CONSTITUTION AND LEAGUE RULES

2026-27
BNL RULES

BIRMINGHAM NETBALL LEAGUE

(www.birmingham-netball.co.uk)

And facebook

LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

1. The League shall be called "The Birmingham Netball League" herein after referred to as BNL. All playing courts must be within the Birmingham City boundary.

2. The objectives of the BNL shall be;
   a) To promote and encourage the game of netball.
   b) To foster and encourage sportsmanship between all clubs.
   c) To raise the standard of play, umpiring and coaching.
   d) Membership of the BNL shall be open, and not unreasonably restricted on the grounds of sex, race or of political, religious or other opinions to any person in the area prepared to accept and support the objectives of the BNL. No club member, participant, volunteer or official will receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of gender, marital status, social class, colour, race, ethnic origin, creed or disability, or will be disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be relevant to their participation in the BNL.

3. The BNL Committee may confer Honorary Life Membership on any member whom they consider to have consistently given faithfully service to the BNL.

4. An Annual General Meeting shall be held at the close of each Season and no later than 30th June. Each registered Club representative (voting member) has one vote. A quorum for the meeting shall be a minimum of 50% of voting members. All members must for represented at the AGM or may result in refusal of entry to the BNL

4a. Business to be transacted at the AGM shall be:
- To approve the minutes of the previous year's AGM
- To receive an Annual Report summary of the League for the last Season and any new items for the forthcoming season
- To review and approve the Financial Statement of Accounts
- To elect Members of the BNL as appropriate.
- Consider any proposed amendments to the Constitution or Rules by the BNL or any voting member.

5. A Committee of up to 12 members shall govern the BNL and be referred to as the BNLC. From this Committee, a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be appointed at their Committee meeting, such Chairperson AND vice Chairperson having given at least twelve months service on the Committee. One third of the BNLC shall resign annually in order of seniority of service but shall be eligible for re-election. In the event of a casual vacancy the BNL may appoint another eligible person to act until the next AGM. Committee members are expected to attend a minimum of 4 meetings per season.

6. **FINANCES:**
   a. All monies generated by or on behalf of the BNL shall be applied towards the objectives of the League and for no other purpose.
   b. All League monies will be banked in a bank account held in the name of the BNL. The Club Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the League however at least 1 other Committee member shall approve each payment.
   c. The financial year of the League is 30/05/YEAR
   d. An annual financial statement shall be presented by the Treasurer at each AGM.

7. The BNLC shall deal with all matters not governed by the Constitution and League Rules.

8. The BNLC shall place teams in divisions appropriate to their standard of play whenever possible.

9. Each division shall consist of eight teams wherever possible.

10. The BNLC shall have power to refuse admittance, suspend, or expel any club, team or individual whose conduct they consider to be detrimental to the objectives of the BNL as stated in No. 2 above.

11. The BNL Constitution and Rules may in no way be altered unless approved by an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting of which fourteen days notice has been given of the intention.

12. Notice of AGM -
The BNL shall decide on the date of the AGM and notification will be circulated in writing to all voting members not less than 28 days in advance of the meeting. All nominations and proposal for elections or changes to the Constitution or Rules shall be received by the BNLC by date specified on the 'request for proposals', which shall be at least 14 days prior to the AGM. Formal Notice of the AGM shall be circulated not less than 10 days before the AGM with full AGM details - time, date, location and the Agenda. This can be virtual or a physical meeting.

= fines and / or point deduction

Part 1	**GENERAL RULES ALL TEAMS**
1 a	All matches shall be governed by the current rules of EN and the by-rules of the BNL as detailed herewith.
b	League matches shall be of a duration of 60 minutes (4 quarters of 15 minutes). Intervals of 3 minutes between the first-second and third-fourth quarters and an interval of 5 minutes at half time. EN Rules 2.1
c	Points shall be awarded for League games as follows: Win - 5 points Draw - 3 points Loss (within 5 eg: 45-50) - 2 points Loss (half or over eg: 20-40) - 1 point Loss (under half eg: 19-40) – 0 points
d	There will be annual fee of £15 per team (unlimited registrations) Entry fee and any outstanding payments from the previous season must be paid with the application form or that team will not be allowed to enter the League. An admin charge of **£10** will be added for any unpaid amounts.
e	All new CLUBS to send a holding cheque of £10.00 each, which will be banked and returned at the end of the current season. Teams dropping out of the league during the season will automatically forfeit the holding fee.
f	The divisional composition of BNL including which divisions are in Central Venue CV dates, venues and times of fixtures will be provided on an annual basis before the start of the season. Teams / Clubs are required to fulfil these fixtures as set by the League, and not default on matches – refer to rule 5f (conceded matches)
g	CENTRAL VENUE Teams will provide a representative to support the committee during the season and will be shown on the CV fixtures to help manage the Central Venue. The representative should arrive at least 15 minutes before the match start time. *Failure to provide a representative will* ***result in a £15*** *fine.*
Part 2	PLAYER REGISTRATION ALL TEAMS
2 a	All players must be registered to the BNL and affiliated to EN at the time they play for that team. All CLUBS must register each team, link these to the BNL on Engage and provide printed copies (as per example 1) of the Team affiliations and the BNL registration form (as example 2) to the appropriate Divisional Registration Secretary or CV Committee. If a new player is added or is transferred from a lower Club team (eg: after play ups) they must be moved to the new team on Engage, the BNLC advised and an updated affiliation sheet provided to the relevant registration secretary. The playing of an unregistered or unaffiliated player equals an automatic 2 points deduction and £10 fine. The BNLC have the right to query any player.
b	All players must be in school year 9 (i.e. 13/14 years) or older on the date of the match.
c	Each team must register squad of players (min 7 – max unlimited) at the beginning of the season, prior to the first fixture weekend, who WILL ALL play in the BNL during the season. Any Clubs registering players who will not play in the BNL (ie: affiliated players who participate in other Leagues only) will be refused entry to the BNL in subsequent seasons. The Club (and all their teams impacted) will be fined £25 per team & liable to points deductions of 5 points per team.
d	No player must be registered for more than one club or team simultaneously

	CENTRAL VENUE	**NON CENTRAL VENUE**
f	Player Registrations may be altered during the season by completing the player transfer form at the CV desk. The player leaving club and receiving club will be jointly notified **in writing at least 7 days before the next BNL match the leaving player is due to play**	Any player wishing to leave a club must inform that club in writing with the leaving date and copy to the Higher Divisions (HD) Secretary and the receiving team in writing **at least 7 days before the next BNL match the leaving player is due to play**.. The HD secretary will confirm the position to all parties
Part 3	**PLAYER REGISTRATIONS RELATING TO SUPER LEAGUE / REGIONAL / PREMIER PLAYERS**	
	Registration within the BNL	
a	Regional Players MUST NOT play in teams below division 3 of the BNL; excluding U19's who may play in any higher divisions (1-9) – they may not play division 10 or below.	
b	Clubs with Regional Teams must name and submit 7 **REGIONAL ONLY** players (including any U19's who are in the lead 7 squad) who **cannot** play in the BNL (we will then verify these with the Regional Secretary)	
c	Div 1-3 Clubs *with or without* Regional Teams may field any number of players registered to Regional in their squads (excluding the named 7 of rule 3b)	
d	In case of serious injury to the named 7, Clubs may petition the BNLC for that players inclusion in the BNL (div 1-3) for rehabilitation.	
e	Senior (over 19 level) players in Prem or Super League MAY NOT play in the BNL at all. Regular BNL players *may* be permitted to support Prem (not Super League) Teams in extreme circumstances – Teams must petition BNL Chair in this instance.	
Part 4	**PLAYER PROMOTIONS AND DEMOTIONS ALL TEAMS**	
a	A player who is registered in a higher team and has played as a higher team member cannot be demoted to a lower team in their club after the beginning of the 2nd half of the season without written prior consent. Requests must be made to the HD Secretary for Division 1 to 3 or CV league administrator.	
b	No player who is demoted to a lower team in her club may return to a higher team during the remainder of the season.	
c	A player for a lower team in a club may play in a higher team for a maximum of three times per higher team. Upon playing a 4th time for a team, that player will be permanently transferred to that team. Once this promotion has taken place, she may not be demoted for the remainder of the season. **Any player found to be playing in a lower team following promotion and with no approval to do so will result in a £10 fine & -2 points deduction from the lower team.**	

Part 5	**ARRANGING THE MATCH**	
	CENTRAL VENUE	**NON CENTRAL VENUE**
a	All games will be held at an agreed central venue with prearranged match times.	Matches ARE TO BE arranged from 10.00am onwards on FIXTURE Saturdays unless mutually agreed by both teams to play at a date earlier, or on the Sunday of the fixture weekend. Once a match has been rearranged and a date and time agreed, then the match must take place as arranged.
b *new* £	Teams may ONLY request to re-arrange with a minimum of 2 weeks prior consent from the BNLC and with a valid reason. Teams are **not** permitted to privately re-arrange, and then inform the BNL of their arrangements – this will be considered to be defaulting on League Fixtures, as set according to 5a, and both teams will be liable for a fine.	If there is a request for further alteration then the date and time may only be changed if both teams agree. If they cannot agree then the last mutually agreed date and time must stand. This agreement must be confirmed in writing to the HD Secretary by both teams. If a match cannot be arranged then the original fixture date must be observed.
c		The "HOME" team must give to the "AWAY" team details and directions to their home ground, their colours and the start time of the match, at least **FOURTEEN** days before the match.
d	Teams affected by two or more named players selected for International, Regional or National School's commitments, which coincide with fixtures, must inform the HD Secretary for Div 1 to 3 or the Umpire Secretary for CV at least three weeks before the date of the league match together with the individual players affected. This match must then be played on the Sunday of the same weekend or mutually agreed date and time.	
e £ P	All conceded matches will incur a 5-point deduction plus costs incurred payable to the BNL. In addition 10 goals will be awarded to the **non-offending** team in order not to penalise them in terms of goal difference. A game is conceded if the team fails to turn up.	
	For CV matches, the BNL will refund any pre-paid court costs to the non-offending team, and depending on the time of conceding. Where there has not been time to cancel them, the BNL will reimburse the Umpires allocated to the match. Conceding Teams will be fined on a variable scale depending when they concede, to cover court costs, any umpire costs and admin costs.	For Non-CV matches, the BNL will refund up to £50 to the non-offending team to cover court costs; both Umpires (if not enough notice to cancel both) should be paid by the Conceding Team. Conceding Teams will be fined £65 to cover the £50 refund along with admin costs
f	If a team concedes 3 games during the season they will be withdrawn from the League, and may be excluded from future seasons	
Part 6	**WEATHER CONDITIONS AFFECTING PLAY**	
a	**CENTRAL VENUE**	**NON CENTRAL VENUE**
	No match shall be postponed except for the state of the ground or adverse weather conditions. Decisions in such cases must be made by the Centre Managers of the central venue, the BNLC and the officiating	No match shall be postponed except for the state of the ground or adverse weather conditions. Decisions in such cases must be made by the Centre Managers of the facilities being used and the officiating

	umpires.	umpires.
b	Teams will be informed when a ground is unplayable by a BNLC member.	When the ground is unplayable, for example after a heavy snowfall, the home team may recommend to the umpires that the match be postponed. The Away team must be informed as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary travelling.
c	When a match is thus postponed the teams will be notified of the alternative fixture date by the League Secretary	When a match is postponed, the match must be played as soon as possible. The Home team must inform the HD Secretary immediately of the postponement and notified of the agreed new date in writing.
d	Where Teams are asked to privately re-arrange cancelled CV matches the procedure is as follows:	
i)	Request opponent contact details from League or contact through Social media	
ii)	Arrange a mutually agreeable time, date & venue, within 6 weeks, or before end of season, whichever is the sooner. If we are required to cancel the last season date, matches should be played within the following 2 weeks.	
iii)	Court can be indoor or outdoor – please advise your opposition so they can dress appropriately	
iv)	Both Teams to provide an Umpire – contact League if need support in sourcing Umpires – preferably neutral, Club Umpires may be used with prior League authorisation & opposition approval	
v)	Request a matchcard from the Committee at CV hut	
vi)	Match times to be 1 hour – four, 15 minute quarters	
vii)	BNL will refund £15 court costs to both Teams, the visiting team should give this to the Club who arranged the venue, along with 50% of any remaining costs. ie: Court costs should be shared, one team is not more liable for costs. If the Venue is a pre-paid training night, the 'visiting' team should reimburse their BNL £15 to their hosts	
viii)	After the match, the completed match card should be handed in to BNLC at CV	

	desk at your next Saturday match	
Part 7	**PLAYING THE MATCH**	
a £	All players on court must play in the consistent agreed team colours on each match day as indicated at the start of the season on your League Registration form. Failure to do so may result in a £2 fine for the team, per incorrectly attired player; repeat offenders may also receive additional points deductions.	
b	Players will have the nails and jewelry check by the officiating umpires	
c £ P	It is the responsibility of both teams to PRINT all players first & surnames clearly and legibly on the match card, clearly marking any players who are 'playing up' (PU) from a lower team or who are 'permanently transferring' (PT) from a lower team. The card will then be retained by the umpire until the end of the game, so they can record the scores. Any unused players should be crossed off. Match cards will no longer be used to record '*exceptional* sportsmanship' in matches. BNL reserve the right to make spot checks that players listed match those present. (Fine & points) Please refer to example 3 for an 'edited' matchcard	
d	Teams should arrive at least fifteen minutes before the arranged start of play.	
e P £	**CENTRAL VENUE** If any team is not on court, with a minimum of five players at the arranged time, they will forfeit the game. The forfeiting team will receive a 5 point deduction and the opposition awarded 5 points and 10 goals. The offending team will also be asked to pay the cost of the court hire and umpire fees to be paid to the committee who will then reimburse the non-offending team.	**NON CENTRAL VENUE** The game shall start at the agreed time. However, up to five minutes from the agreed time is allowed for the late arrival of players. After 5 minutes the game must be started. The forfeiting team will receive a 5 point deduction and the opposition awarded 5 points and 10 goals. The offending team will also be asked to pay the cost of the court hire and umpire fees to the non-offending team.
f	At the *start* of the game: **Teams will reimburse the Umpires with their expenses, and the Captain or Treasurer will sign the Umpires scorecard to confirm payment has been made.** At the end of the game the umpires will confer, complete the match result card with the relevant score and will hand it to the teams so the Captains can cross off any unused players, record the Player of the Match and return the card to the BNLC at the Committee hut. Umpires will record any incidences of exceptional play on their score card, or incidences of game management being required, and hand the score card into the BNLC hut.	At the end of the game the match result card must be **sent electronically** by the home team and be received by League administrator within **two days** of the date of the match. Failure to **send** card **on time / or** an incomplete card may result in fine or loss of points. new £ P
g £	No player or team will leave the court before the official end of a match without prior consent from the umpires and discussion with team captains (e.g. due to safety concerns). A team who does not fulfil this commitment will be fined £75. Following a review of any such incident the team may not be able to continue playing in the BNL for the rest of that Season.	

Part 8	**INJURIES DURING PLAY**	
	CENTRAL VENUE	**NON CENTRAL VENUE**
a	Stoppage time for an injury will not be added on at the end of a game.	EN stoppage Rule 9 applies. *(amended)*
b	Teams should ensure that first aid equipment is available as players must immediately cover an injury involving an open wound / blood. Substitutes may immediately take to the court and players may change positions providing there is no delay in play.	Teams should ensure that first aid equipment is available as players must immediately cover an injury involving an open wound / blood.
c	An umpire may request that a player leaves the court until the injury has been properly dealt with, however, where possible, because of the no stoppage time rule players should be allowed to cover an injury without the player leaving the court.	
d	In the event of an injury of a serious nature (e.g. the injured player may not be moved) that umpire must use their own time device to add on extra time *if feasible*. If this would overlap with the next round, or exceed the BNL exit time, the game must be stopped. The BNL Chair will give ruling on match outcome, subject to score, time remaining etc.	

Part 9	**UMPIRES**
a	All Umpires must hold at least an EN Into Officiating Umpiring Award. **Umpires for division 1 to 2** MUST hold a minimum of an EN C Award, Divisions 3-4 at the discretion of the BNL Umpiring Secretary.
a (i) new	Prior to the start of the BNL season, all umpires must show written proof of their current affiliation to the BNL umpiring team in order to officiate in the League. Until proof is submitted, they will not be allowed to participate.
b	All Umpires to attend a County Umpires Forum each season to continue Umpiring in the BNL, forming part of their ongoing CPD. 2 or 3 dates will be offered annually by BNA (Birmingham Netball Association)
c	Umpires shall be reimbursed for travel expenses the amount of which shall be set at each AGM to apply for the following season. The amount set for this coming season is £20.

	CENTRAL VENUE	**NON CENTRAL VENUE**
d	Umpires must notify the Committee Umpiring Team of their availability each week, who will then allocate timeslots according to weekly needs of league. Central Venue games will be umpired by a neutral umpire	Both teams shall provide a qualified umpire for each match. Teams must only use the approved list of umpires for divisions outside of CV (1, 2, & 3 if out of CV) and the Umpire *must* be neutral. It is important to adhere to this policy to ensure the quality of the umpiring standard on these games, and the impartiality. Teams found using umpires not on the list may be subject to a fine (£5, increasing to £10 for repeat offences)
d (i)		Teams should submit their named umpire to the BNL Umpiring Lead a minimum of 5 days before matchday. If your nominated umpires is unable to fulfil the commitment (eg due to illness) any nominated replacement MUST be approved by the BNL Umpiring Lead or BNL Chair in advance of the match.
e		If an umpire fails to attend, the match may continue with one umpire's agreement to officiate on his/her own. Indication should be made on the match card that the match was umpired by one person only, and **both teams** should reimburse that person with their £20 expenses (ie: £40.00)
f		If the umpire is not in agreement to officiate the game then the match will be re-arranged to suit the non-defaulting team (the team with an umpire) the resulting cost of the re-arranged match will be met by the defaulting team.

APPENDIX TEMPLATES

- ✓ **TEAM ENGAGE PAGE FORMAT**
- ✓ **REGISTRATION FORMS**
- ✓ **MATCH CARDS**

EXAMPLE 1 – Engage team sheet (redacted for GDPR only – please submit with full details showing!)

Sparkhill Legends

Team Type: Senior Team Gender: Female Min Age: 0 Max Age: 100

ENA ID	First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth	Age	Age at start of season	Gender	Date Added to Team	EN Member	Player	Club Primary County
626317	Shelley	A[redacted]	13/01/1980	42	42	Female	01/09/2022	Yes	Yes	Birmingham
180241	Nicola	D[redacted]	11/01/1970	52	52	Female	01/09/2022	Yes	Yes	Birmingham
72568	Vicki	H[redacted]	31/12/1972	49	49	Female	01/09/2022	Yes	Yes	Birmingham
3090977	Mary	H[redacted]	17/12/1976	45	45	Female	01/09/2022	Yes	Yes	Birmingham
3114452	Louise	H[redacted]	06/11/1969	52	52	Female	01/09/2022	Yes	Yes	Birmingham
2983709	Taflyn	M[redacted]	06/10/1976	45	45	Female	03/09/2022	Yes	Yes	Birmingham
212845	Nina	R[redacted]	04/03/1978	44	44	Female	01/09/2022	Yes	Yes	Birmingham
3090755	Catherine	P[redacted]	14/09/1978	44	43	Female	01/09/2022	Yes	Yes	Birmingham
3060831	Fatema	S[redacted]	02/04/1981	41	41	Female	01/09/2022	Yes	Yes	Birmingham

EXAMPLE 2 – BNL Reg sheet

BIRMINGHAM NETBALL LEAGUE
Divisions 4-15

PLAYER REGISTRATION FORM 2024-2025

Committee use only:

Players Name (Prior surname if changed)	**EN Affiliation No**	**School Year** (U16's only)	Record of playing up for higher teams

MINIMUM 7 PLAYER REGISTRATIONS (no upper limit)

Email to: bhamnetball@hotmail.com or by hand to BNL Committee Member (ie: hand in 1st week at Central Venue)

Before paying first match – affiliations must be verified against this registration document by the Committee
SEND A COPY OF YOUR TEAM ENGAGE PAGE WITH THIS DOCUMENT – thank you

TEAM NAME: _____ DIVISION: _____ EN Club Affiliation No: _____

EXAMPLE 3 – Matchcard

Division _____ Date_____ Start Time_____ Court_____

HOME TEAM

PLAYERS' NAMES (print)	Playing up: Team / Division
G.S.....	.....
G.A.....	.....
W.A.....	.....
C.....	.....
W.D.....	.....
G.D.....	.....
G.K.....	.....
Substitutes.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
Captain Name.....	**Umpire Name(Print)**.....
Player of Match.....	**EN No** ..... **Qualification** .....

SCORES

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final	**Signature:**