

Winter League Rules 2021-2022

Membership and Entry

1. England Netball membership is to be paid for all players, umpires and team officials prior to start of season. Teams and officials cannot participate in the league unless membership has been processed.

Penalty: 5-point deduction for each offence and a £25 fine

Note: Membership to England Netball is paid online at via ENgage and the membership period runs from 1st September to 31st August yearly. College, university or school membership does not cover individuals who participate in an adult netball league.

Insurance reminder: Players are reminded that they are not insured by Stoke on Trent Area Netball against personal injury or accident, except under the Public Liability Insurance. It is the responsibility of each individual to insure their membership to England Netball is active to be appropriately insured against accident whilst playing netball.

County Membership Secretary: Julie Tinsley – j.tinsley@ntlworld.com

2. League Entry

- 2.1 The entry fee to the Stoke-on-Trent Area Netball League (SoT League here forward) is a non-refundable deposit of £150. Application form(s) to be returned to the League Secretary and League Treasurer by the dates presented.

Penalty: No team will be entered into the league without the deposit being paid. Forms and deposits received after the final date may not be considered for league re-entry

League Secretary: Sammi Clewlow – stokenetballsec@hotmail.com

League Treasurer: Louise Eltringham – stokenetballtreasurer@outlook.com

- 2.2 The balance of the winter league fees are to be sent to the League Treasurer by 31st October each year.

Penalty: If the balance of the winter league fee is not paid by 31st October, £10 will be added to the balance for each week or part week that the payment is delayed. The committee reserve the right to suspend any team who delays payment

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- 2.3 The committee of the SoT League shall endeavour to arrange a summer netball league each year. The required entry form, stating the fee payable, shall be issued to all registered teams each year.
3. The financial year for the SoT League is 1st May to 30th April.

Registration of Players and Officials

4. Player Registration
- 4.1 All England Netball registered players are eligible to play in the SoT Winter League. Players may only register for one team/club.
- 4.2 Each team must complete a Registration Form and e-mail this with a copy of the Club's Membership Roster, downloadable via England Netball's ENgage system, to their relevant Division Liaison Officer by the first Monday of the summer league.
Penalty: 3-point deduction to the offending team
- 4.3 After the commencement of the league, any individual registrations should be submitted to the relevant Division Liaison Officer by e-mail, along with a copy of the updated Club Membership Roster.
Penalty: 5-point deduction and a £25 fine for the registered team of each non-England Netball member

Division Liaison Officers

Div 1: Kate Shore – 07734 907948 - kateall11@hotmail.com

Div 2: Stella Bowyer - 07788 641903 - s.bowyer@hotmail.com

Div 3: Michelle Cliffe - 07891 036578 - michellecliffenetball@outlook.com

Div 4: Pat Arnott - 07760 197104 - patriciaarnott176@btinternet.com

Div 5: Angela Lickorish – 07896 582628 - angelalickorish@live.co.uk

5. If a player wishes to change club or team during the winter league, a Player Transfer Request Form must be completed by 1st March each year, following the form's instructions. Once completed, a copy is to be sent to all parties by the NEW Division Liaison Officer. Only one transfer request can be made per player per season.
Penalty: any team that plays an ineligible player to have 5 points deducted and a £25 fine

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6. Umpire Registration

6.1 All umpires must be a member of England Netball. Umpires must have completed either an Into Officiating or a C Umpires' Award Course to officiate in the Stoke-on-Trent Area Netball Leagues. It is the responsibility of each club/team to ensure that their chosen umpires are affiliated and able to officiate in an Adult League.

Penalty: 5-point deduction and a £25 fine for the registered team/club of each non England Netball member umpire

6.2 If requested, umpires must provide evidence of their umpiring qualifications to the umpiring secretary.

Penalty: see Rule 8

6.3 Should an umpire (qualified or 'in training') be U18, the league recommends that they SHOULD have an ADULT with them on all occasions to comply with safeguarding requirements.

6.4 An Umpire Registration Form MUST be completed with the names of all umpires who will be officiating in each division and e-mailed to the League Umpiring Secretary by the first date of the winter league.

Penalty: Offending team will be deducted 3-points

League Umpiring Secretary: Angela Nelson - stokeleagueumpsec@outlook.com

Officiating

7. The SoT League adheres to the umpiring guidelines as per the World Netball Rules Book.

8. All Teams MUST provide a qualified or 'in training' umpire to officiate as per the League Umpiring Rota.

Penalty: 5-point deduction from the 'named team' total

9. Each umpire should wear appropriate **white top and trainers**, and will only umpire a maximum of two games per evening.

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10. Umpire Eligibility

10.1 Division 1 Umpires

- 10.1.1 All officials who hold an A, B or have taken their B Award written paper can umpire in Division 1. Mentored or league approved C Award officials may also umpire in Division 1.
- 10.1.2 Mentored and C Award umpires MUST inform the League Umpiring Secretary of their first match, giving date, venue and time. The League Umpiring Secretary will then provide a list of mentors/assessors for each official. Mentored umpires will be observed a minimum of three occasions and will then be given written league approval (Division 1 Written Approval Form) by an accredited assessor, or have the mentoring period extended. The league approved C Award umpires will officiate for three seasons from the date approved.
- 10.1.3 The league recommends that all C Award umpire attend a B Award umpires' course within this time span. The Liaison Officer will provide all umpires with a list of the B Award course dates available and will provide support to enable each umpire to apply for assistance towards the cost, etc.

10.2 Divisions 2 & 3 Umpires

- 10.2.1 These two divisions MUST be umpired by qualified neutral C Award or above umpires.
- 10.2.2 'In training' umpires who have attended a C Umpires' Course and passed their written paper may umpire in these divisions with mentor/assessor assistance and MUST inform the League Umpiring Secretary of their first match, giving date, venue and time. The League Umpiring Secretary will then provide a list of mentors/assessors for each official. Observations will be carried out for a minimum of three matches. When deemed acceptable, written league approval (Consent for Learner Umpire in Div 2/3 Form) will be given by an accredited assessor, with re-assessment arranged 12 weeks thereafter.

10.3 Divisions 4 & 5 Umpires

- 10.3.1 These two divisions shall be umpired by neutral qualified or 'in training' umpires.

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10.3.2 To assist with the development of all 'in training' umpires in these divisions, the SoT League will arrange a support session if requested/required.

Note: Accredited assessors, Norma Ashcroft, Anne Middleton-Hill, Angela Nelson, Pat Arnott and Chris Lowndes, and league nominated officials, can mentor/assess those wishing to umpire.

10.4 All records of written approval must be sent to the League Umpiring Secretary, and will be kept, checked and maintained by the League Umpiring Secretary and Division Liaison Officers.

Penalty: Umpire's failure to inform the League Umpiring Secretary may result in a penalty in line with the league rules on unqualified and non-approved umpires

10.5 If an unqualified/non-approved/non-mentored umpire officiates a match then this must be recorded on the results sheets of both teams. The Liaison Officer will then ascertain the reason why and rectify the issue.

Committee decision to be taken

10.6 All qualified and 'in training' umpires must attend any scheduled Umpires/Rules Forum. Scorers and Players are also encouraged to attend.

11. Umpire Punctuality

11.1 Should any umpire (qualified or 'in training') arrive late or fail to fulfil their umpiring commitment.

Penalty: 5-point deduction from the umpire's team

11.2 Should any 'named team' organise a replacement neutral umpire (suitably qualified for that fixture) and they are late or fail to attend.

Penalty: 5-point deduction from the 'named team'

12. Scorers MUST be present in ALL Divisions and MUST stand or sit together. If scorers are not present then the umpires must score themselves.

Penalty: Loss of the bonus point for every instance scorers do not follow the above protocol

13. Abuse of umpires will not be tolerated. If, in the opinion of either umpire, a verbal attack or obvious dispute has taken place then this will be noted on the Results Sheet and an Official Complaint sent to the Complaints & Disciplinary Secretary.

Committee action to be taken. See Complaints and Appeals (Rule 25)

Playing Rules

14. The SoT League adheres to the playing guidelines as per the England Netball Rule Book. It is the responsibility of all team personnel to ensure that all are familiar with the rules and regulations and ensure that they are abided.
15. Match Play and Results
 - 15.1 All matches will be played as per the fixture list. Any matches cancelled officially through inclement weather or lack of umpires, etc. may be re-arranged by the Committee dependent on the availability of courts.
 - 15.2 Matches will be played as follows:
 - Four 12-minute quarters
 - 2 minutes at quarter and third-quarter time
 - 3 minutes at half time
 - 5 minutes between games
 - 15.3 Points will be awarded as follows:
 - 5 points for a win
 - 3 points for a draw
 - 2 points to the losing team if the match is lost within five goals, e.g. 26-30
 - 1 point to the losing team for scoring 50% or more of the opposition's total
 - A bonus point for providing a scorer AND playing the match as scheduled
 - 15.4 A Results Sheet MUST be completed by all teams at the commencement of each league match. At the end of the match, it is the Captain's responsibility to ensure the two match umpires and scorers record the score and authorise the Results Sheet in a timely manner. Both team captains must then sign to confirm the result. Results sheets are then emailed to the appropriate Division Liaison Officer and must be received within 5 days of the completed match.

Penalty: No points awarded for late/not received or unauthorised results sheets. Abuse of this rule will not be tolerated and could result in expulsion from the league
 - 15.5 On the commencement of the match, the winning team are to text the score to the Stoke League Results contact.
 - 15.6 If either Captain does not agree with the result recorded, or for any reason relating to the match, they may decline to sign either sheet, but MUST contact the appropriate Division Liaison Officer immediately, stating their concern and requesting clarification.

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Stoke League Results – 07545 916346

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16. Timing

16.1 Games must start promptly and on time (i.e. central bell). Umpires must not delay matches for late players.

16.2 A timekeeping box will be provided at all venues by the SoT League, which must be maintained by teams and all equipment accounted for. It is the responsibility of the timekeeper of the last game to ensure all items are returned to the centre staff.

16.3 Central timing will be used for all matches. Each team is to provide a timekeeper as per the Timekeeping Rota.

Failure to fulfil timekeeping duties may result in committee action. See Complaints and Appeals (Rule 25)

16.4 In the case of a cancelled match where the opposition was due to timekeep, the cancelling team must provide the timekeeper.

Committee action to be taken. See Complaints and Appeals (Rule 25)

17. Each Team is to provide their own Size 5 match-standard netball for each game. Each ball should be presented to the umpire who will then decide which to use for the whole game.

18. Uniform

18.1 Uniform is predominately the same colour with appropriate dress or shirt/skirt worn for league matches.

18.2 The SoT League follow the World Netball Rules regarding player requirements.

Penalty: Player(s) will not be allowed on court until these issues have been resolved. The game will not be delayed.

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19. Late/Cancelled Games

19.1 If any team fails to attend or is late for the start of play (less than 5 players on court) the points will be awarded to the opposition providing that they have five or more players on court when the bell is rung. A Result Sheet MUST be completed and signed by both umpires with clear indication of which team is awarded the points. Results sheets must be sent to the appropriate Division Liaison Officer within 7 days of the match.

Penalty: No points without a completed result sheet. Abuse of this system will not be tolerated and may result in exclusion from the league.

19.2 If for any reason a team cannot fulfil a fixture then the cancelling team must notify the opposing team, neutral umpires and the Division Liaison Officer prior to the match. All points will be awarded to the opposing team providing that they contact the appropriate Division Liaison Officer within 7 days of the match date (either via email or through completion of a Results Sheet).

Penalty: 6-points and a score of 16-0 is awarded to the non-offending team. No points awarded if the team fail to contact their Division Liaison Officer

19.3 If a team's failure to complete their fixtures has a direct influence on that particular division's promotion or relegation issues, then all of the team's games will be rendered null and void.

19.4 If any team cancel more than two matches per season, the Division Liaison Officer will deduct two points for each future offence.

Penalty: 2-point deduction to the offending team for each future offence

20. If possible, the SoT League will be run on a promotion/relegation basis. In the event of a tie on points, goal average will determine the issue.

Roles and Responsibilities

21. AGM

21.1 An AGM will be held each year to elect committee members and league officials. All members will serve for a period of three years, after which re-election will take place. Should a resignation occur during this period the league will request nomination(s) to fulfil the appropriate position(s).

21.2 It is expected that the Vice Chair assumes the position of Chair at the end of the three-year period to provide continuity within the committee structure.

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21.3 A Division Liaison Officer will be elected for each division, being responsible for advising on all netball matters relating to that division including:

- Receiving and publishing results on the SOT League website (www.stokenetball.co.uk)
- Giving advice to teams as necessary
- Referring matters to the full committee or the Complaints & Disciplinary Secretary if a ruling cannot be given at the time

21.4 All rules amendments and new rules that have been voted for and accepted at the AGM will be implemented from the commencement of the winter league each year.

21.5 Every team participating the Stoke on Trent Area Netball League must send at least one representative to the AGM.

Penalty: Teams not complying will not be allowed entry to the league for the following season

22. The Committee

22.1 Members of the netball committee reserve the right to decide on any matters concerning the league that arise during the season.

22.2 All teams or persons will be informed if they are to be discussed at a committee meeting to ensure that all information relating to the matter is obtained.

22.3 The committee has the right to divide teams in equal divisions as far as possible.

23. Committee Meetings

23.1 A quorum of at least seven committee members must be present at all meetings.

23.2 Committee members MUST attend a minimum of 50% of all meetings - to be reviewed annually.

Penalty: With no attendance/apologies given, members cannot be voted onto the committee for the following season

23.3 All league members are entitled to attend committee meetings (no voting) if they wish.

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24. Complaints and Appeals

24.1 A league record will be kept of any complaints/disciplinary matters.

24.2 Any Official Complaint MUST be made in WRITING to the Complaints & Disciplinary Secretary within 5 working days of the incident at complaints.stokenetball@outlook.com. The Complaints & Disciplinary Secretary will acknowledge within 48 hours of such submission.

24.2.1 The Complaints & Disciplinary Secretary will request correspondence from the relevant Clubs/Teams/Players/Officials as deemed appropriate to the issue in hand. Once received, the Secretary will arrange a meeting of said parties with the Complaints/Disciplinary Committee members as soon as possible, preferably within 21 days of receipt of the original correspondence.

24.2.2 England Netball disciplinary guidelines will be adhered to.

24.2.3 The Committee will nominate 5 members (including the Complaints & Disciplinary Secretary) to form a Complaints/Disciplinary Committee. Once the Complaints/Disciplinary Committee has reached a decision, they will have the power to determine the penalty to be imposed on the Clubs/Teams/Players/Officials who are in breach of the SoT Winter League Rules. The full Committee will be notified of the outcome.

Penalties may include: reprimands, deduction of league points, fines, suspension or expulsion from the SoT League.

24.3 In the event that any Club/Team/Player/Official wishes to appeal against the Complaints/Disciplinary Committee decision, they MUST notify the Complaints & Disciplinary Secretary with 7 working days of receipt of the decision at complaints.stokenetball@outlook.com.

24.3.1 A cheque or bank transfer for £50 should be sent to the SoT League Treasurer from the club/team/player/official. This must be received before the appeal process can commence. The £50 will be returned if the appeal is upheld.

24.3.2 An Appeals Panel, which shall be independent of the SoT committee, will be convened within 7 working days to consider the matter. The conclusion of this Appeals Panel will be final and binding on all parties. The Appeals Panel will have the power to:

- Reduce, increase, quash or confirm the penalty imposed by the SoT committee.
- Make such other order or determination as it may think right or just.