**South Suffolk Netball League (SSNL)**

**League Rules**

**1 Affiliation**

a) All players, umpires and officials MUST be AFFILIATED to England Netball (EN), preferably via the EN website at least 7 days prior to the Commencement Date stated for the season to England Netball (Suffolk). Without completed affiliation, there will be no entry to the League. England Netball Affiliation runs from 1st September to the 31st August.

**Please Note:** To be affiliated means that payment has been made AND cleared with EN. Any issues with the EN website are to be communicated to the Honorary Secretary and the appropriate Division Secretary / Junior Secretary.

**Please Note:** A copy of your confirmation of affiliation from England Netball must be sent to the Honorary Secretary at least 7 days prior to the Commencement Date stated for the season. **PENALTY: Failure to do so will result in a 3 point deduction for each individual team.**

**Penalty:** **If any player, umpire or official involved in a League fixture has not been affiliated the following penalty will apply: if the offending team won the fixture, the game will be forfeited and 3 points will be deducted. The non-offending team will be awarded 5 points. However, if the non-offending team won the fixture, the result will stand and the offending team will be deducted 3 points. The club/team contacts of the offending team will immediately be advised.**

 **Please Note:** England Netball Taster Rate is only available from March/April and cannot be used at any other time (so March/April to the end of August). This is only applicable if you have not been affiliated in the last 3 years.

b) Individual affiliation cards are sent to everyone by England Netball in the October/November edition of the Netball magazine. It is suggested that everyone retains their affiliation cards.

**Please Note:** Any Under 14 player wishing to participate in any event or league (including divisions in the SSNL) other than the SSJNL and its associated tournaments must be individually affiliated to EN as an aged 18 or under participant.

c) Additional players or officials MUST be affiliated to England Netball BEFORE they play. Evidence of their affiliation MUST be communicated to the Honorary Secretary and the appropriate Divisional Secretary as soon as possible with a by sending a copy of the email confirmation from England Netball. Infringement of this rule is covered in rule 1a playing an unaffiliated player.

**Please Note:** To be affiliated means that payment has been made AND cleared with England Netball. Any issues with the England Netball Website are to be communicated to the Honorary Secretary and the appropriate Divisional Secretary/Junior Secretary.

**Penalty:** **If the additional affiliations are not communicated within 7 days of the fixture then 1 point will be deducted from the offending team per individual, per League fixture (this applies to players, umpires and officials). The club/team contacts of the offending team will immediately be advised.**

d)   To clarify to play unaffiliated the player can not be affiliated to EN or any other club for the

 applicable season (s) You may only use an unaffiliated player under the terms the SSNL have

 set which are:-

* Only 3 in total allowed per season per player.
* One player per team per game.
* Every team can only use a different unaffiliated player 5 times throughout the season.
* Once an unaffiliated player has played the limit amount of times, they can not play unaffiliated again for 3 years.
* The player needs to be registered with the Honorary Secretary at least 24 hours before match time and clearance must be given before they play
* A signed and dated attendance record sheet needs to be filled in and signed by the captain/secretary of the club and the unaffiliated player and sent to the Honorary Secretary within 7 days of playing each match.
* Affiliated Clubs and registered Leagues are insured for Public Liability, only if all of the individuals on that Club or League’s Management Committee are members of England Netball and are participating in recognised and authorised netballing activities. The Club or League will also be insured for Public Liability for the actions of new, unaffiliated individual participating in a maximum of three sessions before joining a club. To be eligible for this cover, signed and dated attendance records of all such unaffiliated individuals must be kept by the Club and the League for a period of three years.

**NB: The unaffiliated rule is not applicable to SSJNL**

**Penalty:** **If any player, umpire or official involved in a League fixture has not been followed any of the rules above the following penalty will apply: if the offending team won the fixture, the game will be forfeited and 3 points will be deducted. The non-offending team will be awarded 5 points. However, if the non-offending team won the fixture, the result will stand and the offending team will be deducted 3 points. The club/team contacts of the offending team will immediately be advised.**

**2 Registration and Eligibility**

a) Pregnant players may not take part in League fixtures beyond the 12th week of pregnancy and pregnant umpires beyond the 20th week.

b) One member of each club MUST attend the entire Annual General Meeting (AGM). A completed League Registration Form and Committee Nominate Form must be submitted. The appropriate Entrance Fee must be brought to the AGM or alternatively the payment can be paid in the SSNL bank account via BACS 24 hours before the AGM.

**Please Note:** Failure to attend will result in Clubs being unable to join the League for the forthcoming season.

c) Players are allowed to play for one club ONLY in the League. A full list of ALL teams within each club, must be sent to the Honorary Secretary on the “Registration of Team Players” form at least 7 days prior to the Commencement Date stated for the season by email only.

**Penalty:** **Each team within the club returning the form on time will be awarded 10 bonus points. If the form is not received prior to the first League fixture then the following will apply for EACH League fixture until the form is received: if the offending team won the fixture, the game will be forfeited and 3 points will be deducted. The non-offending team will be awarded 5 points. However, if the non-offending team won the fixture, the result will stand and the offending team will be deducted 3 points. The club/team contacts of the offending team will immediately be advised.**

**Please Note:** Under mitigating circumstances, a player may be allowed to re-register with another club. The player must approach the SSNL committee to request this.

d) Players playing in the SSJNL must be Under 14 as of 01/09 of the applicable season and registered to play in the Junior League. If a junior player is selected to play for a team in the SSNL, the League Secretary and appropriate Divisional Secretary must be advised that the junior player is playing ‘up’. Any such junior player after playing on the sixth occasion will be deemed as part of the senior team.

e) ALL umpires MUST be registered to a specific club. All umpires you intend to use must be listed on the “League Registration Form” including players that will also umpire. As a minimum there must be enough appropriately qualified umpires to cover one per team.

**Please Note:** You MUST get permission from an umpire who is not affiliated to your club before you list them on your “League Registration Form”.

f) Affiliated player names may be added to team lists at any time by emailing the appropriate Divisional Secretary before the start of the game they will participate in. A copy of the updated team sheets **MUST** be sent to ALL Divisional Secretaries in the above divisions (in the case of that player possibly playing up for a higher team)

**Penalty:** **1 point will be deducted per individual, per League fixture until the email is received. The club/team contacts of the offending team will immediately be advised.**

g) Where a player is a registered member of a higher team, she may not substitute into a lower team in the League.

**Penalty:** **If this rule is broken and if the offending team won the fixture, the game will be forfeited and 3 points will be deducted. The non-offending team will be awarded 5 points. However, if the non-offending team won the fixture, the result will stand and the offending team will be deducted 3 points. The club/team contacts of the offending team will immediately be advised.**

**Please Note:** Under mitigating circumstances, a player may be allowed to re-register with a lower team in the same club. The player must approach the SSNL committee to request this.

h) Players playing other leagues will be allowed to play in conjunction with the SSNL, but must be registered for the SSNL. Players playing in the SSNL in conjunction with regularly playing in the Open Regional League or higher leagues will only be allowed to play a clubs Division 1 teams (or highest team). These players must be noted on the registration of players form at the start of the season or Divisional Secretaries must be advised if a player later joins a regional / prem team throughout the season.

 **Penalty: Playing a regional / prem player in a lower team will result in a 3-point deduction. Not advising the divisional secretary a player is a regional / prem player will result in a 3-point deduction.**

i) A member of a lower team shall be considered a member of a higher team after playing on the sixth occasion. Please Note: players playing in the SSJNL will abide by the same rule within that League. The result sheets have been revised for teams to note players playing up. Failure to fill this in will result in a one-point penalty per player

 **Penalty: One point per player not recorded on the result sheet as playing up.**

j) No reserve players will be accepted. All players must be registered to a specific team.

**3 Venues for League Fixtures**

a) League Venues: clubs can opt to play their matches at one of the League Venues. The court bookings for these fixtures will be organised by the Fixtures Coordinator. Fees associated with this are documented in rule 11.

b) Clubs’ own courts: It is noted that several teams have access to their own courts. These courts will be subject to League inspection to confirm that they are suitable for League fixtures. Courts without floodlights may only be used for League fixtures after May 1st.

c) The League retains the right to re-locate fixtures to a different venue if they are deemed inappropriate or unsafe.

d) In respect of Duty of Care (Health and Safety), it is the responsibility of all clubs to carry out a Risk Assessment of their court(s) periodically during the season, to ensure the surface and surroundings of the court(s) are suitable for safe play.

**4 League Structure**

a) Each division will have a maximum of 14 teams.

b) Each team will play the others twice, once at home and once away.

c) The SSNL will be split into 3 sections:

• September to Christmas

• January to Easter

• After Easter to July

d) Each section will contain a number of scheduled fixture weeks and at the end of each section:

• Section 1 will have 2 reserve weeks

• Section 2 will have 3 reserve weeks

• Section 3 will have 1 reserve weeks

 These reserve weeks will not have any regular fixture scheduled against them, but will be used for the playing of any cancelled fixtures.

e) For any SSNL division or the SSJNL with 10 teams or less, a structure will be devised prior to the start of the league to ensure that teams get a sufficient number of games through the year.

f) Teams will be awarded league points as follows:

• 5 points for a win

• 3 points for a draw

• 2 points if a difference of 4 goals or less OR

• 1 point for more than 50% of the winners score which ever is greater.

g) A League table will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team. Where two or more 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.

• 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.

• In the event that none of the above differentiates between the teams, the SSNL Committee shall determine the means of differentiation.

h) At the end of the season a minimum of 1 team will be promoted and relegated from the respective divisions. Further promotions and relegations will be dependent on the number of teams registering for the next season. The League Committee reserves the right to make the final decision on the number of teams that get promoted or relegated after team registrations at the AGM

i) The SSJNL will not be subject to promotion and relegation while it remains as a one division league. When there is 2 divisions there will be promotions/demotions depending on number of teams entered at the AGM and after discussions with the committee and relevant teams/ clubs.

j) All new teams entering the SSNLwill be entered into the lowest division. The only exception to

 this rule will be in the event that the team can provide assurance to the committee that they

 should be entered into a higher division., for example, players that have been playing at a

 higher level in previous seasons and have simply moved teams or by playing friendlies with

 teams in their requested division. Upon providing this assurance, the division into which the

 team enters will be at the discretion of the committee.

**5 Confirmation of Fixtures**

a) The date, time and venue of league fixtures will be based on the SSNL Fixture List that is issued prior to the start of each season, Confirmation between teams is not required unless a team wishes to amend the date, time or venue of a fixture from what is specified in the SSNL Fixture List, in which case changes must be made at least 10 days before the start of the applicable section and the team amending the fixture must ensure they receive a response from the opposing team regarding the change. Fixtures for each section will be regarded as confirmed 9 days before the start of the applicable section.

b) Fixtures can be moved from their scheduled day (as scheduled by the league) within the same fixture week. This must be clearly stated to the opposition and cannot be amended again once notification is sent. Changes to days of fixtures must be communicated to the League email address of **results@southsuffolknetballleague.co.uk**and to the appropriate Divisional Secretary/Junior Secretary. This email should have the Subject of “Division n - Home Team name v Away Team name” and the details of the fixture change in the body of the email. Please ensure that you use the correct format in the subject of the email.

**Penalty:** **Failure to notify the divisional secretary/results email will result in a one point deduction.**

c) Every effort MUST be made by both teams to play the fixture in the designated fixture week. The reserve weeks at the end of each section are for cancelled games due to weather or bad lighting and SHOULD NOT be used for moving fixtures.

**Please Note:** Contact MUST be made with the Divisional Secretary to discuss issues with playing League fixtures within their fixture week.

**6 Fixture Organisation**

a) All League fixtures are to be played in accordance with the IFNA Rules of the Game currently in force in England. Therefore, it is expected that all teams and umpires will have an up to date rulebook

b) Fixtures CANNOT begin any earlier than 7pm, unless both teams can agree to start the fixture earlier.

c) All SSNL fixtures will be 4 x 15 minute quarters (SSJNL will be 4 x 10 minute quarters), with 5 minutes at halftime and 3 minutes at quarter time and 3–quarter time. It is the umpire’s responsibility to see that the game starts on time with a maximum wait of 10 minutes.

**Please Note:** Some venues are not available until the scheduled fixture start time. Please allow teams time to warm-up and for the umpires to do the appropriate court inspections within the 10 minute waiting time.

d) It is the responsibility of the home team to supply the match ball for each home fixture.

**Please Note:** It is the responsibility of the umpires to check the ball is fit to be used for the fixture. The ball must be a size 5 Match ball, preferably made by Mitre or Gilbert.

**7 Fixture Officials**

1. For each League fixture, both teams MUST supply an umpire with the following MINIMUM qualifications:

• Division 1 - England Netball Grade C Award and above.

• Division 2 - England Netball Grade C Award. This level can be used for a C assessment.

• Division 3 - EN C award umpire or a Beginner Award umpire who has attended a Grade C Award course within the last 18-months AND is being mentored towards the C grade assessment - once the pre-assessment is passed able to umpire until test is taken.

• Division 4 - England Netball Beginner Award qualification or has attended a C award course and a mentor has agreed that they are able to umpire that division) (for talent identified (TID) umpires i.e. not necessary for then to have passed the beginner award). Beginners can also be assessed.

• Division 5 can be used for umpires who have been on a Beginner Award course within the last 18-months AND has had a mentoring session where the mentor has agreed that the umpire is able to umpire this division. The mentor MUST inform the SSNL Committee of this decision before the umpire can umpire this division.

• Division 6 and the Junior League can be used for currently active unqualified umpire who has been on a Beginner Award course within the last 18-months.

**Please Note:** The league would suggest MINIMUM expense to umpires of £10 for Grade C or above, £7 for Beginner and £5 for non-qualified. Only the umpiring qualification mentioned above will be recognised by the League.

b) The League may use games for the testing of umpires. The affected teams will be contacted by the umpire coordinator to arrange this. This may include umpires outside of the area.

c) League Fixtures CANNOT be played without 2 relevantly qualified umpires.

**Penalty:** **If the game cannot go ahead as a League fixture then the offending team will forfeit the League fixture and 3 points will be deducted. The non-offending team will be awarded 5 points. The club/team contacts of the offending team will immediately be advised.**

d) If it not discovered that a non-relevant qualified umpire umpired a League fixture until after the game has taken place then the following penalty will be incurred:

**Penalty:** **If the offending team won the fixture, the game will be forfeited and 3 points will be deducted. The non-offending team will be awarded 5 points. However, if the non-offending team won the fixture, the result will stand and the offending team will be deducted 3 points. The club/team contacts of the offending team will immediately be advised.**

e) Each for all SSJNL fixtures and any other fixtures that have players Under 16 must have a team manager who is responsible for the care and organisation of these youngsters. This team manager MUST be a different person to the umpires. The Junior results sheets will provide a section for the Team Manager to sign their attendance at each match fixture.

**Penalty: If this rule is broken 1 point will be deducted from the offending team per League fixture. The club/team contacts of the offending team will immediately be advised.**

f) Scorers will be required for Divisions 1 and 2. Each team will be required to provided one scorer each (minimum age 14 but who does not have to be affiliated to England Netball) per game who will stand together at the side of the court away from spectators. The scorer can change throughout the match (i.e. a sub) but cannot participate in the game whilst scoring (i.e. coaching).

**Penalty: If this rule is broken 1 point will be deducted from the offending team per League Fixture. The club/team contact of the offending team will immediately be advised.**

g) Any team with Under 16 players must have a person with relevant safeguarding / first aid and DBS checks / qualifications within the club. Teams to contact the local NDO to get further information or to arrange the relevant training. The Designated Safeguarding Officer within the Club / Committee MUST be identified when registering at the start of the season. All clubs / teams will follow the England Netball Safeguarding Policy (available on the SSNL Website).

h) All qualified C umpires that have held their qualifications for over 3 years and wish to umpire in the SSNL will attend an umpire refresher workshop once every 3 years.

 Following the refresher workshop, the umpire may have their competency level reduced i.e. a restriction on which divisions they can umpire.

 (Suffolk County Netball will pay for and facilitate one course per year which could be in the form of a practical session delivered via Zoom.)

**8 Cancellation of Fixtures**

a) Confirmed League fixtures may only be cancelled without penalty due to adverse weather or court conditions including bad lighting.

**Please Note:** The ONLY exception to this rule is if there is a genuine reason for non-attendance to the fixture, such as a car accident or serious traffic jams. If this is the case the problem MUST be discussed with a member of the League Committee, before deciding the best course of action for the fixture.

b) Home teams with their fixture booked at a League venue through the League should contact the Fixtures Coordinator after 5pm for a report of conditions and authorisation to cancel. Once authorisation is received they must inform their umpire and opponents.

**Penalty: Failure to notify the fixture co-ordinator of a cancellation/forfeit will result in the home team using the league venue liable to pay the court fees.**

c) Home teams utilising their own courts must assess the conditions of the court no earlier than 5pm. The cancellation must be agreed by both umpires and both team captains/managers.

**Please Note:** if the umpires and team captains/managers cannot agree on cancellation then the home team captain/manager should contact a member of the League Committee whose decision is final.

d) If a fixture is already in progress when the weather or light deteriorates it is the responsibility of the 2 umpires to ensure health and safety is not compromised. The umpires and team captains/managers should confer, but the 2 umpires’ decision is final.

**Please Note:** If 3-quarters or more of the League fixture has been played, the result will stand. Otherwise the League fixture will have to be replayed.

e) If there is a cancellation of a confirmed fixture (not due to weather conditions or bad lighting), the fixture WILL NOT be replayed. Communication must take place with a response from the opposing team (via telephone/text/email). Once cancelled with the opposition the fixture will remain cancelled.

**Penalty:** **The offending team will forfeit the League fixture and 3 points will be deducted. The non-offending team will be awarded 5 points. The club/team contacts of the offending team will immediately be advised.**

f) Any team failing to fulfil a total of 5 League fixtures during one League season will be withdrawn from the League and all previous results will be void.

g) All cancelled League fixtures must be communicated to the League email address of [results@southsuffolknetballleague.co.uk](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cnikki.timmis%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CTemp%5Cresults%40southsuffolknetball.co.uk) and to the appropriate Divisional Secretary/Junior Secretary. This email should have the Subject of “Division n - Home Team name v Away Team name” and the details of the fixture in the body of the email. Please see rule 10a for further information.

h) If an umpire becomes unwell and cannot continue with the game then if 3 quarters or more of the League fixture has been played, the result will stand. Otherwise the League fixture will have to be replayed.

**9 Rearrangement of Fixtures**

a) League fixture cancelled due to adverse weather conditions or bad lighting MUST be played.

b) Any cancelled fixture MUST be played by the end of the reserve weeks for the applicable section that the cancelled game was in. No cancelled fixtures can be carried over to the next section unless all reserved weeks are used or with the agreement of the divisional secretary.

**Please Note:** Both teams MUST be in agreement to play the League fixture in a fixture week instead of a reserve week as it is likely to mean 2 games in one week. If agreement cannot be reached, the game must be scheduled in one of the reserve weeks.

c) Home teams with their fixture booked at a League venue through the League will have their fixture move en-bloc to the next available appropriate date within the reserve weeks. This will be done by the Fixtures Coordinator who will inform each home team of the new date.

d) Home teams utilising their own courts are responsible for arranging a court themselves.

e) For both rules 9b) and 9c), it is the responsibility of the HOME team to confirm the rearranged fixture with the AWAY team either by letter or email. It is advisable to keep fixture confirmations until the end of the season in case of a dispute. The away team must confirm receipt of the rearrangement notification before the confirmation is established.

f) Details of the rearranged League fixture must be communicated to the League email address of results@southsuffolknetballleague.co.uk and to the appropriate Divisional Secretary. This email should have the Subject of “Division n - Home Team name v Away Team name” and the details of the fixture in the body of the email.

**Penalty: Failure to notify the divisional secretary and the results email will result in a one point deduction.**

**10 Registration of Fixture Results**

a) It is the responsibility of the home team to email the result/forfeit/cancellation to results@southsuffolknetballleague.co.uk and to the appropriate Divisional Secretary within 24 hours after the match start time. This email should have the Subject of “Division n - Home Team name and score v Away Team name and score”. No extra information is required in the body of the email unless it is appropriate i.e. where a match has been forfeited or cancelled

**Penalty:** **If this rule is broken 1 point will be deducted from the offending team per League fixture. The club/team contacts of the offending team will immediately be advised.**

b) It is also the responsibility of the home team to send the result, on the result sheet provided, to the appropriate Divisional Secretary/Junior League Secretary. The result sheet must be signed by both umpires and captains as confirmation that the information stated is correct. Once these result sheets have been signed, the score will stand.

c) The result sheet MUST be received by the appropriate Divisional Secretary within 7 days of the League fixture.

**Penalty:** **If this rule is broken 1 point will be deducted from the offending team per League fixture. The club/team contacts of the offending team will immediately be advised.**

**11 League Venue Fees**

a) Payment for courts at a League venue booked through the League is to be paid by the home team. Accounts for the court hire will be sent out per league section.

**12 Disputes**

a) In respect of any dispute, the decision of the committee is final. A Grievance Procedure is in place and is detailed in a separate document called “SSNL Grievance Procedures”.

**13 Miscellaneous**

1. All clubs will be held responsible for their players, officials and spectators. Any warnings / sending off issued, instructed in a game by an umpire to either a player, official or spectator will be written on the result sheet.

**PENALTY: Any team with more than 3 warnings / sending offs will have 5 points deducted. Any further sending offs or warnings may result in removal from the league.**

b) Stoppages: Play may be stopped for injury or illness after a call for time by ANY on court player.

**Please Note:** The decision to stop play and when to stop play shall be at the discretion of the umpire. The umpire does not have to stop time immediately.

c) Bleeding on Court: The following statement was issued by England Netball

*“If a player injures herself resulting in free flowing bleeding from a wound, the player must request time to cover the injury. The umpire must respond to this request through England Netball Rule 7.1 and 7.2. It is the responsibility of the team and team officials to provide the first aid dressing. Please note that Rule 7.1 would also allow the Umpire to stop the game if she/he saw a player playing on with blood running from an injury.”*

**Please Note:** It is the responsibility of each team to provide adequate first aid equipment. If this equipment is not available, then a substitute would have to be used, or the team would have to play on with only six players.

d) No items of jewellery, except a wedding ring and/or a medical alert bracelet, shall be worn. If either or both are worn, each must be taped.

e) Fingernails must be short and smooth.

f) Clothing:

• Scarves can be worn for religious reasons only. The player must ensure that the material used is soft, without embellishments and that potential flowing/flapping edges are held securely around the neck or tucked away.

• No other adornment that may endanger player safety shall be worn.