

1. Organisation and Administration

- 1.1 The Cheshire Elite League shall be governed and managed by the Cheshire County Netball Association (CCNA) and may delegate its powers and authority to any Sub Committee or individual(s).
- 1.2 The decisions of the CCNA or its nominee(s), in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the Cheshire Elite League which is not provided by below, shall be considered final and binding on all parties (subject to the right of appeal which is specifically provided for under England Netball's disciplinary regulations).
- 1.3 It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players and officials are conversant with the following rules and regulations.

2. Playing Qualifications and Eligibility

- 2.1 Application for entry to the Cheshire Elite League shall be open to any club or team which is affiliated to England Netball through a County Association, which has paid its subscription in this respect and which is situated within the boundaries of Cheshire - unless otherwise agreed by the CCNA.
- 2.2 Entry to the Cheshire Elite League will be determined by the CCNA at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the rules and regulations laid out herein and having due regard to the playing standard of teams which wish to participate. In the same way, such casual vacancies as may appear from time to time will be addressed by the CCNA in whatever way it seems fit.
- 2.3 By entering a team in the Cheshire Elite League clubs agree that:
 - They will abide by these rules and regulations.
 - They are able and willing to fulfill the costs and commitments of participation in the Cheshire Elite League.
- 2.4 All players must hold a current All England or All Wales Netball Affiliation/I.D. and must be able to produce current ID cards at fixtures.
- 2.5 All players must have their membership lodged with England Netball or Wales Netball Head Office and their subscription paid prior to their participation in the Cheshire Elite League.
- 2.6 All players must be over 14 years of age at midnight on 31st August/1st September prior to the commencement of the Cheshire Elite League playing season. Any talented U14 player may be used as per EN age banding process.
- 2.7 Pregnant players may not take place in league matches beyond the 12th week of pregnancy.

3. Registration of Squad Members

- 3.1 Clubs must register all players to play in the competition.
 - Squad registration sheets for each participating team must be completed fully for each player via the online submission form **prior** to their first fixture.
 - Post the submission of the initial squad registration sheet, any additions to the squad sheets must be lodged with the CCNA at least three (3) days prior to playing the fixture via the online form.
- 3.2 Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their squad registration list held by the CCNA.
- 3.3 Once a player has been named on a squad sheet and has played she cannot transfer to another club/team during the course of the current playing season.
- 3.4 Each team may declare up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each match by completing a team sheet/result card.

4. Structure of the League

- 4.1 This is an Open competition. The Cheshire Elite League will be contested between as many teams as shall be determined by the CCNA.
- 4.2 The league has one section and each team will play each other once in a round robin.
- 4.3 Points for matches will be awarded as follows:
 - 5 points for a win
 - 3 points for a draw
 - 2 points for a losing team scoring within 5 goals of winner score (ie: 50-46 2 pts, 50-45 1 pt)
 - 1 point for a losing team scoring 50% or more of the winners score
 - 0 points for a loss
- 4.4 A Cheshire Elite League table will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team. At the end of the season the winner will be the team that has the most points. Where two teams are level on points:
 - Goal average shall be used to determine their relative positions, i.e., the team with the higher average score over the course of the season shall take precedence.
 - In the event that goal average does not differentiate between the teams, 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
 - In the event that goal difference does not differentiate between the teams, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence
 - Where one of the teams has its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals scored affected by cancellations, then the goals scored by and against defaulting team(s) shall be omitted from the calculations. For example, in the event that one team received 5 points for a cancelled fixture, then the goals scored by the other team against the offending team will not be included when its goal average or goal difference is calculated.
 - In the event that neither goal average nor goal difference nor goals scored can differentiate between the teams, the aggregate score in the match or matches played between them over the course of the season shall be calculated and precedence given to the winning team.
- 4.5 Subject to the North West Regional League Rules and Regulations, the top placed Cheshire teams may be eligible for promotion to the North West Regional League.

5. Fixture Arrangements

- 5.1 All games are to be played indoors on Saturdays at Sir John Deane's Leisure Centre, Monarch Drive, Northwich, CW9 8AF Tel: 01606 810044
- 5.2 To confirm your entry, please send a cheque for £60 (per team) postdated 1st March 2016 by 1st October 2015. Assuming no cancellations or missed payments, this deposit will be refunded at the end of the season.
- 5.3 Payment for each match is £30/team. Post dated cheques are to be provided to Clare McFarlane by 1st October dated as follows:

1st October 2015	£75
1st December 2015	£75
1st January 2015	£75
1 st March 2015	£75

Postal address 'Hilarion', Yew Tree Way, Prestbury, Cheshire, SK10 4EX

- 5.4 All teams should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays. If a team has NOT TAKEN TO THE COURT WITHIN 5 MINS of the time set for the start of play, the non offending team will be awarded the points as winners by default. A friendly match may take place.
- 5.5 Teams failing to arrive for a match will meet the full costs of the fixture prior to their next game.
NB: For the 2015/16 this shall be £60.

- 5.6 No team may rearrange, postpone or cancel a match. Matches which are postponed due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances (ie: flash floods or heavy snowfall) will be re-arranged by the CCNA.
- 5.7 The penalties for not adhering to 5.4 are:
 - The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points for the match, and the team which cancels will have two (2) league points deducted from their total
 - The team which cancels may be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team has incurred, subject to the determination of the CCNA.
- 5.8 If for any reason a fixture is rearranged, postponed or cancelled, it is the teams' responsibility to ensure all team players and officials are informed and it is the responsibility of both teams to ensure that the CCNA are informed.
- 5.9 In the event that a match which are abandoned for any reason, e.g., because of serious injury, the result of that match will be determined by the CCNA, having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.

6. Match Regulations

- 6.1 All games must be played to the current IFNA netball rules.
- 6.2 All games must be of 60 minutes duration (4 x 15 minutes). There will be a 2 minute interval at each quarter time and 5 minute interval at half time.
- 6.3 There is an additional 10 minutes time prior to the scheduled start time for teams/umpires to warm up.
- 6.4 The first named club on the fixture is responsible for providing the match ball.
- 6.5 There is no allowance for injury time. It is at the discretion of the umpire to determine if play should be stopped for serious injuries.

7. Match Officials

- 7.1 Umpires will be a minimum of 'C' award. Teams are responsible for appointing their own umpire.
- 7.2 In the event that an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied:
 - If another umpire [of the equivalent standard] is available then she/he will umpire the match
 - Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire should be used
 - The CCNA must be informed immediately after the match.
- 7.3 It is the responsibility of both umpires to ensure that matches start and finish on time as per these regulations.
- 7.4 Scorers will be required for all fixtures. Each team must provide a competent scorer.
- 7.5 Each team should ideally provide a timekeeper for each match played. Failing this, it will be the responsibility of the umpire to ensure a timekeeper is appointed from either of the teams.

8. Registration of Results

- 8.1 Both teams are required to complete an official result sheet after each match, including entering the names of each player, their affiliation number and quarters played.
- 8.2 Both official result sheets must be checked by scorers and signed by both captains and umpires.
- 8.3 All score sheets should be collated and the first-named team on the last match should send this as a pdf file via email to fiona.rose4164@gmail.com no later than the Wednesday following the fixture.
- 8.4 Both teams shall upload the results into Club League Manager within 3 hours of the match start time.

9. Queries, Complaints and Appeals

- 9.1 Any team or match official who intends to raise a query or issue regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must inform their opponents and the umpires on the day of the match.
- 9.2 Any queries or issues regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must be submitted in writing to the CCNA within Seven (7) working days. Advance notice of such query or dispute should also be provided by telephone within 48 hours of the end of the fixture.

- 9.3 All queries, issues and disputes regarding the playing of a match and/or its result will be determined in the first instance by a sub-committee convened by the CCNA, which will use best endeavors to determine the issue within ten (10) days of receipt of correspondence.
- 9.4 The CCNA will have the power to determine the penalty to be imposed on teams and players who are in breach of these rules and regulations regarding the playing of matches in the County League. Such penalties will include reprimands, the deduction of league points, fines, suspensions, and expulsion from the competition, except as specified below:
- The use of an unaffiliated player will result in a deduction of 3 league points
 - The use of an unregistered player or a player, who is under age without written permission as per EN age banding rules will result in a deduction of 2 league points
 - Failure to play on more than one occasion will result in expulsion from the League.
 - If a team cancels, postpones or rearranges a fixture
 - i. The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points for the match, and the team which cancels will have two (2) league points deducted from their total
 - ii. The team which cancels may be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team has incurred, subject to the determination of the CCNA
 - The use of an umpire who is not C award (without prior agreement) will result in 5 points being deducted from the offending team.
- Teams who are repeatedly in breach of any Regulation may have further action/penalties imposed to those above.
- 9.5 In the event that any team wishes to appeal against the decision of this sub-committee, it must notify the CCNA within five (5) working days of receipt of the decision. In this event, the matter will be considered under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations 10 and 12, which allows for an Appeals Panel to be convened. The decision of the Appeals Panel will be final and binding on all parties. The Appeals Panel will have the power to:
- Endorse the decision of the CCNA, and uphold any penalty imposed
 - Endorse the decision of the CCNA, and increase or decrease any penalty imposed
 - Overturn the decision of the CCNA, and increase, decrease or remove any penalty imposed
- 9.6 Any team which wishes to appeal more generally against the governance and management of the Cheshire Elite League by the CCNA, or against specific decisions made by it, must also observe the procedures laid out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations 10 and 12.
- 9.7 Any team, which fails to observe the procedures laid out in the preceding clauses, will invalidate their right to raise a query, issue or appeal.
- 9.8 No team may claim victory by default in any match without first submitting itself to the procedures laid out in these rules and regulations.
- 9.9 Any complaint which does not concern the playing of a match and/or its result, but which is made in respect of a disciplinary offence, will be addressed in the first instance by an Investigation Committee convened under and acting in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations of England Netball. Such Committee shall have the power to refer the complaint to a Disciplinary Panel, which shall proceed in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations of England Netball.

10. Miscellaneous

- 10.1 All clubs will be held responsible for the conduct of their players, officials and spectators.
- 10.2 It is the responsibility of each team to provide adequate first aid cover for its players and officials, which shall also be made available to the match officials on request.
- 10.3 The CCNA will adjudicate on all matters not covered by these rules.