



ASHFORD NETBALL SENIOR LEAGUE

RULES & REGULATIONS

2020-21

CONTENTS

OVERVIEW	3
COMPETITION STRUCTURE.....	3
Summer League.....	3
Winter League	3-4
Overview of County, Regional and National Netball Leagues.....	4
ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION	4
COMPETITION REFEREE(S).....	4
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.....	5
REGISTRATION OF SQUADS	5/6
U18s.....	6
Transfers.....	6
Clubs.....	6/7
Floater Players.....	7
MATCH VENUES.....	7
MATCH SCHEDULE.....	7/8
Inclement Weather.....	8
MATCH RULES.....	8
Clothing	8

Abandoned Matches.....	9
REGISTRATION OF RESULTS.....	9/10
Conceded Matches.....	10
MATCH OFFICIALS.....	10
QUERIES AND COMPLAINTS & APPEALS	11

SUMMER AND WINTER LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS 2021 – 2022

1. OVERVIEW

The Ashford Netball League was established in 1958 by Eileen Tredwell and her committee.

Ashford Netball Senior League is a competition organised by the Ashford Netball Senior League Committee (The Committee) to enable teams to compete against each other throughout the year, whilst encouraging participation and development in netball through an open, fair, progressive and transparent league structure.

These regulations set out below outline the Rules and Regulations that regulate the operation of the Ashford Netball Senior League.

The Committee administers and manages these Regulations - they must be followed by all teams, players, officials and spectators involved in The League.

2. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

2.1 The competition will be known as the Ashford Netball Senior League (The League). 2.2 The League shall comprise of two (2) seasons, Summer League and Winter League. These Rules and Regulations (the Regulations) cover all matters relating to The League structure.

2.3 Summer League

2.3.1 The Summer League shall be the main league.

2.3.2 The League will comprise (3) Divisions or more, dependent on entries, with the formation at the discretion of the Committee and such decisions being final.

2.3.3 Normal promotion/relegation will be as follows:

Premier Division

- The top two teams will be eligible to compete for a place in the County Senior League. The bottom two teams will be relegated to Division 1.

First Division (Division 1)

- The top two teams will be promoted to the Premier Division. The bottom two teams will be relegated to Division 2.

Second Division (Division 2)

- The top two teams will be promoted to the Division 1. In the case of more than 3 divisions, the top and bottom two teams will be promoted/ relegated in the same way as in higher divisions.

In the event that entries for the following year means that the formation of The League becomes uneven or that teams are significantly altered at that time, the formation shall be at the discretion of the Committee as in 2.3.2.

2.4 Winter League

2.4.1 The Winter League will be offered as two separate competitions (Versatility and Handicap) with the formation dependant on entries and at the discretion of the Committee as in 2.3.2.

2.4.1.1 Additional rules for the Versatility competition will be available in a separate document.

2.4.1.2 Handicaps will be calculated based on The League standings at the end of the preceding Summer League and/or the team Registration List submitted upon entry and are at the discretion of the Committee and such decisions being final.

2.5 Overview of County, Regional and National Netball Leagues

This shows the progression from The League into the County League and promotion into the Regional League and the England Netball Premier League.

	local leagues	County League	Division 1	League	Premier
	County League	Division 2	L&SE Region	England	League
	Play-Offs	County League	Regional	Netball	
Kent affiliated					

3. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

3.1 The competition and all rights and properties associated with it shall be owned, controlled and managed by The Committee.

3.2 The Committee is responsible for the organisation and management of The League. 3.3 Entrance to The League.

3.3.1 All teams applying for entry to the Summer League must be represented at the AGM. Non-attendance will result in exclusion from the Summer League.

3.3.2 All teams wishing to enter The League are required to submit their application by the deadline set. Any applications received after this date shall only be permitted to enter The League at the discretion of The Committee.

3.4 The Committee is entitled to charge an entry fee to The League.

3.5 Teams will be invoiced for payment of court fees during the season with the rate and payment terms as set by The Committee.

3.6 Prior to the start of The League, The Committee shall announce the following:

3.6.1 Divisional Representatives (Results coordinators)

3.6.2 The Competition Referee(s).

3.6.3 The person appointed to receive appeals on any decisions of the Competition Referee(s) is the Secretary.

3.7 By entering a team in The League, teams agree that

3.7.1 they will abide by these rules and regulations

3.7.2 they are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in The League 3.8

Withdrawal from The League:

3.8.1 Any team applying for entry to The League but withdrawing prior to the start of the season shall forfeit all subscription moneys paid and the individual registered players may be liable for their portion of the court fees to the end of the season prior to playing in The League.

3.8.2 Any team withdrawing from The League following the start of the season shall forfeit all subscription moneys paid and are liable for all court fees to the end of the season.

4. COMPETITION REFEREE(S)

4.1 The Committee will appoint the Competition Referee(s) for The League.

4.2 The Competition Referee(s) will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising.

4.2.1 The Competition Referee may consult with, or call upon additional persons to assist prior to making any decision. However, the final decision and accountability for the decision will rest solely with the Competition Referee.

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 5.1 Application for entry to The League shall be open to any team affiliated to England Netball through Kent Netball, which has paid its subscription in this respect.
- 5.2 Entry to The League will be determined by The Committee at its absolute discretion, having due regard to the playing standard of teams wishing to participate. Casual vacancies, as may occur from time to time, will be addressed by The Committee at its absolute discretion.
- 5.3 Teams entering the Summer League must be represented at the Ashford Netball Annual General Meeting held in the first quarter of the year.
- 5.3.1 *Failure of a representative to attend the AGM will result in expulsion from the competition.* 5.4
- New teams:
- 5.4.1 A new team entering The League shall normally enter the lowest division but may be placed in another division at the discretion of The Committee as in 2.3.2.
- 5.4.2 A team is considered 'new' providing it contains no more than 4 players who have participated in The League within the previous three years. Penalties will be levied by The Committee if a team adds such players during the first two seasons as a new team.
- 5.5 In order to qualify to participate in The League all players and umpires must be in membership of England Netball as an affiliated Registered Participant having paid the full affiliation fee due and receive confirmation of their affiliation in advance of taking to the court England Netball's Insurance FAQs 2016:

Individuals may be a member via one of the following routes:

- (a) Through membership to a Club
- (b) Through membership to a Young Persons Group
- (c) Independent Registered Participant through a County (Team Officials only)

5.5.1 *Penalty for playing a player who is not a member of England Netball is (subject to 5.5): 5 league points.*

- 5.6 All players must be over 14 years as at 23:59 on 31st August immediately prior to the commencement of The League playing season
- 5.6.1 Eligibility of players under the age of 14 at as at 23:59 on 31st August immediately prior to the commencement of The League playing season is at the discretion of The Committee. They must have completed the age banding consent form and submitted it to the Safeguarding Officer prior to taking to the court.
- 5.6.2 During all matches of The League, Team Managers must be fully conversant with England Netball's Safeguarding Policies and Guidance which can be found at: <https://englandnetball.co.uk/governance/safeguarding/>
- 5.8 The Committee recommends that individuals (player, coach, umpire) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidelines issued by England Netball (EN).
- 5.8.1 The Committee requires written approval from the Doctor that must cover the date of the match(es). A copy of the approval must be forwarded to the Duty of Care representative in advance and another presented to the umpires prior to each match.

6. REGISTRATION OF SQUADS

6.1 A Player Registration Form for each participating team must be completed fully for each player and submitted with The League Entry Form. The participation affiliation list must be provided by the date set.

6.1.1 Teams may register up to 20 players, providing a minimum of seven (7) players are registered. Teams may amend their registration list prior to their first game by contacting their Divisional Representative.

6.1.2 These players then remain registered throughout the season.

6.1.3 In exceptional circumstances, teams may apply to The Committee giving their reasons to exceed 20 players.

6.1.4 *Penalty for playing a player who is unapproved beyond the 20 permitted registrations: 1 League point.*

6.2 Teams may register new players through the season by providing their details in the following ways: 6.2.1 Email to the Divisional Representative prior to the day of the match.

6.2.2 Completion of the scorecard to register on the day of the match. A player registering on the day of the match must complete a 'New Player Registration Form', which must be countersigned by the opposing Captain prior to the start of the match. This form must be forwarded to the Divisional Representative within 6 days of the match.

6.3 Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their Player Registration Form held by the Divisional Representative or who have completed the registration on the day of the match. 6.3.1 *Penalty for playing an unregistered player: 1 League point.*

6.4 U18s

6.4.1 Individual players aged under the age of 18 must submit a signed Under 18 Player Registration Form before the player takes to the court and can do this in the following ways:

a) By handing/sending the completed form to The League's Safeguarding Officer to be received prior to the player taking to the court.

OR

b) By presenting the completed form for verification by an independent Committee Member (i.e. not one associated with the same club) before sending the completed form to The League's Safeguarding Officer to be received within six (6) day of the match.

6.4.2 *Penalty for failure to submit signed U18 Player Registration Form before the player takes to the court: 1 League point.*

6.5 Transfers

6.5.1 A player wishing to transfer between teams may only do so at the discretion of The Committee.

6.5.2 The player must complete a Transfer of Player Form, which is available from the Divisional Representative or the website. This completed form must be returned to the Representative for confirmation and an effective transfer date.

6.5.3 Transfers are subject to the following conditions:

- A team in a lower division may only receive one player from a higher division in any one season.
- No player may transfer after half way through the season without written application to The Committee for consideration.

6.6 Clubs

A Club will be defined one that is affiliated as a multi team club participating within the spirit of a club system.

6.6.1 Clubs with more than one team must designate a rank order to their teams upon application to The League. The team considered to be the most able should be ranked as 1 and is taken as the highest team. The other teams are to be ranked in descending order also based on

ability.

6.6.2 A team may play a maximum of two players 'up' from the club's other team(s) in any one match, providing that the player(s) is from a lower ranked team(s).

6.6.3 If a player plays four games for the same higher ranked team than that for which she is

5 17/05/2018

registered, she is deemed to be a member of the team in which she plays the fourth game, and must be registered accordingly. This includes a substitute player that takes to the court, not matter how long she plays.

6.6.4 Captains should indicate on the scorecard if a player is playing 'up'.

6.6.5 Any player playing 'up' on the scorecard who does not take to the court must be labelled as "DNP" (did not play).

6.6.6 If a club has two or more teams in the same competition (e.g. the same division [summer league] or same pool [winter league or tournament]), then the fixtures will ensure that those teams play each other first.

6.6.7 Should a game be abandoned and subsequently re-arranged, the players noted as playing 'up' will not have this counted on their record.

6.6.8 *Penalty for failure to abide by rules on movement of a player within a club: 1 League point.* 6.6.9

After serious illness or injury resulting in a lay off from playing of more than 6 weeks, a player may apply to The Committee in writing to be re-registered to a lower ranked team in her club.

6.7 Floater Players

The League will operate a 'Floater Player' system that will be managed by a Committee Representative as advertised by The League

6.7.1 All players that meet the eligibility criteria laid out in Section 5 may register as a Floater Player.

6.7.2 A Floater Player must register their details with the Floater Players Representative before taking to the court.

6.7.3 A Floater Player must be affiliated to England Netball prior to playing in The League. 6.7.4 A Floater Player will be categorised by The Committee as either eligible to play in the upper or the lower divisions of the Summer League. Arrangements for the Winter League will be made by The Committee upon the formation of that league.

6.7.5 A Floater Player may play for any team within those divisions to which they are allocated and a Floater Player allocated to the lower divisions may play any match considered upper divisions.

6.7.6 If a Floater Player plays for one team more than 3 times, on the 4th occasion that player must register with that team using the Player Registration Form provided on the scorecard. 6.7.7 Captains must advise Floater Players of their team's match fees in advance and Floater Players must pay on the night.

6.7.8 Captains must note Floater Players on the score card and indicate that they are Floater Players with an 'F' beside their name.

6.7.9 Teams may use up to two Floater Players per game.

6.7.10 The Committee Representative will hold the list of Floater Players.

6.7.11 The Committee Representative will circulate the current list by means as advertised by The League.

7. MATCH VENUES

7.1 Matches will be played outdoors at Courtside, Stanhope Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 5RN. 7.2 Rearranged matches may be played at a suitable alternative venue at the discretion of The Committee.

8. MATCH SCHEDULE

- 8.1 All matches must be played as per the fixture schedule published by The League. 8.2 Matches will start at 18:30 or 20:00 pm as specified in the schedule.
- 8.3 Each team will be responsible for arranging its own travel arrangements.

8.4 Inclement Weather

In the event of extreme weather or climatic conditions:

- 8.4.1 The Competition Referee(s) will make a decision whether to postpone match(es) before 17:00 PM.
- 8.4.2 If the decision is made to postpone the match(es) before 17:00 The Committee will notify the teams and umpires via text and email (when possible) as well as on social media and The League website. In this situation, both the 18:30 and 20:00 PM matches will be postponed.
- 8.4.3 After 17:00 PM the decision whether to postpone the match(es) at 18:30 and/or 20:00 will be made at the venue by the umpires present, who must notify the Fixtures Secretary on the night.
- 8.4.4 In the event that match(es) are postponed it will not be necessary to return a scorecard to the Divisional Representative.
- 8.5 If extreme and unforeseen circumstances arise, postponement MAY be permitted but ONLY with the permission of Competition Referee(s). Any rearranged match must be played as agreed by The Competition Referee(s).
- 8.6 Postponed matches will be rearranged by the Fixtures Secretary and the teams will be notified of the date and time. Teams will be required to provide an umpire of the appropriate standard for this fixture.

9. MATCH RULES

- 9.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the International Netball Federation Rules of the Game currently in force at the time of the relevant match, except where variations are allowed and specifically stated in the following Regulations: 9.3; 9.4; 9.5; 9.10; 9.13; and 9.16.
- 9.2 Each team must declare up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each match by completing the Squad Member section of The League scorecard.
- 9.2.1 Any team who knowingly and deliberately provides false information regarding identity of players when registering players or naming of players on team sheets may be subject to disciplinary action and may be expelled from the competition.
- 9.3 Matches must start on time except as allowed for in 8.4.
- 9.4 The game shall consist of four quarters of fifteen (15) minutes each, with an interval of three (3) minutes between the first-second and third-fourth quarters. The half time interval shall be five (5) minutes.
- 9.5 **Clothing**
- 9.5.1 Must comply with the latest England Netball directive:
<https://www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/make-the-game/officiating/make-the-game-officiating-rules-updates/en-full-domestic-rules-guidance-2016/>
- 9.5.1.1 Additionally, players will not be allowed on court without a dress or skirt. 9.5.4 The Umpire must decide whether clothing is appropriate and has the right to refuse it being worn in play.
- 9.6 Matches must be played if one or both teams has a minimum of five (5) players present. 9.7 The home team is responsible for providing the match ball and the away team will provide the reserve match ball.
- 9.8 All teams will be held responsible for their players, officials and spectators.
- 9.9 In accordance with Rule 15.1 of the International Netball Federation Rules of the Game teams will be made up of players of the same gender.
- 9.10 It is the responsibility of each team to provide adequate first aid cover for its players and officials, which shall also be made available to the match officials on request.
- 9.10.1 Teams must provide a well-stocked first aid kit that includes an ice pack.

9.10.2 Teams must carry emergency contact details for all their players and officials.

9.11 If an accident occurs at a Netball match where a player, coach, spectator or staff member is injured, the accident reporting procedure to be followed is detailed here:

<https://www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/competitions/administration/> with a link also available from The League's website. A copy of the completed form must be sent to The League's Safeguarding Officer within six (6) days of the match.

9.12 Abandoned Matches

In the event that a match is **abandoned** for any reason:

9.12.1 The result of that match or the requirement to replay will be determined by the Competition Referee, having regard to the score at the time and length of time played prior to the game being suspended.

9.12.2 It is the responsibility of the teams to report it to the Competition Referee as outlined in Section 12 and to record details of the incident, time and score when the match was abandoned on the scorecard before sending to the Divisional Representative.

9.13 In the event of a player being ordered off court or a team official being required to leave the bench the matter will be brought to the attention of The Committee.

10. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

10.1 Teams must provide the umpire with a League scorecard prior to the start of the match. The scorecard must contain the following information completed in pen.

- Team Details
- Primary Carer
- Captain

10.1.1 *Penalty for failure to list a player on The League scorecard: 1 League point.* 10.1.2 *Penalty for failure to add the Primary Carer name on The League scorecard: 1 League point.* 10.1.3 *Penalty for failure to add the Captain name on The League scorecard: 1 League point.*

10.2 Players must be listed on the scorecard prior to taking to court with additions at quarter, three quarter and half time only.

10.3 The Team Captain must check and sign the opposing team's scorecard

10.3.1 *Penalty for providing an incomplete scorecard: 1 League point.*

10.4 It is the responsibility of both the team Captains to send their scorecard to the correct Divisional Representative, to be received within six (6) days of the match.

10.4.2 The League will accept scorecards post marked first class within 4 days of the match. 10.4.3 Captains may appeal the point deduction to the Divisional Representative if they are able to provide the Post Office's proof of postage first class within 4 days of the match.

10.4.4 *Penalty for failure to return the scorecard to Divisional Representative within six (6) days of the match: 1 League point.*

10.5 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:

- 5 points for a win
- 3 points for a draw
- 2 points if within 5 goals of winners score
- 1 point for over 50% of the winners score
- 0 points for a loss

10.6 A League table will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team and these can be viewed on The League website at www.ashfordnetball.org.uk

10.7 In the event of a tie on points at the end of The League,

10.7.1 Goal average will decide the placings (i.e. goals for divided by goals against) 10.7.2 If goal

average is identical, then goal difference will be applied (i.e. the difference between goals for and goals against)

10.7.3 In the event of a further tie, the team scoring the most goals will be declared winner. 10.7.4 In the event that none of the above differentiates between the teams, The Committee shall determine the means of differentiation

10.8 Conceded Matches

10.8.1 If a team has to concede a match they must notify the opposing team Captain (or in their known absence the nominee), the umpires and the Umpiring Fixtures Secretary as soon as it is known, and no later than 17:00 PM on the day of the match. Confirmation must be received from the opposing team Captain (or nominee) and the Umpiring Fixtures Secretary.

10.8.2 A team having to concede a match after 17:00 PM on the day of the match is liable for the opposing team's court fees and both Umpires' expenses should they occur. The opposing team Captain and Umpires should claim these expenses in writing to the relevant Captain within 14 days of the match, allowing 14 days for payment. A claim form is available from the website. A copy of this claim should be forwarded to the Treasurer of The League and the Divisional Representative. After 14 days the opposing Captain should notify the Divisional Representative as to whether the fee has been paid.

10.8.3 *Penalty for failure to pay conceded match expenses: 2 league points.*

10.8.2 Failure to play on more than one occasion may result in expulsion from The League. 10.9 If a team withdraws from The League during the season, all associated points and goals (for and against) will be removed from The League table. The withdrawing team will forfeit any monies paid and will be liable for fees as in 3.9.2.

10.10 At the end of the season, the team that finishes top of the Premier Division will be The League Champions. The top two teams of the Premier Division will be eligible to play off for the Kent County Senior Netball League.

11. MATCH OFFICIALS

11.1 Each team competing in The League must provide an FENA qualified Umpire of C Award or above as their Nominated Umpire. He/she must be affiliated to that team. This does not apply to teams where all players are under 18 years of age.

11.2 New teams need not provide an Umpire for the first year of entry into The League, however, if they do not provide an umpire of C award status (or above), they must enter at least two candidates into the Ashford Netball Umpire Pathway. Both should qualify as Into Officiating Award in order for the team to be eligible for a second year of entry classified as a new team. At least one candidate must qualify as C award (or above) in order for the team to continue into a third year.

11.3 There shall be two qualified Umpires for each match.

11.4 The Nominated Umpire will be allocated to the match at the earlier or later time to that in which their team plays.

11.4.1 Nominated Umpires are expected to fulfil the majority of their allocation. 11.4.2 Nominated Umpires are responsible for providing an alternative umpire for their allocation if they are unable fulfil a commitment. The teams and the Umpiring Fixtures Secretary must be notified of any changes made to the allocation.

11.4.3 *Penalty for failure of an umpire to attend a match: 1 League point from form offending umpire's team.*

11.5 Teams will not be allowed to refuse an appropriately qualified umpire.

11.6 Beginner Award/Into Officiating Award umpires awaiting assessment at C Award may officiate on matches as indicated in the fixtures.

11.6.1 Only ONE Beginner Award/Into Officiating Award umpire is allowed per match. 11.6.2 Any

Beginner Award/Into Officiating Award umpire who wishes to umpire a match suitable for their standard must first confirm with the Umpiring Fixtures Secretary that there is a C Award (or above) on the other side and that they can accept the match.

11.7 Teams will be responsible for the expenses of the umpire(s) on the match in which they play at the rate set by The League. Payment must be made at the start of the match.

11.8 No changes are allowed to the umpires officiating the match unless 1 or both become injured, then the following should apply:

11.8.1 The next best qualified available umpire to take over.

11.8.2 No team should be forced to drop a player to umpire under these circumstances. 11.8.3 If no replacement umpire is available, the match will be abandoned and treated as outlined in 9.15.

11.9 Scorer/timekeepers:

11.9.1 Provision of a competent scorer/timekeeper is the responsibility of the umpire and is recommended.

11.9.2 There must be two scorers on any one match (at least one of which can be an umpire). 11.9.3 Both scorers must be competent in the role of scorer (guidance document available from the website) and stand near or together outside the same Side Line.

11.10 Matches may be used by Kent Netball for the purpose of umpire testing and assessment. 11.11 The Committee, at their discretion, may decide to take further action if the above is not adhered to.

12. QUERIES AND COMPLAINTS & APPEALS

12.1 Process of query, complaint or appeal must begin immediately and be directed to the Competition Referee, or in their absence the Competition Referee(s) with delegated powers. The process to be followed is outlined in England netball's 'Appeals Section for Leagues' document which can be downloaded here: <https://www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/competitions/administration/>

12.2 Where the Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual Player or Team participating, volunteering or individual attending a Match which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations, such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the processes set out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations.

<https://www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/app/uploads/2016/03/Disciplinary-Regulations-02-02-15.pdf>

Summary of sanctions

5.5.1	<i>Penalty for playing a player who is not a member of England Netball is (subject to 5.5): 5 league points</i>
6.1.4	<i>Penalty for playing a player who is unapproved beyond the 20 permitted registrations: 1 League point.</i>
6.3.1	<i>Penalty for playing an unregistered player: 1 League point.</i>
6.4.2	<i>Penalty for failure to submit signed U18 Player Registration Form before the player takes to the court: 1 League point.</i>
6.6.8	<i>Penalty for failure to abide by rules on movement of a player within a club: 1 League point.</i>
10.1.1	<i>Penalty for failure to list a player on The League scorecard: 1 League point.</i>
10.1.2	<i>Penalty for failure to add the Primary Carer name on The League scorecard: 1 League point.</i>
10.1.3	<i>Penalty for failure to add the Captain name on The League scorecard: 1 League point.</i>

10.3.1	<i>Penalty for providing an incomplete scorecard: 1 League point.</i>
10.4.4	<i>Penalty for failure to return the scorecard to Divisional Representative within six (6) days of the match: 1 League point.</i>
10.8.3	<i>Penalty for failure to pay conceded match expenses: 2 league points.</i>
11.4.3	<i>Penalty for failure of an umpire to attend a match: 1 League point from form offending umpire's team.</i>