

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 and these will be also enforced for umpires umpiring in BSDNL.
- 1.3 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 game must finish before the time stated. If the second half of the game is shorter than 15 minutes per quarter, then the remaining time must be split equally between the final two quarters. There is no additional time for injury.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 Late arrivals may take up their positions after a goal or interval.

2. UMPIRES AND SCORERS

- 2.1 Each team must provide an appropriate umpire for every match. An appropriate umpire is deemed one that meets the criteria below for each division.
 - 2.1.1 Division 1 Umpires:
 - a) Will be neutrally placed.
 - b) Must be Qualified umpires (C award and above)
 - c) Must be approved by the Umpiring Secretary to Umpire at D1 level.
 - 2.1.2 Division 2 Umpires:
 - a) Must be Qualified umpires (C award and above)
 - 2.1.3 Division 3 Umpires:
 - a) Must have a valid Introduction to Officiating Award (IOA) and have completed the C Award Course or above.
 - 2.1.4 Division 4 Umpires:

Must have a valid Introduction to Officiating Award (IOA) or Umpires who have participated in the online IOA course can only umpire within the league after completing a practical session delivered by a qualified EN Tutor.

- 2.2 Teams must observe the following rules for Umpires for each division
- 2.2.1 Division 1 Umpires
- a) Will umpire the match either immediately before or immediately after the match in which their team is playing, on the same court. (*ie if the team is playing at 9.30am their umpire will umpire the 11.15 match, if the team is playing at 11.15 they will umpire at 9.30am*).
 - b) A Division 1 team may call on a **Guest Umpire**, providing that they are a minimum of C award and approved by the BSDNL Umpiring Secretary.
 - c) Division 1 teams who do not provide an appropriate umpire for the game according to Pt 2.1.1 above will be deducted 5 points. In this case if an appropriate umpire cannot be found that game will be re-scheduled
 - d) If a Division 1 umpire is late, but an appropriate umpire can be found temporarily and the umpire arrives by the end of the first quarter the game will continue and no penalties will apply.
- * By definition: A Guest Umpire is someone who has not umpired in the BSDNL league in the current season.**
- 2.2.2 Division 2, 3 & 4 Umpires:
- a) Any team arriving without an appropriate umpire must drop a player with the appropriate qualification to umpire or forfeit the match.
 - b) If a team's umpire is late, they must drop a player with the appropriate qualification to umpire. 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 dropped to umpire can retake the court after the next goal or interval.
- 2.3 All umpires must sign in on the Umpire Registration Sheet at the Committee table by the entrance to the courts.
- 2.4 A game cannot commence with only one umpire.
- 2.5 The umpire's decision is final.
- 2.6 The umpire may only be changed during a match in the case of injury or illness.
- 2.7 There is to be NO advancing of penalties.
- 2.8 Each team in Division 1 and Division 2 must provide a scorer (see note below); If the team does not supply a scorer, they must drop a player. Scorers must confirm the score with each other after each goal and with the umpire at the end of the game and call the score out across the court.

- 2.9 Scorers are recommended for Division 3 but not compulsory and if they wish to have scorers there must be two or none. Scorers must be positioned together on one side of the court and confirm the score with each other and the umpires at each interval and at the end of the match.

Note: SCORERS – A scorer can be a spectator or a member of the team that is a substitute. The substitute is permitted to swap her role as scorer with another team member at the end of a quarter or for injury reasons. Scorers must be minimum of School Year 7 for above.

3. 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)

4. RESULTS

- 4.1 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.** Team Captains must also **text the score together with a photograph of both sides of the card to Joyce Barton on 07870 595682**, for updating to the BSDNL website.
- 4.2 Player of the match is to be nominated by the opposing team and recorded on your own card.
- 4.3 Players playing up into a higher team must detail this when they sign by placing a **'U'** in the end column.
- 4.4. During adverse weather a rainproof card should be used during the match and the scores transferred to the Official card before handing it in.). The official score card should have names printed and signatures recorded indoors in dry conditions (a small of rainproof cards supply will be in the BSDNL box, , for the use of umpires only)

5. CANCELLATIONS

- 5.1 In the event of extreme weather conditions causing all matches to be cancelled teams will be notified by the Committee via What's app group and BSDNL Closed Facebook group. A decision will be made by the Duty Committee member at 9.30am on the morning of the scheduled matches at the latest.
- 5.2 Matches cancelled due to weather will be rescheduled by the Committee. 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 Committee via bsdnl@hotmail.co.uk Any breach in the rule will result in the non-offending team being awarded the points.

In the event that games need to be re-arranged:

- 5.2.1 Games will be re-scheduled to the spare weeks
- 5.2.2 Teams will be warned that games may be shortened to accommodate more matches on spare days in the event of more re-arrangements needing to be accommodated.
- 5.2.3 Priority will be given by order of cancellation.
- 5.2.4 For 2020-21 season : No games to be scheduled after Easter. If matches can't be re-arranged then a panel will determine the outcome as follows:
 - * Score will be taken from a previous or subsequent completed fixture between the two teams in that season
 - * 10% added to loser score
 - * 10% taken from winner score
 - * If the resulting score becomes equal or the opposite team comes out the winner then the cancelled match will be declared a draw. Otherwise the resulting score will stand.

5.3 Cancellations by teams

- 5.3.1 If a team cancels prior to 9pm the day before their match, they must notify their opposing team and umpire directly, send an email to the BSDNL address and text **Joyce Barton on 07870 595682**. In the event of such a cancellation, the offending team will be deducted 1 point;
 - 5.3.2 if a team fails to notify the opposition before 9pm the night before, or does not 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. No points are awarded if teams cancel at the same time. Notification of any cancellation must be given as soon as possible before the fixture date.
 - 5.5.3 In the event of a team cancelling 3 or more games they may be disqualified from the league. The committee will meet and schedule all further games for that team, to best facilitate the smooth running of the league.
- 5.4 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.

6. ABANDONED GAMES

- 6.1 If a match is abandoned for weather, or injury or illness where a player cannot be removed from the court the following will apply
 - If abandoned on or before half time – match will be rescheduled
 - If abandoned after half time – score will stand.

- 6.2 If a match is abandoned due to disputes between teams/ umpires or issues of misconduct the incident will be referred to the Committee and both teams and umpires will submit a written report within 7 days. The Committee's decision will be final.
- 6.3. Please report any abandoned matches via email to bsdnl@hotmail.co.uk and text **Joyce Barton on 07870 595682.**

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: *Shortage of players/no umpire, etc., is not be considered a good enough reason and should the game not take place, the cancellation rules will apply. Re-arranged dates will be agreed with the Committee.*

8. REGISTRATIONS

- 8.1 All players must be affiliated to England Netball and register 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 Nominated EAST REGION players are not permitted to play in the BSDNL. HERTS COUNTY or other COUNTY PREMIER LEAGUE or 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.

A player not registered as a EN or HL player at the beginning of the season will be deemed such after playing 12 quarters for any EN or HL team.

- 8.7 If a player is registered with her club's SECOND or subsequent team, she can play up three times and after the third occasion will stay in the team for which she played last for the remainder of the season. **This rule also applies to the teams playing in the same division.**
- 8.8 Additional registrations throughout the season must be in writing, or by using the 'Registration Card for New Player'. The player(s) club, name, EN affiliation number and the team number in which they are to be registered (if applicable) and signature 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).
- 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.
- 8.91 All teams must nominate an appropriately qualified umpire.

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 occurring on court, considered not to be of a serious nature, should be dealt with by 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, located in the results box.

10. COMPLAINTS must be in writing and signed from the Club Secretary. The complaint must be addressed to the League Chair and received within seven days. If the Secretary wishes to email the letter, it must have a digital signature and be sent as a PDF document to the BSDNL email address. A complaint sent as an email is not acceptable.

11. WEBSITE bsdnl.co.uk should be checked weekly by a team member for current information. Information will also be posted on BSDNL closed facebook group and to Club & Team contacts on BSDNL What's App group.

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. The League should hold a copy of the certificate.
- 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.
- 13.6 Any player who has had an ear implant for migraine MUST have a Medical Certificate available if asked for by the Umpire. The League should hold a copy of the certificate.

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

14. SAFETY FIRST

- 14.1 No spectators allowed inside the courts.
- 14.2 Bench officials and substitutes must remain in the area designated and away from the umpire(s) line of run. (See below)
- 14.3 In the interests of safeguarding, if children must accompany players to matches they will be permitted to remain inside the courts, by prior arrangement with the committee and must be supervised at all times.
- 14.4 Animals are not permitted within the vicinity of the courts.
- 14.5 When enter courts – Home team (first on fixture list) to based at entrance end and Away team at far fence end of courts behind goals

14.6. In the interests of Covid Safety for 2021-22 season

14.6.1 The Home Team (first number of fixture list) should provide a match ball and should sanitise it before play and between quarters. The Away Team should provide a sanitised spare to use in the event it is touched by anyone other than the players on court.

14.6.2 Keep bib sharing to a minimum

14.6.3 Encourage players to maintain social distance and sanitise their hands in the breaks

15. PHOTOGRAPHY

Parents who do not wish their daughter to be photographed or filmed, etc. should notify 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.

