



ENGLAND NETBALL

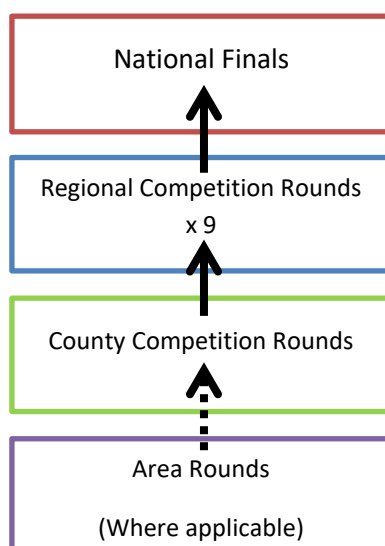
NATIONAL SCHOOLS NETBALL COMPETITION: RULES AND REGULATIONS 2025/26

1. Overview

- 1.1. The National Schools Netball Competition (hereinafter called the “Competition”) is a national competition organised by England Netball to enable schools to compete against each other to determine a national winner in each age group, whilst encouraging participation in netball through an open, fair, and transparent competition.
- 1.2. The Competition takes place over a series of competitive rounds, with eligible top placed teams progressing through each round to the National Finals.
- 1.3. These regulations set out below outline the rules and regulations (the “Regulations”) upon which the Competition must be run.
- 1.4. The Regulations must be followed by all Local Organising Committees (“LOCs”) in the management, administration, and operation of the Competition.

2. Competition Structure

- 2.1. The Competition shall comprise of the following rounds (“Competition Rounds”) held at the following levels (in ascending order):
 - County Rounds.
 - Regional Rounds.
 - National Finals.
- 2.2. Where necessary, there shall be a level below the County Rounds called Area Rounds, which shall be competitions within a County to determine which Team's progress to the County Round. It shall be up to the individual County Netball Association to determine whether Area Rounds are required in its County. Area Rounds may have different regulations and structures to those outlined in these Regulations. However, Sections 4, 7 and 8 must be included in the regulations for Area Rounds and enforced accordingly.
- 2.3. Each Competition Round will take place on a day specified by the LOC (see 3.1 for definition of LOC), which will be referred to as the Competition Day.
- 2.4. An overview of the Competition structure is set out in the diagram below:





- 2.5. The winners and runners up of each Competition Round shall progress to the next level, providing they meet (and continue to meet) the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 5. If a winner or runner up is ineligible, the next placed eligible team will progress to the next level. The scoring system for the competing Teams shall be as set out in Section 6.
- 2.6. The Competition is known as the England Netball National Schools Competition. The name shall be preceded by the name of such sponsor as England Netball may direct from time to time. The LOC may organise Competition Round sponsorship only with the agreement of England Netball.

3. Competition Organisation

- 3.1. England Netball delegates the organisation and management of each Competition Round to the local netball association who shall appoint the LOC at that level, as follows:
 - 3.1.1. Area Round: responsibility of the County Netball Association
 - 3.1.2. County Round: responsibility of the County Netball Association
 - 3.1.3. Regional Round: responsibility of the Regional Netball Association
 - 3.1.4. National Finals: responsibility of England Netball
- 3.2. The LOCs shall organise, manage, and administer their Competition Round(s) on the following basis:
 - 3.2.1. The LOCs shall at all times abide by and comply with the Regulations set out in this document, except as provided for in 2.2 above.
 - 3.2.2. Where a LOC has failed to ensure all Schools meet the eligibility criteria regarding Membership to England Netball as detailed in 5.1.2, England Netball will fine the responsible LOC at that level (3.1.1 and 3.1.2 County Netball Association, 3.1.3 Regional Netball Association) £200 per School that has not met the eligibility criteria and / or timescales. Such fines must be paid and received by England Netball by 1st June 2024.
 - 3.2.3. The LOCs shall be solely responsible and liable for the Competition Rounds managed and operated by them, as autonomous organisations independent from England Netball. England Netball shall not be responsible or liable for any claim in respect of any Competition Round except the National Finals.
- 3.3. The Area/County Competition Round will be contested between as many Teams as shall be determined by the applicable LOC.
- 3.4. Prior to the start of the Competition Round, the LOCs shall announce the following:
 - 3.4.1. the Competition Referee; and
 - 3.4.2. the person appointed to receive appeals of the decisions of Competition Referee, as outlined in Section 8.

4. Competition Referee

- 4.1. As set out above, the relevant LOC for each Competition Round will appoint a Competition Referee.
- 4.2. The Competition Referee will have all necessary authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising during the Competition Day including, but not limited to:
 - 4.2.1. altering or amending the playing schedule, as necessary.
 - 4.2.2. determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction (including but not limited to disqualification of any individual, Player, or Team).
 - 4.2.3. maintaining, and being responsible for, a confidential Competition Referee Logbook where appropriate.



- 4.2.4.** enforcing the decision by any medical advisor, including but not limited to England Netball's appointed doctor or physiotherapist, regarding the participation of a player and whether they are able to.
 - a) Start the match.
 - Or
 - b) Continue to play.
- 4.2.5.** adjudicating instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour or behaviour that brings the sport into disrepute, including but not limited to instances of Teams predetermining, or attempting to predetermine, the outcome of a Match and/or Competition Round.
- 4.2.6.** determining the result and score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance.
- 4.2.7.** altering the length of the Matches pursuant to 6.5.2.
- 4.2.8.** determining any matter not covered specifically within the Regulations.
- 4.3.** The Competition Referee may call upon, or delegate to, additional persons to assist with the Competition or consult with other persons prior to making any decision. However, the final decision and accountability for the decision will rest with the Competition Referee.
- 4.4.** If a Player is suspended from a Match or ordered to leave the court and take no further part in the Match due to dangerous/reckless play, serious foul language or gross misconduct, that Player and a Team Official, normally the Coach, will be required to attend a hearing before the Competition Referee immediately after the end of the Match. After the hearing, the Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken.

5. Pre-Competition Management and Administration

5.1. School Entry and Eligibility

- 5.1.1.** Participation in the Competition for any School shall be determined by the LOC in which that School is geographically based.
- 5.1.2.** To be eligible for the Competition each School must be a Member of England Netball within the timeframe set out in the Regulations. England Netball must receive the appropriate Membership Fee no less than four (4) days before the Competition Day for the relevant round.
- 5.1.3.** Once a School has taken to the court in any Competition Round, they are deemed to be eligible to participate in that stage of the Competition. However, if a School has not paid the Membership Fee to England Netball in accordance with 5.1.2 but has taken to the court, they will be fined £100. This fine will be imposed by England Netball's Competition and Events Delivery Manager and will be payable in addition to the Membership Fee. The fine must be paid not less than four (4) days before the Competition Day for the relevant next round or by 1st June, whichever is closest to the date the fine is imposed.
- 5.1.4.** Each School shall be entitled to enter only one Team per Age Group. The Age Groups are as follows:
 - Under 14s.
 - Under 16s.
 - Under 19s.
- 5.1.5.** By entering a Team in the Competition, the Schools agree that:
 - a) they are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the Competition.
 - b) they will fulfil their obligations and responsibilities set out in these Regulations.
 - c) they are bound by the Competition Regulations; and



- d) they are bound by all of the rules, policies, regulations, and by-laws of England Netball, including the England Netball Disciplinary Rules and Regulations, which may from time to time be in force.

5.1.6. If there is any dispute between the LOC and a School over entry and eligibility, England Netball's Competition and Events Delivery Manager, or their delegated nominee at England Netball's Head Office, must be contacted prior to the Competition Day. England Netball's Competition and Events Delivery Manager, or their delegated nominee.

5.2. Player Eligibility

5.2.1. In order to compete in the Competition, all Players must be in Full Time Education and be registered with the school they are representing on the Competition Day.

5.2.2. Should a Player leave a School on a Friday, she is considered to be a registered member of that School only until 6 am on the first Monday immediately following the Friday she left, that is to say, she may participate as a Player for the School over the weekend immediately following her departure.

5.2.3. Should a Player re-register with another School she will become eligible to represent that School from the date of her registration and will not be considered to have played for any other Team in the Competition.

5.2.4. The age range for each Age Group is as follows:

- a) U14: All Players must be over eleven (11) years of age and under fourteen (14) years of age.
- b) U16: All Players must be over thirteen (13) years of age and under sixteen (16) years of age.
- c) U19: All Players must be over thirteen (13) years of age and under nineteen (19) years of age.

5.2.5. All Players must play within their Age Group as of 11:59 pm on 31st August immediately prior to the Competition.

5.2.5.1. Players who wish to play up into an older age group must complete the Age Banding Consent Form and submit it to the LOC with the Squad Registration Sheet.

5.2.5.2. In exceptional circumstances, a player may be granted a special exemption to play down into a lower age group. Exemptions can be applied for directly to England Netball following the information in the England Netball Age Banding Policy.

5.2.6. The England Netball National Schools Competition is in the female category as per the [EN Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy](#). Only individuals who meet the eligibility criteria be included on the team registration sheet as a player. For information on eligibility based on gender, please visit section 7 (Female Category) of the [England Netball Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy](#).

5.2.7. During all stages of the Competition, Team Managers must at all times carry proof of age for all Players and a copy of Age Banding Consent Forms applicable to Players listed on the Squad Registration Sheet.

5.2.8. Proof of age comprises of one or more of the following:

- a) Copy of birth certificate.
- b) Copy of passport.
- c) Copy of medical card.
- d) Letter of confirmation signed by the School's Head Teacher



- 5.2.9.** England Netball recommends that individuals (player, coach, umpire) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidelines issued by itself.

The England Netball Personal Accident insurance cover excludes any loss or expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage, or any consequence thereof. If, for example, a member who is pregnant is involved in an accident not related to the pregnancy, subject to the conditions of the policy, the relevant benefits would be payable. However, if any situation (such as hospitalisation) was prolonged as a direct result of pregnancy, pregnancy complications or even early childbirth, then this portion of any claim is not covered.

5.3. Registration of Squads

- 5.3.1.** Participating Schools must complete a Squad Registration Sheet for each participating Squad. Each School may declare up to twelve (12) Players and three (3) reserves on the Registration Sheet, from which a Team will be selected.
- 5.3.2.** A Player may only play in one (1) Age Group in each round of the competition.
- 5.3.3.** Teams may only be selected from those Players whose names appear on the Squad Registration Sheet held by the relevant LOC.
- 5.3.4.** The Squad Registration Sheet must be completed fully for each Player and lodged with the relevant LOC prior to the commencement of the relevant Competition Round. Any changes or additions to the Squad Registration Sheet must be lodged with the relevant LOC, prior to the start of each Competition Round.
- 5.3.5.** Squad Registration Sheets will be made available on the Competition Day for the Team Manager to sign and return to the Competition Referee during the Registration Period.
- 5.3.6.** No changes may be made to the Squad Registration Sheet once the Team Manager has signed it during the Registration Period of the Competition Day, even if the Registration Period has not closed.

5.4. Competition Venues

- 5.4.1.** The relevant LOC is responsible for all arrangements with the venue.
- 5.4.2.** Matches will be played wherever possible on a court with adequate surrounds and playing surface and with ancillary facilities for Players, including changing and showering facilities for Teams and Officials, unless otherwise agreed by the relevant LOC. Where any such facilities are not available, this will be communicated to all Officials and Teams before the Competition Day.
- 5.4.3.** It is the sole responsibility of the relevant LOC to conduct a risk assessment in relation to any proposed venues and England Netball will not be responsible or liable for the suitability of the venues except for the National Finals.
- 5.4.4.** The relevant LOC is responsible for informing all Players, Umpires, Teams, Officials, Coaches and Team Officials of the provision of first aid cover available, and of any requirements for Teams within this, and of procedures in place in respect of first aid cover.

5.5. Competition Scheduling

- 5.5.1.** Every effort will be made to play all Matches in accordance with the schedule published by the LOC. Changes to the schedule can only be made by the relevant LOC or its Competition Referee.



5.5.2. The relevant LOC must provide the Teams and the Umpires with confirmation in writing of the following information ten (10) days prior to the date of the Competition Round:

- a) the date.
- b) the start time.
- c) venue details and travel directions (including postcode).

5.5.3. An LOC may only postpone or cancel a Competition Day due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances. Examples of unforeseen circumstances include but are not limited to inclement weather such as flooding, heaving rainfall, snowfall, storms, and other circumstances which would make participation dangerous. Injuries or delays incurred by Teams do not qualify as unforeseen circumstances. The LOC will not be responsible for any costs incurred by the Teams as a result of a postponement or cancellation of the Competition Day due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances.

5.5.4. If a Competition Round is postponed or cancelled, it is the responsibility of the relevant LOC to ensure that the Teams and Umpires are informed immediately the postponement or cancellation is known.

5.5.5. Any postponed or cancelled Competition Round must be played before the next scheduled Competition Round unless otherwise agreed by England Netball or the relevant LOC. The primary responsibility for rescheduling such fixtures shall rest with the relevant LOC.

5.5.6. Schools will be responsible for the organisation and costs of their own travel and should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays.

6. Playing and Competition

6.1. Match Rules and Format

6.1.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the World Netball Federation Rules of the Game and England Netball's Domestic Rules Guidance currently in force at the time of the relevant Match, except where specifically stated in these Regulations.

6.1.2. All Competition Rounds shall be played in a format as decided by the relevant LOC. However, it is highly recommended that England Netball's recommended format is used. This format will be outlined in the National Schools Organisers guidance.

6.2. Match and Technical Officials

6.2.1. Officials shall be provided for each Match in the Competition, as follows:

Technical Official (Scorer).

6.2.2. It is the responsibility of each Team to provide a competent Scorer. This person can be an Umpire, Technical Official, or a person with working knowledge of scoring.

6.2.3. The two (2) Scorers from the Teams shall constitute the Officials Bench.

6.2.4. All Teams are required to use the Official Scorecard supplied by the relevant LOC.

Match Officials (Umpires)

6.2.5. It is the responsibility of the relevant LOC to allocate Umpires for the Competition and to notify the Teams of their appointment in advance of the Matches.

6.2.6. For County rounds Umpires must hold a current England Netball into Officiating Award or Europe Netball Award at Level C or above. For Regional rounds Umpires must hold a current Europe Netball Award at Level C or above. The LOC may request that Umpires hold a qualification at a higher level but must not use Umpires with qualifications below the minimum award listed.



- 6.2.7.** For the National Finals, Umpires will be appointed by England Netball and will hold a current Netball Europe Award at Level B or above, or its equivalent.
- 6.2.8.** Teams may be asked to contribute to the Umpires' travel expenses. The amount of the payment towards Umpires' travel expenses shall be determined by the relevant LOC.
- 6.2.9.** In the event that an Umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied:
- a) The relevant LOC or, in the case of the National Finals, England Netball must be informed immediately.
 - b) If another Umpire of the appropriate minimum standard is available, then she/he will umpire the Match; and
 - c) Failing that, the next best-qualified Umpire should be used.
- 6.2.10.** The relevant LOC may appoint Court Managers from their database of support workforce to supervise and support the Umpires allocated to their courts.

6.3. Team Officials

- 6.3.1.** The Team Officials are the Coach, Team Manager and up to three (3) other personnel, at least one (1) of whom must be a Primary Care Person and must hold an appropriate first aid qualification. Teams must provide evidence of the relevant qualification for their Primary Care Person alongside the Squad Registration Form. Any team with a Primary Care Person who is not a qualified physiotherapist will be required to take guidance from the Competition Medic / Competition Physiotherapist on any injuries or illnesses during the Competition Round.
- 6.3.2.** The Team Officials and up to five (5) Players not on court shall constitute the Team Bench.
- 6.3.3.** The Team Bench will be situated in the area at the Team's defending end at the start of the Match to the right of the netball posts. The Team Bench does not change ends at half time.
- 6.3.4.** The Team Officials and Players on the Team Bench may not move up and down the side lines or along the goal lines outside the court during play.
- 6.3.5.** Coaching is only permitted from the Team Bench.

6.4. Kit and equipment

- 6.4.1.** Each Team must provide a size five (5) netball, which must be clearly marked for identification purposes. For the National Finals, a ball will be provided by England Netball and must be used for all matches.
- 6.4.2.** All Players must wear positional bibs and Teams must have a spare set in a different colour in case of a clash of colours.
- 6.4.3.** In the event of a clash of colours, a toss of a coin between the two captains will decide which Team retains its original colours.
- 6.4.4.** Spare kit must be provided by each team and be readily available during a match, for example, to replace blood-stained clothing.

6.5. Match timings

- 6.5.1.** It will be the responsibility of the LOC to provide a minimum of one (1) timekeeper, who will be responsible for timing all Matches centrally. The timekeeper should have a working knowledge of the World Netball Rules which are current at the time of the Competition.



6.5.2. Central timing, normally sounded by a hooter, will be used, but Matches will start and finish on the Umpire's whistle. Matches will where possible last seven (7) minutes each way, with one (1) minute at half time and two (2) minutes between rounds.

6.5.3. Central timers will commence timing when the Match is started by the hooter.

6.5.4. The Central Timer will signal the end of each half (either by hooter or electronic Umpire device) to the Umpire, whose whistle shall end each half.

6.5.5. Play will be stopped when instructed by the Umpire who shall blow the whistle to stop play. To restart play the Umpire shall signal and blow the whistle for play to be resumed.

6.5.6. The hooter will sound at the beginning and end of an interval.

6.5.7. A two (2) minute warning will be given before the first Match is due to commence and then thirty (30) seconds prior to the start of each subsequent Match.

6.5.8. For the final stages of the competition (Semi Finals onwards), games can timed individually with the clock being able to be stopped in line with the rules of netball. This decision will be made by each LOC and communicated to teams ahead of the competition.

6.5.9. Match Officials must ensure that:

- a) Before the start of each Match the Captains have tossed for centre pass.
- b) All Teams are on court, in position and ready to play at the scheduled time in accordance with the playing schedule and the central timer.
- c) No Team starts a Match with less than five (5) Players.

6.5.10. Any Team not on court as detailed in accordance with 6.5.8 a) to c) above will concede the Match. Zero (0) points will be awarded to the Team conceding the Match and match points for a win (5) will be awarded to the Team on court, in position and ready to play at the correct time. The Umpires must record on the Score Card the name and arrival time of the Team that arrived late.

6.6. Substitutes and Team Changes

6.6.1. During the half time interval, substitutions/Team changes may be made by both Teams providing they take place immediately.

6.6.2. During play, Tactical Changes (2024 Rules of Netball) are permitted however these should not be used within the last 30 seconds of a period of play (quarter or half determinable on the competition format) and if requested the umpires will decline the request. This is due to the short length of matches.

6.6.3. Teams must have two (2) sets of bibs available for all games to prevent any delay from tactical changes.

6.6.4. No extra time will be allowed for injury or illness, except in exceptional circumstances where play had been significantly delayed. This will be up to the umpire's discretion.

6.7. Injuries and accidents

6.7.1. Play may be stopped if the Umpire deems it necessary due to the injury or illness of a Player.

6.7.2. Team Officials are required to take great care in moving an injured player or ill player from the court.

6.7.3. Should the Primary Care Person feel that an injury is critical (e.g., head, neck or back) and that the injured Player should not be moved without assistance from the Competition Medical Staff, the Match Officials should note the time lost during treatment and report it to the Competition Referees who will adjudicate.



6.7.4. The appointed Competition Medic and /or Competition Physiotherapist has the authority to determine the participation of a player based on injury and / or illness and will refer this decision to the Competition Referee.

6.7.5. For all accidents or injuries on or off the court at the Competition, where any Player, Team Official, Umpire, Bench Official, spectator, Volunteer, Staff Member, or any other individual connected to the Competition Day is injured, the Competition Referee must complete an England Netball Accident Report Form and return it to the relevant LOC. A copy must also be sent to Membership Services at England Netball for internal records. In addition, the relevant LOC must ensure the England Netball accident reporting procedure is followed in full. This procedure should be followed for all injuries and accidents, regardless of whether or not medical treatment is given.

<https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/support/support-for-organisations/leagues/competition-governance/>

6.7.6. In the event that a Match is abandoned for any reason, for example, because of severe injury, the result of that Match will be determined by the Competition Referee, having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.

6.8. Scoring

6.8.1. The Competition tables will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each Team.

6.8.2. Teams will be awarded points as follows:

- a) Five (5) points for a win.
- b) Three (3) points for a draw.
- c) One (1) point for a loss in which the Team scores more than 50% of the winning Team's score.
- d) Zero (0) points for a loss in which the Team scores 50% or less of the winning Team's score.

6.8.3. Where two teams are level on points in the table

- a) Goal Average shall be used to determine the positions of the Teams which finish on equal points, i.e., the Team with the higher Goal Average over the course of the Competition Round shall take precedence.
- b) In the event that Goal Average does not differentiate between the Teams which finish on equal points, then Goal Difference shall be applied, i.e., precedence shall be given to the Team with the greater difference between goals scored and goals conceded.
- c) In the event that Goal Difference does not differentiate between the Teams which finish on equal points, then the head-to-head result between the two Teams shall determine the positioning.
- d) In the event that the head-to-head result does not differentiate between the Teams, then the Team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence.
- e) In the event that neither Goal Average nor Goal Difference nor head-to-head nor goals scored can differentiate between the Teams, the Team which takes precedence will be decided in accordance with the extra time procedure as outlined in Section 6.8.4 below for Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals in the form of a Play-Off.

Note: Where one of the Teams has its Goal Average, Goal Difference or total number of goals scored affected by conceded Match(es) as set out in 6.5.9, then all goals scored by and against conceding or disqualified Team(s) in all Matches shall be omitted from the calculations of both Teams level on points. Except where one of the Teams level on points is the conceding Team, at which point they will assume a goal average of zero and will be the lowest ranked team of those level on points.



6.8.4. In a head-to-head, knock out Match which is not part of a league (usually, the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Final matches of the Competition Round), the following will apply if there is a draw at full time:

- a) There will be extra time of two (2) minutes each way.
- b) Teams change ends immediately after full time, and the centre pass is taken by the Team entitled to the next centre pass.
- c) The Teams will change over at half time without a break.
- d) In the event of a draw after the full period of extra time, play will continue without a break, until the next goal is scored.
- e) Where venues permit, the digital scoreboards will be used for the final. This may delay the start of the final and/or extra time. This will be communicated to the umpires and team beforehand.

6.9. Registration of Results

6.9.1. Scorecards must be checked and signed by the Scorers of both teams. Once the official Scorecards have been signed no dispute can be logged unless it is marked 'Under Protest' in accordance with 7.1.2.

6.9.2. If there is disagreement in relation to the final score, the procedure outlined in Section 7 (Competition Complaints Procedure) should be followed.

6.9.3. It is the responsibility of the scorers from each team to submit the scorecard to the Competition Organisers by the method detailed in the event information pack.

7. Competition Complaints Procedure

7.1. On the Competition Days, all queries, and complaints (a "Complaint") should be directed to the Competition Referee in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows:

7.1.1. Where the Complaint relates to the Competition format or management, including but not limited to the schedule, the opposing Team, playing surface or other playing arrangements, a protest must be made before the start of the Match (or as soon as possible after the issue becomes apparent during the Match) to the Competition Referee. The Complaint must then be acknowledged by the Competition Referee who will decide what action should be taken; or

7.1.2. Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a Match, the scoring and/or its result, the relevant Squad member, or Team Official, must do the following:

- a) Inform their opponents and the Umpires of the Complaint.
- b) Mark the Score Card with the words 'Under Protest.'
- c) Take the Score Card marked 'Under Protest' to the Competition Referee, straight after the Match.
- d) Explain the issue in full to the Competition Referee(s).
- e) The Competition Referee(s) will decide what action should be taken.

7.1.3. The Competition Referee's decision in relation to Complaints made under clauses 7.1.1 or 7.1.2 is binding apart from where parties to the Complaint have a right to appeal the decision under Section 8 below.

7.2. Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Competition by the relevant LOC or by England Netball, such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of the relevant LOC or of England Netball.

7.3. Where a Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual Player or School, volunteer or individual attending the Competition which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations, such Complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures set out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations and should be referred to the Disciplinary Secretary of the appropriate authority.

7.4. The umpires control a match according to the Rules of netball and decide any matter not covered by them. Their decisions are final and cannot be appealed.



8. Appeal of Competition Referee Decision

8.1. The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a Complaint submitted in accordance with sections 7.1.1 or 7.1.2 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

8.1.1. if the decision of the Competition Referee has a potential impact on a Match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition Round, and.

8.1.2. there has been a failure by the Competition Referee to follow or act in accordance with these Regulations and/or the Competition Referee has reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact.

These are the only grounds of appeal, and any appeal must be submitted in accordance with the appeals process set out below.

8.2. An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the Head Teacher of the appealing School to the named contact from the relevant LOC (see 3.4.2) within two (2) working days of the Match.

8.3. The appeal must be accompanied by a payment of £100 which shall be returned if the appeal is upheld or if there are any other extenuating circumstances. The Competition Appeal Committee (CAC) will decide whether the extenuating circumstances warrant the payment being returned.

8.4. The named contact from the relevant LOC will establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected to the Competition. One of those individuals will be appointed as the Chair. Where England Netball is the LOC, the CAC will usually comprise of three (3) senior members of England Netball's Executive Team.

8.5. The Chair of the CAC will give notice of the appeal to the opposing Team, and any other Team that the CAC believe could be affected by the outcome of the appeal. These Teams will be permitted seventy-two (72) hours from the time that the appeal notice is sent from CAC to submit any evidence or submissions that they wish the CAC to consider.

8.6. All submissions and evidence must be submitted in writing. The Chair of the CAC will otherwise have the discretion to determine the process, procedure, and direction of the appeal.

8.7. The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy-two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions.

8.8. The CAC will notify all the parties who made submissions and presented evidence of its decision and any penalties and sanctions imposed within twenty-four (24) hours of it reaching its determination. The CAC shall have the discretion to publish the decision through whatever medium it considers appropriate.

8.9. The CAC shall have the delegated power of the relevant LOC to make all decisions and impose and enforce any penalties and sanctions (including but not limited to reprimands, deduction of points, fines, suspensions, and expulsions from the Competition) relating to the appeal. There is no further right of appeal on this decision.

8.10. The procedures set out in this section 8 shall be governed by the Arbitration Act 1996 ("the Act") and amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of Section 6 of the Act.

8.11. The parties also waive irrevocably their right to any form of appeal, review or recourse to any court or other judicial authority, or under England Netball's Disciplinary Procedures Manual or otherwise, insofar as such waiver may be validly made.

8.12. The seat of arbitration shall be England, the language used shall be English and the governing law of the regulations and these proceedings under Section 8 shall be English Law.



- 8.13.** If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than provided for by this section 8, and all parties to the appeal consent, the timetable within which an appeal is raised, submissions made, and the decision taken can be shorter than the seventy-two (72) hours stated in this Section 8. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised directions timetable which shall be binding on all parties.
- 8.14.** In order to adhere to the timescales, set out in Section 8, all communication will take place via electronic mail to the contact held on England Netball's administration system, ENgage. It is the participating School's responsibility to ensure that these contact details are kept up to date.

9. Miscellaneous

- 9.1.** These Regulations shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law.
- 9.2.** Any questions regarding these Regulations can be addressed to:
Competition and Events Delivery Manager
England Netball, SportPark
Loughborough University
3 Oakwood Drive
Loughborough, LE11 3QF
- 9.3.** England Netball reserves the right to amend these Regulations each year in advance of the Competition and such amendments will take effect from the first date of publication of the completed amended procedure on the England Netball website.



Definitions

Some definitions within the National Schools Netball Competition Rules and Regulations are set out in the Membership Regulations and International Netball Federation's Rules of the Games.

Supplementary to these, the following terms shall have the meanings set out below:

Competition Appeals Committee (CAC) means a body of up to three (3) individuals who are independent of and not connected to the Competition that will hear an appeal or a group of appeals on the Competition Referee's decision as set out in section 8.

Competition Day means the specific day or days on which the Competition Rounds take place.

Competition Medic means a qualified person appointed by the LOC to treat accidents and injuries. This would be a minimum of an Emergency Medical Technician

Competition Physiotherapist means a qualified physiotherapist appointed by the LOC to assist with injuries.

Competition Referee means the individual appointed by the relevant LOC with all necessary authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising during the Competition Day as set out in 4.2.1.

Competition Referee Logbook means a record of any incidents, disciplinary matters, changes to schedule or complaints that arise on the Competition Day and are passed onto the LOC.

Competition Round means a single stage of the Competition, that is, either the Area, County, Regional or National stages.

Court Managers mean individuals that oversee the entrance and exit for Players and Team Officials on and off court between Matches, as well as the first point of call for any logistical issues that occur on the day.

Court Runners mean individuals that are appointed by either the LOC or the Competition Referees to help and support wherever required on the Competition Day.

Full-Time Education means education undertaken in pursuit of a course, where an average of more than 12 hours per week is spent during term time.

England Netball Accident Report Form means a form that is accessible from England Netball that must be used to detail any accidents that occur during a Competition Round.

England Netball Head Office means the registered offices of England Netball which currently are England Netball, SportPark Loughborough University, 3 Oakwood Drive, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3QF. The email address is compevents@englandnetball.co.uk.

Goal Average means goals for divided by goals against, to two decimal points.

Goal Difference means the difference between the goals scored and the goals conceded.

Local Organising Committee (LOC) means the local netball association responsible for the Competition Round(s)

National Finals means the final Competition Round of the National Schools Netball Competition which the winners and runners up of the Regional Rounds may progress into and is the responsibility of England Netball.

Match means an individual game of Netball played, in accordance with 6.1, forming part of the National Schools Netball Competition.

Medical Advisor means the assigned Competition Medic or Competition Physiotherapist for the Competition Round.

Player means an individual listed on the Squad Registration Sheet who may from time to time participate in a Match.



School means an institution for education, which also includes colleges and universities (where appropriate).

Squad means the 12 Players listed on the Squad Registration Sheet from which a Team may be selected.

Registration Period means the time scheduled prior to the first Match on the Competition Day for the administration, management and communication required. The LOC will notify all participants of the Registration Period in advance of the Competition Day.

Teams means up to seven (7) Players actively participating in a Match at a given moment.

Team Officials mean the individuals that are listed on the Squad Registration Sheet and include the Coach, Team Manager and up to three (3) other personnel, at least one (1) of whom must be a primary care person.