

KATH WORRELL JUNIOR NETBALL LEAGUE

CONSTITUTION & RULES

CONSTITUTION

1. The League shall be called "The Kath Worrell Junior League".
2. The League shall be a satellite of the Watford Netball League (WNL) and its committee. See Watford Netball League Constitution and Rules document.
3. **League Fees**
 - a. **The Registration Fee** per team, per annum, will be in line with the approved amount agreed by the WNL committee and must be paid one week before the start of the season.
 - b. Non-payment of the full amount by the due date will result in a penalty of 4 points per game outstanding.
4. **End of Season Meeting (known as the ESM)**
 - a. The Chairman shall conduct the ESM, and if not present, then the President.
 - b. The business of the end of season meeting is to:
 - i. **Receive the Annual Report**
 - ii. **Agree any changes to the Rules.**
 - c. The ESM shall be held within 3 months following the last match session of the season
 - d. The League officers shall have one vote each, unless they are representing a team. Each club will have one vote. In the event of a tie the Chairman has the casting vote.
5. **Start of Season Meeting**
 - a. The Start of Season Meeting shall be held prior to the first proposed fixture.
 - b. One (1) representative from **EACH TEAM** must be present at the meeting. Failure to do so will result in 4 points being deducted.
 - c. The business of the Start of Season Meeting is:
 - d. Confirmation of Entry
 - e. Payment of balance of Registration Fee
 - f. Complete the Club/Team Contact Sheet(s)
 - g. Complete the Team Signature Form, or hand it in on or before the first fixture.
 - h. Provide a copy of the Club's England Netball Club Roster. This enables the league, via the unique player ID number, to check each player is affiliated for the coming season, and their registration type. Alternatively, it can be handed in the first fixture.
 - i. Confirm the Club is registered with England Netball for League administration.
6. **Amendments to the Rules**
 - a. Alterations to the Rules can only be made at an ESM. Any suggested amendments must be sent to the League Secretary **IN WRITING AT LEAST SIX (6) WEEKS BEFORE THE MEETING**. A majority of 2/3 of those present will be necessary to pass any such amendments.

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7. Netball Playing Rules

- a. Games will be played in adherence to the current rules and directives of All England Netball Association (England Netball) and the Hertfordshire County Netball Association (Hertfordshire Netball). All teams must abide by the Constitution and the Rules herein.

8. Discipline

- a. The Kath Worrell Junior League endorses the England Netball Code of Conduct/Disciplinary Policy: www.englandnetball.co.uk/about-england-netball/Netball_Code_of_conduct.
- b. Extracts for reference of the Code of Conduct for players, officials and coaches are on the WNL website - www.watfordnl.co.uk/league-documents.html

9. Duty of Care

- a. The League accepts the principles and core values of the England Netball Duty of Care guidelines: www.englandnetball.co.uk/make-the-game/safeguarding

10. Dissolution of the League

- a. In the event of the dissolution of the League, all monies shall go to Watford Netball League.

11. Equity Policy Statement

- a. This League is committed to ensuring equity is incorporated across all aspects of its development. In doing so it acknowledges and adopts the following Sport England definition of sports equity:
- b. Sports equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognizing inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society.
- c. The League respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their sport, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.
- d. The League is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
- e. All League members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.
- f. The Watford Netball League Officers will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behavior.

12. Child Welfare

- a. Any decisions/judgments made will always be made with the aim to promote the welfare of the children playing and to support them in transitioning to an adult

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netball environment should this wish to do so once they are eligible. It is the responsibility of all Team Managers as well as the League Officers to uphold this aim.

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Date: 8th Sept 2019

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RULES

1. **Facilities for play**

Matches will take place at a central venue on hard courts booked by the League.

2. **Application for next season**

League Registration forms must be returned with the appropriate payment by the date specified.

3. **Divisions**

The number of teams entering the league will dictate the number of teams in a division and the divisions with appropriate age segregation. The Officers will make every attempt to provide a full schedule for all teams and have the discretion to reject applications if the need arises.

4. **Teams**

(a) Clubs may enter 1 or more teams, on the condition no players play down into a team of lower age group. Teams infringing this rule will be penalised by two (2) points per player every time it occurs. A club with more than 1 team must specify 1st, 2nd and subsequent teams. Players may not play down into a lower standard. Teams infringing this rule will be penalised by two (2) points per player every time it occurs.

(b) **Playing up.** Players may play up into the next higher age group. Players may play up into the next standard team or higher age group for up to 12 quarters only in the season. In their 13th quarter that player is then deemed a member of the next higher team, and may no longer play down into the lower team. Infringement of this rule will be penalised by a two (2) point deduction per player on that game.

(c) If the Club has more than two teams in the KWJL this rule will apply to each team individually.

(d) All teams must return their completed Team Signature Form and Club's England Netball Club Roster to the Fixture Secretary at the Start of Season Meeting, or on the first fixture of the season. Failure to do so will result in a four (4) point deduction per team for each fixture it is not submitted. For new players after the first fixture a signature form must be completed and submitted before on they play their first match. Failure to do so will result in a four (4) point deduction per team for each fixture it is not submitted.

(e) All teams must have their players **PRINT** on the back of the scorecard for each game and indicate when a player has `played up`. A penalty of two (2) points per player will be deducted if they do not print their name on the back of the scorecard. This will occur even if the team involved lost the game. For the under 15 division players (if applicable) **must PRINT and SIGN** the scorecard for each game. A penalty of two (2) points per player will be deducted if they do not sign the back of the scorecard.

(f) Any unaffiliated player (see 5 below) will be penalised four (4) points per player.

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5. **Players**

Players must be registered to the Kath Worrell Junior League (see 4(d)) and have full England Netball Club affiliation as required by England Netball for club league competition.

Players registered in any other higher league, are not eligible to play in the League.

Players can only be registered to one Kath Worrell Junior league club, except in (b) below.

(a) Players will be eligible:

(i) If your child is 11 on the 1st Sept they can play in the under 11 division

(ii) If your child is 14 on the 1st Sept they can play in the under 14 division

(b) A player may change clubs within the League once only in any one season providing:

(i) They have agreement of both clubs.

(ii) They notify the League in writing two (2) clear days before playing for their new club.

(iii) They re-register with their new club.

(iv) Two (2) clear League matches elapse between club appearances.

(v) This may not happen for the last three (3) League fixtures of the season.

(vi) In the case of injury, illness or pregnancy, if a player has not played for 3 consecutive matches she may, on production of a medical certificate, play for a team of the same club in a lower division. Cancelled matches are not included in this calculation. The League Secretary must be notified in writing 7 days beforehand. This would also apply to Kath Worrell Junior League clubs who have teams in higher leagues.

(c) Higher league players, are **not allowed to play down** into the Kath Worrell Junior League, except for when Rule 5(b)(vi) applies.

Any infringement of the rules in section 5 (a), (b) or (c) will incur a deduction of two (2) points per player for the offending team every time it occurs. An infringement of the rules in section 5 (d) will incur a deduction of four (4) points per player for the offending team every time it occurs.

(d) **New players** before or on the day of the first fixture must submit their name and signature. Failure to do so will result in four (4) point deduction per player for each fixture that it is not submitted.

They must have full England Netball Club affiliation before they play their first match.

6. **Promotion and demotion (if applicable)**

The bottom 2 teams in the higher division will change with the top 2 teams in the next lower division. In the event of teams withdrawing their place will be automatically filled in the next season by the teams moving up to maintain the required minimum.

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The League Officers reserve the right to alter the two up two down if necessary. In the event of a tie for promotion and demotion places it will be decided by goal difference. If still a tie it will be decided by goal average. Cancelled games will not count in the goal average.

8. Umpires

All umpires must be affiliated to England Netball.

9. Provision of Umpires

No match can take place without 2 umpiring officials - see Rule 10 - and both must be either a qualified umpire or umpire who holds a current Into Officiating Award (IOA). Each team **MUST** provide one non-playing umpire for each match. If the team cannot supply an umpire, the game is **FORFEITED** and the other team records a **WIN**. The game can then be played as a friendly and the scorecard marked accordingly.

If the umpire arrives late, the game is still **FORFEITED** if it has started as a friendly.

10. Qualified umpires

Teams of all divisions must provide an umpire for their game. Their Certificate should be available for inspection at all matches, along with the umpire's current affiliation number. An IOA is valid for 2 years from date of issue. One further IOA can be taken giving a maximum of four years in which time a C Award Assessment has to be undertaken (England Netball insurance ruling). If not taken, the umpire will not be qualified to umpire.

If a team takes the court without an appropriate umpiring official then the game must be forfeited.

Should a team complete a fixture with an umpire who defaults on the above rule they will have four (4) points deducted as well as forfeiting the game.

11. Start of play

All games must start at the appointed time. All matches are started and stopped by the umpires.

Once a team and an umpire are on court, timing for the first quarter will commence. No team may start with less than 5 players and an appropriate umpire – see Rules 9 and 10. If a team is late on court, the team present will then be credited with 1 goal for every complete minute their opponents are late on court. If the opponents have not arrived by the end of the first quarter, they will forfeit the match, with 1 point deducted, as long as some players have arrived. Otherwise it will be deemed a cancelled fixture and a six point penalty will apply. This match will not count when calculating either team's goal difference or defence record. The umpires will note the result on the scorecard.

If after 15 minutes, due to unforeseen circumstances, a team has less than 5 players and an umpire, they will forfeit the game, but have right of appeal to the League Officers regarding the 1 point deduction. This appeal must be recorded by the umpires on the scorecard.

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12. Scoring

4 points for a win; 2 for a draw; 1 to the losing team if the winning team's score is not more than 5 goals above that of the losing team.

There will be 1 point for each quarter one won. There will be no points added if the quarter ends in a draw.

At the season end, in the event of a draw on points, the result for League positions will be decided on goal difference. If still a draw, then goal average will be used.

To ensure there is a reasonable level playing field if a team is ahead in a game by more than 12 goals at the end of a quarter the players must rotate their positions:

GS moves to GA

GA moves to WA

WA moves to C

C moves to WD

WD moves to GD

GD moves to GK

GK moves to GS

The only exception to this is if a player has a disability (permanent or temporary) which would make moving to a different position dangerous for the player or other players. Umpires will be the decider and both umpires must agree for the rule **not to be** enforced.

Any decision made will be in the best interest of avoiding injury and promoting child welfare.

Once the rotation has taken place if the gap closes to 5 or less goals players may be moved back to their normal playing positions at the end of the quarter.

13. Notification of results

It is the **team's responsibility** to ensure the scorecard is correct and:

(a) It shows the correct result,

(b) Players have **SIGNED (under 15s only division only – if applicable) and all PRINTED** their names and any players playing up are indicated,

(c) Umpires have **PRINTED** and signed their names,

(d) If **less than 7 players** take to the court for the duration of a whole game, it should be marked on the Score Card so points for non-signature are not deducted,

(e) It is placed in the receptacle provided by the entrance gate to the courts, at the end of each match. If no receptacle is available the scorecard must be photographed front and back and emailed to the fixtures secretary on the same day of the match.

Any team failing to put their scorecard in the box, or pass it to an Officer of the League on the day of the fixture, will be penalised with a two (2) point deduction regardless of the result.

14. Postponement and Cancellation of matches

Postponements are allowed for:

(a) Extreme weather conditions, in which case the League Secretary will attempt to contact each club secretary, or team captain. If in doubt they can contact the League Secretary.

(b) The League Officers will consider **requests for postponement** of matches in writing to the League Secretary, 4 weeks in advance, and before the last fixture. Postponed games

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should be re-arranged with the agreement of both teams, and played 4 weeks either side of the fixture, and the postponing team will be responsible for arranging the venue and cost.

- (c) If any team, for any reason, should **cancel** 3 or more fixtures throughout the season the Officers of the League will review their application for the following season.
- (d) **Cancelled matches** will incur a penalty of 4 points to the cancelling team if it cannot be replayed in option B above. The cancellation must occur before 9 pm on the Friday prior to the Sunday match. Any cancellation or failure to turn up after this time will incur a penalty of 6 points in total.
- (e) In the event that a fixture is cancelled on the original fixture date by one of the teams in accordance with rule 14(d) above and the fixture is subsequently cancelled by the League, this cancellation will stand and the appropriate penalties applied. The game will not be replayed at a future date.

15. Spectators

All spectators must stand outside of the court perimeter fence. All dogs must be on a lead and no dogs are allowed onto the courts under any circumstance. Team managers can remain on the court edge during play and must remain in one position during the quarters.

16. Complaints

Team managers must make every effort to resolve issues arising on match days. If that is not possible notice of any complaints or dispute should be sent in writing to the League Secretary when an Officers meeting may be called.

17. Appeals

Appeals must be made in writing, signed by a Club official, to the League Secretary. Full details of the reasons for the appeal must be included.

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Summary of Penalties

NOTE: Penalties are applied AFTER any match result has been recorded.

Constitution Description	Offenders Penalty
2. Non-payment of court fees, in part or full	- 4 points per game while fees are outstanding
4. No representation at ESM	- 4 points
5. No representation at Start of Season meeting	- 4 points
6. No representation at EGM	- 4 points
Rule Description	Offenders Penalty
4. Teams (a) Playing down into a lower std or age group (b) Failure to stay up on 13 th quarter (d) Failure to submit signatures on Team registration form and or Failure to submit new player signatures (e) Missing printed and signed signature on score card (f) Unaffiliated player	-2 points per player on that game - 2 points per player on that game - 4 points per team per game - 2 points per game - 4 points per game
5. Players (b) (i) Lack of agreement of both clubs (b) (ii) Failure to notify WNL in writing 2 clear days prior to playing for new club (b) (iii) Failure to re-register with new club (b) (iv) Failure to allow 2 clear WNL matches between club appearances (b) (v) Playing for new club in the last 3 WNL fixtures (b) (vi) Failure to produce a medical certificate, and/or failure to notify League Secretary in writing 7 days beforehand (c) Higher league player except in 5 (f) (d) New players - Failure to submit name and signature	- 2 points on that game for any of these infringements - 4 points per player on each game
10. Inappropriate umpire	- 4 points if game completed and game forfeited or forfeit game if can't be played
11. Late on court	1 goal awarded to team on court for every minute up to a maximum of 15 goals -1 point if match is not played after 15 minutes
13. Notification of results (b) Lack of PRINTED and SIGNED players names (c) Lack of PRINTED and SIGNED umpire names (e) Not received on the day of fixture	- 2 points for any of these infringements
14 (d) Cancelled match (not postponed) or failure to turn up	- 4 points if game cancelled BEFORE 9 PM Friday before fixture - 6 points if after 9 PM on Friday before fixture