

NATIONAL SCHOOL REGULATIONS

Please Note: These regulations are for National Finals and there may be specific Regulations that may able at Regional, County or other levels.

It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players are conversant with the following regulations.

1. RULES OF THE GAME

- 1.1 All games shall be played to the IFNA Rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time of the Tournament, except where specific Tournament Regulations apply (new IFNA rules 2007).

2. COMPETITION REFEREES

- 2.1 Competition Referees will be appointed by organising body.
- 2.2 All queries should be directed to the Competition Referees in the first instance.
- 2.3 If the Tournament Doctor or Physiotherapist has advised a player that she should take no further part in the Tournament on medical grounds, the Doctor or Physiotherapist will inform the Competition Referees who will uphold that decision.
- 2.4 The Competition Referees reserve the right to alter or amend the playing schedule as necessary.
- 2.5 Competition Referees may make decisions on any matters arising during the Tournament and are authorised to adjudicate on any matter not covered by the Tournament Regulations.
- 2.6 The Competition Referees have the right to disqualify any individual or team that does not comply with any of the Tournament Regulations listed.
- 2.7 The Competition Referees decision is binding and final.
- 2.8 The Competition Referees will maintain and be responsible for a confidential Competition Referee Log Book.

3. DISCIPLINE

- 3.1 If a player is suspended from a game, or ordered to leave the court and take no further part in the game, that player will be required to appear in front of the Competition Referees immediately after the end of the game.
- 3.2 At the end of the game the Team Manager/Coach and the player concerned must report immediately to the Competition Referees, who will convene the disciplinary panel.
- 3.3 At the end of the game the Umpires from the match in which a player is suspended from the game, or ordered to leave court and take no further part must report immediately or as soon as possible to the Competition Referees, who will convene the disciplinary panel.

4. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS / AFFILIATION / AGE BANDING

- 4.1 Entry is open to Schools holding England Netball Schools Membership.
- 4.2 The National Schools Championships - for your school to be eligible for the County rounds of this competition please note that your school must be affiliated (i.e School Membership fees paid) to England Netball 4 days prior to the event.
- 4.3 All players must be in full time education and be registered with the School they are representing on the day of the Tournament. Should a pupil leave school on a Friday she is considered to be a registered member of that School only until the Monday immediately following her day of leaving. A player re-registering with another School then becomes eligible to represent that School from the date of her registration and is not considered to have played for any other team in the Championships.

5. AGE BANDING

- 5.1 YEARS 8 & 9 (U14) = All players must be over 12 years of age and under 14 years of age
YEARS 10 & 11 (U16) = All players must be over 14 years of age and under 16 years of age
YEARS 12 & 13 (U19) = All players must be over 14 years of age and under 19 years of age
- 5.2 All players must play within their appropriate age group as at midnight on 31st August/1st September immediately prior to the Tournament unless the England Netball Competition & Major Events Manager has given prior approval in writing.
- 5.3 Schools may enter one team in each age band

6. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

- 6.1 Team Managers must register with the Competition Referees prior to the commencement of the Competition.
- 6.2 The maximum number of players allowed in a squad is twelve (12).
- 6.3 No player, other than the 12 nominated on the Registration Form may play without the prior permission of the Competition Referees. Those teams who qualify for the Finals must have Squad Sheets completed and lodged at the England Netball Head Office prior to the event.
- 6.4 Once the Tournament has commenced and a player has been named on a Registration Form she cannot transfer to another team once she has played. A player may only play in **ONE** age group, for which she is **FIRST NOMINATED** throughout all stages of the Tournament (On the day).
- 6.5 Any amendment to the Registration Form must be made to the Competition Referees prior to the commencement of the Tournament. All teams will be required to have available, on the day of the Tournament, copies of *Proof of Age for all players. Should a player's age be challenged, the Competition Referees will ask the player concerned to produce a copy of their Proof of Age. This will then be checked by the Competition Referees against the eligibility requirements for the Tournament and returned to the player immediately.

**Proof of Age for each player at Tournament registration – copies of a birth certificate or passport, if these are not available then either a copy of a medical card, or a letter of authorisation signed by a school's Head Teacher. Include age banding reference number.*

7. TEAM BENCH

- 7.1 Team Officials will consist of Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, Captain and up to two (2) Primary care personnel.
- 7.2 The Team Bench will be the area at the team's defending end at the start of the game to the right of the netball posts. Do not change ends at half time.
- 7.3 The Team Officials, in addition to the five players not on court, shall constitute the 'Team Bench'.
- 7.4 The Team Officials and bench players may not move up and down the side lines or along the goal lines outside the court during play.
- 7.5 Coaching is only permitted from the Team Bench.

8. MATCH OFFICIALS & COURT MANAGERS

8.1 FINALS - UMPIRES

- 8.1.1 England Netball will appoint Umpires from their Database of Neutral Umpires
- 8.1.2 The minimum standard will be Netball Europe B Award– unless approved by England Netball beforehand.
- 8.1.3 Umpires appointed will be required to submit evidence that they have reached a minimum level 5.1 of the Multi Stage Fitness Test
- 8.1.4 Umpires are not responsible for the score
- 8.1.5 Umpires need to be fully conversant with the Tournament Regulations and any the additional Officials Information which will be circulated prior to the event.

8.2 FINALS – SCORERS

- 8.2.1 Each team must provide a competent scorer, either an umpire, qualified table official or a person with working knowledge of scoring.
- 8.2.2 Scorers need to be fully conversant with the Tournament Regulations and any additional Officials Information which can be found in this document.

8.3 FINALS – COURT MANAGERS

- 8.3.1 England Netball will appoint Court Managers from their Database of Support Workforce. They will supervise and support the Umpiring Team allocated to their courts

9. MATCH TIMING

- 9.1 Central timing, normally sounded by a hooter, will be used, but matches will start and finish on the Umpires whistle. Matches will be 7 minutes each way, one minute at half time and two minutes between rounds.
- 9.1.2 Central timers will commence timing when the game is started by the 'hooter'.
- 9.1.3 Central Timer will signal the end of each half to the Umpire (either by hooter or electronic umpire device), whose whistle shall end each half.
- 9.1.4 Play will be stopped when instructed by the Umpire who shall blow the whistle to stop play. To restart play the Umpire shall signal and blow the whistle for play to be resumed.
- 9.2 The hooter will sound at the beginning and end of an interval.
- 9.3 A warning will be given before play is due to commence 2 minutes prior to the start of the competition day and then 30 seconds for the teams to take court before the start of the game.

10. BALLS AND BIBS

- 10.1 Each team must provide a size five (5) netball, which must be clearly marked for identification purposes.
- 10.2 All players must wear positional bibs and teams must have a spare set in a different colour in case of a clash of colours.
- 10.3 In the event of a clash of colours, a toss of a coin between the two captains will decide which team retains their original colours.

11. START OF PLAY AND LATE ARRIVALS

- 11.1 Captains should toss for centre pass well before the start of each game.
- 11.2 All teams must be on court, in position and ready to play, at the time and on the court stated in the playing schedule.
- 11.3 No team may start a game with less than five (5) players.
- 11.4 Any team not on court as 11.2 above late on court will forfeit the match points.
- 11.5 The forfeited points will be awarded to the team on court, in position and ready to play at the correct time.
- 11.6 The Umpires must record on the Score Card, the name and arrival time of the team who arrived late.

12. SUBSTITUTES AND TEAM CHANGES

- 12.1 Play may be stopped if the umpire deems it necessary but, **ONLY** injured or ill players may be substituted during a game owing to the short games. No other changes can be made at this time by either side.
- 12.2 During the half time interval, substitutions/team changes may be made by both teams providing they take place immediately. The opposing team captain must be given adequate time to substitute, if she so wishes.
- 12.3 No extra time will be allowed for injury or illness.
- 12.4 Team Officials are requested to take great care in moving an injured player or ill player from the court.
- 12.5 Should the Primary Career feel that a player's injury is critical i.e. head, neck or back and she will be better left on court for the medical staff, the Officials should note the time lost during treatment and report to the Competition Referees who will adjudicate. (England Netball accepts most Netball injuries i.e. knee, ankle etc. fall outside this exemption clause).

13. RESULTS

- 13.1 Captains must check the scores with both Scorers and if satisfied must sign the Score Card. A runner will then take results to the recorders table.
- 13.2 The Score Card represents the official score of the match and once the score card has been signed, no dispute can be lodged.
- 13.3 If a Team Captain is not in agreement with the final score, or does not wish to sign the Score Card for any other reason, her Team Manager must advise their opponents. The Scorers and both Umpires (who must print their names on the reverse of the Score Card) should state reasons for their non-compliance with this regulation and report immediately to the Competition Referees.
- 13.4 In the event that Court Runners are not provided, it is the responsibility of the winning Team Captain to take both Score Cards to the recorders table after they have been signed by both Scorers and Team Captains.
- 13.5 In the event of a draw, each Team Captain will take responsibility for taking a card to the Recorders table.
- 13.6 In the event of a team being 'non competitive' for any reason, their results and those of their opponents will not be included on the master score sheet.

13.7 Match points will be awarded as follows:

- 5 points for a win
- 3 points for a draw
- 1 point to the losing team if scoring over 50% of the goals scored by the winning team.
- In the event of a tie on points, goal average will decide placing (goals for divided by goals against).
- If goal average is tied then goal difference will be applied (the difference between goals for and goals against).
- If goal difference is tied, the result of the group match between the two teams will be the decider..
- In the event of a further draw then the winner will be decided with extra time process between the two teams as outlined below for Quarters, Semi's and Finals
- Quarter, Semi and Finals (where applicable) – in the event of a draw at full time, extra time of 2 minutes each way will be played, changing over at half time without a break. Teams will toss for centre pass and change ends. In the event of a draw at full time, play will continue without a break, until the next goal is scored.

14. GLOVES/JEWELLERY/SCARVES

14.1 England Netball domestic guidance must be followed.

15. HEALTH & SAFETY

15.1 When the Tournament Doctor or Physiotherapist has declared a player unfit to go on court, the Competition Referees will be advised and will uphold that decision and the player in question will take no further part in the competition.

16. SPECIAL REGULATIONS

16.1 PREGNANT PLAYERS AND UMPIRES

England Netball domestic guidance must be followed.

16.2 PLAYERS AND BLEEDING

16.2.1 Please note IFNA Rule 7 clearly states the procedure regarding players and bleeding. However, where no time is allowed for injuries the following should apply:

16.2.2 If the bleeding is not profuse, the player should be asked to cover the injury at the next interval.

16.2.3 If the bleeding is very heavy, the player will be asked to leave the court for the dressing of the injury and to return according to rule 7.

16.2.4 In these shorter matches, it is not the intention to penalise a team with an injured player and Umpires will need to be very aware of the time of the next interval, in order to keep a player on court unless it is absolutely necessary to have the injury covered. A sticking plaster or tape could be used in order to stem the flow until the next interval – the player might not then have to leave the court – this could be done with the player coming to the side line and play still continuing

16.2.5 If dressings are not available, then a substitute would have to be used or the team would have to play on with only six players.

PLEASE NOTE: IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TEAM OFFICIALS TO HAVE FIRST AID DRESSINGS AVAILABLE AT THE SIDE OF THE COURT.

16.3 UMPIRES AND BLEEDING

16.3.1 Play may be stopped for injury or illness or any other cause. This would allow the Umpires to stop the game if she/he sustained an injury to herself/himself.

16.3.2 In tournament play where no time is allowed for stoppages, the Umpire should try to wait until the next interval before dealing with her/his injury. If the injury is bleeding, the Umpire should avoid touching the ball. This may mean that she/he should request the other Umpire to take any Toss Up that she/he may award, until she/he can deal with her/his own injury. It may now be advisable for Umpires to keep an Elastoplast about their person in order to deal with any small injury that may occur. In the event of a major injury to either a player or an Umpire, the game would have to be stopped and the Competition Referees would have to make a decision as to how the emergency situation would be coped with.

16.4 CLOSE RANGE PHOTOGRAPHY

16.4.1 The England Netball Safeguarding guidelines require that any person wishing to engage in any video, zoom or close range photography should register their details with staff in the Registration area before carrying out such photography.