

BISHOP'S STORTFORD & DISTRICT NETBALL LEAGUE

RULES 2015-16 Season

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 All games to be played in accordance with EN rules.
 - 1.2 EN recommends that a player should not play after 12 weeks of pregnancy. Umpires should follow the EN recommendations with regard to physical fitness. The Bishop's Stortford League upholds the recommendations.
- 2.1 Matches are played on Sunday mornings at times stated on fixture list and shall be 4 quarters of 15 minutes finishing on central timing. No additional time for injury.
 - 2.2 The committee member present shall start and end each session by a long whistle. Matches must not commence prior to this, but when both teams have taken to the court, the match will be timed individually, but must finish on central timing. No match shall finish before the central timing whistle.
 - 2.3 Once the minimum of 5 players are present for both sides the match will commence at the time specified in the schedule. If the match cannot be started within 5 minutes of the scheduled time because the minimum player requirements cannot be met, then the offending team will forfeit the game and it will be deemed as a cancellation.
 - 2.4 Late arrivals may take up their positions after a goal or interval.

3. UMPIRING

- 3.1 Each team must provide an umpire for every match.
- 3.2 Qualified umpires (C award and above) to umpire Premier Division and Division 1. Premier Division umpires to be neutrally placed.
- 3.3 Division 2 umpires must have a Beginner's award or Certification of Attendance and be 'umpires in training.
- 3.4 Any team arriving without an umpire must drop a player with the appropriate qualification or forfeit the match.
- 3.5 A game cannot commence with only one umpire.
- 3.6 The umpire's decision is final.
- 3.7 The umpire may only be changed during a match in the case of injury or illness to the umpire, but see note below regarding late arrival of umpire.

Note: If a team's umpire is late, they must drop a player with the appropriate qualification to umpire in their umpire's absence. Providing they keep a place vacant on court (i.e. play with 6), should their umpire arrive after the start of the game, the player that has dropped to umpire can retake the court after the next goal or interval. The Premier division must apply the neutrality rule 3.2 by the end of the first quarter, if not the game must be referred to the Committee to make a decision on the awarding of points.

4. **SCORING** 5 points for a win, 3 points for a draw and 1 point awarded to the losing team for attaining 50% of winning score. (Also see cancellations and registrations)

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 Two score cards per game. Prior to the game starting each team must ensure that the name of each player is **clearly printed** on the card and is signed by that player, including subs. Umpires are required to check the card at the start of the game and should print their name and sign the card, stating their qualification. Team Captains should ensure the completed card is placed in the BSDNL box kept in the foyer of the Sports Centre at the end of the match. **The card must be legible.**
- 5.2 Player of the match is to be nominated by your opposing team and recorded on your own card.
- 5.3 Players playing up into a higher team must detail this when they sign by placing a 'U' in the end column.
- 5.4 During adverse weather a rainproof card should be used during the match and the scores transferred to the Official card before handing it in (a small supply will be in the box, kept in the foyer, for the use of umpires only).

6. CANCELLATIONS

- 6.1 In the event of extreme weather conditions causing all matches to be cancelled teams will be notified by the Committee via text or email and a notice placed on the website (bsdnl.co.uk). Matches will be played at the next available date set by the Committee. (see NOTE below)
- 6.2 Matches will be rescheduled by the Committee. (see NOTE below)
- 6.3 If a team cancels prior to the day of the match, they must notify their opposing team direct and their umpire and **inform the Results Officer, Joyce Barton on 07870 595682**. In the event of such a cancellation, the offending team will be deducted 1 point; if a team fails to take court on the day without prior notification they will be deducted 3 point; in both cases the non-offending team will be awarded 5 points plus 15 goals.
- 6.4 In the event of a tie on points at the end of the season, only those games common to both teams will be taken into account when calculating goal differences.

Note: Matches cancelled by individual teams prior to the whole morning's cancellation by the league, will remain cancelled. Affected teams should co-operate by playing the re-arranged fixture on the date issued by league. Appeals to play on a different date must be made to the Results Officer. Any breach in the rule will result in the non-offending team being awarded the points.

7. REQUEST TO RE-ARRANGE FIXTURES BY INDIVIDUAL TEAMS

Will be given due consideration by the committee for

- 7.1 Any club netball event notified to the committee by 1st August (i.e. in advance of the fixture list being organised for the forthcoming season), involving at least 50% of the playing members of the requesting team.
- 7.2 Extenuating or personal circumstances involving more than 50% of the requesting team.

Note: Re-arranged fixtures requested by individual teams will only be agreed under the circumstances listed above. Shortage of players/no umpire, etc., will not be considered a good enough reason and should the game not take place, the cancellation rules will apply. Re- arranged dates shall be agreed with the Results Officer.

Notification of any cancellation must be given to **Joyce Barton on 07870 595682** as soon as possible before the fixture date.

8. REGISTRATIONS

- 8.1 All players must be affiliated to England Netball and registered with the BSDNL **before** they play their first game. Forms must be submitted at the Registration desk during the first three weeks of the season.
- 8.2 All umpires must be affiliated to England Netball.
- 8.3 All players must be 14 and over.
- 8.4 Clubs entering more than one team in the BSDNL **must name** their FIRST SEVEN playing members. If one of these members becomes unavailable during the first half of the season, a permanent replacement must be named.
- 8.5 Clubs entering more than two teams in the BSDNL **must name** their FIRST AND SECOND seven players. (This condition applies to all subsequent teams for the same club). Where a club has more than one team their players must be named for each team.
- 8.6 HERTS or other HIGHER LEAGUE player(s) can only play in the top division of the BSDNL and must be clearly named at registration. A maximum of two players can play at any one time and this must be noted on the score card with an 'HL' in the end column.
- 8.7 If a player is registered with her club's SECOND or subsequent team, she can play up three times and then revert to her registered team. **This rule also applies to the teams playing in the same division.**
- 8.8 Additional registrations throughout the season must be in writing. The player(s) name, signature, EN affiliation number and the team number in which they are to be registered (if applicable) must be placed in the BSDNL Box for the attention of the **Registration Officer, prior to the match being played**. Failure to do so will deem the player unregistered. A 'N' must be placed in the end column of the score card next to the player's name. (Spare registration cards will be in the BSDNL box).

Registration continued

- 8.9 Infringement of the registration rules will result in the deduction of 3 points at the end of the season, as well as points being awarded for the match in question to the non-offending team.

9. FIRST AID

- 9.1 Each team is responsible for providing its own first aid equipment. Clubs are reminded about the ruling regarding injuries i.e. if blood is shed the player concerned must leave the court and clean the wound, and any equipment that has also come into contact with the blood should be cleaned before re-using. Umpires should carry plasters for their own use.
- 9.2 Any incident that occurs on court that is not of a serious nature should be handled with the team's nominated First Aider.
- 9.3 Any incident deemed to be serious must be reported to the Sports Hall and recorded in the League's accident book. (in the results box)

10. COMPLAINTS must be in writing (not by email) and forwarded to the League Chairman within seven days.

11. WEBSITE should be checked weekly by a team member for current information - bsdnl.co.uk

12. NETBALL PLAYING KIT

- 12.1 Skirts should be worn, or if tracksuit worn instead this should be consistent with the club's registered colours. Players taking court in kit that does not comply with the club's registered colours are warned that umpires may not allow them to take court.
- 12.2 Bibs should be lettered both sides.
- 12.3 Sponsorship should be discreetly placed on kit

13. JEWELLERY/FINGERNAILS/HAIR

Team captains should ensure their players comply with EN recommendation and league ruling regarding the wearing of jewellery.

- 13.1 No item of jewellery, except a wedding ring and/or medical alert bracelet, shall be worn (if worn each shall be taped). Studs and body piercings, watches, bangles, bracelets and any other adornment are not allowed. It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that they comply with the Rules.
- 13.2 Fingernails/acrylic nails must be kept short and rounded - nails should not show above tips of fingers when hands, palm forward, are shown to the umpire - additionally acrylic nails will only be allowed at the discretion of the umpire.
- 13.3 Sunglasses are not permitted, unless they are prescription glasses need to play the game.
- 13.4 Gloves are not permitted, unless for medical reasons, in which case the player must produce a medical certificate to support the condition.
- 13.5 It is recommended that hair should be appropriately tied back whilst participating in netball and any hair accessory that is used should not pose any risk to any individual.

Note: Umpires should conduct their pre-match check and enforce these rules.

14. SAFETY FIRST

In the interest of safety, spectators, bench officials and substitutes must remain in the area designated and away from the umpire(s) line of run. Children accompanying players to matches must be supervised at all times. Animals are not permitted in any area of the venue.

15. PHOTOGRAPHY

Parents who do not wish their daughter to be photographed or filmed, etc. should notify the Committee and their club before the season. The opposing team should be informed and their consent received prior to the match taking place. Filming should be for training purposes only.

Committee Members - for your information

Chairman:	Beryl Davy (Cross Keys)
Secretary:	Stacey Brown (Bishop's Stortford)
Treasurer:	Christine Soutar (Hatfield BOs)
Umpiring Secretary:	Pat Longville (Cross Keys) - requests/complaints/queries (OTG)
Asst Umpiring Secretary:	Lorraine Brewer
Welfare & Safeguarding Officer:	Lorraine Brewer (Saffron Walden) - accidents/incidents
Cancellations Officer:	Joyce Barton
Registrations Officer:	Beryl Davy
Comms/Website Officer:	Gemma Snelling (Sparks) / Joyce Barton
Club Liaison Officer:	Pat O'Mara (Bishop's Stortford)
Co-opted Venue Liaison Officer:	Laura Perrett (Cross Keys) - courts
President:	Judy Simmonds (Richmond)

Key Contact numbers:

Beryl Davy - 01279 657303

Pat Longville - 01279 834625

Lorraine Brewer - 01799 500034 / 07714 250974

Results : 07870 595682