

Lowestoft Netball League Rules

Rules and regulations will be in accordance with England Netball Association (ENA).

1. GAMES

- a) Games will be held on Tuesdays, start times and length of play may vary.
- b) Matches will be either 2 halves or 4 quarters, depending on agreement at the relevant AGM.
- c) Each umpire, or nominated person, to time, using suitable time-keeping equipment.
- d) All team players will be on court for the start of play at the time stated as per fixture list.
- e) Team captains should toss for centre etc. before the start of the game and before going on court.
- f) The “home” team is listed first on the fixtures and is responsible for supplying a match ball, which will be checked by both umpires and kept by them during an interval.
- g) No team can take to the court for a game unless all players are wearing bibs.
- h) A team **must** take the court if there are at least five (5) players present, one of whom must play centre.
- i) If after 10 minutes there are not enough players to form a team (5) the game will be abandoned and the non attending team will forfeit the game – 5 points plus 30 goals awarded to the opposing team. The non attending team will also be responsible for paying both umpires.
- j) No person will be allowed to play if more than 12 weeks pregnant.
- k) No sharp adornment or item of jewellery except a wedding ring can be worn. IF A WEDDING RING IS WORN, IT MUST BE TAPED. Fingernails must be short and smooth. Chewing gum must be removed before taking to the court.

If an infringement of j) occurs the team will be deducted 3 points for each infringement and if necessary the Committee will meet to decide any further action.

If an infringement of k) occurs the umpire will ask the player to leave the court and who cannot re-enter until after a goal is scored.

2. REGISTRATION & AFFILIATION

- a) All players must be affiliated to England Netball.
 - i) For exceptions please see **3. Unaffiliated Players**
- b) It is the team’s responsibility to ensure that all players are affiliated, including new members, before taking to the court. This will be spot-checked by a member of the committee on a regular basis.
- c) New players must be registered to the league on the evening of play by completing the back of the result card.
- d) All teams must have paid the required league entrance fee for the season, Winter & Summer. If fees are still outstanding after reminders the team maybe withdrawn from the league and their games void.
- e) Registration of a player indicates that this player may not play for any other teams during the season (Winter & Summer are separate seasons) except within another league or (see Rule 2f & 2g)
- f) A player may be transferred to another team under the following conditions:-
 - that the player gives 28 days notice to each captain and does not play for either team during the 28 days and
 - that the transfer form is completed and sent to the League Secretary at least 28 days before the player transfer;
- g) A club with teams in different divisions may choose to allow players to play “up” into the higher division team. A player may only play “up” twice. On the third time that player may NOT return to play in the lower division team during the same season. A player registered with the higher division team **cannot** play for the lower division team.
- h) The minimum age of a player within the league is 13 years.

- i) All players within the league must adhere to the League's Code of Conduct. It is the team's responsibility to ensure that players have read this before participating in the League. By registering and playing within the League all teams & players agree to abide by the Code of Conduct.

If an infringement of a) or b) occurs the team will be suspended, until such time as the committee has met to discuss. All decisions will be made at the discretion of the committee and teams could be disqualified, and no refund of league fees will be accepted.

If an infringement of c-h) occurs the team will be deducted 3 points for each infringement and if necessary the Committee will meet to decide any further action.

If an infringement of i) occurs the committee will meet to decide any action necessary.

3. UNAFFILIATED PLAYERS

- a) This is open to all teams entering the Lowestoft League.
- b) An unaffiliated person is someone who is not affiliated to England Netball during the current year (Sep-Aug).
- c) The League allows players to play twice within the same team only, per season (season being Winter or Summer).
- d) Players must be affiliated upon the third time of playing a league game, before the match.
- e) Each team is allowed up to **6** unaffiliated players per year (Sep-Aug).
- e) Teams to contact the appropriate committee member via txt (see list of contacts), prior to the game with the following details –
 - Team, Date, Match to be played, Player name, Address, D.O.B**
- f) If a team has not affiliated a player on the third time of playing they will be dealt with under Rule 2 (a-b) of the Lowestoft League – Playing of unaffiliated players.
- g) If a team fails to contact the appropriate committee member before playing an unaffiliated player they will be deducted 3 points as per infringements of Rule 2 (c-h).

4. UMPIRING

- a) Every team will provide a qualified umpire & a scorer. For new teams entering the League, a two-year period to gain umpire qualifications takes effect from the date the application is accepted.
- b) Teams without a qualified umpire are expected to provide a player/person to attend the next available and appropriate umpiring course and progress to their Into Officiating/C Award.
- c) Teams will be allocated umpires for their matches. In the event of an umpire failing to attend, the teams and remaining umpire can agree to play and will receive both fees. If the teams or umpire cannot agree to play, the 'home' team must inform the Cancellations Secretary & Umpire Secretary.
- d) Each team must pay the stipulated current umpire's expenses per match, BEFORE play begins.
- e) The decision of the umpire is final and given without appeal.
- f) If an umpire cannot umpire a match then it is the umpire's responsibility to contact the Umpiring Secretary ASAP to inform them.

Failure to comply with the a), b), c) & f) could result in the offending team being deducted 3 points for each infringement and/or suspend from the league, until such time as the committee has met to discuss. All decisions will be made at the discretion of the committee and teams could be disqualified, and no refund of league fees will be accepted.

5. CANCELLATIONS

- a) In the case of bad weather i.e. snow, ice or fog; the cancellation will be at the discretion of the Cancellations Secretary and/or the League Committee on the day of matches.

Cancellations will be advertised on the League Website – www.lowestoftnetball.co.uk & facebook group – Lowestoft Netball

If the weather is bad upon arrival at the court for the start of the match, the umpires decision to play or not is final. If the match is cancelled it will be re-arranged.

- b) In the case of a team cancelling, with the exception of (see Rule 4g), 5 points plus 30 goals will be awarded to the opposing team.

In the case of a cancelled match, the team cancelling need to inform the following –

- Fixtures Secretary
- Opposing team (secretary or other contact)
- Both umpires allocated to the match (via Umpiring Secretary)

See League Website – www.lowestoftnetball.co.uk for contact details

Failure to inform all of the above listed people can also result in the team being deducted 3 additional points.

- c) If a team fails to arrive they will forfeit the points (see Rule 4b) and also be deducted 3 additional points. That team will still be responsible for paying the umpiring fee.
- d) If a match is abandoned before half time it will be re-arranged. If it is abandoned after half time, the score at the time it was abandoned will stand. If at any time a match is abandoned due to equipment failure the match will be re-arranged.
- e) If matches are cancelled on the night by umpire's or abandoned, the umpire will inform the Cancellation, Umpire & Fixtures Secretary.
- f) If a team fails to cancel a match by 5pm on the day of play to the Cancellation Secretary a further 3 additional points will be deducted.
- g) If a match is postponed due to a prior commitment in which the TEAM is involved, it may be re-arranged but ONE MONTH'S NOTICE must be given to the Fixtures Secretary. An umpire/scorer must still be provided for the allocated match.

Failure to comply with supplying or paying an umpire/scorer as described in c) & g), could result in the offending team being deducted 3 points for each infringement and/or suspended from the league, until such time as the committee has met to discuss. All decisions will be made at the discretion of the committee and teams could be disqualified, and no refund of league fees will be accepted.

6. CLOTHING/KIT

- a) No player is allowed to wear gloves unless a medical certificate is provided.
- b) Hats may be worn but must be made of a soft material with no peaks, bobbles, fur or sharp adornment.
- c) If hoodies are worn, the hood and any tassels/ties should be secured inside the bib.
- d) Bib's, if worn, should be secured where possible. Any player wearing an unsecured bib could be asked by the umpire to leave the court, if deemed dangerous, until their bib is secured correctly.

If an infringement of a), b), c) or d) occurs the umpire will ask the player to leave the court and who cannot re-enter until after a goal is scored.

7. TEAMS AND TEAM CONTINUATION

- a) All new teams entering the League will go into the lower division, or higher by discretion of the League committee.
- b) If a team disbands and creates a new team, this team shall have no more than 4 original players to allow them to enter the League at the lower division. If 5 or more original players are registered the team will not be deemed a new team.
- c) If any team withdraws from the league during the first half of the season, all matches they have played will be discounted. If in the second half of the season, all points won in the first half will be counted.
- d) The committee will decide at the start of every season how many teams are promoted or relegated, depending on the number of entries for the next season.

8. SCORING

- a) Scoring will be as follows:
 - Win – 5pts
 - Draw – 4pts
 - A loss within 5 goals of the winners – 3pts
 - A loss within 10 goals of the winners – 2pts
 - Lose but score at least ½ of winning score – 1pt

In the case of a draw in the final event placing, the winning team will be decided on goal average.
- b) A result card will be provided by the “home” team (i.e. first named on the fixture list) and it will be the teams responsibility to ensure that a photo of the results is sent to the fixtures secretary by 10pm on Tuesday of playing and hand the card to the fixtures secretary at the next available opportunity. Failure to do so will result in 1pt being deducted from the “home” team.

Additional score cards can be collected from the fixtures secretary.
- c) The card must be signed by both captains and umpires. If captains have not signed the card they have no right of appeal on any score.

9. INJURIES/MISC

- a) Injured players are to leave the court for attention as soon as possible to allow play to continue. If the player cannot be moved, the match may be abandoned by the umpires.
- b) All teams are recommended to have available a First Aid kit including ice packs – these will not be provided by the venue.
- c) Blood - Players are allowed to go off court and time will be stopped for 2 minutes. After two minutes players will have to wait until the next goal before they can come back on once they have been checked by the umpires.
- e) Diath Ear Piercings - if players have this piercing, they must obtain a letter from a doctor stating the piercing is for medical reasons. They must accept that they are wearing the piercing at their own risk and that any player, the league or England Netball are not liable for any injury that may be sustained whilst playing. A head band must also be worn covering the ears.

10. COMPLAINTS

- a) Any team may make an official complaint, in writing, to the League Secretary. The League committee will deal with these complaints. The committee’s decision will be final. The committee will deal with all infringements of the rules.

11. PAYMENTS

- a) Teams are expected to pay league fees by the date due. Failure to do so could result in the offending team being deducted 3 points for each infringement and/or suspended from the league, until such time as the committee has met to discuss. All decisions will be made at the discretion of the committee and teams could be disqualified, and no refund of league fees will be accepted.

12. LEAGUE AGM

- a) All teams are expected to have at least 4 team representatives attend the AGM. Any teams not complying with this rule may be deducted 3 points at the start of the next season they participate in.