



STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY JUNIOR NETBALL LEAGUE

RULES 2024-25

1. Eligibility

- 1.1 All players must be members of England Netball through their club prior to playing in any match. All players primary county must be Staffordshire through their primary club
- 1.1A All teams entering the Staffordshire Junior Premier League must do so by means of qualification from the Staffordshire Junior Development League.
All clubs currently playing in the previous Premier League season are deemed to have qualified. Any new teams wishing to join the Premier League must have played in the Development League in the prior season, and be prepared to continue to support Staffordshire netball through the Development League at all levels. Clubs must be based and their primary county be Staffordshire as of 1st September in the appropriate season.
- 1.1B Any players / clubs who have taken part in the qualification process for National Clubs in another county during each qualification period may not enter the Premier League. Except where there are exceptional circumstances.
- ~~1.2 All clubs must be CAPS accredited or committed to working towards CAPS accreditation in line with England Netball policies. Initial accreditation must be sought before a club is allowed to play in the junior league. Accreditation must be achieved before the end of the 2nd season or entry refused.~~
- 1.3 All clubs must register teams/players by deadline in August/September, as informed by the League Secretary. Registrations in one full week prior to deadline to enable checking prior to playing with deadline for amendments 11.59pm on Friday prior to start of season.
- 1.3B Registration must be completed in full, registration sheet, Engage League Management & Age Banding if applicable. Additional players may be added by 11.59pm on the Friday prior to any game, this includes Engage stating 'Yes' the player is EN member and informing the league via email.
- 1.4 All players ages are based on midnight on 31 August/ 1 September of the current playing season.
- 1.5 Where a club enters more than team, a player can play up a team, after 2 games the player must stay in the higher team. Clubs must rank teams in order on league entry form. Any player playing up must be clearly indicated on the result sheet and when required any appropriate age banding form must be completed by the 11.59pm on the Friday prior to any game.
- 1.6 Players wishing to transfer to a different club may only do so at the end of the Winter fixtures;

i.e. at the Christmas break before the Spring fixtures have commenced and at the end of the winter season.

- 8 Only coaches, primary carer, team officials and reserves are allowed on the team bench.

PENALTY: Offending team receives 0 points; opposing team receives 5 points in Premier league and 6 points in Development.

2. Playing the Game

- 2.1 Play will be in accordance with the current rules of England Netball
- 2.2 Teams must commence play if there are 5 or more players available. If a team does not have 5 players when the game is due to start, the opposing team will be awarded the points. (Except Bee Netball, U9, where 7 players need to be present)

Should any team make a representation that they have a genuine reason for being late, the game must be played using the time slot allocated, the time played and result noted and the league will make a decision.

- 2.3 Central timing will be used for matches. Clubs must ALL take a turn at timing. Games will start and finish on the umpire's whistle.
- 2.4 The umpire's decision is final. **ABUSE OF OR CRITISM UMPIRES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**
- 2.5 Umpires in Prem Division must be C qualified or above.
- 2.6 Qualified umpires are eligible to umpire all Development League Divisions
- 2.7 'In Training' (that is, have attended an umpiring course) umpires are eligible to umpire in the age group beneath their own age group i.e. U16 umpires can umpire an U14, U12, U11 game.
- 2.8 Should an official (qualified or 'in training') be U18 they SHOULD have an ADULT with them on all occasions to comply with safeguarding requirements.
- 2.9 U11 all teams to follow the rotations as issued by the league – NO OTHER VERSION ALLOWED

2.10 All teams to provide a scorer, both scorers to sit/stand together.

PENALTY: Offending team receives 0 points; opposing team receives 5 points in Premier league and 6 points in Development.

- 2.10 Games will be:
- Prem – 12 Mins quarters with 2 mins $\frac{1}{4}$ & $\frac{3}{4}$ time 3 mins $\frac{1}{2}$ time.
 - Development – 10 mins quarters with 2 mins $\frac{1}{4}$ & $\frac{3}{4}$ time 3 mins $\frac{1}{2}$ time
 - U11 – 8 mins quarter with 2 mins $\frac{1}{4}$ & $\frac{3}{4}$ time 3 mins $\frac{1}{2}$ time
 - Bee – 6 mins quarters with 3 mins $\frac{1}{4}$ & $\frac{3}{4}$ time 4 mins $\frac{1}{2}$ time

3. Scoring

3.1

Prem 5 points for a win

3 points for a draw

2 points within 5 goals

1 point 50% or more goals

Development

6 points for a win

4 points for a draw

2 points 50% or more goals

1 point for playing

3.2 In the event of a draw on points at the end of the season, goal average (goals for divided by goals against) will decide. Where this is the same, then goal difference (goals for minus goals will be used). Should it prove necessary, goals scored will decide the winner.

3.3 The result sheet once submitted cannot be changed. Results sheets must be submitted by email to www.scnareresults@outlook.com. Clubs need to submit score sheets on day of the match. All paper score sheets should be kept by clubs until Dec.31st / April 30th in case of any queries.

3.4

- i) In the event of a match being cancelled by the opposition, the result sheet must still be returned by the club claiming the points.
- ii) The team claiming the points will deem to have won 16-0. (8-0 in U11)
- ii) If clubs need to cancel any matches, they must do so as soon as possible informing all parties concerned, including the league secretary.

3.5 At the end of the Winter season the top team in each division will be promoted and the bottom team will be relegated.

Penalty: If score sheets are NOT submitted within six days than the offending club will receive ZERO POINTS.

3.4 The top two club teams in the premier Under 14 and Under 16 sections from September – December will gain entry into the regional league held at Walsall from January – April

N.B. Regional League regulation – only one team per club in each age group is allowed to play in the regional league

Fees

4.1 Each team will pay a Match Fee to be decided by SCNA Treasurer. Clubs will be invoiced at the end of December and at the end of April each season.

Penalty: Non-payment will result in exclusion from league

1. Discipline

- 5.1 Teams cancelling a game must pay the opposition's match fee. Where the game is played as a friendly both teams will share the match fee

Penalty: Offending team receives 0 points; opposing team receives 5 points Prem/6 points Dev

- 5.2 Teams who withdraw from the league once the season has started will be fined £200 to cover court costs.
- 5.3 England Netball Codes of Conduct will be abided by at all times. All clubs will have this distributed in advance of the league start date.
- 5.4 All parents/spectators to watch from the designated areas and abide by England Netball Code of Conduct at all times.
- Northwood designation area - balcony,
NULS designated area - along the back wall adjoining the main entry door for development.
Premier – behind and away from the team benches
St Dominics – courtside and away from team benches
- 5.5 Spectators may not approach the umpires, coaches, players or volunteers. If they have an issue They need to speak to their own coach in an appropriate manner.

Penalty: parents who breach the code of conduct may be banned from spectating for a period decided by the league discipline panel.

Further breach = full ban

- 5.5 The Staffordshire Junior League Committee will manage the league. Any dispute should be lodged in writing along with a £50 payment (which will be returned if dispute is upheld) within 7 days of the incident to staffsjuniornetball@hotmail.co.uk. Staffordshire Junior League Committee will deal with any disciplinary action needed.
- 5.6 Each club should be represented at the junior league meetings. Each club present at has one vote in each age group in which they play with max 4 in total (one vote per person attending the meeting). All clubs will be bound by the rules set by the League Committee whether or not they attend the meetings.

The Staffordshire Junior League Committee reserves the right to act on any issues not covered within the rules.

Prem league qualification – If required

- Pre-season tournament – top 6 finishing teams automatically enter the prem, teams finishing below 6th can enter the Prem
- Every club must enter the pre-season tournament or the club will be automatically entered the prem league
- Clubs can enter a max of teams 2 per age group
- League to start end of Sept/October through to December
- Teams able to enter 2 teams in the prem league if numbers permit

