

Chester Northgate Netball League

Constitution - *Revision: 3.0 July 2024*

1. Name

The name shall be Chester Northgate Netball League (CNL)

2. Administration

Subject to the matters set out below, the league shall be administered and managed in accordance with the Constitution by Members of the Committee.

3. Objectives

The leagues objectives are to play and promote the sport of netball in accordance with the rules of its Governing Body (i.e. FENA, AENA, WNA or other.) It is a non profit making organisation. Upon joining the League, teams shall be bound to complete fixtures arranged by league and to abide by the Constitution rules.

4. Powers

Further to the objectives the committee Officers may exercise a power to take necessary steps and make decisions to achieve any objectives.

5. Team membership and registration

1. Subject to availability, CNL is open to teams who pay their season fees as laid down by the Committee Officers.
2. Payment of league fees will be determined on an annual basis by the committee.
3. Team's wishing to submit entry to the league must attend the AGM, which is held each July.
4. The Committee Officers have the right to terminate any individual or team membership.
5. The Committee does not take any responsibility for any injury sustained by any player / umpire as a consequence of playing in the league. Refer to the section on Affiliations to EN / WNA.

6. The minimum age level to become a member in Div 1 & 2 is school Year 10. The minimum age level to become a member in U18 Div is school Year 9.
7. Each team is responsible for notifying the secretary of any change in contact details.
8. Players may only be registered to play for any one team in the CNNL at any one time per playing season. Where clubs have multiple teams registered with CNNL, players can only be registered with one team within that club at any one time.
9. Clubs with multiple teams must seed their teams at the point of registration on the league entry form. Prior year's league results will also be taken into account.
10. Netball players can only play in one match per week for their registered team; they may not play for other teams within their club within the same week, nor any other team in the CNNL.
11. Clubs with multiple teams may 'loan' their players to other teams within the club. However the following rules apply.
 - a. Clubs are limited to loaning players from their own club up to 5 times per season (This is 5 times for the entire club per season – not 5 teams per player)
 - b. Players can only play up, for a team within their own club in the same division. This will be based on the seeding set out at the start of the season.
 - c. Players cannot play down to a team within the same club in a lower division
 - d. Players can play players up by 1 division for a team within their own club in a higher division.
 - e. For any one match, a maximum of 2 players can play for their own club in a higher division

PENALTY: Where team and membership rules are not met deduction of point's equivalent to a win- 5 points and 30 goals to the opposing team. The offending team will have zero points and zero goals for that match.

6. Player registration

1. To participate in the CNNL you will need to complete a CNNL Player Registration form available via the Google Form.
2. Each team/club must complete a CNNL Player Registration form and provide evidence of their list of players from the WNA or EN Website.. These forms must be submitted prior to the first match of the season.
3. **There is no maximum limit to the number of players that can be registered to the league. A maximum of 5 new players can be registered from after Christmas.**

PENALTY: 1 point – For each week form not received

New and additional players will be required to complete the following:

4. Complete an additional player registration form (available via the Google Form)
5. Download proof of affiliation from WN or EN website
6. No more than 5 **additional players must be added before Christmas**

PENALTY: Deduction of point's equivalent to a win- 5 points and 30 goals to the opposing team. The offending team will have zero points and zero goals for that match.

Players transferring within teams will be required to complete the following:

7. Players are permitted to transfer between teams registered with CNL. Transfers may only take place in the first half of the season, that is, before the first match after the New Year.
8. Players are permitted to transfer between teams within the same club (before the first game of the year of each season.) The onus is on the team/club to follow the transfer process-players shall not move freely between teams within a club.
9. Players must notify the league secretary of a team transfer they wish to make 2 weeks in advance of playing for the new team. Requests should be submitted using the CNL transfer form (available via Google Forms)

PENALTY – Deduction equivalent to a win - 5 points and 30 goals each match.

7. Affiliation to England OR Welsh Netball

1. All members (i.e. players, managers, umpires, coaches) MUST be affiliated to either EN or WN before playing or officiating any match for CNL.
2. Affiliations and Registrations are not the same and both are required in order to be able to play within CNL.
3. Players must affiliate before playing any game in CNL
4. Affiliation details must be provided on the player registration form or additional player registration form The CNL Committee reserves the right to audit player affiliations directly with EN and WNA to verify that players are fully affiliated; that is, affiliation has been applied for and paid
5. All EN registered teams are to ensure that they register specifically on Engage under the CNL.
6. Players must register to the team they are playing in before taking to the court.

PENALTY: deduction of 5 points

8. Match cards and results

1. Match results should be submitted via the Google Form.
2. The following details are to be completed on the form;
 - a. Team Name

- b. Opponent Team name
 - c. Date of match
 - d. Player Names
 - e. Scores For and Against
 - f. Player of Match
 - g. Umpires name
3. Failure to complete match cards correctly or not send them in within 7 days will incur a penalty point (E.G. wrong date, No team name, score entered in wrongly, etc)
 4. Match results will be checked on a regular basis and points & penalties will be applied to fixture tables if a discrepancy is found. Team will be notified.
 5. Each team must provide a scorer. If a team does not provide a scorer, the score must be accepted. If there is not at least one scorer, the umpires will need to score
PENALTY- A deduction of 5 points from the league table will be applied
 6. Matches will consist of 4x 10 minutes quarters, with a straight swap between first and second quarters and third and fourth. There will be a 2 minute interval between second and third quarters.
 - a. Match Scoring
 - b. 5 Points for a win
 - c. 3 points for a draw
 - d. 2 points for losing by one goal
 - e. 1 point for greater than 50% of winning score (E.G. 20-10=0 points / 20-11= point) will be allocated to the losing team.
 7. Cancellations will be accepted in extreme circumstances. A member of the team must contact the league secretary Fixture Secretary as early as possible. Who in turn will contact the opposing team and Umpiring Secretary. If a team has less than 5 players available, they may use other players and the match be classed as a friendly.
 8. It is the responsibility of the team cancelling to forward cancellation fee to the opposing team.
 9. The non offending team will notify the secretary if payment hasn't been received.
 10. Any offending team will have to pay any cancelled fees as well as receiving the deduction of points before being allowed to enter the league at AGM. The non offending team will notify the secretary if payment has not been received.
 11. Teams must be ready to take to court at the set time. All teams must be on court with at least 5 players after 2 mins or the game will be forfeit as per England netball rules.
 12. In the case of a match being abandoned, if 3 quarters or more have been played the current score will remain and be submitted. If less than 3 quarters remain the league will rearrange the fixture.

13. If any one team cancels more than 3 matches within a season, then the league committee reserves the right to review the team's position within the league and decide whether to remove the team for the remainder of the season.

14. Membership of each division will be determined by the league table. The bottom 2 teams going down, the top 2 teams going up. This is with the exception of the U18 League where teams will retain their space in the U18 division.

15. For the U18 division the winning team will be asked whether they wish to be promoted to Div 2 and this will be honoured if space allows. The place will be honoured to the U18 division winner over any waiting list places.

16. Apart from the players on court, the only other people in the hall should be substitutes, officials, scorers, managers and coaches. They must stand to the left of the umpire and where she/he stipulates.

17. All other spectators must spectate from the balcony (at venues with no balcony all spectators must be seated on the benches a reasonable distance away from the court.).

18. Only team captains may approach the umpire with any queries relating to the present match.

19. Matches shall be played as per published schedule fixtures.

20. A Player of the Match accolade will be awarded to each team after each match as nominated by the opposing team.

21. The Divisional winners and Player of the Match for each Division will receive vouchers.

22. Match start times will be 20:30, 21:15 Division 1, 2 and U18, - All players will encourage and value the performance of other members regardless of age, ability, race, gender, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality, or social/economic status.

PENALTY: Deduction of point's equivalent to a win - 5 points and 30 goals

Offending team incurring a cancellation fee payable to opposition. The offending team has one month to pay otherwise a penalty of 1 point will be applied per month

9. Withdrawals during the playing season

1. Teams wishing to withdraw from the league will be liable for any outstanding costs to their opposing teams for the remainder of the season.
2. Teams wishing to withdraw will not automatically be added to the waitlist for the following season. Teams must request addition from the league secretary.

10. Pregnancy

1. Players who are pregnant take advice from EN or WN affiliated body.

11. Committee

1. At the AGM Members shall elect or re-elect from amongst them;
 - a. CHAIRPERSON
 - b. SECRETARY
 - c. TREASURER
 - d. VICE CHAIRPERSON
 - e. FIXTURE SECRETARY
 - f. UMPIRING SECRETARY
2. The Committee shall consist of no less than 3 members, with no more than 4 being the above mentioned officers. Members can be co-opted on the condition that they do not make up more than 1 third of the committee, elected at a special meeting. All members leave the office at the AGM but may be re-elected or re-appointed.
3. The committee shall hold at least 1 ordinary meeting per year. Special Meetings may be called at any time by the Chairperson or any 2 members of the committee.
4. The chairperson shall chair the meetings; if absent, the vice chair or a representative shall be chosen from the committee.
5. There shall be a quorum when at least 3 members are present.
6. Minutes shall be kept. The opportunity to discuss any points will be available at the end of each meeting under A.O.B. as listed on the agenda.
7. The Committee may alter rules for the conduct of their business, but no rule may be made which is inconsistent with the Constitution.
8. The Committee may form a sub committee consisting of 2 or more members of the committee for the purpose of performing duties more conveniently undertaken by a Sub Committee.
9. All members of the league shall be entitled to attend but only one representative from each team shall be entitled to vote.
10. Voting shall be by show of hands except when a ballot of the meeting is before the resolution is put.

12. Receipts, expenditure and accounts

1. Funds shall be paid into an account in the name of CNNL.
2. The Committee shall decide membership fees annually. Teams shall be notified of annual fees and payment dates prior to the commencement of the season. The Committee shall also decide cancellation fees and umpire payments each year with any change to be ratified at the AGM.
3. All payments shall be made by electronic bank transfer.

4. The above mentioned officers shall receive honorary expenses. The amounts reviewed at AGM.
5. Umpires will receive expenses for each match they umpire.
6. The committee shall keep accounts and prepare an annual statement and make available the same for general audit upon request.

13. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

1. The committee shall keep accounts and prepare an annual statement and make available the same for general audit upon request.
2. Shall be no later than July each year.
3. Each team member is entitled to one vote at the AGM called by the committee. Failure to send representation will lead to automatic exclusion from the league for the coming season.
4. Each club must send a representative to the AGM. If a representative is not present at the AGM, their club will automatically be excluded from the league. Teams may request to be added to the waiting list for the following season.
5. For clubs with multiple teams, a representative from each team must be present. If a representative isn't present from each club, then this will be deemed as a no-show and the team will not gain entry to the league .
6. Registration shall take place on the date of the AGM for the following season and the fixture secretary will work alongside the secretary and shall draw up fixtures from this registration and also form the league.
7. The secretary shall give at least 29 days notice for the AGM. All members are entitled to attend and to one vote. (one vote per team.)
8. Reports and Accounts from the Committee are to be submitted at the AGM.
9. Nomination for any Committee Officers positions shall be given in writing (Nomination Form) to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the AGM.
10. Any business for inclusion on the AGM agenda should be put in writing to the secretary with at least 14 days notice.
11. The minutes of the proceeding meeting shall be proposed and seconded at the commencement of the current meeting.

14. Alterations to the constitution

1. Subject to the following provisions, the Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by no less than two thirds of members present and voting at a league AGM called for that purpose. Notice of the resolution setting out the terms of the alteration should be given in writing to the secretary at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

15. Dissolution

1. If found necessary to dissolve the league, a meeting shall be called with 21 days notice by the committee, and assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities should be given to a charity decided by the committee.

16. Communication and discipline

1. As a condition of the membership, at any level within CNNL, all members (Including all players) shall agree to be bound by the rules and regulations and articles of the Constitution.
2. All general communication must be directed in the first instance to the secretary.
3. Complaints or issues must be submitted to the league secretary in writing within 24 hours of the matter/offence arising.
4. Any alleged offence must be submitted in writing to the league secretary. It must consist of the full details of the alleged offence, a copy must be sent by the league secretary to the team involved. All communications regarding any alleged offence must be made in writing via the league secretary.
5. The committee shall be empowered to suspend the membership of any player or team whose conduct is considered to be detrimental to the best interest of the CNNL or its reputation, or who have brought the game into disrepute. The Committee also has the right to deduct points or goals as appropriate. At the request of the Chairperson the Committee may form a panel to take disciplinary action against any player or team. If appropriate, the Chairperson may take preventative or precautionary action in advance of a disciplinary panel; such action should be preceded by consultation with and the agreement of at least two voting members of the committee.
6. A date shall be fixed, within 28 days of the receipt by the league secretary of a written request for a hearing; written confirmation of the date of the hearing, and details of the allegations, shall be forwarded to all parties concerned.
7. The subject of a hearing may produce witnesses, or evidence to substantiate their defence. The committee shall not unreasonably refuse any request by the subject for adjournment of the proceedings, to enable them to prepare their answer. After hearing all of the evidence the Committee shall retire to consider further action, and shall thereafter vote thereon, such decision being conveyed to the subject of the hearing and those bringing the allegation.

17. Right to appeal

1. Any registered and affiliated member of the CNNL has the right to appeal a decision of the Committee in writing and sent to league secretary within 7 days of the decision prompting appeal.
2. The appeal hearing will include the following; The CNNL Committee representatives, the team representative or member concerned and non participating minute taker.
3. The appeal board decision is final.
4. Any appeals must be made in writing and accompanied by a £5 payment at time of appeal. Team/Club/Player requesting the appeal must also fund the venue.

18. Injuries

1. Injury time 30 seconds per EN rules
2. Minor injuries will be dealt with as quickly and humanly as possible and the injured player must decide whether to continue playing or leave the court
3. Major injuries (Back, head, fracture) if medical attention is required and the player cannot be moved, the umpire will decide that the match will be abandoned and replayed another time.
4. However, if the match has lasted for 20 minutes or more when the injury occurs, the score at that time will stand and the match will not be replayed. The safety of the player is always more important than the game.

19. Umpires

1. Umpires will be provided by the league.
2. The decision of the umpire is final and is given without appeal.
3. As a minimum, umpires must be qualified at C level to officiate on any game in all divisions.
4. At the discretion of the Committee, any non-qualified umpire may be permitted to officiate a league match but must have a mentor present.
5. Mentors must be recognised by the CNNL Committee. Mentors will not be paid.
6. The umpire is paid by bank transfer monthly as arranged by the CNNL Treasurer. To facilitate correct payments, any umpire who cannot officiate at designated matches as per league fixtures must notify the CNNL Treasurer prior to the match date. The CNNL treasurer will then redirect payments.
7. If an Umpire is unable to officiate, then they must contact the umpiring secretary who will seek an alternative.
8. Scoreboards will be provided and used by team scorer when available.

20. Dress code and safety

1. All teams must wear the same colour match kit on court, this is deemed the responsibility of each team. One warning will be given any reoccurrence will mean the issue of a penalty point each time
2. All players must wear a bib with initials clearly indicating their position of play front and back.
3. Players must not take to the court wearing jewellery other than a taped up ring.
4. Hair accessories, which in the opinion of the umpire which could cause injury to another player, must be removed prior to play.
5. Fingernails must not protrude beyond fingertips, nor must they be sufficiently sharp to cause injury to other players and will be examined and approved by the umpire before match.
6. For safety reasons appropriate sports trainers must be worn. Laces must be tied.

PENALTY- If an umpire considers any of the above rules have been contravened players will not be permitted to take to the court until the issue has been resolved to the umpire's satisfaction.

21. Child and young person protection policy

1. The child protection policy is put in place to ensure adequate measures to protect CNL members between the ages of 14 -18 years of age.
2. CNL recognises that the welfare of the child/young adult person is paramount. All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm and abuse.
3. Working in partnership with child/ young person, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.
4. CNL will seek to keep child/young people safe. Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
5. Adopting child protection practises through procedures and a code of conduct for all members of the CNL.
6. Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.
7. Sharing concerns with agencies that need to know, and involving parents and young people appropriately.
8. Any CNL member suspecting child/young person abuse must call the NSPCC's Helpline