

COUNTY PREMIER LEAGUE NETBALL
LEAGUE RULES

2017/18

1. JURISDICTION AND MEMBERSHIP

All Clubs wishing to enter a team into the County Premier League (CPL) must pay their team's Affiliation fee prior to the commencement of the League. In addition, all players must also be affiliated to the County affiliated team prior to commencement of the League. See Penalties (14.1).

2. LEAGUE AGM/COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2.1 Each team participating in the CPL must appoint a League representative ("League Representative"). Each team participating in the League must then send a League Representative to each League general meeting and League AGM. For non-compliance please see Penalties (14.2).

2.2 The quorum for a League general meeting shall be $\frac{1}{3}$ (one third) of all teams playing in that League at the date of the League general meeting.

2.3 A League general meeting shall be convened by the CPL Chair at any time:

- a) By order of the CPL Committee (as appropriate); or
- b) Upon receiving a written request by at least 2 (two) clubs with teams playing in the CPL.

2.4 Such a meeting shall be convened within 28 (twenty eight) days of the CPL Secretary receiving such a request.

3. STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE LEAGUE

3.1 The structure of the CPL shall be decided by the CPL Committee at the start of each season.

3.2 The CPL is considered to be a premier division of all Leagues. Therefore, no team may enter both the CPL and a Feeder League (defined in Appendix 1) concurrently.

3.3 The CPL shall consist of a minimum of 8 (eight) teams.

3.4 The winners of the Feeder Leagues will be offered promotion to the CPL. If they decline then the invitation will be extended to the runners up of that League.

3.5 Relegation shall be at the discretion of the CPL Committee.

3.6 Each team shall name at least 7 (seven) players for the CPL.

3.7 League tables, which will determine the promotion and relegation of the teams involved, shall be drawn up at the end of the season.

- 3.8** “New Team” means a team with less than 5 (five) original members of a previous team or otherwise at the discretion of the CPL Committee. The position of a New Team may be assessed at the discretion of the CPL Committee utilising a play-off if deemed necessary.
- 3.9** Where a club has more than 1 (one) team, it must name at least 7 (seven) players to each team.
- 3.10** All players must be named to a team and registered with the CPL Committee prior to playing.
- 3.11** A named player may play down in the team immediately below 1 (one) time per season but may not return to her former team for the following 2 (two) League matches. If she plays down more than once, that player will be deemed a member of the lower team and will not be permitted to play up for the remainder of that season.
- 3.12** Only 1 (one) named player may play in the team immediately below at a time.
- 3.13** If a player plays up for 2 (two) full consecutive league games she will be deemed to be a player of that particular team. If a player plays up for any part of more than 6 (six) league matches in 1 (one) season then she will be deemed to be a player of that particular team. This section 3.13 does not apply to teams playing in the Netball East Regional Clubs League (“RCL Teams”).
- 3.14** The CPL Secretary must be informed, in writing, of a proposed change in the players named to a team before that team’s next League fixture. The number of times a team may make such changes will be at the discretion of the League Committee.
- 3.15** Any player may play in CPL provided that she fulfils the Affiliation rules laid down by England Netball and the League rules as approved by the CPL and the Committee.
- 3.16** A maximum of 12 (twelve) players may operate on each league date (“Squad”). The Squad may include the umpire as a substitute provided that she is affiliated to that club and is of the appropriate standard for that League. The substitute umpire must hold an equal or higher qualification than the umpire she is replacing. However, any change of umpire during a match can only take place with the prior agreement of the two captains.
- 3.17** Fixture tables shall be drawn up by the CPL Committee. Winter league fixtures should be completed before the AGM. Summer league fixtures should be completed by the end of July.
- 3.18** The CPL Committee shall rearrange League fixtures if the East Regional Clubs League (RCL) fixtures are published after the publication of the League fixtures and cause a conflict. Where a conflict occurs, the affected team should apply to the CPL Committee at their earliest opportunity to have the League fixture rearranged. The CPL Committee shall consider the application and at their discretion liaise with the affected teams to rearrange the conflicting fixture. See Point 8
- 3.19** An RCL team consisting of 7 (seven) named players and named bench players should be notified to the relevant CPL Secretary(s). Bench players would then be eligible to play in their respective teams below.
- 3.20** If named players and bench players are re-named the CPL Secretary(s) must be notified immediately.

3.21 The winners of the CPL are eligible to attend the RCL League play-off (subject to RCL's own rules), if successful they will be promoted to the RCL Division 3 (or, if different, the lower RCL Division in operation by Netball East at that time). If they decline then the eligibility will be extended to the runners up of the CPL with no penalty to the CPL winners. Should both teams decline then the eligibility will be extended to lower placed clubs.

4.0 **RULES**

4.1 Netball in CPL shall be played under the rules of England Netball current from time to time.

4.2 An Affiliated player may represent 1 (one) club at a time within CPL providing they do not represent any other club in a competitive feeder league within Cambridgeshire. An Affiliated player may move only once during a season and must re-Affiliate through the new club. The player may not return to the original club in that season. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an affiliated member may represent only one club at a time as a player but may be affiliated to a 2nd (second) club as a non-playing member.

4.3 A player who is not affiliated may play as a guest player once in a season. If she wishes to play again within CPL she must be affiliated. The name of the player must appear on the scorecard with "GP" marked next to her name. Only 1 (one) guest player may be used in a team at any one time.

4.4 All matches must start within 5 (five) minutes of the agreed time, unless central venue timing is in place (in which case any late starts will be at the discretion of the CPL League Committee).

4.5 All teams are expected to provide a ball and set of bibs compliant with England Netball and/or League rule laid down from time to time.

4.6 Clubs must pay the specified entry fee to the CPL Treasurer by the date laid down by the CPL Committee.

4.7 The signatures of named players must be sent to the CPL Secretary by the date specified by the CPL Committee.

4.8 No player may participate in a League game of Netball whilst she is knowingly pregnant.

5. **LEAGUE POSITIONS**

5.1 League positions shall be determined by awarding points as follows:-

- 6 points for a win
- 4 points for a draw
- 3 points if within 5 goals of opponents score
- 2 points if within 50% or more of opponents score
- 1 point for less than 50% of opponents score

5.2 Any team conceding a match should be deducted two points.

5.3 League tables shall be compiled in descending order of points obtained. Where points are equal, the team with the superior goal difference will assume the higher position. Where points and goal difference are equal, the teams will share equal position.

5.4 If the playing format is for all teams to play each other then split into two divisions, on completion of the 1st half fixtures, should two teams have accrued equal points and goal difference both teams will proceed into the top half of the league for the remainder of league fixtures.

5.5 In the event of a match being conceded, the goal average is calculated as follows. For the non-conceding team - take their total "goals scored" less their total goals scored against, divide this figure by the number of games (excluding the conceded match). This figure then represents the average goal difference. This should then be added to "goals for" for the non-conceding team. For the conceding team, this number of goals is added to "goals against" total. If this figure results in a minus average then the goals are not altered for either team as this would put the non-conceding team at a disadvantage. 6 points will be added to the non-conceding team and -2 points will be deducted from the conceding team.

6. APPOINTMENT OF UMPIRES

6.1 The minimum standard for an umpire in the CPL is "C" award. This umpire should have at least 3 months active umpiring experience after passing their "C" award to enable them to be eligible to umpire a CPL match, unless specific permission granted by assessors at their C assessment. Where an assessment is passed outside of Cambridge, umpires will be given a 15 minutes assessment.

6.2 If an umpire fails to turn up to a match and no replacement can be found the match will be rearranged within two weeks as per the league rule for abandoned matches. The CPL Committee will pay travelling expenses of £15.00 to the other umpire.

6.3 Umpires are required to conform to a standard of physical fitness which allows them to keep pace with the speed and variability of the game. If anything is likely to affect an umpire's movement and positioning to the detriment of the game she/he is required to withdraw from officiating the match. It is strongly recommended that pregnant umpires do not officiate for their own safety.

6.4 Umpires will be allocated by the CPL Committee. If a match has to be rearranged then both teams are required to appoint their own umpire. Umpires shall be from the existing pool of CPL Umpires and shall be neutral, unless expressly agreed in advance by the CPL Committee AND both teams.

7. START TIMES and RESULTS

7.1 Due to central timing all matches must start on time as per the designated start times on the current fixture list. Each match must be timed individually by the relevant timekeepers with injury time being timed and added as per EN rules. Time allowed between quarter & half times are as follows:-

- Quarter time – 3 mins
- Half time – 5 mins

7.2 If a team has at least 5 (five) players they must take the court at the designated start time. If a team has less than 5 (five) players at the designated start time they must concede the match. 2 (two) points will be deducted from the offending team and the goals scored will be calculated and added according to the non-offending team's averages. If the offending team subsequently wish to appeal they must put their comments in writing to the CPL Committee to explain their reasons for the appeal. The CPL Committee will make the final decision on all appeals.

7.3 If a team has less than 5 (five) players at the designated start time and the situation is due to unforeseen extenuating circumstances, either a further 10 (ten) minute delay to the start time or a re-arranged match can be agreed. This decision is solely at the discretion of the CPL Committee members present on that day at the matches.

- 7.4** Results must be confirmed on an official scorecard provided by CPL and placed in the scoreboard. See Penalties for non-compliance (14.3).
- (a) Teams are responsible for ensuring that the scorecards are filled in correctly (consult the relevant League rules) i.e.:
- (i) that the scores are correct;
 - (ii) that each participating player has signed the card, including substitutes (indicating portion of game played $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$), players playing up/down, and guest players;
 - (iii) that the umpires have signed the scorecard, stating their qualification; and
 - (iv) If the scorecard is not placed in the scoreboard it must be received by the CPL official within 7 (seven) **days, or that proof of posting within 7 (seven) days is provided.**

8. NATIONAL/REGIONAL/COUNTY EVENT

- 8.1** In the event of a National/Regional/County event coinciding with a CPL fixture, if a player(s) and/or official(s) from one team are/is involved, the two teams should be given up to 14 (fourteen) days to play the match from the fixture date.
- 8.2** Teams who are involved in National/Regional/County events must notify the CPL Secretary to re-arrange a match at least two weeks prior to that fixture date. If notification is less than 2 (two) weeks the match will be played on the original date. If the team involved in the event cannot then field a team they will concede the match.

9. SET TIMES AND DATES

- 9.1** All matches must be played at the set times and dates as laid out in the fixtures list. These cannot be altered or re-arranged except for:-
- (a) Extenuating Circumstances
As there is no precedent for what constitutes an “extenuating circumstance” each request/circumstance will be considered and decided upon individually by the CPL.

10. PROCEDURE FOR POSTPONED MATCHES

- 10.1** Teams will have the responsibility to mutually agree on a date, time and venue within 2 (two) weeks. If no agreement has been decided on, in this time, then the committee will set a date and venue for the following Thursday, if either one or both teams are unable to fulfil this fixture, then they will concede the match and 2 (two) points will be deducted as per rule 5.2. If either team is unable to play on the proposed Thursday, they must notify the Secretary immediately.
- 10.2** Each team is responsible for providing an umpire for the rearranged fixture see 6.4 above.

11. ABANDONED MATCHES

- 11.1** A match can only be abandoned at the discretion of both umpires. If 3 (three) quarters of the match have been completed the result will stand. If less than 3 (three) quarters of the match have been completed the match will be replayed at a time and venue decided by the CPL Committee. A team failing to take the court within 1 (one) minute, when instructed to do so by one or both umpires, will concede the match. Both umpires need to take team safety into account when making decisions on abandoning matches.

12. NO SMOKING ON COURTS

No smoking allowed on or around the netball court area. Penalty of a £5.00 fine to go to Cancer Research.

13. MISCONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY

- 13.1** If a complaint regarding the conduct of a club, player, team, official, coach or other participant is made, this should be sent to the CPL's Safeguarding Officer. If the complaint can be managed by the CPL Committee it will be investigated on receipt of the complaint in writing, accompanied by any relevant evidence.
- 13.2** If the complaint is about an individual player and contravenes EN Code of Conduct the matter will be referred to the County Safeguarding Officer for referral forward.
- 13.3** All other complaints / grievances will be managed by the CPL Committee who shall follow the CPL Grievance procedure. If misconduct is found to have occurred then the CPL shall follow the guidance set out in the Grievance procedure. In some cases a club may have points deducted or, in exceptional circumstances, may be suspended or expelled from League competition.
- 13.4** Appeals against a decision, other than interim suspension, can be made to CPL within 7 (seven) working days of the date on the disciplinary decision form.

14. PENALTIES

- 14.1** Penalty for Section 1. Loss of any points for matches played before payment of affiliation and no further participation will be allowed in the CPL until all outstanding affiliation fees (club, team and/or player affiliation fees) have been paid.
- 14.2** Penalty for Section 2.1– Clubs failing to send 1 (one) representative to the CPL League general meeting and CPL AGM, each team within such club shall be deducted 6 (six) points per team for the following England Netball year (1st September to 31st August). Each occasion of non-attendance will be judged individually and the eligibility to join the CPL will be at the discretion of the CPL Committee. The ultimate penalty will be expulsion from the League.
- 14.3** Penalty for Section 7.4 – clubs failing to return scorecards within the time limit may lose 1 (one) point – this is subject to a committee decision.

Appendix 1 – League Structure

