



Together we will make Netball **RISE AGAIN** in the East

Dear Member

We are all longing to follow our passion and return to court as soon as it is safe to do so, the last five months have been incredibly challenging with no opportunity for some netball therapy to provide some much needed respite. However, every day we are moving closer to a return to active netball, so we need to be a little more patient and prepare for the happy day. England Netball, as the National Governing Body for the Sport, has worked tirelessly to enable us to return to court at the right time and to ensure all safety measures have been put in place to enable us all to return to the court safely and with a big smile on our faces.

Rise Again

You should have received a communication from England Netball either directly or through various social media platforms launching their #RISE AGAIN campaign. England Netball has offered a very generous 30% optional discount for all individual members affiliating before 30th September 2020. In addition, they have asked us to join the #RISE AGAIN Movement by declining to claim the optional discount.

Netball East and colleagues from the constituent County Netball Associations in the East Region want to play our part to encourage and enable all our members to be able to start playing netball again at the earliest and the safest opportunity but recognise the financial impact on individual members.

Members are the heartbeat of the sport, without them there would not be a sport but likewise a sport cannot survive and flourish without a strong National Governing Body and outstanding voluntary Regional and County Netball Associations who are prepared to invest in the game so we have the best netball experiences possible. So, we are at a point where we need to put the sport first and make our pending membership decisions in the best interests of netball.

In the East we applaud England Netball's strategy and pledge our full support for the **#RISE AGAIN** campaign; collectively we have put in place a supporting plan so that **Together we can make netball RISE AGAIN in the East**. We strongly urge you in the best interests of netball to renew your England Netball membership (and the associated Regional and County memberships) before 30th September **AND** to waive your right to claim your 30% discount. This will provide England Netball with the revenue capacity to ride out the Covid-19 storm and continue to re-invest in the game we love.



Return to Play Support Fund

However, in the East we recognise that the financial toll of Covid-19 on some of our members has been extreme and we do not want them to lose the opportunity to return to play as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so. So, collectively we have taken steps to mitigate the cost of regional and county membership fees and introduce a new Return to Play support fund to help the hardest hit.

1. Like England Netball the Region and all the constituent County Associations (South Essex Thurrock Netball Association do not have a County fee) have chosen to freeze their membership fees for 2020/21 with the exception of Cambridgeshire who have opted to reduce their under 18 fees by 50% and reduce their over 18 fees by 22%. In addition, Netball East and Hertfordshire Netball Association will offer a 30% discount on their fees for all individual members affiliating before 30th September 2020.
2. Furthermore, we have combined our resources to introduce our **Return to Play Support Fund** which will provide significant financial support for our hardest hit members to access membership at an affordable price. Conditions apply and evidence of financial hardship will need to be provided but if you meet the criteria:
 - i. Members over 18 years of age claiming England Netball's 30% discount will only need to pay £5.00 of the England Netball fee plus the regional & county fee and the combined funds of the Counties and the Region will pay the rest.
 - ii. Members under 18 years of age claiming England Netball's 30% discount will only need to pay their regional & county fee the combined funds of the Counties and Region will pay the outstanding balance of their England Netball membership.

The Fund will be open from 7th August 2020 until 30th September 2020 and as funds are limited will be administered on a strictly first come first served basis. Further details and an application form will be available from the Netball East Regional Office at East@englandnetball.co.uk

Netball East celebrated its 70th Anniversary last year and throughout that time our netball pathfinders and pioneers have always led the way in shaping the growth and development of the game we love, and we are proud of what they have achieved. Now it is our opportunity to take the lead and be proud of it!

So, my request to you all is to renew your membership as soon as possible and show the Country that the East Region leads the way and has the most affiliated members by 30th September 2020.

**Follow your passion as together we can make a difference and together, we will make Netball
RISE AGAIN in the East - so be part of the Movement.**

Paul Clark
Chair, Netball East

On behalf of Netball East, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, East Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk County Netball Associations and South Essex Thurrock Netball Association.