

## **METROPOLITAN NETBALL LEAGUE**

### **RULES & REGULATIONS 2024-2025**

1. The Honorary Officers shall be The Chairman, The Secretary and The Treasurer. The AGM of the League shall be held during the summer.
2. The Committee shall consist of the Honorary Officers plus one representative for each Division to be elected annually. Five committee members shall form a Quorum.
3. The latest England Netball (EN) rules shall apply.
4. All players and officials participating in any Metropolitan League Netball Match must be an affiliated member of EN. All clubs participating in any Metropolitan League Netball Match must be a member club of EN. Should any participating player or official be found to be unaffiliated on the day of the match, the offending team will lose any points gained for the match and receive an additional one-point deduction.
5. Games of 1 hour duration (4 x 15 minutes) will be played in all Divisions and must start within 15 minutes of the agreed time. Should a match have to be stopped before the scheduled one hour, the following will apply:
  - a. Up to 45 minutes completed will require the match to be rearranged and scores will not stand.
  - b. Over 45 minutes played – a decision about whether score stands, or rearrangement is required will be made by the Committee based on the specific circumstances.
6. Both teams must provide an EN affiliated umpire. For Divisions 1, 2 and 3, umpires must be qualified. (Level C or above). In accordance with EN guidelines unqualified umpires, who may umpire Division 4 and below must be competent and must have attended a C award umpiring course (WTC), with an approved provider, within the last two years. If a team cannot provide an umpire, they will forfeit the game.
7. Matches are to be played on the dates given. The home team must contact the opposition in writing a minimum of fourteen (14) days before the scheduled date, giving venue, time and detailed directions (preferably a map or postcode), team contact details. If the home venue is in ULEZ this must also be advised. The away team must acknowledge receipt and confirm the fixture within two (2) days of receipt of the fixture details.
8. A match can only be postponed in advance in extenuating circumstances. It is the responsibility of both teams to inform the relevant Divisional Representative (Div. Rep.) and any request to postpone will be considered by the Div. Rep and Honorary Officers whose decision will be final. If a postponement is granted the match must be played before the final fixture date of the season. The home team must contact their opposition with alternative dates/venue within fourteen (14) days of the original match date. The rescheduled date must be agreed by both teams and notified to the Div. Rep within twenty one (21) days of the original match date.
9. Any team cancelling a match will be deducted one point and five points for the win awarded to the opposition.
10. If there is a reason why the match cannot be played on the day as scheduled with both teams and umpires in attendance due to unexpected unplayable conditions, the umpires' decision on whether the match can go ahead will be final. In the event the match cannot be played, the home team must contact their opposition with alternative dates/venue within fourteen (14) days of the original match date. The rescheduled date must be agreed by both teams and notified to the Div. Rep within twenty one (21) days of the original match date.
11. Cancellation of any match due to a fixture in another league on a Met League date is not permitted.
12. Any team not fulfilling at least twelve (12) of the fourteen (14) fixtures may not be invited to re-join the League in the forthcoming season or may be penalised by the Committee, whose decision shall be final.
13. A team should consist of a minimum of five players. In the event of a team having less than five players, the opposing team may claim the points. Any player over 14 years of age is eligible to play in the Metropolitan Netball League.
14. No player shall play for more than one Metropolitan League Club during the season unless officially transferred to another club. The player transfer must be completed on Engage and the relevant Div Rep(s) notified.

15. Each club must submit a full list of players with complete names by the Friday before the first fixture of the season and by the Friday before the first fixture of the second half of the season. A club must submit separate forms for each team they have in the Met league, with each player registered to one team only, i.e. team A, B, C etc. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the offending team losing any points gained for the match(es) with an additional one penalty point deducted and the opposing team being awarded five points for the win.
16. Players registered in a club's lower teams can play in higher team matches in the Met League on a maximum of two occasions. Should a player registered for a lower team play in a higher team on more than two occasions, that player will be deemed to be a permanent member of, and registered to the higher team and will be ineligible for lower team matches. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the offending team losing any points gained for the match(es) with an additional one penalty point deducted and the opposing team being awarded five points for the win.
17. If a club has a team playing in a higher league than the Met league, e.g. the Surrey County League (SCL), the players in their SCL team must be named in their highest team in the Met League together with the players registered in the Met League.
18. A player may play in more than one Met League match in one day, but a player may not play down from a higher to lower team. Any team found to be in breach of this rule will lose any points awarded in the offending match together with a one point deduction, with the opposing team being awarded five points for the win.
19. Results must be forwarded to the relevant Div. Rep. by both teams on the slips provided. In the event of a game not being played, both teams should notify their Div. Rep. In both cases Results Slips or written notification (for cancelled games) should reach the Div. Rep. within five days of the match date. Result slips should be sent electronically. and should preferably NOT be sent in .pdf format. One point will be deducted for any result slip received later than five days from the match date.
20. Points are five for a win, three for a draw, two if scoring within 5 goals and one for more than 50% of the opposition's score. Where teams have equal points at the end of the season positioning will be decided by goal average – calculated by goals for divided by goals against.
21. The annual subscription for membership of the Metropolitan Netball League shall be decided by the Committee and presented at the AGM.
22. The two teams finishing at the top of the division will usually be promoted and the two teams finishing at the bottom will usually be relegated. The winner of Division 1, if they are not already a team in the Surrey County Netball League, will go forward to the Surrey County Netball League play offs for the following season.
23. Application to join the League will be on a first come, first served basis. Entry to the League is by joining the lowest division unless the team is of proven ability and there is a vacancy in a higher division.
24. If a team proves to be outstanding, they may be promoted more than one division subject to vacancies in higher divisions.
25. The formation of the League divisions shall be at the discretion of the Committee.
26. All clubs must sign the Code of Conduct issued by the League.
27. Any problems will be dealt with by the appropriate Div. Rep. and, if necessary, referred to the Honorary officers/Committee. In the event of any queries, the Committee's decision shall be final.