

North East Regional League 2023 – 2024 Handbook



Netball North East Regional Office contacts:

Regional Co-ordinator	Jade Featherstone	jade.featherstone@englandnetball.co.uk
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North East Regional League Contacts:

Competition Referee	Regional Management Board	northeastcompetitionreferee@hotmail.com
Officiating Technical Support Group	Iain Richardson	officiatingne@gmail.com

Venues

Gateshead Stadium

Neilson Road
Gateshead
NE10 0EF

Telephone

0191 433 5700

Sport Central

Northumbria University
Newcastle
NE1 8ST

Telephone

0191 227 4700

Child Protection

England Netball and the North East Region are fully committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment for all young people to play netball. It accepts its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all young people and protect them from poor practice, abuse and bullying. With this in mind, England Netball has developed a new Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Netball Policy, Procedures and Guidelines that will apply to all individuals involved, paid or in a voluntary capacity in Netball and will be phased in over time. You can find further information and policies at <https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/governance/safeguarding/> England Netball recognises that everyone has a responsibility to safeguard and protect all young people. For more information on Safeguarding and Protecting Children please visit the following websites or contact the Regional Office on 0191 261 4116.

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

www.thecpsu.org.uk

www.nspcc.org.uk

Codes of Conduct

North East Netball and the Regional Management Board have adopted England Netball's codes of conduct and expect all individuals involved in the North East Regional League to adhere to them. Please find up to date Codes of Conduct at <https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/governance/safeguarding/codes-of-conduct/>

Any individual deemed to be not adhering to the codes of conduct could be subject to disciplinary procedures as set out by England Netball.

Club Contacts

Division 1

Team Name	Club Colours	Contact	Phone	E-Mail
Darlington Headlanders	Royal/Light Blue	Rebecca Eldrington	07718 313500	rebecca_eldrington@hotmail.com
DPNC	Purple/White/Black	Marie Ewing	07968 329057	tdpalatinatesnetballclub@gmail.com
Grangetown 1	Black/Orange	Gel Williams	07719 937171	gelnortheast@hotmail.co.uk
Newcastle City	Navy/Pink	Anna Barnes	07787 194227	annahumphreys79@hotmail.com
Oaksway	Navy/White	Barbara Brown	07855 415497	oakswaynetball@gmail.com
Riverside 1	Pink/Navy	Deborah Wallis	07980 076321	netballclubriverside@gmail.com
Seatonians 1	Navy/Pale Blue	Lindsay Bradley	07875 756062	seatoniansnc@yahoo.com
Stadium 1	Green/Yellow	Theresa Pearson	07740 168351	theresaireland@hotmail.com

Division 2

Team Name	Club Colours	Contact	Phone	E-Mail
Concordia	Purple/Green	Sarah Croft	07817 442147	sarahacraft@aol.com
Durham Ladies	Black/White/Purple	Leigh Corrigan	07711 240935	leigh.corrigan@durham.ac.uk
Grangetown 2	Black/Orange	Vickie Eason	07950 021797	victoria.eason@googlemail.com
Greencroft	Black/Pink	Ali Ward	07852 625544	greencroft2014@gmail.com
Jesmond	Purple/Black	Claire Johnston Hume	07432 696297	jesmondnetball@gmail.com
Riverside 2	Pink/Navy	Fiona Westmorland	07902 454096	netballclubriverside@gmail.com
Seatonians 2	Navy/Pale Blue	Lindsay Bradley	07875 756062	seatoniansnc@yahoo.com
Stadium 2	Green/Yellow	Victoria Patterson	07791 286680	shorty1983uk@yahoo.co.uk

Regional League Structure

The structure for the 2023/2024 season will be two (2) divisions of eight (8) with each team playing each other twice in both divisions. If any teams choose not to take up their place in the Regional League for the 2023/2024 season, additional teams from the Entry Tournament will be offered the remaining places in division 2.

Important Dates

Pre-Season Meeting - Sunday 3rd September via Zoom; 6pm * (one representative per club MUST attend)

NE AGM - Sunday 22nd October 2023 via Zoom; 6pm * (one representative per club MUST attend the AGM)

Div1/2 Playoff and Entry Tournament - Saturday 11th May, (venue TBC)

Regional League Fixtures 2023–2024

Key

GS = Gateshead Stadium SC = Sport Central

Week	Date	Time	Court 1			Court 2			Court 3	
Div 1	23 Sept	9:20am	Grangetown 1	v	Stadium 1	Headlanders	v	DPNC		
Div 2		11am	Seatonians 1	v	Newcastle City	Greencroft	v	Grangetown 2		
GS		12:40pm	Oaksway	v	Riverside 1	Stadium 2	v	Seatonians 2		
2	30 Sept	9:20am	Newcastle City	v	Riverside 1	Riverside 2	v	Concordia		
GS		11am	DPNC	v	Oaksway	Seatonians 2	v	Greencroft		
		12:40pm	Grangetown 1	v	Seatonians 1	Durham Ladies	v	Jesmond		
3	7 Oct	9:20am	Seatonians 1	v	DPNC	Grangetown 2	v	Stadium 2		
SC		11am	Headlanders	v	Grangetown 1	Concordia	v	Jesmond		
		12:40pm	Oaksway	v	Stadium 1	Riverside 2	v	Durham Ladies		
4	14 Oct	9:20am	Newcastle City	v	Headlanders	Jesmond	v	Grangetown 2	Greencroft	v
SC		11am	DPNC	v	Stadium 1	Durham Ladies	v	Seatonians 2	Stadium 2	v
		12:40pm	Seatonians 1	v	Oaksway	Grangetown 1	v	Riverside 1		
5	21 Oct	9:20am	Stadium 1	v	Newcastle City	Riverside 2	v	Grangetown 2		
GS		11am	Riverside 1	v	Headlanders	Durham Ladies	v	Greencroft		
		12:40pm	DPNC	v	Grangetown 1	Jesmond	v	Stadium 2		
6	28 Oct	9:20am	Riverside 1	v	DPNC	Concordia	v	Durham Ladies	Stadium 2	v
SC		11am	Newcastle City	v	Grangetown 1	Headlanders	v	Oaksway	Jesmond	v
		12:40pm	Stadium 1	v	Seatonians 1	Grangetown 2	v	Seatonians 2		

Week	Date	Time	Court 1		Court 2		Court 3	
7	11 Nov	9:20am	Riverside 1	v	Stadium 1	Seatonians 2	v	Concordia
GS		11am	Headlanders	v	Seatonians 1	Stadium 2	v	Durham Ladies
		12:40pm	Oaksway	v	Newcastle City	Greencroft	v	Jesmond
8	18 Nov	9:20am	Riverside 1	v	Seatonians 1	Grangetown 1	v	Oaksway
GS		11am	Newcastle City	v	DPNC	Grangetown 2	v	Concordia
		12:40pm	Stadium 1	v	Headlanders	Seatonians 2	v	Riverside 2
9	2 Dec	9:20am	Jesmond	v	Seatonians 2	Riverside 2	v	Greencroft
GS		11am	Concordia	v	Stadium 2	Grangetown 2	v	Durham Ladies
10	16 Dec	9:20am	Newcastle City	v	Seatonians 1	Jesmond	v	Durham Ladies
SC		11am	Riverside 1	v	Oaksway	Stadium 1	v	Grangetown 1
		12:40pm	DPNC	v	Headlanders	Grangetown 2	v	Greencroft
11	6 Jan	9:20am	DPNC	v	Seatonians 1	Grangetown 1	v	Headlanders
SC		11am	Stadium 1	v	Oaksway	Seatonians 2	v	Durham Ladies
		12:40pm	Riverside 1	v	Newcastle City	Concordia	v	Greencroft
12	13 Jan	9:20am	Newcastle City	v	Stadium 1	Oaksway	v	DPNC
GS		11am	Seatonians 1	v	Grangetown 1	Headlanders	v	Riverside 1

Week	Date	Time	Court 1		Court 2		Court 3				
13	20 Jan	9:20am	Oaksway	v	Seatonians 1	Stadium 2	v	Grangetown 2			
GS		11am	Stadium 1	v	DPNC	Greencroft	v	Seatonians 2			
		12:40pm	Riverside 1	v	Grangetown 1	Headlanders	v	Newcastle City			
14	27 Jan	9:20am	Oaksway	v	Headlanders	Stadium 2	v	Jesmond	Greencroft	v	Durham Ladies
SC		11am	Grangetown 1	v	Newcastle City	DPNC	v	Riverside 1	Concordia	v	Seatonians 2
		12:40pm	Seatonians 1	v	Stadium 1	Grangetown 2	v	Riverside 2			
15	10 Feb	9:20am	Seatonians 2	v	Grangetown 2	Durham Ladies	v	Concordia			
GS		11am	Riverside 2	v	Jesmond	Greencroft	v	Stadium 2			
16	24 Feb	9:20am	Jesmond	v	Greencroft	Durham Ladies	v	Stadium 2			
SC		11am	Riverside 2	v	Seatonians 2	Concordia	v	Grangetown 2			
17	9 Mar	9:20am	Stadium 1	v	Riverside 1	Durham Ladies	v	Riverside 2			
SC		11am	Newcastle City	v	Oaksway	Grangetown 1	v	DPNC			
		12:40pm	Seatonians 1	v	Headlanders	Jesmond	v	Concordia			
18	16 Mar	9:20am	Headlanders	v	Stadium 1	Oaksway	v	Grangetown 1	Seatonians 2	v	Jesmond
SC		11am	Seatonians 1	v	Riverside 1	Greencroft	v	Riverside 2	Durham Ladies	v	Grangetown 2
		12:40pm	DPNC	v	Newcastle City	Stadium 2	v	Concordia			

North East Regional League Rules 2023-2024 Season

1. Overview

The purpose of the North East Regional League (NERL) is to provide a competition that aims to determine the best team in the region whilst encouraging participation and development in netball through an open, fair, progressive and transparent league structure.

The league competition results will be used to determine the team that will go on to represent the North East at the England Netball Premier League (3) Play-Off Competition.

These regulations set out below outline the Rules and Regulations ("the Regulations") which govern the operation of the NERL.

The Regulations must be followed by all teams, players, officials, spectators and administrators in the management, administration and operation of NERL.

2. Competition Structure

2.1. NERL shall comprise of the following:

- Division 1
- Division 2
- Regional League Play-offs
- Regional League Entry Tournament

2.1. The team that finishes top of the NERL at the end of the season will be the North East Regional League champions. The team that finishes bottom of NERL division 1 will be relegated directly to NERL division 2.

2.2. The team that finishes top of NERL division 2 at the end of the season will be the NERL division 2 champions, and will be promoted directly to NERL division 1. No club who is already represented in NERL division 1 is eligible to be promoted. **In this instance a playoff will take place. No team placed 5th or below will be eligible for this playoff.**

2.3. At the end of the season, the teams which finishes in seventh position in NERL division 1 will contest a play-off against the team that finishes in second place in NERL division 2. The winner of this match will participate in NERL division 1 the following season; the losing team will participate in NERL division 2. If rule 2.2 comes into play then the losing team may participate in a further playoff to determine the 8th team in division 1 for the following season.

2.4. The team that finishes top of the NERL division 1 at the end of the season will be the NE Regional Representative who will progress to the Premier League Play-off Tournament. No club who is already represented in the Premier League (1, 2 or 3), is eligible to enter Premier League Play-offs and therefore a table without these teams included will be used to determine the NE representative.

2.4.1. Should the team representing the North East at the Premier League Play-offs be successful in gaining a place in Premier League Netball 3, they will be promoted and will relinquish their place in the NERL. (See Appendix 1 for the relegation and promotion process that will be followed in this event.)

2.4.2. Should the team representing the North East at the Premier League Play-offs be unsuccessful in gaining a place in Premier League Netball 3, they will retain their place in the NERL division 1.

2.5. Promotion and relegation between Premier League Netball 3, the NERL and the Entry Tournament for teams other than those defined in 2.2 and 2.3 above is set out in Appendix 1.

2.6. The Regional League Entry Tournament will be an open entry tournament. Teams who enter along with the relevant teams relegated from the NERL division 2, will play a round robin tournament, playing each other once. The teams finishing in the top eligible places of the tournament league, based on the results of the day, will be offered places in the NERL division 2 for the following season. (See Appendix 1 for eligible places.)

- 2.7. At the end of each season, any team or teams based in the Region and who are relegated from the Premier League Netball 3 will automatically be offered a place in NERL division 1 for the following season. (See Appendix 1 for the relegation and promotion process that will be followed in this event.)
- 2.8. Any team that drops out of the Premier League (1, 2 or 3) for any reason other than via the Play-offs, having entered those play-offs due to finishing in the relegation positions in Premier League Netball 3, will not be guaranteed a place in the NERL. Their circumstances will be reviewed by the North East Regional Management Board (NE-RMB) and an appropriate decision reached.
- 2.9. Any casual vacancies that arise within the NERL from time to time or any situation outside of those described in 2.1 to 2.9 above will be determined by NE-RMB in conjunction with the Competition Referee, Competition Technical Support Group (CTSG) or any other parties deemed appropriate, at their absolute discretion, subject to the reasonable application of the rules and regulations laid out herein.

3. Competition Organisation

- 3.1. The competition and all rights and properties associated with it, shall be owned, controlled and managed by the NE-RMB.
- 3.2. The NE-RMB is responsible for the organisation and management of the NERL as well as the Regional League Play-offs and Entry Tournament. The NE-RMB have established a technical support group for Competitions (CTSG) and as such the NERL will fall under the remit of that group.
- 3.3. Prior to the start of the NERL, the NE-RMB shall announce the following:
 - 3.3.1 the Competition Referee; and
 - 3.3.2 the person appointed to receive appeals of the decisions of the Competition Referee, as outlined in Section 8.
- 3.4. The NE-RMB may alter the named Competition Referee during the competition. If a change is made, NE-RMB through its best endeavours will notify all teams.

4. Competition Referees

- 4.1. As set out above, a Competition Referee will be appointed by the NE-RMB for the NERL. A separate Competition Referee may be appointed for the Entry Tournament and Regional League Playoffs.
- 4.2. The Competition Referee will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising throughout the competition including, but not limited to:
 - 4.2.1 Altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary;
 - 4.2.2 Determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction including, but not limited to; during the Regional League Play Offs, the disqualification of any individual, team or Player; during the Regional League, the breaches and penalties are detailed below. A maximum penalty on any one occasion £100.

Breach	Financial Penalty	Points Penalty
Failure to register squad by due date	£20	Nil
The use of a player without an active England Netball Membership, unregistered, underage, or ineligible in a fixture.	Nil	Offending Team - Deduction of three (3) league points, but the result will still stand.

Failure to attend a match or concede / cancel a match.	£50 match fine plus (if appropriate) £40 umpire fees.	Non offending team – will be designated winners of the match receiving the five (5) league points and a 10-0 result.
Incomplete, missing or late NERL Results Card.	£20 (a warning will be issued in the first instance)	Nil
A Team receives six (6) Recordable Sanctions within the season. (see section 7)	Nil	Offending team - deduction of two (2) league points

4.2.3 Adjudicating instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour or behaviour that brings the sport into disrepute, including instances of Teams predetermining, or attempting to predetermine, the outcome of a Match and/or the Competition.

4.2.4 Determine the score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance.

4.2.5 Determining any matter not covered specifically within these Regulations.

4.3. The Competition Referee may call upon, or delegate to additional persons to assist with the Competition or consult with other persons prior to making any decision. However the final decision and accountability for the decision will rest with the Competition Referee.

4.4. During the Regional League Play-offs or Entry Tournament, if a Player is suspended from a Match, or ordered to leave the court and take no further part in the Match, that Player and a Team Official, (normally the Coach) will be required to attend a hearing before the Competition Referee immediately after the end of the Match. After the hearing the Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken.

5. Pre Competition Management and Administration

5.1. Team Entry and Eligibility

5.1.1. Entry to NERL shall be through an open entry tournament. Teams must be situated within the boundaries of the North East Regional Netball Association. Clubs/teams and players must pay the North East Regional fee on their membership. A club may only play in one regional competition with England.

5.1.2. A club may field a maximum of two (2) teams in the NERL, but are limited to a maximum of one (1) team per division. If a club wins division 2 and they already have a team in division 1 then that team will not be eligible for promotion.

5.1.3. NE-RMB is entitled to charge an entry fee and issue fines incurred by teams during the course of the NERL and these must be paid in full within the permitted timescales in order for a team to participate. This charge does not include the costs associated with appointing the Umpires.

i. Initial non-refundable deposit of £100

ii. £150 **must** be received by 11th October 2023.

iii. £150 **must** be received by 12th January 2024.

iv. The NE-RMB shall be entitled to impose further financial penalties on teams who fail to meet the payment deadlines stated above, or for significant delays or multiple offences, may expel the team from the league.

5.1.4. By entering a team in the NERL clubs/teams agree that:

- a) They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the NERL.
- b) They will fulfil their obligations and responsibilities set out in these Regulations.
- c) They are bound by the Competition Regulations; and
- d) They are bound by all of the rules, policies, regulations and by-laws of England Netball, including the England Netball Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Regulations, as may from time to time be in force.

5.2. Player/Team Official Eligibility

- 5.2.1. In order to qualify to participate in the NERL, all players and team officials (please see 6.5 for details of team officials) must be a member of England Netball as a personal adult/junior member having paid the full membership fee due and received confirmation of their membership in advance of submitting the Registration Form for the NERL. Once a player is registered on a team's nomination form they cannot play for another club/team within the NERL.
- 5.2.2. To participate as a Technical Official, individuals must be a member of England Netball, either as a full adult/junior member or a social and supporting member having paid the full membership fee due and received confirmation of their membership in advance of submitting the Registration Form for the NERL.
- 5.2.3. To be eligible for the NERL, all players and Team Officials must hold an active adult/junior membership to England Netball within the timeframe set out in these Regulations. England Netball Head Office Customer Services must receive the appropriate membership fee and the player or officials name must appear on ENgage as an active member, by 1700 hours on the Thursday before taking to the court, either as a player, or involved as a team official.
- 5.2.4. All players must be 14 years old as at 11.59pm on 31 August prior to the commencement of the NERL. Where a team registers any player aged 17 or under and receives 2 Recordable Sanctions in any 8-week period, that club's Safeguarding Officer must conduct an internal review of events to ensure that all Duty of Care issues are being managed within England Netball's safeguarding guidelines. A report should be provided to the Competition Referees within 14 days. Where a team registers any player aged 17 or under and receives 4 Recordable Sanctions in any 12-week period, the Competition Referee must refer the matter to the Discipline Secretary of the County Association to whom that club is affiliated. An adult who holds an EN DBS and safeguarding qualification MUST be present at any matches where players are aged 17 and under for safeguarding purposes.
- 5.2.5. The NERL is a competition for female players. Only female participants can be included on the team registration sheet as a player.
- 5.2.6. Netball NE recommends that individuals (players, coach, umpire) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidelines issued by itself. Please refer to the EN Full Domestic Rules Guidance for further information which can found at the following link <https://www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/make-the-game/officiating/rules-updates/>
- 5.2.7. The England Netball Personal Accident insurance cover excludes any loss or expense due to pregnancy, child birth, miscarriage, or any consequence thereof. If, for example, a member who is pregnant is in an accident not related to the pregnancy, subject to the conditions of the policy, the relevant benefits would be payable. However, if any situation (such as hospitalisation) was prolonged as a direct result of pregnancy, pregnancy complications or even early childbirth, then this portion of any claim is not covered.
- 5.2.8. Premier League players are welcome to play within the NERL division 1. No Premier League players are permitted to play within NERL division 2.
- 5.2.9. NSL players will be considered on an individual basis for their inclusion in the NERL. Teams wishing to play NSL registered players must submit their request in writing to the Competition Referee. Permission must be sought in advance of any player taking part in the league. A player is deemed an NSL player once they have been selected at trials to be in the long squad or as a training partner. Players who have been given permission to take part in the league may have conditions regarding court time and will be subject to reviews during the season in consultation with the Performance Coaches associated with the NSL teams. Teams playing NSL players without consent will be deemed to be playing an unregistered player and will be subject to a penalty as outlined in Section 4.
- 5.2.10. Clubs with two teams in the NERL must register their squads as detailed in 5.3 and the following limitations apply:
 - 5.2.10.1 Where clubs have two teams in the NERL, the division 2 nominated player may 'play up' for the division 1 team within their club on a total number of two (2) occasions. After the second time they play up their nomination will be reassigned to the division 1 team and that player will no longer be eligible to play for the division 2 team.

- 5.2.10.2 A player who is playing up may only play for one (1) team per match day. Teams playing players in contravention of this rule will be deemed to be playing an ineligible player and will be subject to a penalty as outlined in Section 4. The team deemed to be the offending team and therefore penalised, will be the second team that the offending player has played for that match day.

5.3. Registration of Squads

- 5.3.1. Participating teams must submit a Squad Registration Sheet fully listing each Player and membership numbers. These need to be logged with the NERL Competition Referee seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the NERL playing season (round 1). Failure to submit a squad by the designated date will result in a penalty as outlined in Section 4. Full names as they appear on ENGage should be used.
- 5.3.2. Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their Squad Registration Sheet held by the NERL Competition Referee (see Section 4 for the penalty for breach of this).
- 5.3.3. Any additions to Squad Registration Sheets must be emailed to the NERL Competition Referee by 1700 hours on the Thursday prior to the fixture weekend. Teams must provide the full name of the player as it appears on ENGage and their membership number.
- 5.3.4. Once a player has been registered to a Squad Registration Sheet and has played for that team at any point in the season, she cannot transfer to another NERL team during the course of the current playing season. It is the responsibility of coaches and team managers to ensure this detail is shared with all nominated players at the start of the season.
- 5.3.5. Each team may name up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each match by completing a NERL Results Card. This must be done prior to the start of the match. All players who take part must be named (full names as they appear on ENGage) on the NERL Results Card in alphabetical order (by surname).
- 5.3.6. Only Players who have taken to the court in NERL rounds 1-16 during the course of the season for the eligible team (not club) will be eligible to compete for that team within the Premier League Play-offs.
- 5.3.7. In respect of existing NERL teams involved in the Entry Tournament, only players who have taken to the court for that team during the season and remain eligible may be utilised in these matches.
- 5.3.8. If a team trying to enter the NERL via the Entry Tournament has a player that has played for a NERL team during the season, they will not be eligible to play for the Entry Tournament team unless they have de-registered from the NERL team before 1700 on the Thursday prior to that clubs round 12 game. This date will be either 27th January 2024 (div 1) or 10th/17th February 2024 (div 2). It is the players responsibility to make sure they check which date they need to adhere to.

Responsibility for ensuring that players taking the court meet the eligibility criteria specified in Section 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 rests solely and wholly with the relevant Club. All eligibility checking by the Competition Referee will be undertaken by reviewing submitted team sheets after matches have taken place.

5.4 Competition Venue

- 5.4.1 Matches will be played wherever possible on an indoor court with adequate surrounds and playing surface and with ancillary facilities for approximately 30 participants, including changing and showering facilities for both teams and officials, unless otherwise agreed by the Competition Referee. The venue(s) will be published in the NERL handbook prior to the start of the season.
- 5.4.2 Each court will have home and away benches where coaches, substitutes and team officials must sit. Teams should toss a coin to allocate benches. An official table area will be provided where the scorers and timekeepers of both teams must be situated throughout the match.

5.5 Accidents

- 5.5.1 All participants acknowledge that participating in the sport of netball involves a risk of personal injury and by taking part in NERL whether as a player, team member, team official, other official or spectator, each participant does so at their own risk.

- 5.5.2 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.
- 5.5.3 If an accident occurs in any match where a player, coach, match or technical official, spectator or staff member is injured, the accident reporting procedure should be followed as detailed on <https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/membership/insurance/report-a-claim/>
- 5.5.4 This procedure should be followed for ALL injuries and accidents, regardless of whether or not medical treatment is given.

6. Playing and Competition

6.1. Competition Scheduling

- 6.1.1. All matches must be played as per the fixture schedule published in the NERL Handbook, and take place on a Saturday, unless otherwise agreed by the Competition Referee.
- 6.1.2. Each team in NERL will play the other teams in their division twice in a season.
- 6.1.3. There will be up to three matches per court on each competition day. The first match will start at 9.20am, the second match at 11am and the third at 12:40pm.
- 6.1.4. Teams should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays. Matches will not be reorganised to accommodate any delays for teams arriving late. In this event the team not on court at the start time will be deemed to have forfeited the match and the team on court will be awarded the points. In the event that neither team is on court at the start time the match will be declared void and neither team will receive any points.
- 6.1.5. No team may play a match with less than five (5) players, any team with less than five (5) players will automatically concede the game.
- 6.1.6. If a team concedes, cancels or fails to attend a match they will be penalised as outlined in Section 4. Failure to play on more than two occasions may result in expulsion from the League.
- 6.1.7. Matches which are postponed by the Competition Referee due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances, e.g., flash flood, heavy snowfall, will be rearranged. Teams will be given at least 3 weeks' notice of rearrangements and will be expected to fulfil these as per scheduled fixtures. In the event that exceptional circumstances lead to a significant number of cancellations the NE-RMB reserve the right to only rearrange those matches which have a significant effect on relegation and promotion outcomes. Where matches are not rearranged an appropriate outcome will be decided by the Competition Referee.
- 6.1.8. In the event that a match is abandoned for any reason, e.g., because of serious injury, the result of that match will be determined by the Competition Referee, having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.

6.2. Match rules and format

- 6.2.1. All Matches shall be played in accordance with the World Netball Rules of the Game currently in force at the time of the relevant match, except where specifically stated in these regulations.
- 6.2.2. Both teams are responsible for providing a suitable match ball which should be supplied to the Table before the start of the match. The Umpires will decide which ball will be used for the duration of the match.

6.3. Match Officials

- 6.3.1. Appointed umpires and mentors will be allocated to each fixture by the Officiating TSG, as follows:
 - a) Umpires who hold a current Netball Europe 'B' Award or above and who have been identified by the Officiating TSG will be allocated to each fixture in division 1 and 2.
 - b) Umpires who actively hold a Netball Europe 'C' award, who are committed to progressing towards a 'B' award and who have been identified by an appropriate body (i.e. England Netball, County Umpiring Secretaries) will also be offered the opportunity to officiate selected NERL matches as

identified by the Officiating TSG. To aid their progression from C to B, these umpires will be mentored during each match until they pass the B award practical assessment.

- 6.3.2. To participate as a Match Official (Umpire or Mentor), individuals must be a member of England Netball, either as a full adult/junior member having paid the full membership fee due and received confirmation of their membership in advance of taking to the court.
- 6.3.3. The Officiating TSG will have responsibility for procedures which ensure that umpires conform to a standard of physical fitness which allows them to keep pace with the speed and variability of the game(s). If age, injury, illness or pregnancy is likely to affect the umpire's movements and positioning to the detriment of the match, they are required to withdraw from officiating. Matches within the NERL may be used for the purpose of umpire testing and assessment.
- 6.3.4. All umpires will be required to achieve level 6.1 (division 1) and level 5.1 (division 2) on the multi stage fitness test in September before the commencement of the League and again in January when the League commences after the Christmas break. This level may be altered by the Officiating TSG at their discretion. Umpires wishing to officiate in the NERL may also be required to attend a pre-season workshop as part of their continuing development and will receive a match report at least once during the course of the season.
- 6.3.5. At every match, each team will pay £20 officiating expenses. B award Umpires will receive £20 expenses for each match officiated, C Award Umpires will receive £10 expenses for each match officiated and £10 will be paid to the mentor as expenses. All expenses must be paid in cash on the day and placed on the table prior to the commencement of the match.
- 6.3.6. In the event that an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied:
 - a) If another umpire of the appropriate standard is available then they will umpire the match.
 - b) Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire should be used.
 - c) If no umpire is available then the NERL Results card should be marked accordingly and handed in.
 - d) If the appointed umpire arrives late and the game has already commenced, the umpire that started the game will continue for the entire duration of the match.

Note: that when an umpire steps in to cover and the match takes place there will be no opportunity for appeal in respect of the umpire from those clubs involved.

6.4 Technical Officials

- 6.4.1 The Technical Officials are: Scorers and Timekeepers. The scorer(s) and the timekeeper(s) shall constitute the Officials Bench.
- 6.4.2 Each team must provide a competent scorer/Timekeeper, either an Umpire, Qualified Technical Official or someone who has a working knowledge of scoring/timekeeping. Scorers/Timekeepers will be required for all fixtures. This official must have working knowledge of the World Netball Rules currently in force.
- 6.4.2 The CTO's should agree between themselves who acts as scorer and timekeeper. They should ensure they are equipped with the relevant equipment to fulfil their duties, i.e.: stop watches, pencils, etc., as the only equipment provided at the venue is a flip-over scoreboard. Failure to provide a CTO for any portion of a match will incur a penalty as outlined in Section 4. In addition the process below should be followed in the event that a team fails to provide a CTO for their match.
- 6.4.3 In the event that only one team provides a CTO then the other teams CTO will take the lead in officiating the match. The offending team will be required to find someone who can work alongside the CTO to officiate the match. If there is no one available to fill this gap then the offending team will be required to fill this gap with one of the players from their match squad who must remain in this role for the full duration of the match.
- 6.4.4 In the event that neither team provides a CTO then both teams will be required to drop a player from their squad for the duration of the match. These players will be paired with CTO's from other matches taking place at the same time. As above these players will remain in this role for the full duration of the match.

6.4.5 Scorers are required to utilise the official NERL Results Card.

6.5 Team Officials

- 6.5.1 A team may have up to five (5) Team Officials. These will include a coach and at least one primary care person who is qualified to diagnose and treat injury and/or illness (for example a doctor, physiotherapist) with a minimum of a first aid qualification.
- 6.5.2 Team Officials may be fewer than specified and may therefore undertake multiple duties. However, primary care person must not also be Players and it is preferable that they do not hold any other role.
- 6.5.3 The Team Officials and up to five (5) players not on court shall constitute the Team Bench.

6.6 Match Timings

- 6.6.1 All matches shall be of one hour's duration (four quarters of fifteen (15) minutes each). Central timing will not be used.
- 6.6.2 All matches shall have a interval of four (4) minutes at half time, and intervals of three (3) minutes for quarter time and three quarter time intervals.
- 6.6.3 The NERL Playoff match will be as per the timings in 6.6.1 and 6.6.2. If after 60 minutes the result is a draw then there will be extra time as follows:
- After full time there will be an interval of 3 minutes
 - Extra time consists of 2 halves of 3 minutes each way
 - Half time interval will be 1 minute and teams change ends at half time
 - The first centre pass in each half is taken by the team entitled to the next centre pass
 - In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time, play will continue until one team leads by two goals

6.7 Scoring

- 6.7.1 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:
- Five (5) points for a win;
 - Three (3) points for a draw;
 - Two (2) points for a loss within 5 goals of the winners' score – i.e., 50-46 = 2 points, 50-45 = 1 point
 - One (1) point for a loss with more than 50 per cent of the winners' score
 - Zero (0) point for a loss with 50 per cent or less of the winners' score
- 6.7.2 Regional League tables will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team. Where teams are level on points:
- Goal average (goals for divided by goals against) 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
 - 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 team that gained the most points.

In the event that none of the above differentiates between the teams, then the Competition Referee (in association with the CTSG and NE-RMB) shall determine the means of differentiation.

Where one of the teams has its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals scored affected by conceded fixtures, then all goals scored by and against conceding team(s) in all fixtures shall be omitted from the calculations of both teams level on points. Except where one of the teams level on points is the conceding team, at which point they assume a goal average of 0 and will be the lowest ranked team of those level on points.

- 6.7.3 There will be two league tables for division 1; one to determine the NERL Champions, which will be comprised of all teams in division 1 and one to determine who will represent the NE at Premier League Playoffs, which will be comprised all all teams, except those who are already represented at Premier League level.

6.8. Registration of results

- 6.8.1. For all Regional League matches **ONE** official NERL Results Card must be used and completed fully including signatures from both scorers and captains. It is the responsibility of the **HOME** team to scan/ photo message the fully completed result card to the Competition Referee (northeastcompetitionreferee@hotmail.com) on the day of the match. Failure to submit a correctly completed NERL Results Card will incur a penalty as outlined in Section 4.
NB - The home team is the team that is named first on the fixtures.
- 6.8.2. Any dispute or disagreement over scores or quarters played should be resolved on the day of the match through discussion between the captains and officials.
- 6.8.3. For any dispute which cannot be resolved on the day, proceed as outlined at Section 8.

7. On-Court Discipline

- 7.1. All Recordable Sanctions awarded during any match must be recorded on the NERL Results Sheet. At the end of the match the entry must be signed by the umpire who awarded them.
- 7.2. All Recordable Sanctions must be recorded by the Competition Referee and formal notification sent to the listed Club Contact, who, if they believe the matter has been incorrectly recorded, should, within 1 week, follow the procedure set out in Section 8.
- 7.3. Where an individual is given four (4) Recordable Sanctions within a playing season, that individual will not be permitted to participate in any capacity during the next NERL match, other than to attend as a spectator.
- 7.4. Where an individual is given a sending off in a match, that individual will not be permitted to participate in any capacity during the next two NERL matches, other than to attend as a spectator.
- 7.5. When a team has been allocated six (6) Recordable Sanctions they will have three (3) league points deducted from their league points total.

8. Competition Complaints Procedure

- 8.1. All queries and complaints (a Complaint) should be directed to the Competition Referee in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows:
- 8.1.1. For NERL League Matches, where the Complaint relates to the playing of a match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant Squad member or Team Official, must do the following:
- Inform their opponents and the Umpires of their complaint;
 - Mark the NERL Results Card with the words "Under Protest";
 - Attach a letter to the Results Card to explain the issue in full.
 - Send the marked Results Card and letter to the Competition Referee, within seventy-two (72) hours of the match.
 - The Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken.
- 8.1.2. For the NERL Play-off or Entry Tournament matches, where the Complaint relates to the playing of a Match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant Squad member or Team Official, must do the following:
- Inform their opponents and the Umpires of their complaint;

- b) Mark the Results Card with the words 'Under Protest';
- c) Take the Results Card marked 'Under Protest' to the Competition Referee, straight after the Match;
- d) Explain the issue in full to the Competition Referee;
- e) The Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken

8.1.3. The Competition Referee will acknowledge receipt of the query or complaint and decide on the matter within seventy two (72) hours of receipt of the query or complaint. The Competition Referee's decision in relation to decisions taken under clause 8.1.1 is binding apart from where parties have the right to appeal the decision under Section 9 below.

8.1.4. Where a Complaint related to the governance or administration of the Competition, such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of the Netball North East

8.2. During the NERL Play-offs and Entry Tournament, where the Complaint relates to the competition format or management, including (but not limited to) the schedule, the opposing Team, playing surface or other playing arrangements, a protest must be made, before the start of the Match (or as soon as possible after the issue becomes apparent during the match) to the Competition Referee who will decide what action should be taken; or.

8.3. Where the Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual Player or Team participating, volunteering or individual attending a Match which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations, such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the processes set out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations.

8.4. Complaints cannot be made in relation to a decision made by an umpire in line with the INF rules of netball.

9. Appeal of Competition Referees Decision

9.1. The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with section 8.1.1 shall be final and binding on all parties, save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

- 9.1.1. If the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition; AND
- 9.1.2. If there has been a failure by the Competition Referee to follow or act in accordance with these Regulations and/or the Competition Referee reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact.

These are the only grounds of appeal and any appeal must be submitted in accordance with the appeals process set out below:

9.2. An appeal should be forwarded in writing from a Club Official of the appealing Team to the Competition Referee within seventy two (72) hours of the receiving the decision, who will refer it to the NE-RMB

9.3. The appeal shall be accompanied by a payment of £100 via bank transfer which shall be returned if the appeal is upheld or if there are any other extenuating circumstances. The Competition Appeals Committee (CAC) will decide whether the extenuating circumstance warrant the payment being returned.

9.4. The NE-RMB will establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected to the Competition. One of those individuals will be appointed as the Chair.

9.5. The Chair of the CAC will send the appeal to the opposing Team and any other Team the CAC believe could be affected by the outcome of the appeal. These Teams will be permitted seventy two (72) hours, from the date the appeal notice is sent from the CAC to submit any evidence or submission that they wish the CAC to consider.

9.6. All submissions and evidence must be submitted in writing. The Chair of CAC will have the discretion to determine the process, procedure and direction of the appeal.

9.7. The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions.

- 9.8. The CAC will notify all parties that made submissions and presented evidence of its decision and any penalties and sanctions imposed within twenty four (24) hours of it reaching its determination. The CAC shall have the discretion to publish the decision through whatever means it considers appropriate.
- 9.9. The CAC shall have the delegated power of NE-RMB to make all decisions and impose and enforce any penalties and sanctions (including but not limited to, reprimands, the deduction of points, fines, suspensions and expulsions from the Competition) relating to the appeal. There is no further right of appeal on this decision.
- 9.10. The procedures set out in this section (8) shall be governed by the Arbitration Act 1996 (the Act) and amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of Section 6 of the Act.
- 9.11. The parties also waive irrevocably their right to any form of appeal, review or recourse to any court or other judicial authority, or under England Netball's Disciplinary Procedures Manual or otherwise, insofar as such waiver may be validly made.
- 9.12. The seat of arbitration shall be England, the language used shall be English and the governing law of the regulations and these proceedings under Section 9 shall be English Law.
- 9.13. If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than provided for by this section 9, and all parties to the appeal consent, the timetable which an appeal is raised, submissions made and the decision taken can be shorter than seventy two (72) hours stated. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised directions timetable which shall be binding on all parties.

10. Miscellaneous

- 10.1. NE-RMB will not be liable to any person, whether in contract, tort (including negligence) or otherwise for any direct or indirect loss or injury of any nature, howsoever caused and howsoever arising from the matters covered by these Regulations, provided that nothing in these Regulations excludes or restricts NE-RMB's liability for any personal loss or injury caused by NE-RMB's own negligence, the negligence of its employees, or for fraud.
- 10.2. If any of these Regulations are held by any competent authority to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of the Regulations shall not be affected thereby.
- 10.3. These Regulations shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law.
- 10.4. Any questions regarding these Regulations should be addressed to the Competition Referee.
- 10.5. NE-RMB reserves the right to amend these Regulations each year in advance of the Competition and such amendments will take effect from the first date of publication of the completed amended procedure on the North East Netball website, www.northeastnetball.co.uk

Definitions

The following terms shall have the meanings set out below:

Competition Appeals Committee (CAC) means a body of up to three (3) individuals who are independent of and not connected to the Competition that will hear an appeal or group of appeals on the Competition Referee's decision as set out in section 9.

Competition Referee means the individual/group appointed by the NE-RMB with all necessary authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising during the Competition Day as set out in Section 4.

Competition Referee Log Book means a record of any incidents, disciplinary matters, changes to schedule or complaints that arise on the Competition Day and are passed onto the LOC, templates for these documents are available at <http://www.englandnetball.co.uk/competitions>

England Netball Accident Report Form means a form that is accessible from <http://www.englandnetball.co.uk/competitions> that must be used to detail any accidents that occur during a competition

Goal Average means goals for divided by goals against

Goal Difference means the difference between the goals scored and the goals conceded

NERL Results Card means the official card issued by Netball North East, used for each Match, by each the home team, to record the players on court, quarters played and quarter and final scores, and signed by captains, umpires and scorers. See Appendix 2.

NERL Entry Tournament means the tournament to determine promotion and relegation into the NERL division 2.

Match means an individual game of Netball played, in accordance with Section 6, forming part of the North East Regional League.

(Players) Not on court means the players listed on the NERL Results Card that are not, at that present time playing in the Match

Premier League (1, 2 or 3) means Divisions 1, 2 or 3 of the England Netball Premier League.

Recordable Sanction – A decision by an umpire to issue either a formal warning, or to award a timed suspension, or to order a 'sending Off'.

Squad means Players listed on the NERL Squad Registration from which a Team may be selected on a match day.

NERL Play-offs means a match played at the end of the season between the teams finishing 7th place in division 1 and 2nd place in division 2 to determine who will be promoted and relegated.

Squad Registration Sheet means the list of players submitted by a team at the start of the season (this can be added to throughout the season) that they can be selected to play in a fixture, providing they meet all eligibility criteria and are named on the NERL Results Card for that fixture. An unlimited number of players may be named throughout the season.

Teams means up to seven (7) Players actively participating in a Match at a given moment.

Team Officials mean the individuals that are listed on the Squad Registration Sheet and include the Coach, Team Manager and up to three (3) other personnel, at least one (1) of whom must be a primary care person and one (1) must hold an appropriate first aid qualification

Appendix 1 – Promotion and Relegation Processes

Positions at end of season Regional League		Scenario 1		Scenario 2		Scenario 3	
Div 1	Div 2	Div 1	Div 2	Div 1	Div 2	Div 1	Div 2
1	9	1	8	2	R1	Z1	7
2	10	2	7 v 10 losers	3	11	1	8
3	11	3	11	4	12	2	10
4	12	4	12	5	13	3	11
5	13	5	13	6	14	4	12
6	14	6	14	9	ET1	5	13
7	15	9	ET1	P1	ET2	6	14
8	16	7 v 10 winners	ET2	P2	ET3	9	ET1

<p>8 relegated to Division 2. 9 promoted to Division 1. 7 & 10 play off with the winners taking the place in Division 1 and losers going into Division 2. 15 & 16 go into Entry Tournament. ET1 winners of Entry Tournament. ET2 runners up in Entry Tournament.</p>	<p>1 promoted to Premier 3 9 promoted to Division 1. P1 – winners of 7 v 10 P2 – winners of 8 v losers of P1 R1 - losers of P2 match 15 & 16 go into Entry Tournament. ET1 winners of Entry Tournament ET2 second in Entry Tournament ET3 third in Entry Tournament</p>	<p>Z1 team relegated from Premier 3. 9 promoted to Division 1. 7 & 8 relegated to Division 2. 15 & 16 go into Entry Tournament. ET1 winners of Entry Tournament</p>
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Scenario 1 - No NE teams promoted or relegated to/from Premier 3 OR NE team promoted and NE team relegated to/from Premier 3.

Scenario 2 - No NE teams relegated from Premier 3, Regional League Division 1 winners promoted to Premier 3.

Scenario 3 - NE team relegated from Premier 3, Regional League Division 1 winners not promoted to Premier 3.

Entry Tournament - In the event that only one team applies for entry to NERL Division 2 then a single play-off match will take place between that team and the team finishing last in the NERL. The team second bottom will automatically retain their place in NERL. In the event that no teams apply for entry to NERL Division 2 then the teams finishing in seventh and eighth place in NERL Division 2 will automatically retain their places in NERL. Should a number of teams choose not to take their place in the league then additional places may be offered to teams from the Entry Tournament competition if the structure of the league allows for this.

Instructions for completion of the Result Card

Pre-match

1. Insert the Date and venue.
2. Insert the name of both teams, Team 1 is the home team and Team 2 is the away team.
3. Print the full name of the umpires in the Umpire 1 and 2 boxes.
4. Print the full names (as found in Engage) of all team officials.
5. In the two columns marked Players Names under the relevant team name print the full names (as found in Engage) of all the players named by both teams in alphabetical order (by surname).

During the match

6. In the columns headed 1st Q, 2nd Q, etc., for each team, write the position that the player played in the quarter that they took to the court. Players who do not take the court in any quarter should have a cross entered in the box at the end of the relevant quarter.
7. If a player is replaced mid quarter add the position to the quarter box for that player and the player who replaces them to show that there was a substitution.
8. On the row titled quarter scores enter the number of goals scored in that quarter by each team, not the running total.

Discipline

9. Enter any disciplinary offences in the Discipline Table as follows.
 - a. Disciplinary offences to record are cautions, warnings, suspensions or ordering off.
 - b. Table Officials should check with the Umpires at the quarter time to ensure that the information entered is correct.
 - c. Information Required:
 - i. player name – if there are two players with the same name enter the team too
 - ii. the quarter when the disciplinary action was actioned
 - iii. infringement (dissent, persistent obstruction, etc..) and any relevant description
 - iv. the umpires signature

Post-match

10. In the box marked Final Score enter the overall final score for the match – this should equal the total of the quarter scores.
11. In the box marked Match Winner enter the name of the team which won the match.
12. Finally both Captains and Scorers should print and sign their names (as appear in Engage) in the relevant team number box **after** checking the sheet.
13. Score cards should be sent to the Competition Referee as indicated in the rules.

Note: Scorers and Captains are signing the sheet to verify that:

- The score sheet is **fully completed** - all relevant lines and boxes are filled with the appropriate information.
- The score and winning team are correct
- The players names and quarters played are correct

Penalties will be applied for submitting incomplete or incorrect scores
