

# ST. ALBANS & DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION

## RULES

These rules can be changed at any Association meeting by majority vote.

### (1) MATCHES

To be played on the dates and times arranged by the Secretary. Games must start on time. If a team has 5 players, they must take the court; any team with less than 5 players at the start of the session will forfeit 10 goals. If a team still has less than 5 players at the end of the first quarter, the game is conceded and the team ready to play is awarded the points and 10 goals. If an umpire is late, play starts as soon as he/she arrives, but must finish on time. All matches must be completed before the Tournament.

### (2) RESULTS

Captains of winning teams must put the official score card with signatures in the receptacle provided before leaving the court.

### (3) CANCELLATIONS

- (a) No cancellations are allowed except for (i) extreme weather conditions (snow, ice, fog etc.) by permission of the Secretary or Chairperson, who shall make the decision at 10.30a.m. on the Saturday; (ii) 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 all expenses. The only other exception is as set out in (3)(b). Teams are expected to contact the Secretary or Chairperson if there is any doubt about weather conditions, and the cancelled matches will be re-arranged for suitable dates.

Penalty for non-compliance: Concede 4 points and forfeit 4 additional points.

- (b) 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.
- (c) If an injury to a player occurs during a match, causing a stoppage of a longer duration than that normally allowed, a decision will be made on whether the match should continue, the result stand at the time the match stopped, re-start on another occasion at the point the match stopped or be re-scheduled completely. Each match will be considered separately, taking into account various factors. These will **include** time still remaining to be played and stoppage time.

(4) UMPIRES

- (a) Each Division 1 team must supply a qualified umpire when required to do so. Division 2 teams may provide certificated umpires, but should endeavour to provide a qualified umpire wherever possible. Teams not complying with this rule will lose 4 points
- (b) Teams playing at 1.10p.m. are required to provide an umpire at 2.30p.m., and teams playing at 2.30p.m. are required to provide an umpire at 1.10p.m. ensuring neutral umpires. A team playing at 1.10p.m will be expected to provide an umpire at that time if there is no match on that court at 2.30p.m., and vice versa.
- (c) It is the umpire's responsibility to ensure that games start on time, as stated in Rule (1).
- (d) Teams providing umpires from outside their club must make sure they are not connected with either of the teams involved in the match they are given to umpire.
- (e) An umpire who is pregnant may only umpire matches until she is 20 weeks pregnant.

(5) 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

(6) PLAYERS

- (a) All players must be affiliated to their club. Names and signatures of players in each team must be submitted before the first match of the season. **Penalty for not complying with this rule: teams will not be eligible to earn any points and will also lose 4 points, until the card is submitted.**
- (b) **All players** (including substitutes and guest players) must **print and sign** their names on the score card before it is handed in at the end of a match.
- (c) Players from clubs with two or more affiliated teams may only play up from a lower team to a higher team, and this may occur only for 12 quarters during a season. On the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 score card must be marked with the number of quarters played up, or it will be assumed that 4 quarters were played.

- (d) Teams may use players from other teams a maximum of **3 times**. **Only 2 guest players may be used in any one match**, and these players must denote their normal team when signing the score card. 1<sup>st</sup> Division teams may **only** use players from 2<sup>nd</sup> Division teams and these players are permitted to play in any position. 2<sup>nd</sup> Division teams may **only** use players from this division as follows:-

<b>GS/GA</b>	-	<b>C, WD, GD, GK</b>
<b>WA</b>	-	<b>GS, GD, GK</b>
<b>C</b>	-	<b>GS, GA, GD, GK</b>
<b>WD</b>	-	<b>GK, GA, GS</b>
<b>GK/GD</b>	-	<b>C, WA, GA, GS</b>

**Penalty for not complying with (c) and (d) above: the offending team will forfeit the game and lose 4 further points.**

Any player that has affiliated, or has the intention of affiliating, to any higher league may NOT play in the association.

- (e) Any player that has affiliated, or has the intention of affiliating, to any higher league may NOT play in the Association. An Association player 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 14<sup>th</sup> quarter, she automatically forfeits her membership of the Association for the remainder of that season.
- (f) In the case of serious injury to a player after 1<sup>st</sup> September of that season, special dispensation may be granted by the Honorary Officers for that player to be temporarily replaced, or for the player to regain fitness by playing in a lower team.
- (g) A player who is pregnant may only play until she is 12 weeks pregnant.
- (h) Finger nails must be cut short; taping of nails will not be permitted. Gloves may only be worn if the player has a medical certificate and appropriate insurance cover, both of which must be produced if requested by the umpires.
- (i) If a club withdraws from the Association during the season, players from that club may register with other clubs in the Association after the halfway point in the season.
- (j) Players have the right to appeal to the Association regarding any of these rules.
- (7) PROMOTION & DEMOTION

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 the Association, the Honorary Officers will arrange the league structure, e.g. number of divisions and consequent promotion and demotion to suit.

(8) NEW TEAMS

If any new team affiliates to the Association they will automatically enter the lowest division, except for teams being demoted from the Herts League who will be placed in Division 1, subject to a place being available.

(9) ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Any team not represented at a committee 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 the Association 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).

(10) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A representative from each existing Association 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.

(11) ITEMS NOT COVERED BY THESE RULES

Decisions will be made by the Honorary Officers, and will be final.