Croydon Netball League
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RULES AND REGULATIONS 2025/2026

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/Fundraising Secretary
d) Evening League Secretary
e) Umpiring Secretary/+ Umpiring Support
f) One representative for each Division – Winter League
g) Facilities Co-ordinator
h) Registration Secretary
i) Junior League Representative/s

2.2 The Divisional representatives on the Executive Committee shall be allocated upon final divisional placements after the Annual General Meeting.

2.3 The Officers shall fill any vacancies, which may occur.

2.4 The Chairman 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/Fundraising, Evening League, Umpiring/Umpiring Support and Registration Secretaries, Facilities Co-Ordinator and Junior League representative/s.
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of the Rules and Regulations shall be amended and no resolution passed at a previous Annual General Meeting shall be rescinded, unless notice to this effect is given on the Agenda.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. *LEAGUE REGISTRATION*

4.1 The Croydon Netball League shall be open to all Clubs and all games will be played at our central venue, and if divisions require, an additional venue will also be sourced by the League

4.2 All games will be played according to the INF/EN Rules. Rules will be in line with England Netball competition rules and may be reviewed by the Croydon Netball League Executive Committee as and when required and be operative immediately. Croydon Netball League will have jurisdiction over any matters not covered herein.

4.3. Registration to the League shall be made in person at the Annual General Meeting prior to the start of the new season. All Teams entering the Croydon Netball League must provide ONE qualified umpire per team entered (C Award or above) for teams in Divisions – Prem A to 2 or have attended the C Award course for teams in Divisions 3 to 5.

4.4 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.

4.5 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.

4.6 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).

4.7 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).

4.8 Umpires nominated by Clubs must officiate at least 80% of the games throughout the season, failure of this taking place will compromise their entry for the next season.

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 Prem A division will be automatically relegated to Prem B. The team finishing second from bottom in the Prem A division will be eligible for a play-off with runner-up from Prem B to decide entry to the Prem A. Promotion of teams into the Premier divisions 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 Prem A 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 Prem A division in the event of demotion from the County League.

6. *PLAYERS*

6.1 The CNL is in the female category as per the England Netball Gender Eligibility and Participation Policy September 2025. Eligibility for playing in the League based on gender. Appendix 1. (Refer to Section 7 of the Policy and the table from Section 1 of the England Netball Gender Eligibility and Participation Guidance September 2025.)

6.2 Any Player aged 14 years (of age on 1st September) & over is eligible to play in the Croydon Netball League in current season. 2 points will be deducted per player if this rule is abused.

6.3 All players must be registered to a Croydon Netball League Club.

6.4 Every player must have paid the appropriate membership fees direct to England Netball via Engage prior to the first game played including the Beginning of Season Rally. Membership is valid from 1st September of the current year to the 31st August of the following year. Failure to comply will result in exclusion from the League until proof of Membership is submitted to the relevant Division and Registration Secretaries. Failure to do so will result in a 2 points deduction for the team and possible exclusion from the League.

6.5 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).

6.6 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. Each team to register a minimum of 8 players per squad (to include sub as a scorer).

iii) No CNL Club/Team is permitted to register/play any player who is competing in the PREMIER/REGIONAL/COUNTY/POLY leagues. If this rule is abused, a 2 points deduction will be made

iv) Where a CNL club has a team/teams that play in the PREMIER/REGIONAL/COUNTY/POLY Leagues the Clubs must provide a selected squad list for the season direct to the Registration Secretary.

v) Any registered CNL player can play up for a PREMIER/REGIONAL/COUNTY/POLY team on a maximum of 16 quarters across the whole season. If a player plays for 17 or more quarters, they will be deemed to be a permanent member of that Regional/County/Poly team and not eligible to play in the CNL thereafter for that season in any capacity including the playoffs at the end of that season. The player concerned will now deem the PREMIER/REGIONAL/COUNTY/POLY club to be their Primary Club for the remainder of the season. If this rule is abused, a 2 points deduction will be made.

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 Membership 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 April 1st of each season, no further registrations will be permitted.

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.

6.7 If a player plays twice in one day, communication must be had with the relevant Divisional Secretary and the opposition/s.

6.8 Movement of Players –

i) Where a club with multiple teams competing in CNL, players registered in a higher team MAY NOT compete for a lower team ("playing down"). Due to injury or pregnancy, a player may apply to the CNL Committee to be transferred to a lower team within their club.

ii) In the event that a Club needs to cancel any game/s due to lack of players, where they have more than one team in the League, the relevant/applicable team will have to default the game.

iii) Teams/club in same division to be numbered and no interchange of players.

6.9 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.

6.10 Pregnant players may take part in match play at their own risk but the League would recommend up to 12 weeks of pregnancy. In all cases, England Netball recommends that each individual must seek approval from their doctor. Please note your EN insurance does not cover anything to do with a pregnancy.

6.11 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) Players need to hold a copy of a Medical Certificate to validate the wearing of gloves during match play and EN recommend that they have their own personal liability insurance.

6.12 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.

6.13 Any League match can be played with 5 players

6.14 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.

6.15 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 away team shall change bibs/position patch colours (as per EN rules).

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) 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.

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, plus a payment of £20.00 towards the League.

Matches should only be bought forward due to the above exceptional circumstances with no penalty and must be actioned through the Divisional Secretary in the first instance.

7.2 When the court/s is/are deemed unplayable the League will 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 If a match, once started, has to be stopped due to exceptional circumstances ie severe injury/extraordinary weather, the time left to play and the score at the time of the stoppage must be noted by the umpires. If possible, matches must be restarted and finished in the time available, If the match is unable to continue, the score at the time of the stoppage shall stand as the final score except when less than 30 minutes playing time has been completed. In this case, the match must be rearranged.

7.4 All League matches **MUST** be played by the agreed date set at the beginning of the season. The limit of games cancelled during one season is a maximum of two, and failure to comply could compromise your entry for next season.

7.5 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.

7.6 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 may incur point deduction after second occurrence.

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

7.8 Netball Posts at SHS – each team to put a post away at the end of your game unless another match is due to be played on that court. Should this not happen then a £10.00 charge will be made to the offending team.

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. in line with seeking medical advice. Please note your EN insurance does not cover anything to do with a pregnancy.

9.2 Neutral Umpires for all Winter League divisions will be appointed by the Croydon Netball League from the Club nominated umpires. Guidelines for the administration of these umpires will be issued to all relevant participants.

9.3 The umpire qualifications required for CNL League matches are –

i) 'C' Award qualified and above will be allocated games across ALL Divisions.

ii) New Learners who are actively working towards the 'C' Award and have attended the 'C' Award course and hold a written paper pass, will be mainly on Divisions 3, 4 and 5 and can use the Evening League to gain the relevant experience.

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 i.e. umpire/play.

9.5 Teams must take the court when requested to do so by the umpires. 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 second notification, the teams shall move to their playing positions for the start or re-start of play.

9.6 The Umpire's decision is final and binding – no appeals will be entertained. This is covered in the CNL Code of Conduct.

10. ***RESULTS***

10.1 Results slips must include/list all names of the players competing in the fixture, prior to the start of the match commencing. Captains may check each other's paperwork prior to the start of the match. Should the umpires have had to action any Game Management ensure this has been included on the result slip.

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

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

10.4 The Umpire's decision is final and binding – no appeals will be entertained. This is covered in the CNL Code of Conduct.

10.5 Teams will be awarded 5 points for a win, 3 for a draw and 2 points for a score which is within 5 goals (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 and date to be set at the beginning of the season.

10.6 Results – No team may claim victory by default in any match without first submitting reports to their Divisional Secretary for consideration 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 All game management beyond advancement must be recorded on the results slip, by the umpires. Any repeated disciplinary action could result in Clubs/Teams receiving a penalty. This will be decided by the CNL Committee.

11.3 Each club must sign and agree to abide by the CNL Code of Conduct each season,

11.4 On receipt of a complaint relating to a disciplinary issue, this will be investigated in accordance with the Executive Committee's disciplinary procedure. This can include a letter of warning, point/s deduction, possible removal and exclusion from the League.

11.5 All matters of discipline will be dealt with as laid down by Rule 14 of the Surrey County Netball Association.

11.6 Right to Appeal. A Club or person in question has the right to appeal within the time stated in the adjudication.

12. ***GENERAL***

12.1 Any photography and/or video recording (for coaching, personal and/or educational purposes only) must be approved. Permission from teams and umpires must be obtained prior to the start of the match. Flash photography is not permitted. Such photography and/or video recording may only be posted on closed social media forums.

12.2 All Clubs/Teams, Managers, Coaches and Captains will ensure all participants and spectators involved in the Winter League, Evening League, Summer League and Junior matches are fully conversant with CNL/EN Codes of Conduct and expectations of such Codes.

12.3 CNL adheres and abides to the EN Safeguarding Policy, and requires that all CNL members have a duty of care to safeguard U18's

12.4 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.

12.5 As per rule 6.1 - The Croydon Netball League shall be governed and shall operate in accordance with England Netball policies and procedures including the EN Gender Eligibility and Participation of September 2025. Gender eligibility is referred to in Section 7 of the policy and the table from Section 1 is copied as Appendix 1 at the end of these rules.

13. ***QUERIES***

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

July 2025
cnl/jbr

Appendix 1

Extract from Section 1 (page 4) of the England Netball Gender Eligibility and Participation Guidance September 2025 – Summary table of gender eligibility for playing in the Surrey County League

Below is a summary table to help netball organisers and players understand gender eligibility.

	FEMALE CATEGORY	MALE CATEGORY	MIXED CATEGORY
Female at Birth	Eligible	Not eligible	Eligible
Transgender Woman	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Transgender Male*	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Male at birth	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Non-Binary - Female at birth	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Non-binary - Male at birth	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Transgender & Non-binary players aged 11 & under	The Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy does NOT apply to anyone aged 11 and under on 1 September of the membership year. (largely this will mean all children who are of primary school age). These children can participate in any form of netball in the gender they identify as.		

*If any athlete/player/participant has undergone or is undergoing hormone therapy or treatments that could provide competitive advantage, please refer to the Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy document, clause 7.2.2