**LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY**

**Junior League**

**Rules & Regulations 2023-24**

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# 1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

* 1. The Lincolnshire County Junior League shall be governed and managed by the Lincolnshire County Management Board (LCMB) which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to the Competition Technical Support Group (TSG) and the Junior League Secretary.

1.2 The decisions of the LCMB, or its nominee(s), in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the Lincolnshire County Junior League, which is not provided for below, shall be considered final and binding on all parties (subject to the right of appeal which is specifically provided for under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations).

1.3 It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches and Captains to ensure that all players are conversant with the following rules and regulations and the World Netball Rules of the Game.

1.4 All clubs will be held responsible for the Overall Conduct (behaviour, demeanor, and actions) of all members associated with the club (players, officials and spectators).

1.5 GDPR – Data Protection: Any personal data provided by the clubs will be used for this competition only. It will be destroyed at the end of the season and not shared with any third party.

# 2. INTEGRITY CLAUSE

 **Any team who knowingly and deliberately provides false information regarding the identity of players at registration and the naming of players on team sheets may be expelled from the competition.  Disciplinary action may be taken against the club.**

# 3. PLAYING QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

## 3.1 CLUBS & TEAMS

3.1.1 Application for entry to the Lincolnshire County Junior League shall be open to any club or team which is an active team or club registered on the England Netball membership system and which is situated within the boundaries of the County Association – unless otherwise agreed by the LCMB.

3.1.2 Entry to the Lincolnshire County Junior League will be determined by LCMB at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the rules and regulations laid out herein, and having due regard to the playing standard of teams which wish to participate. In the same way, such casual vacancies as may appear from time to time will be addressed by the Competition TSG in whatever way it sees fit.

3.1.3 LCMB will charge an entry fee to the Lincolnshire County Junior League. Entry into the League will not be accepted unless the entry fee has been received by the date stated on the entry forms and the prior season fees have been paid in full.

3.1.4 Invoices for court fees will be in two instalments for the first half of the season (prior to Christmas) and at the end of the season (no later than May 31st). Invoices must be paid within 21 days. For penalty see 10.1.7. Any outstanding payments when league finished – will mean the team(s) involved WILL NOT be able to go forward to represent the county at any regional playoffs etc or enter the following Lincolnshire Junior County season until paid.

3.1.5 By entering a team in the Lincolnshire County Junior League, clubs/teams agree that:

* They will abide by these rules and regulations.
* They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the Lincolnshire County Junior League and any associated play offs.
* They will participate in a sporting manner and play within the spirit of the game.
* They are bound by all the rules, policies, regulations and by-laws of England Netball, including the England Netball Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Regulations.

3.1.6 All A teams must register a minimum of 7 players – all subsequent teams must have minimum of 5 players.

## 3.2 PLAYERS & OFFICIALS

3.2.1 All players and team officials must have their membership lodged with the England Netball Head Office, and their subscription paid, prior to their participation in the Lincolnshire County Junior League. Players must be listed on the Engage system for the club they are representing.

3.2.2 U16 League players must be 14 years or older, and under 16 years of age at 31st August preceding the competition.

 U14 League, players must be 12 years or older, and under 14 years of age at 31st August preceding the competition.

U12 League, players must be 11 years or older, and under 14 years of age at 31st August preceding the competition.

Players are permitted to play up one age group. To play up more than one age group i.e. U11->U14 (Year 9) ; U12->U16 an age banding form must be submitted.

3.2.3 Each team may declare up to twelve (12) players prior to the start of each match by completing a team sheet/result card.

3.2.4 Only players named on the Team Sheet at the beginning of the game will be allowed to play or sit on the team bench area.

3.2.5 ‘A’ team players may not play for the ‘B’ team i.e. players may not play down.

3.2.6 Players may play up unlimited unless a club enters two teams in the same division then 3.2.7 applies.

3.2.7 Once a player from the ‘B’ team has played three times for the ‘A’ team, she will be deemed to be an ‘A’ team player for the remainder of the season.

3.2.8 No player shall be permitted to take the court in more than two games per day (including regional if applicable).

3.2.9 There will be a transfer window over the Christmas break when players may transfer to another club/team within the league. Players wishing to transfer must complete the Transfer Request Form and submit it to the Junior League Secretary prior to the first round of matches in January.

3.2.10 All players named on the team sheet must be eligible to play.

# 4. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

4.1 Registration Sheets for each participating team must be completed fully for each player and lodged

with the Junior League Secretary at least 14 days prior to the commencement of the season.

4.2 Teams may register as many players as they wish.

4.3 Teams may only use those players whose names appear on their Registration Sheet held by the Junior League Secretary.

4.4 Any additions to the Registration Sheet must be lodged with the Junior League Secretary prior to play – email only will be accepted.

# 5. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE

5.1 The Lincolnshire County Junior League will be contested between as many teams as shall be determined by the Competition TSG from time to time. If number of entries exceed capacity, a qualifying tournament may be held.

5.2 Matches will be played at a central venue to be determined by the Competition TSG. Teams may be asked to organize home/away matches if necessary and appropriate to do so.

5.3 The season's schedule of matches is to be organised with a fair allocation of starting times and dates at the discretion of the Junior League Secretary.

5.4 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:

* 5 points for a win
* 3 points for a draw
* 2 Points if within 4 goals eg. 50-46 = 2 points
* 1 point if scoring 50% or more eg. 50-45 = 1 point

5.5 The team which finishes top of each age-group league at the end of the season will be the winners.

5.6 A Lincolnshire County Junior League table will be compiled based on the points awarded to each team. Where two teams are level on points:

* 1. **Goal Average** shall be applied to determine the position of each team i.e. the team with the higher Goal Average over the course of the season shall take precedence.
	2. In the event that goal average cannot determine finishing positions **goal difference** shall be used i.e. precedence shall be given to the team with the greater difference between goals scored and goals conceded
	3. **Greatest number of goals** scored shall take precedence if goal difference & goal average does not differentiate between the teams.
	4. If neither goal average, goal difference or number of goals scored differentiates between the teams the **aggregate score** in the matches played between them over the course of the season shall be calculated and precedence given to the team whose scores were greatest.
	5. If neither 5.6 a,b,c or d can differentiate between the teams, the **Competition Referees** shall determine the means of differentiation.

Note - 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**.**

5.7 Any new teams entering the League will enter into a division at the discretion of the Competition TSG.

5.8 Those clubs wishing to compete in the National Club competition (U14, U16) can enter the respective qualifying tournament which will be organized during the season. Only teams playing in Division 1 in their age group will be eligible.

5.9 In the event that a match is conceded (eg played as a friendly) and the opposition is not notified beforehand, the team which concedes will be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team occurs - subject to the determination of the Competition TSG.

5.10 The Competition TSG will have power to determine the penalty to be imposed on teams and players who are in breach of these Rules and Regulations. Such penalties include reprimands, the deduction of league points, fines, suspensions and expulsion from the competition, except as specified in 10.1.4 - 10.1.7.

# 6. FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 Matches will normally be played at Priory Witham. De Wint Avenue, Lincoln, LN6 7DT. Teams will be notified in advance if this is not the case. U16 Divisions will primarily be played on an indoor court but should capacity dictate, Divisions 2 or lower may be played outdoors. All other age groups on outdoor courts.

6.2 Teams are responsible for arranging their own travel and for the costs of this and should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays. Any team that fails to take the court within 5 minutes of the start time will forfeit the match and the non-offending team will be awarded the points as winners by default. Teams may use the court for a friendly within the time left but point penalties and any associated costs will still stand for the offending team.

6.3 All matches must be played on/by the date and at the time and venue specified by the fixture schedule, otherwise the match will be deemed null and void.

6.4 Matches which are postponed by the Junior League Secretary due to extreme and adverse weather conditions - or unforeseen circumstances with the venue - must be played at the venue, time and date as re-arranged in consultation with the Competition TSG

6.5 If a team cancels a match:

* The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points for the match.
* The team which cancels will be liable to pay court costs which the LCMB have incurred.

6.6 If a fixture is cancelled, it is the responsibility of the offending team to ensure that the Junior League Secretary and opposition is informed immediately the cancellation is known and acknowledgement received from both parties on email. Please text 07976397294 If cancellation is on the day.

6.7 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 Referees having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.

6.8 Any team that withdraws from the league will be liable to pay the cost of all remaining court fees.

6.9 If a team has players involved in LINCOLNSHIRE ACADEMY, ANY FRANCHISES, REGIONAL or REGIONAL SCHOOLS netball activities which affects a fixture please contact the League Secretary who will determine a course of action alongside the Competition referees.

**HOME/AWAY FIXTURES (in the event that a central venue is not available)**

6.11 U16 Division 1 matches must be played on an indoor court and U16s Division 2 / U14s / U12s on an outdoor court of reasonable quality.

6.12 The home team is responsible for arranging the venue which must be within the boundary of the Lincolnshire and the cost split 50/50 with the opposition.

6.13 Teams must provide their own umpire who is of the required grade (see 8. Match officials).

6.14 The home team must provide their opponents and both umpires with confirmation in writing of the fixture, its start time, and travel directions (including a map and postcode) ten (10) days prior to the date of the fixture.

6.15 All matches must be played by the date specified by the fixture schedule.

6.16 The start time of each match will be between 9.00 am and 2:00 pm. Any dispute over start times will be determined by the Competition Referees at their absolute discretion.

6.17 The away team will be responsible for arranging its own travel, and for the costs of this, and should allow sufficient traveling time to cover any unexpected delays. Any team which fails to arrive within 15 minutes after the agreed start time will forfeit the match, and the non-offending team will be awarded the points as winners by default.

6.18 Matches which are postponed due to extreme and adverse weather conditions must be re-arranged at the earliest available date and the Junior League Secretary notified.

6.19 If a team cancels a match:

* The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points for the match
* The team which cancels may be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team and match officials have incurred, subject to the determination of the LCMB

6.20 If a fixture is cancelled, it is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that the League Secretary is informed immediately the cancellation is known.

6.21 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 Referees having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.

# 7. MATCH REGULATIONS

7.1 All games shall be played to the World Netball Rules of the Game currently in force in England at the time, except where specifically stated in these regulations.

7.2 Match timings will be as follows:

U16s - 4 x 15 minute quarter with a minimum of 3 minutes at ¼ time and 4 minutes at ½ time

U14s & U12s – 4 x 10 minute quarter with 2 minutes at ¼ time and 3 minutes at ½ time

U11s – will be played tournament style as per BEE Netball rules

7.3 Where there is a clash of colours deemed likely by the umpires, the toss of a coin by the two captains shall decide which team retains their original colours.

7.4 Each team must provide a suitable match ball.

# 8. MATCH OFFICIALS

## 8.1 UMPIRES

8.1.1 All teams should provide umpires for their own matches.

8.1.2      Each team is responsible for the travel expenses and honorarium of their own umpires.

 Government guidance is 0.45p per mile.

8.1.3 U16s & U14s require a C Award umpire - or above.

U12 teams require an Into Officiating award or above. The Umpire MUST have been formally assessed for the award, not just have attended an Into Officiating Course.

U11 teams require an Into Officiating Award or above. An Umpire working towards the Into award may be considered but must be approved by the County Officiating Lead.

8.1.4 All umpires must be named and listed on the scorecard submission. These will be verified on ENgage as holding the correct award and being a full member of England Netball.

8.1.5 All umpires should familiarise themselves with the current competencies of their award and maintain them at all times. The officiating TSG reserves the right to have Europe Netball qualified assessors observe an umpire at any time to ensure that award standards are being maintained.

8.1.6 Umpires for all age groups are not permitted to officiate more than 2 matches in one day and in line with EN guidance should ideally observe a break between matches umpired. U11s are NOT included within these 2 matches. Where umpires are also playing the same day, it is recommended that the umpiring slot should be completed prior to the playing taking place.

8.1.7 U16s ONLY - Umpires are also not permitted to officiate where they are the parent or guardian of a player.

8.1.7 In the event that an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied:

* If another umpire of the appropriate standard is available then she/he will umpire the match
* Failing that, the next best-qualified umpire should be used.

The Competition Lead must be informed immediately after the match – please state which umpire was unavailable if the match was unable to go ahead because of no viable alternative.

8.1.8 Matches within the Lincolnshire County Junior League may be used by England Netball for the purpose of umpire assessments or pre assessments.

## 8.2 TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

8.2.1 Technical Officials are the Scorers and Timekeepers - the 2 scorers and the 2 timekeepers between them constitute the Officials Bench.

8.2.2 Scorers and timekeepers will be required for all U16 fixtures. U12/U14s will be centrally timed by the admin team so scorers only required.

8.2.3 Each team must provide a scorer and/or timer - ideally this will be two separate people.

8.2.4 The scorer and/or timekeeper must have a working knowledge of scoring and ideally of the World Netball Rules.

8.2.5 Scorers and timekeepers may not be members of the squad named for that match and must officiate for the whole game.

8.2.6 Scorers and timekeepers may not coach or comment during the game.

8.2.7 Timekeepers and scorers MUST sit/stand together - away from the umpires and separate to team benches.

8.2.8 If a team fails to provide a scorer/timekeeper, matches should still go ahead provided at least two volunteers can be recruited.

8.2.9 Scorers and timekeepers are not required to for EN membership.

## 8.3 TEAM OFFICIALS

8.3.1 A team may have up to five (5) Team Officials. These will include a coach and at least one Primary Carer.

8.3.2 Team Officials may be fewer than specified and may therefore undertake several duties. However, it is preferable that the Primary Carer does not hold any other role.

8.3.3 The Team Officials and up to five (5) players not on court shall constitute the Team Bench.

8.3.4 The Team Bench area will be the place designated by the umpires at the start of the game. This will normally be on the right-hand side of the post and at the team's defending end. Teams will occupy the same team bench area throughout the game. Teams should vacate their bench area immediately after the match.

# 9. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS

* 1. Both teams are required to complete an official Team/Score Sheet during each match, entering the names of each player and indicating which players have played/not played. Teams must also indicate any of their players who are “playing up” on the same score sheet**.** **Players who did not take to court must be crossed off or they will be deemed to have played.**
	2. The two official Team/Score Sheets must be checked and signed by both scorers/timekeepers, team captains and umpires. The score sheet represents the official score of the match and once signed, no appeal may be submitted.
	3. Following each match:
* All teams must send their scores via the relevant Whatsapp group BY 7PM THE FOLLOWING DAY. This is ultimately the responsibility of the team manager and any team which fails to do so will be penalized (see 10.1.7).
* **U16** teams must retain their scoresheets for the duration of the season in case of discrepancy and supply on request to the Competition TSG.
* **U14** and **U12** score cards should be **taken to** the admin team (based on the outside courts) who will place the score cards in the envelope provided for the Junior League Secretary ON THE DAY OF THE MATCH. The Junior League Secretary will collect at her convenience.

9.4 The score for the match will not be registered until both score sheets have been received.

# 10. COMPETITION REFEREES

10.1 The Junior League Secretary, Competition TSG Lead and a board member have been appointed as Competition Referees by the LCMB for the Lincolnshire Junior County League. The Competition Referees will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising throughout the Competition including, but not limited to:

 10.1.1 Altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary.

10.1.2 Determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction (including disqualification of any individual, player or team) as follows:

10.1.3 The use of any player over and above the allowed 12 per match will result in a deduction of 2 league points.

10.1.5 In the event that a team fails to play, the non-offending team will be awarded 5 points for the match.

10.1.6 Failure to play on more than one occasion (e.g. failure to play in 2 league fixtures) could result in expulsion from the County Junior League

10.1.7 (a) If a team cancels a game, the offending team will be liable to cover the court costs.

(b) The use of an unaffiliated player on more than 2 occasions – loss of 3 league points; the result of the fixture/s will stand.

(c) The use of an unregistered player or a player who is under-age without submitting an age banding form on more than 2 occasions - loss of 2 points; the result of the fixture/s will stand.

 (d) Late or incomplete score sheet on more than 3 occasions – fine of £5 per occasion.

 (e) Not providing a scorer/time-keeper – fine of £5 per occasion.

(f) Failure to provide an eligible umpire – fine of £10. On the second occasion – loss of 3

 points.

 (h) Deliberately providing false information may result in expulsion from the competition

(i) Failure to pay the first instalment of court fees as per 3.1.4 will result in the loss of 5 points per calendar week until payment is received

10.1.8 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.

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

 10.1.10 Any matter not covered specifically within the Regulations.

10.2 The Competition Referees 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 Referees.

# 11. QUERIES, COMPLAINTS & APPEALS

11.1 All queries and complaints (a Complaint) should be directed to the Junior League Secretary in the first instance and these will be dealt with as follows:

11.2 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:

1. Inform their opponents and the umpires of their complaint.
2. Mark the Score Card with the words “Under Protest” or text 07976397294 on the day to the same effect.

(c) Send the complaint in writing (via email) to the Junior League Secretary within seventy

 two (72) hours of the match.

1. The Competition Referees will decide what action should be taken.

11.1.2 The Junior League Secretary will acknowledge receipt of the query or complaint and in conjunction with the other Competition Referees will make a decision on the matter within 10 (ten days) of receipt of the query or complaint. The Competition Referees’ decision in relation to decisions taken under clause 10.1.1 is binding apart from where parties to the complaint have the right to appeal the decision under Section 12 below.

11.3 Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Competition by the Competition Referees or Technical Support Group, such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of the Lincolnshire Netball County Association.

11.4 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

# 12. APPEAL OF COMPETITION REFEREES' DECISION

12.1 The decision of the Competition Referees in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with section 11.1.1 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

12.1.1 If the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition; AND

12.1.2 If there has been a failure by the Competition Referees to follow or act in accordance with these Regulations and/or the Competition Referees 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:

12.2 An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the appropriate member of the appealing Team to the Competition Secretaries within 72 hours of receiving the decision, who will refer it to the Lincolnshire County Management Board

12.3 The appeal shall be accompanied by a cheque for £100 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 cheque being returned.

12.4 The Lincolnshire County Netball Association will establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected with the Competition. One of those individuals will be appointed as the Chair.

12.5 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.

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

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

12.8 The CAC will notify all the 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.

12.9 The CAC shall have the delegated power of Lincolnshire County Netball Association 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.

12.10 The procedures set out in this section 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.

12.11 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, in so far as such waiver may be validly made.

12.12 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 3 shall be English Law.

12.13 If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than provided for by this section, and all parties to the appeal consent, the timetable within which an appeal is raised, submissions made, and the decision taken can be shorter than seventy-two (72) hours stated in this Section. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised directions timetable which shall be binding on all parties.

# 13. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISOS

13.1 No first aid will be provided by the league.

13.2 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.

# 14. CLOSE RANGE PHOTOGRAPHY

14.1 Photography is permitted but anyone wishing to video must seek prior permission from ALL participants, including officials. Please keep emails giving consent for the duration of the season. Any teasm who do not wish to be photographed must notify the League Secretary via the entry forms at the beginning of the season.

14.2 Flash photography and live streaming are not permitted.

# 15. HEALTH & SAFETY

15.1 Umpires and bleeding

Play may be stopped for injury or illness or any other cause including injury or illness to the umpire themselves. Umpires may stop the match when blood is noticed. A player who is bleeding must leave the court immediately (within 30 secs) for treatment. A substitution may be used but this must take place straight away and timekeepers should advise the umpires when 10 seconds remain.

15.2 Pregnancy, Gloves, Head Coverings, Eyewear, Jewellery and Medic Alerts, Hair and Medical Aids

England Netball Domestic Guidance must be followed and can be found here:

<https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/make-the-game/officiating/rules-updates/>

15.3 Accident Reporting

An England Netball Accident form must be completed for **all** accidents and sent to the England Netball.The online form can be found here: (<https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/membership/insurance/report-a-claim>

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

# 16. DISCLAIMER

Lincolnshire Netball will not be liable to any person, whether in contract, to (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 Lincolnshire Netball’s liability for any personal loss or injury caused by Lincolnshire Netball’s own negligence, the negligence of its employees, or for fraud.