

WREXHAM AND FLINTSHIRE NETBALL ASSOCIATION **RULES**



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the WFNA these rules will be circulated to all members when firstly joining the club and after any amendments required following any official WFNA meetings

Any correspondence relating to our rules must be put in writing to our WFNA secretary as found in our handbook. Found on our WFNA website www.wxmflintnetballassoc@weebly.com

CONTENTS

- 1. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**
- 2. CLUB RULES**
- 3. AFFILIATION**
- 4. TRANSFERS**
- 5. EQUIPMENT / KIT**
- 6. LEAGUE MATCHES**
- 7. CANCELLED FIXTURES**
- 8. ABANDONED GAMES**
- 9. UMPIRES**
- 10. MATCH SCORING / RESULTS / CARDS**
- 11. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS**
- 12. PROMOTION**
- 13. COMMUNICATION AND DISCIPLINE**
- 14. APPEALS**
- 15. CODE OF CONDUCT**
- 16. UMPIRING CODE OF CONDUCT**
- 17. PLAYER / OFFICIALS CODE OF CONDUCT TOWARDS UMPIRES**

1 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

1. Players join WFNL through the Registration process.
2. Players may register from the September of school year 10.
3. If players are Under-18 the club/team are advised that they should obtain the relevant parental permission for that young person to participate in their club/team activities.
4. Players may only be registered to play for one WFNA team at any one time per playing season
5. WFNA has one playing season: The Winter League.
6. Each team must register a minimum of 7 players on the official WFNA Registration Form each season.
7. Team registration forms along with a Bacs payment must be sent to treasurer prior to playing their first match. When a payment has been made follow this up with an email to Treasurer confirming payment.
8. Each team is responsible for notifying the Secretary and the Divisional Representative of any changes to team contacts.
9. Any personnel and players involved with a WFNA team/club must be affiliated to WFNA in order to represent/vote at any WFNA meeting on behalf of the team.
10. Required Player details include: Players name, affiliation number and signature. Clubs with multiple teams must register all affiliated players to a team prior to playing their first match.
11. If affiliated players are not registered prior to first match they must fill in an additional registration form.
12. No player is allowed to play in any matches organised by WFNA if she is pregnant.
13. WFNA recommends that each team/club arrange its own personal accident insurance.

PENALTY: Failure to comply with any of the above sections

- Deduction of points equivalent to a win
- Player suspension for the remainder of the season

2 CLUB RULES

1. Multi-team clubs must seed teams and this must be marked clearly on the League Entry Form.
2. A minimum of 3 e-mail addresses should be submitted by each club on the League Entry Form by each club for contact purposes.
3. All teams of multi-team Clubs must register a minimum of 7 players per team.
4. Multi team clubs may play 1 player down or 2 players up per week. Each team can only use this rule 3 times per season.
5. A player may not play for more than one team per week

PENALTY: Failure to comply with any of the above sections

- Deduction of points equivalent to a win
- Player suspension for the remainder of the season

3 AFFILIATION

1. Affiliation and registration are not the same & both are required. Evidence must be provided.
2. Registered players are required to affiliate to the WFNA and WN or EN.
3. Each team/club must download their list of players from the WN/ EN website and send them to the WFNA Treasurer and relevant Reps before first match of season.
4. New additional players will need to do the following: -
 1. Complete an Additional Registration Form (can be found on the WFNA website)
 2. Make a payment of £3 to the Treasurer by bacs.only

3. Download proof of affiliation from WN/EN website
4. Send an email to the Treasurer attaching a copy of the additional registration form, proof of affiliation to WN/EN and clarification of the method of payment.
5. **NOTE** - Email and Payment must be sent before the player takes the court.
- 5 For affiliation contact details see the official governing body websites or contact one of the Divisional Representatives for assistance or clarification.
- 6 Players must be affiliated before playing a game.

PENALTY: Failure to comply with any of the above will result in:

- 1 point deduction per offence

4 TRANSFERS

1. Players may only transfer once per season.
2. Players wishing to change teams before midseason must complete a transfer form (available to download from WFNA website) and return to Treasurer along with payment of £3 transfer fee, no later than 24 hours before player takes the court for the new team.
3. All transfer requests must have one signature of one existing team player not including the transferee.
4. In the event of a contested transfer refer the issue to the Divisional Representative.
5. Decisions may require deferral to WFNA's next Committee meeting at the discretion of the Divisional Representative.

PENALTY: Failure to comply with any of the above will result in:

- Deduction of points equivalent to a win

5 EQUIPMENT / KIT

Each team must have the following available for use or reference when in play on court:

1. A size 5 standard Netball and bibs lettered front and Back
2. Matching Kit (**New teams or teams changing over kit will be allowed a reasonable amount of time to go through this process**)
3. Gloves may not be worn during play.
4. Players may not take to the court wearing any jewellery other than a taped wedding ring.
5. Hair accessories, which in the opinion of the umpire may cause injury to another player, must be removed prior to play.
6. Fingernails must not protrude beyond the finger ends and will be examined and approved by the umpire prior to play.

PENALTY: If the umpire considers that any of the above rules have been contravened:

- Players will only be allowed to take to court only at umpire's discretion

6 LEAGUE MATCHES

1. Matches will be played in accordance with the rules of the International Netball Association.
2. Divisional matches will be played at the designated Sports Centre as specified in the fixtures. The fixture secretary will inform teams of any re arranged matches i.e. Venue and time.
3. Coaches, substitutes and supporters may only spectate from the bench of their team's defending end of the court, as established in the first quarter of play. Spectators must remain at that end for the duration of the game.
4. Spectators must position sufficient distance from the court lines so as not to interfere with the umpire or players.
5. Matches shall be played as per published fixtures list. This is issued by WFNA Fixture Secretary by e-mail and will be available from the WFNA website.

- 6 In the event of an injury the clock will be stopped in accordance with the Rule Book.
- 7 Match start times will be: As specified in the fixtures
- 8 If 5 players and/or the umpire cannot take the court on time the following will apply:
 - One goal per minute delay will be awarded to the opposition, up to a maximum of 10 goals.
 - After 10 minutes/goals, the outcome below will apply.
 - The non-offending team will be awarded points and an average goal score will be added at the midway point or the end of the season.
- 9 Any team not honoring a fixture must notify the following by 4pm on the day of play:
 - The opposition's team contact as stated in WFNL
 - WFNA Fixtures Secretary
 - Umpires for both teams
 - WFNA Divisional Representative

7 CANCELLED FIXTURES

1. Any reasonable requests for cancellations will be considered by committee including adverse weather conditions
2. Fixtures Secretary, Divisional Representatives and League Umpiring Secretary will decide upon fixture cancellations by 4.30pm on the day of play. Teams should contact either of the above for confirmation of cancellation.
3. A team wishing to cancel must notify the following: -
 1. WFNA Fixtures Secretary
 2. Divisional Representative
 3. Opposing team contact / Opposing team umpire(as per contact list)
4. If a team cancels more than 1 game in a season WFNA committee will review its membership within the league
5. Cancellation for any reason other than the above will result in the non-offending team being allocated an aggregate score based on their average goals scored at either the midway point of the season or at the end of the season, depending on when the game was due to take place.
6. Cancellation for any reason other than above will result in the offending team incurring the following:

PENALTY:

- Deduction of points equivalent to a win
- Payment of opposing team's expenses (Treasurer will be able to provide the fee amount – payment will be made to the Treasurer who will forward on the funds)

8 ABANDONED GAMES

1. In the event of it being necessary to abandon a game i.e. serious injury, The Fixture Secretary will endeavor to re-arrange the game if less than half the game has been played.
2. If the game has passed half time then an aggregate score over the first two quarters will be calculated (e.g. multiply each of the scores by 2) by the game officials and Divisional Representative. Once all parties have been informed this score will be submitted to the website.
3. If the game has passed 3rd quarter time then an aggregate score of the first three quarters will be calculated (e.g. divide each score by 3 and multiply by 4)

9 UMPIRES

1. All teams are responsible for booking an umpire to officiate their match.
2. All umpires for Division 1 must be either an 'A'; 'B' or 'C' (being mentored towards their 'B' qualification) lower divisions must have qualified umpires 'C' and above

- 3 All enquiries about umpiring and training are addressed to WFNA Umpiring Secretary.
- 4 Female umpires may not officiate from the 12th week of pregnancy.
- 5 Could all umpires in the WFNA wear white tops
- 6 The umpire's fee's are as follows - £10 for a 'C'; £12 for a 'B' and £15 for an 'A'
- 7 In the event that two different grade umpires are used to umpire the same game, both teams must agree to split the costs e.g. grade A umpire is £15, grade C umpire is £10, therefore each team pays £12.50.
- 8 The Umpiring Secretary will oversee any umpiring issues
- 9 If a booked umpire fails to attend, the team having made the booking must use its trained umpire player (as long as she is qualified to that level) to fulfill the umpiring role.
- 10 If the booked umpire arrives, the clock may be stopped after a goal, to allow the player-umpire to resume playing, but only in the previously vacant position.
- 11 Umpire can officiate more than one match a night
- 12 **Player/Umpires can umpire prior or following own match**

PENALTY:

- Team not providing the umpire forfeits the game
- Same team is responsible for any costs (WFNA Treasurer to provide amount)
- Non-offending team is awarded the win

10 MATCH SCORING / RESULTS / CARDS

1. For each league match points will be awarded as follows:
 - 5 points for a win
 - 2 points if within 5 of the winning score
 - 3 points for a draw
 - 1 point for Greater than 50% of winning score.
 E.G. 20-10 = 0 point 20-11 = 1 point
- 2 Match cards are available for download from the WFNA website.
Each game requires two match cards to be completed, one by each team.
- 3 Each team shall mark the match card with an asterisk signifying the player chosen as 'Player of the Match'
- 4 Cards must be signed at the end of the game by both umpires and team captains, once signed the score is final.
- 5 In the event of scorers being used for the match they should sit together at a table If scorers are unavailable both umpires must score the game.
- 6 Divisional Representatives will be the first point of contact for all queries.
- 7 Match cards to be photographed and sent within 48hrs to the Divisional rep. of the fixture

PENALTY:

- A 1 point deduction

11 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

- 1 Match results must be text to the fixtures secretary on the match date by **both** teams. When submitting results that they put the home team name and score first followed by Away team name and result. State which team you are submitting score for.

PENALTY:

- A 1 point deduction

12 PROMOTION

1. At the end of each season the top two teams of each division will be promoted to the higher division
2. At the end of each season the bottom two teams of each division will be relegated to the lower division

13 COMMUNICATION & DISCIPLINE

1. WFNA Committee members contact details are listed on the WFNL website and in the WFNA handbook.
2. Complaints or problems should be directed to WFNA Secretary by e-mail within 24 hours of the issue arising. Complaints cannot be dealt with unless reported in writing.
3. Secretary will then inform all committee members
4. Secretary will inform player/club concerned giving them a brief outline of complaint and ask for a statement in return
5. Once received send out to committee for decision.
6. All players must conduct themselves in a way that respects other members
7. All players must consider their own and the safety and well-being of others at all times
8. All players will display a consistently respectful standard of behaviour and should not act in such a way (either verbally or physically) that could bring the League's name into disrepute
9. No members should condone any rule violations (including the use of prohibited substances)
- 11 All members will encourage and value the performance of other members regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, sexuality or social/economic status.
- 12 All members must not use social media technology to bring the game into disrepute or Make an inappropriate comment about a fellow official, coach, umpire or player.

PENALTY: Undisciplined behaviour will result in the following:

- 1 point deduction
- Player suspension for a period of time or Expulsion from the league decided by the committee

14 APPEALS

1. Any registered and affiliated member of WFNA has a right to appeal a decision of the committee.
2. All appeals must be made by email and accompanied by £3 payment at the time of appeal. The person/club appealing will cover the cost of the room hire if any costs apply.
3. The committee will inform all parties of time and venue
4. Appeals must be sent to WFNA Secretary within 7 days of the decision prompting the appeal.
5. WFNA Committee will convene the Board of Appeal to review the issue(s) at an Appeal Hearing.
6. The Board of Appeal is a randomly selected group of 4 committee members plus the Chair Person who will have the deciding vote if required.
7. These names will be selected by the person appealing randomly from committee members available for selection. In the event of the Chairperson being unavailable the Vice Chairperson will be the acting chair.
8. The Appeal Hearing will include the following;
 - Appeal Board
 - Team Representative and member concerned
 - Non-participating minute-taker. (A Committee member)
9. The Appeal Board's decision is final

15 CODE OF CONDUCT

1. We would like to remind all players, coaches, umpires and spectators the importance of sportsmanship and appropriate behaviour whilst participating in the WFNA.

2. For many years this league has been very successful and competitive and we all have a responsibility to ensure this continues, thus providing a strong netball competition for athletes to enjoy.
3. The league provides players with the opportunity to compete at a local level.
4. We all have a duty to ensure that the league runs professionally and safely and allows the development of athletes, coaches and officials.
5. Above all, games must be enjoyable for all, regardless of the results.
6. We do not want to hear any negative comments from individuals involved in participating, officiating or spectating. As a committee we are proud of this league, the opportunities it provides and the standards set that should be adhered to by all.
7. We are always happy to hear ways it can be improved or developed further. Let's all work together to ensure this league continues to be enjoyable for all and provide the best and fairest opportunities.

16 UMPIRING CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Have a duty of exercise reasonable care and skill to enforce the rules of the game, to apply them fairly and to effect control of the game so as to ensure the safety of the players
2. At all times, umpire consistently, independently (an attitude of mind characterized by integrity) and with complete impartiality, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern the game, in the true spirit of sportsmanship.
3. Maintain a complete knowledge and up to date interpretation of the official rules of netball, and be fully conversant with the rules, regulations and scoring systems applicable to the event at which they are officiating.
4. Remember they are the controllers of the games, and their decisions should not be influenced by spectators, team officials or players.
5. Be available to attend umpiring forums to ensure that they keep up to date with all current rules and regulations (Run by the WFNA)
6. Have a sensitivity and understanding for play and the players contributing your personality, as well as their knowledge of the rules
7. All umpires are human therefore could make the odd error and be big enough to admit it afterwards

17 PLAYERS / OFFICIALS/SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT TOWARDS UMPIRES

1. The WFNA expect all players, team officials and spectators to respect the role of the umpire as they are critical to our game
2. The WFNA will not tolerate anyone being disrespectful to umpires / or to their decisions. All decisions made by the umpire are to be accepted as final.
3. During play do not question a decision made by an umpire either by gesture, look, verbally, obscene language or by commenting to another player
4. The captain of the team is the only person who can ask the umpire to clarify a rule or decision at the end of a quarter or end of play.
5. Use social media technology to bring the game into disrepute or make an inappropriate comment about a fellow official, coach, umpire or player.

PENALTY – (This applies to breaking any of the WFNA Code of conducts)

- 1 point deduction
- Player suspension for a period of time or expulsion from the league as decided by committee

The WFNA committee is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy 'Netball' in an atmosphere free from threat, intimidation, harassment and abuse.