify the Registration / Results Secretary and the umpires for their game.

B:

- i) Postponement of matches before commencement. If matches are called off on the arranged date due to severe weather conditions that may affect the safety of players, that decision will rest with the relevant Court Official. All postponed matches must be played by the end of the current season. The Executive Committee will set a date for all matches that have to be replayed.
- ii) Postponement of matches after commencement If a match has begun the overall decision to abandon the game rest with the umpires; this may be due to weather conditions deteriorating, serious injury, or other circumstances as deemed appropriate by the umpires. If the match is abandoned **after** commencement of the third quarter then the score at that time will stand as the final score. If the match is abandoned **before** the third quarter has started the match must be replayed.

- 4 It is the responsibility of the home team to complete a results sheet which should be handed to the Registration / Results Secretary on the day of the match. The home team should ensure that all sections of the sheet have been completed, and both teams should ensure that all details are clear, legible and entered as per player's registration; taking care to highlight any players playing up, or who are playing their first match after a 'mid-season' registration.

Teams infringing these rules for the first time will be reminded by the Registration / Results Secretary of their obligations. For a second and any subsequent infringement of the rules, the following penalties will apply:

A £10 fine for failure to submit a results sheet

A 1 point deduction from the team's league table for any results sheet that has to be corrected

#### Results Process:

- Home teams to hand results sheet to Registration / Results Secretary on the day of the match
- Results sheet information will be translated to the member's area of the league website later that day, with points added / deducted as appropriate.
- Should teams have any queries with the results / points entered, the team captain / secretary should raise with the Registration / Results Secretary before Tuesday, at which point the results will stand and will be entered onto the league table.

- 5 Points will be awarded as follows:

- a) 5 points awarded to the winning team
- b) 3 points awarded to each team for a draw
- c) 2 points awarded to the losing team if their score is within 5 goals of the winning team's score
- d) 1 point awarded to the losing team if the score is 50% or more of the winning team's score

- 6 Teams shall be placed in winning order by points and in the event of a tie, then by goal difference. In the event of goal difference being equal, order will then be determined by goals scored.

- 7 Clubs with more than one team must state at the beginning of the season which is the higher and which is the lower team/s. They are allowed to play lower team players in the higher teams a combined total of three times during a season. (Results sheets to indicate that a lower team player has played up.) If the same player plays for a higher team for a fourth time, she can no longer play for the lower team. In the event of a club

having more than 2 teams, and a lower team player has played up for 2 higher teams on an equal number of times, the club can decide which team she will be registered to. The player will remain with that team for the rest of that season. There is no limit to the number of players that can play up in a game. If a player registered to a higher team plays down, that team will incur a fine of £10 and forfeit the game 3-0.

8 Meetings are to be attended by two representatives from each registered team. All teams will be fine £10 for non attendance of meetings, even with apologies sent, unless in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Committee. It is vital to have the input of all participating teams. By default, non attendance means that you forfeit your say and willingly accept the decisions of those attending the meetings.

## Umpires

1. It is the responsibility of **both teams** to provide an England Netball Qualified or League Approved Umpire for the standard of the game for which they have been given umpiring responsibility. In the absence of an England Netball qualification, to be eligible to umpire league matches, umpires must:

- Be league approved to do so by a member of the Executive Committee or someone appointed by them
- Have signed the League Umpiring Disclaimer Form to confirm that they have read and understood the risks involved in umpiring without the relevant insurance cover provided by England Netball.

If a team is struggling to cover any umpiring duties, they are encouraged to contact the Executive Committee with as much notice as is possible in order that they may provide support in directing them towards a solution. It is important to remember that the teams due to play should not be penalised through lack of umpire/s.

Any team arriving on match day without providing an umpire for their umpiring duty/ies on that day will be fine £10 per game and have 5 points deducted from the league table, and may be responsible for costs arising from any rearranged games as a result of the failure to supply an umpire.

2. New teams joining the league for the first year who do not have a qualified umpire may do so at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
3. All league games will be umpired by a neutral umpire.
- 4a. Each umpire will nominate a 'player of the match' for each team at the end of the game and mark the results sheet with their decision.
- 4b. Each team will nominate a 'player of the match' from the opposing team and mark the results sheet with their decision.
5. Umpires must be able to provide evidence of their umpiring qualification if asked to do so.
6. Umpires will be responsible for checking that teams are wearing no jewellery, except wedding rings which must be taped. Finger nails should be cut short for safety. The umpires have the power to stop a player from playing if she deems her nails are dangerous until she cuts her nails. Umpires shall also check that the court, its surrounds, goal posts and ball conform to rules.

7. The umpire has authority to ask any player to remove any adornments that are considered to be dangerous / a health hazard.

8 Umpires may not umpire after 20 weeks of pregnancy.

9. All active umpires must attend the mandatory Rules Forum which will be set by the Executive Committee (this may be held every 1 – 2 years). All non attendees will be require to attend a relevant refresher course.

10 Umpires shall wear suitable clothing distinct from that of the players.

## **Discipline Procedures**

All complaints must be put in writing / email is acceptable (phone call not accepted) and sent to the League Secretary only. Complaints will be reviewed by the Executive Committee, as appropriate, who will gather relevant information from all relevant parties before providing a written response to team captain/s / person/s involved as appropriate.

Failure to comply with the Constitution / League Rules will result in a £10 fine and/or deduction of points from the League Tables at the discretion of the Executive Committee.