

## TWO COUNTIES

## NETBALL LEAGUE

**HANDBOOK**

## 2022

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| RULES AND GUIDELINES |

It is the responsibility of all players in this league to ensure that they are conversant with the following rules and guidelines:

**Covid Rules and Regulations**

**All team must follow Covid League guidelines put in place**

**Must sign an opt in form**

**1. Playing Qualifications and Eligibility**

 1.1 All players need to be affiliated to England Netball through there club to qualify for inclusion to play in the Two Counties League and affiliation details need to be forwarded to Two Counties Organisers before playing any games.

 1.2 Pregnant players may not take part in the league matches beyond the 12th week of pregnancy.

 1.3 Junior players playing in a senior league aged 14 and above must be shown on registration form and also must have permission from parent and be able to perform at that level. This can be discussed with Organisers

 1.4 A player may only play for 1 team, in one age group. (unless playing a friendly game) Juniors may play in 2 separate divisions and play up in an older division as long as age banded up and are on team list.

**2. Registration of Squad Members**

 2.1 Team sheets for each participating team must be completed fully, showing each player’s name, affiliation number and forwarded to the league organisers before start of the fixtures.

 2.2 Teams may only play those whose name appears on the team sheet held by the league organisers.

 2.3 Any borrowed players for any matches must be registered to a team within Two Counties Netball League.

 2.4 Any additional team players during the season should be affiliated member and full details given to the league organiser prior to playing at least two weeks in advance of the game they are to play in. Only 20 players at anyone time can be registered on team sheet.

 2.5 It is your responsibility to ensure that all contact details are correct and that the league organiser is informed of any changes immediately. The league organiser will not be responsible for any incorrect details and not being able to make contact.

**3. Penalties**

 3.1 The use of a non member player will result game being played as a friendly and points 15- 0 will be allocated to the other team. Please inform umpires if games if being played as a friendly before start of game. Umpires make sure this is put down on the umpiring card.

3.2 Failure to play fixtures will result in the team(s) been charged

 a) The full cost of the game for both team = £42

 b) Cancelling team will need to provide umpires for the both team’s allocated slots.

 c) If team drops out off league they may be asked to paid for fixtures that are still outstanding.

 3.4 Failure to provide an umpire at your allocated match (es) will result in and 15 – 0 to go other team. There will also be a charged to the umpire who steps in and cost of other umpire £20.

 3.5 Any team cancelling a fixture will be required to provide BOTH umpires for the allocated umpiring match (as per umpiring schedule) and make sure all parties are informed.

 3.6 It is the responsibility of the teams to sort their own umpires and make sure all umpiring is covered and payment to umpire is made on the same night.

 Please note - please make sure your umpires are aware of your clubs charge for umpires. This is up to the club and umpire to discuss.

**4. Fixture Arrangements**

 4.1 All fixtures are to be played on Wednesday PM /Friday PM/Saturday and Sundays

 AM. Winter matches will be played indoors unless otherwise stated or for unforeseen

 circumstances. In Summer League they may be inside and outside.

 4.2 Playing times are allocated.

* + 1. All games must start and finish on time. Umpires - No game will go over time.
		2. Game is to start after 5 minutes of the allocated start time; the team on court ready to play will be awarded the point. 15 -0 if other team is not on court. The game then will be played as a friendly.
		3. Should a team cancel a match; the non-offending team will be awarded a score of 15:0. Please try not to cancel.
		4. It is the responsibility of the team cancelling the match to notify the league organiser, opposing team and umpires as far in advance as possible. This needs to be done by phone, email and using face book sites.
		5. Cancelled games will not be re-scheduled.
		6. The team cancelling the game shall pay the full game fees and shall still provide umpires for their allocated match.

**5. Match Regulations**

* 1. All matches shall be played to the current official Rules of England Netball.
	2. All matches shall be of 50 minutes (4 x 12mins – 1 min breaks) or as stated at the start of each league. If game starts late please adjust the times accordingly so that the game finishes on time.

**6. Umpires**

6.1 Umpires are responsible for starting and finishing the games on time and game management .

6.2 The umpire’s decision is always final. See Code of Conduct.

6.3 All umpires are to be either C Award or have been on an umpiring course either Beginners or C Award Course and are competent. Please note some umpires may be being mentored - this needs to be agreed by the league beforehand.

**Injury**

* 1. There will 30sec injury time. Unless in the event of serious injury. Umpires have Discretion on this.
	2. If a player is unable to carry on in the game, a substitution should be made ASAP; teams can move players to accommodate for this.
	3. The opposing team are unable to make a substitution, but are able to move around the players already on court.
	4. First aid should be provided by all teams and a First Aider allocated to your team.

**Results**

* 1. The two score cards must be checked by both captains. Signed by Umpires must sign they have the correct score. Umpires need to put any incidents injuries on their card. Any serious incident/ accidents need to be reported asap.
	2. New Rule – All Score cards must be photographed front and back and forwarded to Results page on Face book (closed group).
	3. Should a team be awarded a match as played friendly the card must still be sent and FRIENDLY place at top of card.
	4. Where two teams have the same points, goal average shall be used to decide placing.
	5. Points will be awarded as follows:

 5 points for a win

 2 points if wit in 5 goals

 3 points for a draw

 1 point for more than 50% of the winners score

**9. League Adjudication**

 9.1 All queries/complaints/appeals should be sent in writing to kay.mckenzie@hotmail.co.uk within 10 days of the match taking place.

* 1. Two Counties Committee will consider all queries/complaints/appeals and will make the final decision what action to take and will inform by email.
	2. In the event of disciplinary action been taken against a team or individual the disciplinary process will be followed. See Disciplinary procedure.

 9.4 No team may automatically claim a fixture – The league organiser must be notified first with reasons why.

**10. Disciplinary Rules**

10.1 Players should respect and accept the umpire’s decision at all times. Unfair remarks both on and off the court are not acceptable at anytime. If any team has an enquiry about any rules the captain only may approach the umpire.

 (See code of conduct for players, coaches, officials and supporters)

 Team captains need to ensure that all players and supporters adhere to this policy. Captains you are responsible for your team’s behaviour on and off court.

 **The umpire’s job can be very difficult at times and without them there would not be a game.**

10.2 Any verbal abuse directed at the umpires or other players will result in one of the following at the umpire’s discretion: In line with England Netball Rules.

 10.3 In extreme circumstances breaking the Code of Conduct, umpires will be able to

 stop the game and ask player or supporter to leave the area. Umpires are in

 charge of who is around the courts too.

 10.4 Further action may be taken by the Two Counties if a team has been disciplined

 under rule 10 more than once or if the Two Counties feels that other action

 required immediately. This may include player suspension, deduction of a

 minimum of 3 points or a team being excluded from the league. No Physical,

 Emotional or Verbal Abuse directed at umpires or opposing players will be

 tolerated

 10.5 Teams are also responsible for the behaviour of any spectators associated with

 their team during their matches and while on the venue premises. Disciplinary

 action will be taken against the team if spectators behaviour is unacceptable as

 listed 10.4.

 10.6 If a game has to be abandoned due to physical or verbal abuse the game will be

 abandoned and a report by the umpires and team captain should be submitted to

 the Two Counties on day of incident and reported on umpiring card. Appropriate

 action will then be taken.

 10.7 If a player leaves the court for no valid reason (not to take a Throw In, collect a ball

 or secure a better playing position), they may not enter the game while play is in

 progress. They should notify the umpire and return after a goal has been scored,

 injury time or stoppage. If player late for start of game they are not allowed on until

 nails, jewellery checks have been done and after a goal has been scored.

 10.8 Any other disciplinary matter not covered in Rule 10, will be discussed by the Two

 Counties and appropriate action will be taken.

10.10 Any complaints should be made in writing to both kay.mckenzie@hotmail.co.uk or

 karencresswell@ymail.com within 10 days of the match being played. Information

 or reports will then be requested from both umpires and the opposition team. The

 complaint will then be given careful consideration by the management and the

 parties involved will be informed of the decision within 10 days. Please note

 Safeguarding officers are Karen and Kay

**11. First Aid**

11.1 It is the responsibility of either the umpires or the captains to seek First Aid/First

 Aider from the team so all teams must have first Aid to attend to injuries. It is

 recommended you have a first aider attached to your team while playing.

11.2 Time may asked from the umpires if a concern re injury.(30 sec) But the player

 calling time either needs to be replaced asap or continued.

**12. Clothing**

 12.1.0 No form of gloves may be worn when playing.

 If player has a medical certificate then seamless gloves maybe allowed.

 12.1.2 Umpires need to be satisfied that there is no hazard to others.

**13. Jewellery & Medic Alert Bracelets**

 13.1 All jewellery must be removed. (With the only exception of a wedding ring which must be taped up) Medical alert bracelet may be worn during a netball match but covered will wrist band. The bracelet must be secured in such a way it will not pose a hazard to other players.

**14: Liability**

## TWO COUNTIES accept no liability in respect of loss of personal items whilst playing or watching a game. This is a player and team responsibility.



**TWO COUNTIES NETBALL - CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. **General Code of Conduct**

Our Codes of Conduct require is in line with Two Counties Netball

I will Respect:

* The rules, regulations and requirements of the Sport, including, but not limited to, any competitions in which I participate either directly or indirectly
* The rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in netball, regardless of gender, marital status, race, colour, disability, sexuality, age, occupation, religion or political opinion.
* Netball and the individual’s reputation and not take any action or make inappropriate comments about a fellow participant, coach, official, volunteer or member of Teams or Two Counties staff that will bring the Sport or those associated with delivering the Sport into disrepute, including making comments on social media technology. I will respect Two Counties Netball guidance and policies on social media technology.
* The result of the game and will not attempt to offer or accept either directly or indirectly any consideration whatsoever in return for influencing or attempting to influence the result or seek to achieve personal gain on a result which I can influence by betting on any match or event where I am participating, either by playing, coaching or officiating, or through direct or indirect involvement.

I will support my team by

Being on time, dressing appropriately in kit and ready to give my full attention to the role I am carrying out within Netball

* Recognise that individuals bring different qualities and attributes but “together we will excel”.
* Welcome new members, volunteers, and connected participation and cooperate with Members, Connected Participants, colleagues, coaches, officials and administrators already in the Sport.

I recognise individuals participate in Netball to achieve and have fun, therefore I will:

* Recognise the achievements of others and applaud their successes

Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participant in a fair, honest environment by rejecting cheating, abiding by the Anti-Doping policies and not taking illegal substances immediately prior to or while participating in the Sport.

* Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat; be sporting – whether I win or lose; always acknowledge the other team and the umpires at the end of the game with a hand shake or three cheers.
* Never argue with an official or participant during a game and listen to and cooperate with officials’ decisions
* Enjoy the game and ensure other can also enjoy it.
* I will endeavour to abide by this code of conduct and promote it to others.
* I understand that if I fail to follow the code, that Two Counties Netball may take action against me under the Disciplinary Procedure which may result in Sanctions including official warning, suspension or withdrawal to league.
1. **CODE OF CONDUCT IN MY CAPACITY OF**

**Coach, umpire, table official, team manager, teacher, tutor, assessor, tester, trainer, verifier, mentor or volunteer**

The Code of Conduct state the values and standards expected at all time. In addition to these

**I will also:**

* Display high standards in my language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation to ensure that all time spent with me by participants or colleagues is a positive experience
* Exercise reasonable care and skill when carrying out my duties, including but not limited to keeping up to date with the latest practices and developments by taking up further education and other personal and professional development opportunities
* Be consistent, independent and demonstrate complete impartiality through exercising reasonable care and skill to enforce the rules of the game by applying them fairly and to effect control of the game
* As a coach, seek to inspire and motivate in accordance with an individual’s abilities to enable them to play to the best of their ability and realise their potential
* As a coach, provide athletes with planned and structured training programmes appropriate to their abilities and goals by ensuring that equal attention and opportunities are available to all, including those requiring a modified plan due to sickness or injury.
* If umpiring but also coach on the same day you will not coach while umpiring while game in play.
* Be mentally and physically fit to carry out my role within netball
* Ensure that I follow instructions and comply with all health and safety regulations that apply to the role I am undertaking.
* Safeguarding - if a player especially junior player is playing and the game get quite physical to we have an umpire has the authority to stop play and calm the situation down and give warning if needed. Safety to all players is a priority.
* I will endeavour to abide by this code of conduct and promote it to others. I understand that if I fail to follow the code, Two Counties may take action against me under the Disciplinary Regulations which may result in Sanctions including fines and suspension.

**3. Code of Conduct for:**

**Two Counties Committee Members**

The Code of Conduct states the values and standards expected at all time. In addition to these, when in my voluntary capacity as a member of the National Group, Committee, Regional and County Board/Committee/Group,

**I will also:**

* Promote and embed the England Netball information if applicable ,
* Actively promote Netball information relevant to Two Counties and other Netballing opportunities
* have regular attendance, participation and contribution at meetings
* ensuring timely response to agreed actions, requests for information and guidance
* attending the meeting that are relevant to our development of league eg AGM/County events as and when required
* deal with issues of clarification ‘offline’ before meetings in order maintain a sharp focus on agenda items during meetings to ensure that meetings run to time and time is fully utilised
* not use technology or communicate with others outside during meetings
* Listen to and respect the views of others 
* Respect the office of Chairperson
* Act in a way considered to be in good faith and most likely to promote the success of the organisation for the benefit of its members as a whole including not using my position to obtain for myself, family members or close associates employment or other advantages.
* Maintain focus on the strategic development through planning, prioritising, performance monitoring and evaluation.
* Notify the appropriate authorities should my personal circumstances change and a conflict develops or I am charged or convicted of a criminal office which would result in me not being a fit and proper person to hold my position within netball
* At all times act as an ambassador and advocate for Two Counties Netball promoting the organisation’s key messages and always presenting the sport and its people in a positive light.
* Not attempt to exercise individual authority over Two Counties volunteers except as explicitly set out in policies
* Respect confidentiality and not pass any information gained through my involvement with the Two Counties to a third party without approval of the chairman.
* I will endeavour to abide by this code of conduct and promote Two Counties.

**4. Code of Conduct for Parents/Carers**

The enjoyment and safety of your child when involved in a netball activity is of paramount importance to Two Counties Netball. Every child will be encouraged and asked to ensure that their behaviour and actions meet the values and standards expected of them at all times. As parents, you are asked to support our Codes of Conduct and embrace the spirit of our game.

As a parent/carer, I will:

* Encourage my child to play within the rules and respect officials’ and coaches’ decisions
* Support my child’s efforts and performance, give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort and learning
* Be a positive role model to my child by helping them work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship
* Remember that children learn best by example; I will applaud good play by both my child’s team and their opponents
* Thank the coaches, officials and other volunteers who give their time for my child and not interfere with their decisions
* Help when asked by a coach or official
* Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, regardless of gender, marital status, race, colour, disability, sexuality, age, occupation, religion or political opinion
* Read the rules of the sport to understand better what I am watching and discussing with my child to support development.
* Promote this code of conduct to other parents, carers and supporters
* Be aware of my child’s club safeguarding policy and ensure that any concerns are reported to the club’s safeguarding officer within Two Counties or England Netball’s Lead Safeguarding Officer.

As a parent/carer, I will not:

* Put pressure my child in any way; I know that this is their sport not mine
* Use inappropriate language, harass athletes, coaches, officials or other spectators
* Criticise or ridicule my child or any other child for making a mistake or losing after the game
* Force my child if they are unwilling to participate in the sport
* Arrive at a netball activity under the influence of alcohol or drugs
* Use Social Media technology to bring the game into disrepute or make an inappropriate comment about an athlete, coach, official, volunteer or member of England Netball staff
* Consume alcoholic drinks or smoke either immediately prior to or while being at a netball activity where my child is participating and on the venue.

## *TWO COUNTIES NETBALL*

## *photography policy*

**Guidelines**

* *England Netball Duty of Care Guidelines* recommend that all Clubs/League should record the name and address of any spectator who wishes to use video, zoom or close range photography to record the activities at a tournament.
* In line with this recommendation, **TWO COUNTIES NETBALL** require that any person wishing to engage in video, zoom or close range photography should register their details before carrying out any such photography. A club representative to vouch for them must accompany anyone registering. Those registering will be issued with identification, which must be shown if challenged. Consent must be sort form all players being asked. For junior players this must come through he Two Counties before any videoing and photos are completed.
* However, we do not wish to stop parents taking snapshots as mementoes of their children individually or their team. But any team photos or any other shots of other team needs registration and/or permission from other team if on court.

* We advise all visiting clubs obtain parental permission for players to be photographed and this is on the team entry forms.
* Any club not wishing players to be photographed should make the Tournament Organiser aware of this on arrival, and we will do our best to safeguard those players.
* Concerns about photography taking place at our tournament/leagues should be discussed with the Tournament Host/ Referee.

# Code of Conduct for Players

**Conduct**

* Treat team mates, coaches, umpires, volunteers and opponents with respect
* Listen to and make note of what coaches, officials and volunteers tell you
* Umpires are there to enable you to play a fair game according to the Netball Rules, accept their decisions and treat them with respect. If you are unhappy about a decision speak to your Team Captain who will decide next steps.
* No player will take action – Captain will be responsible
* Enjoy yourself, know the rules of Netball and play in the spirit of the game
* Never use bad language or insult opponents, coaches or spectators, otherwise there will be consequences for these action e.g. you may be asked to leave the game/training session. Continued use of bad language/insults will result in disciplinary action by the Club Committee
* Physical or verbal intimidation is not accepted, if any members are found to using this kind of behaviour it will result in disciplinary action by the League Committee
* If you have any issues about playing, coaching, or conduct of any other players whether at training, matches, tournaments etc you must report them to the organiser asap.
* If you have queries about the rules of the game you can either refer to your England Netball Website or see League Rule or speak to the Club Coach or organiser.
* Noise levels off and on court must be kept at an acceptable level.
* All teams not playing on court should stay in changing room until their game or outside of hall.

**Health and Safety**

* The correct footwear and Kit
* Any accident/injury must be reported to the Coach/Manager at the time it happens and the Accident and Emergency Procedures should be followed, including the completion of the form to record details and on umpiring card.
* All medical conditions must be reported to the your club/League prior to being involved in any physical activities
* NO jewellery to be worn at training matches
* Nails must be kept short /and smooth so as not to scratch other players
* Mobile phones must not be kept on the person while taking part in games

**Court Fees,**

* Court fees - Please be aware From 1st Sept 2021 all teams will be expected to pay by bank transfer and in advance of all games.
* Any cancelled games charges will be required to be paid at the end of the League.
* If any players/teams have concerns about their ability to pay please contact the Organiser