

CONSTITUTION AND LEAGUE  
RULES

2019-20  
BNL RULES



BIRMINGHAM NETBALL LEAGUE

[www.birmingham-netball.co.uk](http://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 paying 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 at which the BNL Committee shall be elected. Each club must be represented at the Annual General Meeting. Failure to be represented at the AGM may result in admittance to the BNL being refused. Each registered team has one vote.
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. The BNLC shall deal with all matters not governed by the Constitution and League Rules.
7. The BNLC shall place teams in divisions appropriate to their standard of play whenever possible.
8. Each division shall consist of eight teams wherever possible.
9. 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.
10. 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.









= fines and / or point deduction

| <u>Part 1</u>   | <u>GENERAL RULES ALL TEAMS</u>  |  |
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| 1 a   | All matches shall be governed by the current rules of the AENA  |  |
| 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.<br>AENA Rules 2.1  |  |
| c   | Points shall be awarded for League games as follows:<br>5 points for a win<br>3 points for a draw<br>2 points if within 5 goals of winners score (W-L = 5 or less)<br>1 point for 50% or more of winners score.   |  |
| d   | There will be an annual fee of £20.00 for the first 7 players in a team after which, £2 per additional registration. Entry fee and any outstanding payments from the previous season must be with the application form or that team will not be allowed to enter the League.<br> <i>An admin charge of £10 will be added for any unpaid amounts</i>  |  |
| e   | All new teams 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.   |  |
| g   | <u>CENTRAL VENUE</u>  |  |
|   | 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.<br>The representative should arrive at least 15 minutes before the match start time.<br><i>Failure to provide a representative will result in a £15 fine.</i>   |  |
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| <u>Part 2</u>   | <u>PLAYER REGISTRATION ALL TEAMS</u>  |  |
| 2 a   | All players must be registered to the BNL and affiliated to the AENA at the time they play for that team. <b>All players must provide written or electronic proof of affiliation to the appropriate Divisional Secretary or CV Committee.</b><br><br> The playing of an unregistered player equals an automatic 2 points deduction and £10 fine<br>The BNLC have the right to query any player.   |  |
| b   | All players must be in school year 10 (i.e. 14/15 years) or older on the date of the match.   |  |
| b (i)   | Maximum two <i>Exceptional</i> Year 9's (13/14 years) allowed if authorised by BNLC: For Clubs with <i>exceptional</i> individuals who will be in year 9 at the commencement of the season, an individual, private petition may be made to the BNL on that players behalf, along with a completed age banding form, signed by Coach, Parent and Club Safeguarding Officer, for review by a select panel of qualified persons, who will then assess the player, determine and make recommendation with regard to the Players suitability and eligibility for inclusion into the Birmingham Netball League (or not). The Club will then be notified of the BNL's considered decision. A |  |

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|               | maximum of two petitions, and therefore a maximum of two players if authorised, will be permissible for inclusion, per Club.   |  |
| c             | Each team must register a squad of at least seven players to unlimited registrations, at the beginning of the season prior to the first fixture weekend. After the third <b>fixture</b> of the season, seven of the registered players must have played for the team for which they are registered   |  |
| d             | No player must be registered for more than one club or team simultaneously   |  |
| e             | Specimen signatures must be provided for all registered players prior to any match played by the player. Failure to do so will result in a £5 fine & or loss of points.  |  |
|               | <b><u>CENTRAL VENUE</u></b>  | <b><u>NON CENTRAL VENUE</u></b>  |
| 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 <b><u>in writing at least 7 days before the next BNL match the leaving player is due to play</u></b>   | 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 <b><u>at least 7 days before the next BNL match the leaving player is due to play.</u></b> The HD secretary will confirm the position to all parties |
| g             | At the beginning of the season weekly payers should pay for 2 weeks making 1 week in advance. At this registration the captain must pay the agreed fee, for court hire and umpire expenses.<br><i>Failure to pay all the agreed fees at this point will result in a loss of 2 points.</i>  |  |
| <b>Part 3</b> | <b><u>PLAYER REGISTRATIONS RELATING TO SUPER LEAGUE / REGIONAL / PREMIER PLAYERS</u></b>   |  |
| a             | Registration within the BNL  |  |
| a             | No player who is registered to play in the Regional or Premier League may play lower than Division 3 of the Birmingham Netball League. Any team below BNL division 3 found to be fielding a Regional Player will be fined (£10), and for every <i>match</i> they have played, the match will be awarded to the opposition as a 10-0 win, and 5 points will be deducted <i>each time</i> from the breaching team. |  |
| b             | No player who is registered to play in Super League may play in the Birmingham Netball League  |  |
| c             | A Birmingham Club in division 1-3 that is <b>not</b> represented in the Regional or Premier league may have up to two players per team who are registered to play regional/premier with another club.  |  |
| d             | Premier / Regional League Clubs must name a minimum of 7 players per team who are <b>not</b> eligible to play in the Birmingham League.  |  |
| e             | A BNL div 1-3 player may play in the Premier / Regional teams for a maximum of 16 quarters after which she must either transfer to or not play again for the Premier/Regional team. Once this promotion has taken place, she may not play in the Birmingham League for the remainder of the season   |  |
| f             | Deregistration from Regional/ Premier to BNL<br>A player wishing to play in the BNL who no longer plays in the Super / Premier / Regional must make this request to the BNLC giving 14 days notice and reason to the <b>HD Secretary</b> prior to the intended first BNL fixture.  |  |
| g             | A player may not deregister if they have played 75% of super/premier/regional games up to the point of notification unless the player has suffered a serious injury.   |  |



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| e<br>£<br>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.  |  |
| f             | If a team concedes 3 games during the season they will be withdrawn from the League   |  |
| <b>Part 6</b> | <b><u>WEATHER CONDITIONS AFFECTING PLAY</u></b>   |  |
| a             | <b>CENTRAL VENUE</b>  | <b>NON CENTRAL VENUE</b>   |
|               | 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 umpires.   | 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.            |
| 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.<br><br>The Home team must inform the HD Secretary immediately of the postponement and notified of the agreed new date in writing.                     |
| <b>Part 7</b> | <b><u>PLAYING THE MATCH</u></b>   |  |
| a<br>£        | All players on court must play in the consistent agreed team colours on each match day as defined at the start of the season. Failure to do so may result in a £2 fine for the team, per incorrectly attired player.  |  |
| b             | Players will have the nails and jewellery check by the officiating umpires  |  |
| c<br>£        | <p><b>It is the responsibility of the 2 teams to ensure the match card is completed correctly prior to the start of the game. Umpires will witness that each player sign the match card.</b> Substitutes / Late arrivals must print their name &amp; sign the card before taking to the court.<br/><b>Failure will result in £5 fine</b></p> <p>The card will then be retained by the umpire until the end of the game.</p> <p>Spot checks on players may be made by the BNLC</p> |  |
| d             | Teams should arrive at least fifteen minutes before the arranged start of play.   |  |

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| <p>e</p> <p><br/></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>CENTRAL VENUE</u></b></p> <p>If any team is not on court, with a minimum of five players at the arranged time, they will forfeit the game.</p> <p>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.</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NON CENTRAL VENUE</u></b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>   |
| <p>F</p>  | <p>At the end of the game the umpires will complete the match result card with the relevant score and will return it to the BNLC whereupon both umpires will be reimbursed their travelling expenses.</p>  | <p>At the end of the game the match result card must be <b>sent electronically or by post</b> by the home team and be received by League administrator within one week of the date of the match. Failure to return card <b>on / or</b> a card is incomplete may result in fine or loss of points.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><br/><br/></p> |
| <p>g</p> <p></p>   | <p>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).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A team who does not fulfil this commitment will be fined £75.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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.</p>  |  |
| <p><b><u>Part 8</u></b></p>   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>INJURIES DURING PLAY</b></p>   |  |
| <p>a</p> <p>b</p> <p>c</p> <p>d</p>   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>CENTRAL VENUE</u></b></p> <p>Stoppage time for an injury will not be added on at the end of a game.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 rule players should be allowed to cover an injury without the player leaving the court.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NON CENTRAL VENUE</u></b></p> <p>ENA stoppage Rule 9 applies. <i>(amended)</i></p> <p>Teams should ensure that first aid equipment is available as players must immediately cover an injury involving an open wound / blood.</p>  |

