



Cambridge University Netball

College Netball League Rules

1. League Entry and Eligibility

- a. The League Secretary shall determine league entry fees.
- b. Clubs and their players shall agree to the Code of Conduct, available from the CULNC website.
- c. Players shall only play for their own college, unless their college does not have a team or they have prior and recent permission from the League Secretary, in which case they may play for any team. Players may only represent the same college in cuppers as they do in the college league.
- d. First, second, third, etc. teams shall be separate, i.e. no *permanent* first team players may play for the second team. University netball players shall not play for second (or lower) teams. If college has two teams in same league they must name a two separate teams, and no players can represent both teams.

2. The Rules of Netball

- a. Matches shall be played according to England Netball official rules, unless specified otherwise.
- b. Matches shall be played in the spirit of the game. The League Secretary shall decide on matters not covered by these rules, and their decision shall be final.

3. Arrangement of Fixtures

- a. All matches shall be played during or before the week specified in the fixtures, except under exceptional circumstances, for example severe weather. Light rain or having a lack of players shall not generally be considered an exceptional circumstance.
- b. Fixture weeks shall run from Monday to Sunday, with the first week determined by the League Secretary. Matches shall be arranged well in advance, at the latest this shall be on or before the Wednesday of the week of the fixture.
- c. Match venues and times shall be arranged by the home team. A team may concede their home venue advantage and play at the away team's venue at the captains' mutual agreement.
- d. Clubs shall have working email addresses that are checked regularly. Failure to respond promptly to emails may incur penalties (see rule 5(g)).
- e. Matches shall only be rearranged prior to 24 hours before the match with the agreement of both captains, and after this only under exceptional circumstances (see rule 3(a)).
- f. Matches shall only be conceded with a minimum of a 24-hour notice, otherwise penalties may be incurred (see rule 5(g)).
- g. Results shall be sent to the League Secretary by both team captains, via the CULNC website, or alternatively via email, by 6pm on the Sunday of the week of the fixture. Captains should check the score at the end of the match to ensure they agree and will submit the same score.

4. Conduct of matches

- a. Matches shall be two halves of 20 minutes, or by prior agreement may be four quarters of 10 minutes. Half time shall be no more than 5 minutes, and quarter time (if applicable) no more than 3 minutes. The total playing time shall be 40 minutes, except under exceptional circumstances or the captains' mutual agreement.
- b. Teams shall take the court provided they have five or more players.

- c. Each team shall provide a fair, knowledgeable umpire. Where umpires may be a problem, colleges are encouraged to use neutral umpires (contact the League Secretary for guidance).
- d. The game shall start within 15 minutes of the time specified by the home team, even if this means a team playing without 7 players. If a team does not take the court within these 15 minutes then they shall concede the match.

5. Points

- a. +5 points for a win.
- b. +3 points for a draw.
- c. +1 point for losing teams achieving greater than or equal to half of the winner's score.
- d. +2 points for completing all fixtures within allotted time.
- e. Penalty (normally 1 point) for not providing a fair, knowledgeable umpire.
- f. Penalty (normally 5 points) for conceding 3 or more matches.
- g. Penalty (normally 5 points) for breaking any of these League Rules.
- h. The penalties will be at the discretion of the League Secretary, although the League Secretary reserves the right to impose other sanctions, for example fines or expulsion from the League.
- i. To view the League Tables please see relevant Division table on Playwaze.

6. Promotion and Relegation

- a. Teams shall be ordered in each division by points, and in the event of a tie, by goal difference.
- b. If one or more of the teams with tied points was conceded to by another team, then for the purposes of deciding the order of teams in the division, all the goals for and against the conceding team shall be removed from all the other teams.
- c. In the event of a further tie, the League Secretary's decision shall be final.
- d. The top two teams shall be promoted to a higher division.
- e. The bottom two teams shall be relegated to a lower division.
- f. The League Secretary reserves the right to change these conditions, for example to alter division sizes.

7. Mixed Games

- a. Teams shall have at least three members of each sex. If a team cannot provide three members of a particular sex, then they may play provided they abide by rule 4(b), and they have no more than four members of the other sex, leaving playing positions vacant as necessary.
- b. Women-only colleges may use men from any college for their mixed teams.
- c. Normal netball rules shall apply, although leniency may be allowed at the discretion of the umpires.
- d. All members of the team shall be familiar with basic netball rules and abide by them.

8. Conduct of Players and Clubs

- a. Netball is meant to be fun – fighting or abuse (to or from players, spectators or umpires) will not be tolerated. Teams infringing this rule will be dealt with severely under rule 5(g).
- b. Where supporters may be a problem, colleges are encouraged to have the match in a neutral place, i.e. at another college.
- c. The umpire's decision is final. Abuse of the umpires (by players or spectators) is extremely serious. This includes questioning or remarks made about any of the umpires' decisions at any time.

9. Disputes

- a. In the first instance, disputes should be resolved amongst captains.
- b. If this is not possible, formal complaints can be made to the League Secretary within seven days of the match.
- c. Formal complaints will be dealt with under rules 2(b) and 5(g).

10. Changes to the Rules

- a. The League Secretary reserves the right to change or amend these rules as necessary, and shall give notice to all clubs of any changes made.