

ST. ALBANS & DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION

RULES – 2020/21

(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. 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 non officials must stand outside the area the courts.

NOTE: See Covid Rules attached

(2) RESULTS

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

NOTE: See Covid Rules attached

(3) CANCELLATIONS

- (a) In the event of extreme weather conditions (snow, ice, heavy rain, fog etc.) a decision to cancel will be made at 11.30a.m. on the Saturday. Teams will be notified through WhatsApp.
- (b) 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 on the original date and will be responsible for all expenses, including those for umpires on the original date.
- (c) Any team who cancels for other reasons must notify the opposition, the Umpiring Secretary and Chairperson by 5pm on the Friday prior to the match.

NOTE: See Covid Rules attached

Penalty for not complying with (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.

- (d) 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.

(4) ABANDONED GAMES

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.

(5) UMPIRES

- (a) All umpires must be registered with England Netball. Proof of qualification must be submitted to the Umpiring Secretary.
- (b) Teams must provide the league with names and contact details for all their umpires.
- (c) Each Division 1 team must supply a qualified umpire when required to do so. Division 2 teams may provide certificated umpires. Teams not complying with this rule will lose 4 points
- (d) Teams playing at 1p.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 1p.m. ensuring neutral umpires. Teams highlighted in red must provide an umpire at the time they are playing.
- (e) It is the umpire's responsibility to ensure that games start on time, as stated in Rule (1).
- (f) An umpire who is pregnant will be permitted to umpire, but **will not** be covered by England Netball insurance if the umpire suffers a miscarriage or sustains any injury relating to the pregnancy.

(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 and England Netball. 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 scorecard 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 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.
- (d) Teams may use guest players from other teams in the Association a maximum of **12 quarters**. **Only 2 guest players may be on court at the same time**, and these players must denote their normal team when signing the scorecard. 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.

Penalty for not complying with (c) and (d) 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.

- (e) Any player that has affiliated to any higher league, or who 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 13th quarter, she automatically forfeits her membership of the Association for the remainder of that season.
- (f) A player who is pregnant will be permitted to play, but **will not** be covered by England Netball insurance if the player suffers a miscarriage or sustains any injury relating to the pregnancy.

NOTE: Rule (6) (a) (b) (c) & (d) See Covid Rules attached

(7) COMPLAINTS

Threatening, violent or abusive behaviour by a player, umpire, coach spectator or team will not be tolerated, and will be dealt with by the Association.

(8) HEALTH & SAFETY

- (a) All injuries should be recorded in the accident book.
- (b) Fingernails must be cut short; taping of nails will not be permitted.
- (c) 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 suitable and approved by the umpires.
- (d) Jewellery is not permitted with the exception of a taped wedding band.
- (e) Migraine piercings may be worn but should be covered, and medical proof must be shown.
- (f) Diabetic patches may be worn, but must be covered and medical proof must be shown.

- (g) Hats may be worn as long as there are no bobbles or adornments,
- (h) Hair must be tied back suitably.
- (i) Fitbits and similar devices are not permitted.
- (j) Each team should carry a first aid kit.

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

NOTE: See Covid Rules attached

(10) NEW TEAMS

If any new team affiliates to the Association they 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.

(11) 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).

(12) 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.

(13) ITEMS NOT COVERED BY THESE RULES

Players have the right to appeal to the Association regarding any of these rules. Decisions will be made by the Honorary Officers, and will be final.

COVID 19 ADDENDUM TO THE RULES 2020/21
(ALL OTHER RULES REMAIN THE SAME)

(1) **Reference Rule 1, Matches:**

Matches will be played as 4 x 12 minute quarters until further notice. Under STAGS Rules, no spectators will be allowed on site.

(2) **Reference Rule 2, Results:**

There will not be a receptacle for score cards.

(3) **Reference Rule 3 Cancellations:**

(c) If a team cancels a match for a COVID related reason, they must notify the opposing team, Helen Swain, Diane Graham and Emma Antcliffe as soon as possible.

(4) **Reference Rule 6, Players:**

(a) Names of players to be submitted electronically but not signatures, before the start of season. Names of any new players should be submitted during the season.

(b) Captain to pass score cards to the umpire after filling out match details on the front, and names of players on the reverse side. Players **will not** be required to sign score cards. Umpires are only required to sign their own card. The captain should retain the card at the end of the match, photograph both sides and submit them electronically to Diane Graham. This is to ensure minimum handling of cards. (Scorecards will be given to teams at the beginning of the season.)

(c) and (d) Under England Netball Rules, players may only play in **ONE** match a day for no longer than 60 minutes.

(5) **Reference Rule 9**

There will be no promotion or relegation at the end of the 2020/21 season.

(6) All teams to provide their own sanitisers; the League will provide spares.

(7) Please ensure all **ALL** members of your club are aware of, understand and adhere to England Netball & St. Albans Netball League Covid related matters, including the modified playing rules.