

**CROYDON NETBALL LEAGUE
RULES AND REGULATIONS 2017/18**

1. HONORARY OFFICERS

The Honorary Officers shall be: **The Chairman, The Secretary, The Treasurer**
Who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 2.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of:
- a) The Honorary Officers
 - b) Tournament Secretary
 - c) Press Secretary
 - d) Evening League Secretary
 - e) Umpiring Secretary
 - f) One representative for each Division
 - g) Facilities Co-ordinator
 - h) Registration Secretary
- 2.2 The Divisional representatives on the Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting by the clubs present.
- 2.3 The Officers shall fill any vacancies, which may occur.
- 2.4 The Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Executive Committee as and when required. Their terms of reference are to decide on any matters.
- 2.5 A quorum will consist of one more than half the elected Committee to include an Honorary Officer.

3. GENERAL MEETINGS

3.1 THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 3.1.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held within the first two weeks of July. If circumstances prevent this, the Meeting shall be held once every calendar year on a date set by the Executive Committee.
- 3.1.2 Notice of the Annual General Meeting and a copy of the Agenda shall be sent to every Club not less than twenty-one days prior to the date of such meeting.
- 3.1.3 Business to be transacted:
- i) To receive the Annual Reports and Statements of Accounts.
 - ii) To elect Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Tournament, Press, Evening League, Umpiring and Registration Secretaries and Facilities Co-Ordinator.
 - iii) To consider any proposed resolution submitted.
 - iv) To endorse the League Fees for the coming season.
- 3.1.4 No clause of the Rules and Regulations shall be amended and no resolution passed at a previous Annual General Meeting shall be rescinded, unless notice to this effect is given on the Agenda.

3.2 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- 3.2.1 An Extraordinary Annual General Meeting shall be held according to the England Netball Constitution.
- 3.2.2 Representatives of one third of Clubs in membership shall form a quorum.

3.3 VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

- 3.3.1 All matters at an Annual General Meeting shall be decided by a simple majority vote.
- 3.3.2 Only one vote per club.

- 3.3.3 The Chairman shall have (the) casting vote in the case of equality of votes.

4 MEMBERSHIP TO THE LEAGUE

- 4.1 The Croydon Netball League shall be open to all Clubs and all games will be played at our central venue, currently Shirley High School.
- 4.2 Application for membership to the League shall be made in person at the Annual General Meeting prior to the start of the new season. All Clubs entering the Croydon Netball League must provide a (C Award qualified umpire).
- 4.3 The Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse admission to the League any team who in the previous season failed to comply with the rules of the Croydon Netball League.
- 4.4 League entry fees for the season will be decided by the Executive Committee and notified at the AGM. These must be paid before the date of the first League match. Failure to do so may result in the offending Club forfeiting points gained.
- 4.5 Any change in the names and addresses of any Club Secretary (must) be notified immediately to the League and Divisional Secretaries and to all Clubs in their division(s).
- 4.6 All Clubs playing in the Croydon Netball League must be represented at the AGM by one of their Club members. (Elected Executive Committee members are not eligible to represent their Club).
- 4.7 Teams entering the League agree to fulfill their scheduled match commitments in a season. Failure will result in a penalty agreed by the Executive Committee and could (result in) refusal to enter the League the following season. Written appeals will be viewed on an individual basis and must be received within five days after the fourth cancelled game.
- 4.8 Umpires nominated by Clubs must officiate at least 80% of the games throughout the season, otherwise possible point deduction will be given to the relevant team/club.

5 STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

- 5.1 The Croydon Netball League shall consist of as many Divisions as deemed necessary by the number of teams entering the League. Divisions will consist of seven or more teams.
- 5.2 The composition for the Divisions for the coming season will be decided at the Executive Committee meeting held after the AGM. Teams shall be accommodated in the League as and when vacancies arise.
- 5.3 A team finishing bottom of the Premier division will be automatically relegated to Division 1. The team finishing second from bottom in the Premier division will be eligible for a play-off with runner-up from Division 1 to decide entry to the Premier division. Promotion of teams into the Premier division will be determined by the number of spaces available dependent on teams being promoted or relegated from the County League.
- 5.4 The Executive Committee has the discretion to promote two Teams at the top of each Division, with the exception of the Premier Division, to the next highest Division and those finishing at the bottom of each Division will move down. If a vacancy arises in any Division, the Executive Committee may invite teams to play in any Division.
- 5.5 In line with all Leagues in Surrey, any Club/Team who had gained promotion to the County League and entered from Croydon Netball League, have automatic right to return to the Premier Division in the event of demotion from the County League.

6 PLAYERS

- 6.1 Any Player aged 14 years (of age on 1st September) & over is eligible to play in the Croydon Netball League.
- 6.2 All players in Croydon Netball League must be fully paid affiliated members to the England Netball Association through Surrey County and must be paid by every player/umpire prior to the first game played/umpired including the Beginning of Season rally. Affiliation is valid from 1st September of the current year to the 31st August of the following year. Failure to comply invalidates other players and umpire's insurance and will result in exclusion from the League until proof of Affiliation is submitted to the relevant Division and Registration Secretaries. Failure to do so will result in point deduction for the team and possible exclusion from the League.

- 6.3 No Player may play for more than one Club in the League during the season. A player may transfer to another Club providing they formally notify the appropriate Divisional/s and Registration Secretaries seven days in advance (and original Club in writing).
- 6.4 Registration -
- i) All players must be registered prior to playing any League match.
 - ii) All Clubs must submit a full list (with complete names) of all players (to the Registration Secretary) by the agreed date notified. EACH TEAM can only register a maximum of 20 players at any one time through the season. 2 points will be deducted per player if rule 6.4.i is abused.
 - iii) All players participating in the Croydon Netball League must be registered to one team (club).
 - iv) If a team playing in the Croydon Netball League is part of a larger Club, with a team or teams playing in, either the (Regional), County, Surrey, Kingston, Poly or North West Kent Leagues then, the Croydon Netball League team will only be allowed to register a **maximum of 15 eligible players**.
 - v) Where a team plays in a League other than CNL, (REGIONAL/COUNTY/SURREY/NORTH WEST KENT) the following will apply:
Where the club does not have their teams lettered i.e. ABC etc, then it will be assumed that their (RL)/CL/SNL/NWK team is their first selected squad -
 - 1) Teams must provide a selected squad list for the season direct to the Registration Secretary – for all Leagues played in (RL)/CL/SNL/NWK.
 - 2) Any player registered with (RL)/CL/SNL/NWK who might play in a lower squad within their club in Croydon Netball League must adhere to rule 6.6. Playing players down.
 - vi) The Divisional Secretaries will evaluate all comments and note any discrepancies from master schedule and where necessary bring the details to the Executive Committee to be discussed. Points will be deducted if rule 6.4 is believed to be in breach.
 - vii) If a player joins after the start of the season, their name and affiliation number must be logged on the registration form and this must be done prior/at the latest 6 pm on the Friday night prior to the Saturday match and sent to the Registration Secretary with the correct form detailing their name, club and division. They cannot play a match without being registered. Failure to do so will result in point deductions.
 - viii) During the season if you wish to withdraw a player the Registration Secretary must be informed as soon as practicable.
 - ix) If during the course of the season a player wishes to permanently change teams or clubs, both team/clubs need to inform the Registration Secretary for the changes to be made. This must be done prior to playing another Croydon Netball League match.
 - x) After March 1st of each season, new registration will only be issued at the discretion of the Executive Committee and only in extenuating circumstances.
 - xi) All requests for registration to Croydon Netball League must be accompanied with the players EN Personal identification number at time of registration or in any case within one week of registration.
- 6.5 No player may play in more than one Croydon Netball League match on any one day. Only in exceptional circumstances can this take place and only with the opposition and Divisional Secretary's agreement.
- 6.6 A Club having more than one team in the Croydon Netball League cannot interchange more than one player for any match and then only in exceptional circumstances.
- i) A team wishing to play a player down must obtain permission from their (Divisional Secretary and oppositions Captain/Secretary) prior to the match. This decision should be mutually agreed and discussed by all parties. Players playing down must drop to the next highest team for that club.
 - ii) Both teams must contact the Divisional Secretary where if a team is unhappy with the situation an assessment of the available players as per the Registration List will be made.
 - iii) When playing a player down both teams and the Divisional Secretary must be informed and agreement made, then this player must, in the interests of fair play, play out of position completely, ie. defence, attack or centre court positions, so, for example GA cannot play either GA or GS and GK cannot play GK or GD, etc.
 - iv) The Divisional Secretary has the authority to insist on players from the correct

- Registration List being used or insisting the team play with either 5/6 players if they believe the rule is being abused.
- v) In the event that a Club needs to cancel any games due to lack of players, where they have more than one team in the League the lowest placed team(s) matches must be cancelled and any higher division(s) matches must be fulfilled.
- vi) Failure to comply with the above will result in the match being forfeited and points being awarded to the opposition.
- 6.7 In the event of a Club having more than one team in the Croydon Netball League and wishing to withdraw one or more teams, they should refer to the Committee for a decision as to which team should withdraw.
- 6.8 **Pregnant players may take part in match play at their own risk but the League would recommend up to 12 weeks of pregnancy.**
- 6.9 Gloves may be worn by players provided that:-
- i) The gloves conform to the standards set by England Netball, ie leather type with internal seams.
 - ii) On production of a medical certificate covering the appropriate playing season.
- 6.10 Where a Club has more than one team in the League a lower team player may play up 3 times during the season for the higher team(s) and then after her third game either stay as a member of that team with no further movement down from that team for the remainder of that season or return to a lower team after which she is not allowed to move again from that team and play up in any higher team for the rest of the season. The Registration Secretary must be made aware of any permanent changes.
- 6.11 Any League match can be played with 5 players
- 6.12 If a team is viewed upon to be playing over and above the ability in their designated division and the Executive Committee feel that the Club has behaved un-sportingly, they may be asked to withdraw from the League, or have points deducted.
- 6.13 Uniform - appropriate team kit/colours and footwear must be worn by all players. Bibs/position patches must be visible at all times during the game. In the event of a clash of colours, the first name team shall change bibs/position patch colours (as per EN rules).
- 6.14 **Regional Players – teams in Premier Division shall be allowed a maximum of one player who also plays at Regional level. This must be declared on the player registration form, stating the Regional Club.**

7 FIXTURES

- 7.1 All matches must be played on the scheduled date. A match CAN ONLY be postponed prior to the fixture date in the following exceptional circumstances:-
- a) In prevailing extreme bad weather conditions, which are forecast to persist and which would make travelling hazardous and/or a ground unplayable, or
 - b) When teams/players are involved in approved tournaments or in national or regional events, including Surrey Schools fixtures. Such postponements require the prior consent of the Divisional Representative who will consult the Executive Committee if there is any doubt concerning the validity of the alternative event concerned, or
 - c) Any exceptional circumstances not covered by the above can be brought to the Executive Committee's attention for special attention.
- Failure to comply with this rule will result in the cancelling team forfeiting the match and the opposing team being awarded full points plus the forfeiting team having 2 points deducted. Matches (should only) be brought forward due to the above exceptional circumstances with no penalty (and must be actioned through the Divisional Secretary in the first instance). Where a club cancels a match without giving at least seven days notice, the Club cancelling the fixture must pay expenses incurred by the opposition.
- 7.2 When the court(s) is/are deemed unplayable the Home Team/League must advise all teams/umpires of the postponement as soon as possible. The decision relating to playing conditions on arrival or during the game will be made between the Umpires/Captains/League. In the event that they do not agree the game cannot continue and will be played at a mutually convenient time.
- 7.3 All League matches will be played by the agreed date set at the beginning of the season.
- 7.4 All League matches must comply with the official Netball Rules of the England Netball Association. Each Team must have in their possession a copy of the current EN Rules.
- 7.5 All clubs in Croydon Netball League (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 (and could incur a point deduction).

- 7.6 Cancellation of any match due to a fixture in another League on a Croydon Netball League date is not permitted.

8 DURATION OF MATCHES

- 8.1 The game shall consist of 4 quarters of 15 minutes each, with an interval of 3 minutes between the 1st - 2nd and 3rd - 4th quarters. Teams shall change ends each quarter. The half time interval shall be 5 minutes.

- 8.2 Injury/Illness or Blood Stoppage will be in accordance with EN rule 9.3.1 ie 30 seconds from 2017/18 season.

9 UMPIRES

- 9.1 Pregnant umpires may officiate at their own risk but the League would not recommend beyond the 20th weeks of pregnancy.

- 9.2 Neutral Umpires for all divisions will be appointed by the Croydon Netball League from an approved list. Guidelines for the administration of these umpires will be issued to all relevant participants.

- 9.3 In line with England Netball, the minimum qualification required for matches that require qualified umpires is a 'C' Award. In exceptional circumstances the following will be considered.
- i) Any umpire who has attended the 'C' Award course and has applied to take their test, with their permission, can be allocated games under the neutral system in the bottom two divisions.

- 9.4 If an umpire is delayed by a previous match, grace will be given to the start of game they are due to take part in ie umpire/play.

- 9.5 Teams must take the court when requested to do so by the umpires (as per EN rules). The umpires shall notify the teams when there are 30 seconds and 10 seconds remaining prior to
- a) the start of the game; and
 - b) the end of an interval
 - c) at the 10 seconds notification the teams shall move to their playing positions for the start or re-start of play.

10. RESULTS

- 10.1 Results must be sent by BOTH teams separately to the Divisional Secretary to arrive 7 days following the match. Captains must check that Results Slips are fully completed before sending into the Divisional Secretary. Failure to do so, could incur a point deduction to the defaulting team.

- 10.2 Any team failing to inform the Divisional Secretary of the match result by the Saturday following the date of the game shall forfeit two points unless exceptional circumstances are presented to the Executive Committee who may use their discretion to waive this rule.

- 10.3 In the event of a dispute BOTH teams must, after notifying their opposition immediately, submit a full report to their Divisional Secretary for consideration by the Executive Committee.

- 10.4. Teams will be awarded 5 points for a win, 3 for a draw and 2 points for a score which is within 5 points (ie-10-6) of the winning teams score and 1 point for scoring more than 50% (ie-40-21) of the winning teams score. If at the end of the season 2 teams have equal points, positioning will be decided by a play-off. Organisation of play-offs to be arranged by the Executive Committee.

11 DISCIPLINE

- 11.1 If an Umpire or Captain wishes to report any unpleasant behaviour from players during Netball matches, the name(s) of the offender(s) should be sent to the Executive Committee with a full account of the incident. The other Umpire and Captain will be informed and asked to send in their report immediately.

- 11.2 Croydon Netball League can accept no responsibility whatsoever, for injury or personal loss, however sustained suffered by any person(s) attending any event organised by the League.
- 11.3 Each club must sign and agree to abide by the CNL Code of Conduct each season, this applies to everyone involved in the Winter League, Evening League and the Summer League. The Executive Committee will then follow the disciplinary procedure ie letter of warning, point/s deduction, (and possible removal and exclusion) from League.
- 11.4 All matters of discipline will be dealt with as laid down by Rule 14 of the Surrey County Netball Association.
- 11.5 Right to Appeal. A Club or person in question has the right to appeal within the time stated in the adjudication.

12 QUERIES

- 12.1 In the event of any queries or complaints, the Executive Committee's decision shall be final.