# ST. ALBANS & DISTRICT NETBALL LEAGUE

**RULES – 2023/24**

(1) SCHOOL BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

 CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY THE SCHOOL: Please leave the facility clean and tidy and ensure any rubbish goes in the bin. Sandringham School has the right to charge a minimum cleaning bill of £20.00 if the facility is deemed untidy. By commencing the session, you acknowledge that the facility is provided to you in a clean and tidy condition. Please ensure your clients drive and park sensibly when entering and leaving the school site. Please ensure your clients are mindful and respectful of our neighbours and behave in an appropriate and respectful manner. In order to avoid disturbing our neighbours, please do not drop people off in the street near the school. Smoking and vaping are prohibited anywhere in the school grounds, and dogs are not permitted on site. Toilets are available in the Sports Hall building. If this building is not accessible for any reason, toilets in the Pool Building may be used. Use of those in the Drama Studio is not permitted.

(2) MATCHES

To be played in accordance with England Netball Rules, on the dates and times arranged, and must start on time. If a team has 5 players, they must take the court. If an umpire is late, play starts as soon as he/she arrives, but must finish on time. All matches to be completed before the Tournament.

All spectators and non-officials must stand outside the area of the courts.

(3) RESULTS

Teams must put the signed score card in the receptacle provided.

(4) CANCELLATIONS

1. In the event of extreme weather conditions (snow, ice, heavy rain, fog etc.) a decision to cancel will be made by 11.30a.m. latest on match days. Teams will be notified through WhatsApp.
2. Any team wishing to re-arrange should give **written** notice to the Secretary at least **6 weeks** prior to the match, and another mutually suitable date arranged. The team wishing to rearrange will be responsible for providing umpires for both teams on the original date, and will be responsible for all expenses, including those for umpires on the original date.
3. Any team that cancels for any other reason must notify the opposition, the Umpiring Secretary and Chairperson by 5pm on the Friday prior to the match. Umpires will still be needed in line with the league rules, and the team that cancels will be responsible for reimbursing the non-offending team, for any expenses incurred in providing an umpire.

**Penalty for (c) above: the offending team will concede 4 points, forfeit 4 additional points, 20 goals will be added to the total goals scored by the non-offending team.**

1. Where 4 or more players of a team are involved in a National event which clashes with a league fixture, and at least **2** **weeks’ written notice** is given to the Secretary, that team will be given permission to re-arrange. Both teams will be required to provide an umpire on the original date.

(5) ABANDONED GAMES

If a serious injury to a player occurs during a match, causing a stoppage of longer duration than normally allowed, a decision will be made on whether the match continues, the result stand when the match stopped, re-start on another occasion at the point the match stopped or re-scheduled completely. Each match will be considered separately.

(6) UMPIRES

1. All umpires must be registered with England Netball. Proof of qualification must be submitted to the Umpiring Secretary.
2. Teams must provide the league with names and contact details for all their umpires.
3. Each Division 1 team must supply a minimum ‘C’ award umpire when required to do so. Division 2 teams may provide IOA umpires.

**Penalty for not complying with (c) above: 4 points will be deducted.**

1. Teams playing at 1p.m. are required to provide an umpire at 2.30p.m, teams playing at 2.30p.m. are required to provide an umpire at 1p.m. The only exception to this rule is when there is no match before or after a match.
2. It is the umpire’s responsibility to ensure that games start on time, as stated in Rule (2).
3. Teams **must** notify the name of their umpire to the Umpiring Secretary on the Wednesday prior to a match, via email. The Umpiring Secretary will allocate umpires appropriately for each match.

(7) SCORING

 Points will be awarded as follows:-

 4 points for a win

 2 points for a draw

 1 point to the losing team if their score is within 3 goals of the winning team

(8) SCORERS

1. The use of scorers will only be permitted if both umpires wish to use a scorer, i.e. the use of one scorer per game will not be permitted.
2. Scorers should stand and work together, and will call the score after each goal.
3. Scorers must not coach or encourage teams during the match.
4. All scorers should be confident in how to score correctly.

(9) CLUBS & PLAYERS

1. All players must be affiliated to their club and England Netball. Names and signatures of players in each team must be submitted before the first match of the season. During the season, any additional player must be affiliated to the St. Albans Netball League club for which they intend to play, before taking part in a match or tournament. Teams must also submit the name and signature of any additional player before taking part in a match or tournament

**Penalty for not complying: teams will not be eligible to earn any points and will also lose 4 points, until the signature sheet is submitted.**

Teams must register to St. Albans Netball League on ENgage..

1. **All players**, including substitutes and guest players, must **print and sign** their names on the scorecard before it is handed in at the end of a match.
2. Players from clubs with two or more affiliated teams may only play up from a lower team to a higher team, and this may only occur for 12 quarters during a season. On the 13th quarter, that player becomes a member of the team for which she played **on that occasion,** and may not return to **any lower team.** The scorecard must be marked with the number of quarters played up, or it will be assumed that 4 quarters were played. **Note: Players playing up for their own club in accordance with this rule, are not classed as guest players. (See (d) below.**
3. Teams may use guest players from clubs other than their own in St. Albans Netball League a maximum of **12 quarters**. During a match, **only** **2 guest players may be on court at the same time**, and these players must denote their normal team when signing the scorecard and state the number of quarters played Division 1 teams may **only** use players from Division 2 teams. Division 2 teams may **only** use players from Division 2. Guest players may play in any position. **Note: Players used from other local leagues are not classed as guest players, and must be affiliated to the team for which they**

**play in St. Albans Netball League.**

1. A player who has affiliated to any higher league, or who has the intention of affiliating to any higher league, may **not** play in St. Albans Netball League. A player affiliated to a club in St. Albans Netball League may play in a higher league for 12 quarters during the course of any one season. If a player decides to play in a higher league for a 13th quarter, she will not be permitted to take part in any match or tournament in St. Albans Netball League for the remainder of that season.

**Penalty for not complying with (c) (d) and (e) above: the offending team will concede the game, forfeit 4 further points, and 20 goals will be added to the total goals scored by the non-offending team.**

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1. Any team wishing to record a match must seek permission from the opposing team at least 48 hours before the match. Umpires who have been allocated to the match will be asked for their permission before the match starts. Only one person from each team in any match, may record the match.

(10) DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Threatening, violent or abusive behaviour by a player, umpire, club official or spectator will not be tolerated, and will be dealt with by St. Albans Netball League Honorary Officers.

(11) HEALTH & SAFETY

1. Each team must carry a first aid kit, and injuries must be recorded in the accident book.
2. Fingernails must be cut short; taping of nails will not be permitted.
3. Gloves may only be worn if the player has a medical certificate and appropriate insurance cover, both of which must be produced. In this case, the gloves must be a type approved by England Netball. Knee braces must be approved by England Netball.
4. Jewellery is not permitted. The exceptions to this are a wedding band, and flat rings or bracelets worn which are not to be removed for religious and/or cultural reasons. These must be suitably covered with padding/ as necessary to prevent injury to others.
5. Fitbits and similar devices are not permitted.
6. Migraine piercings may be worn but should be covered adequately, and medical proof must be shown. Diabetic patches may be worn but must be covered adequately, and medical proof must be shown.
7. Hair must be suitably tied back. Hats may be worn but must be plain, and without adornments of any kind.
8. Pregnancy– England Netball recommends that a pregnant active Personal Member should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with England Netball guidance. Neither England Netball, nor the registered netball club or league, will be held liable for any pregnant individual participating in recognised and authorised activity should the expectant mother suffer a miscarriage or permanent damage to herself and/or unborn child as a result of participation.  The England Netball Personal Accident cover will not provide any benefit for injury, loss or expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage or any consequence thereof.  For example, if an Insured Person who is pregnant is involved in an accident (not pregnancy related) and suffers a broken leg, then subject to claims validation, England Netball would pay any broken bones benefit, the Hospital Confinement benefit and Temporary Total Disablement benefit due under the Personal Accident Insurance Policy resulting from this injury. However, if the absence or hospital stay is prolonged as a direct result of pregnancy, pregnancy complications or even early childbirth then this would not be covered.

(12) PROMOTION & RELEGATION

The bottom two teams in Division 1 will be demoted to Division 2 and the top two teams in Division 2 will be promoted to Division 1. In special circumstances resulting in a change in the number of teams within St. Albans Netball League, the Honorary Officers will arrange the league structure, number of divisions and consequent promotion and relegation to suit.

(13) NEW TEAMS

New teams affiliating to St. Albans Netball League will automatically enter the lowest division, except for teams being relegated from the Herts League who may be placed in Division 1, subject to a place being available.

(14) ATTENDANCE AT LEAGUE MEETINGS

Any team not represented at a league meeting will lose 2 points from their score unless non-attendance is due to extenuating circumstances. A decision not to deduct points will be at the discretion of the committee. Any club having more than one team playing within St. Albans Netball League must have a representative from each team present at meetings, except in the case of a junior team who may be represented by a member of their other team(s).

(15) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A representative from each existing St. Albans Netball League team must attend the AGM to be assured of a place the following season. If two members of any team attend an AGM, each shall be entitled to vote.

(16) ITEMS NOT COVERED BY THESE RULES

Clubs and players have the right to appeal to the St. Albans Netball League regarding any of these rules. Decisions will be made by the Honorary Officers, and will be final.