



COUNTY LEAGUE RULES OF COMPETITION

1. PURPOSE

- a) The amalgamation of teams to be known as:

SOUTH ESSEX THURROCK NETBALL ASSOCIATION (SETNA)

- b) To be played under World Netball/England Netball (EN) Rules and Domestic Rules Guidance as adopted by the County League.
- c) Teams arranged into divisions.
- d) At any SETNA Annual General Meeting (**Refer Constitution Clause 8**) a majority of the members shall have the authority to alter/amend these league rules/divisions.
- e) The league shall be governed by a County Committee (**Refer Constitution Clause 6**).

2. MEMBERSHIP (**Refer Constitution Clause 4**)

Entry forms must be submitted to the Honorary Secretary by the date detailed on the entry form together with team list (s) and payment of entry fees in full. Teams must include an alternative contact with a separate email address.

- a) All teams must register a minimum of 8 players with the Membership Secretary by the stipulated date each season. All players must have valid EN membership and be registered with their club on Engage before taking to court.
- b) After the team list has been submitted, additional players can be added by completing an Additional Player Form, which must be received by the Membership Secretary prior to the player's participation in any game. All additional players must have valid EN membership and be registered with their club on Engage.

Failure to comply with the above will result in the player being deemed unregistered (refer rule 5f).

Please note players are not covered by EN insurance if their membership fee has not been paid.

- c) All matches will be played at the Netball Centre, Mossbourne Portside Academy, Hassenbrook Road, Stanford-le-Hope, SS17 0NS.
- d) The home night for all teams shall be Monday to Thursday.
- e) The County Committee will assess all new and returning teams as deemed necessary.
- f) Teams withdrawing from the league must notify the Honorary Secretary by email and any booked umpires as soon as withdrawal occurs.
- g) SETNA will only reimburse court fees to opposing teams where outstanding home fixtures are more than 21 days in advance against withdrawn teams.

- h) SETNA will follow current EN Duty of Care Guidelines and Codes of Conduct. These can be found on the EN website. All players, coaches, officials and spectators must abide by these guidelines/Code of Conduct.

3. HONORARY OFFICERS

The Officers of the League shall consist of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Results Secretary and Selected Committee Members.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) All communications shall go to the Honorary Secretary, unless otherwise stated below, who shall conduct all correspondence and record all matters arising.
- b) It is the responsibility of the home team to submit a correctly completed Results Card within 24 hours of the fixture. Failure to comply will result in a one point deduction and a £5 fine on each occasion.
- c) Each team is responsible for submitting a correctly completed Team Registration Card for each match, which should only include players who played. Failure to comply will result in a one point deduction and a £5 fine on each occasion.

Both cards must be posted in the white box, situated at the entrance to the courts.

- d) If a team cancels a game, they are responsible for notifying the Committee via setnacancelmatch@hotmail.com stating the reason for the cancellation. Failure to comply will result in the offending team having one point deducted and a £5 fine imposed on each occasion.
- e) Informal complaints regarding any match, team, player or umpire must be made by writing to the Honorary Secretary within 7 days of the game being played and the matter will be brought before the Committee, formal complaints should be made directly to EN.
- f) Failure to pay any monies within 14 days of notification will result in disqualification from the League. A team with outstanding monies from any season may not be allowed to participate in any further league fixtures until such monies are paid.
- g) The Home team must notify the Honorary Secretary of any abandoned match with full details within 7 days. (Refer 6g).
- h) Requests for games to be re-arranged must be sent to the Honorary Secretary and the opposing team secretary at least 7 days before the fixture.

5. PLAYERS

- a) No new players can be registered or transferred after the end of Week 12 of the published fixtures list.
- b) A player who has completed the fixtures for their own team in any one season is not allowed to register for another team in the same season.
- c) A player is allowed one Club transfer per season. A transfer is only valid if an email has been sent and acknowledged by both Club secretaries, the player concerned and the Membership Secretary. Failure to comply with any of the above will result in the player being deemed unregistered (refer rule 5f).

- d) No team may borrow a player from any other team in the league except when a club has two or more teams which must be defined e.g. name, number or letter.
 - i. A player of a Club with two teams or more can only play-up three times in total, to any level during one season. On the third play-up the player will be deemed to have transferred to that team for the remainder of the season and cannot play-up for any other team for the remainder of the season.
 - ii. A maximum of 3 players may play-up in any given match.

Failure to comply with the above will result in the player being deemed unregistered (refer rule 5f).

- e) Any player(s) that receives sanctions on court will be dealt with under EN Code of Conduct/ Disciplinary procedures, issuing umpires should complete the reverse of the match card to report any sanctions issued.
- f) A player must be in school year 10 at the 1st September to play in the league.
- g) Any games where an unregistered player(s) participated will be made void.
 - i. The non-offending team will be awarded three points and 10 goals.
 - ii. The offending team will lose any points gained in the match.
 - iii. The offending team will have three points deducted for the first unregistered player and one point for any subsequent unregistered player(s).
 - iv. The offending team will be subject to a £10 fine per player. Both teams will be notified, in writing, of any occurrence.
- h) No player shall, knowingly, take the court after the 12th week of pregnancy. SETNA will accept no liability in the event of an accident or mishap, which could adversely affect the pregnancy.
- i) Any player incurring an injury resulting in loss of blood is required to leave the court and dress the wound immediately. Every team in the League must be equipped with a first aid kit. All other contaminated items, e.g. the ball, must be cleaned thoroughly or replaced before the game can continue. An EN Accident Report Form should be completed, which can be found on the EN website and a copy held by the Club. Details of any accidents should also be reported on the reverse of the match card.

Note: A copy of the completed accident form will be required for an EN insurance claim.

- j) A player must leave the court if they want to tie their shoelaces during a match. Once tied the player can return to court without waiting for permission from the umpire or a goal being scored.

6. MATCHES

- a) Matches will start promptly at 7.15pm or 8.30pm. Late arrival of an umpire, up to 10 minutes, is the only acceptable delay.
- b) Teams are required to take to court if they have 5 players and both umpires are present.
- c) All games will consist of 4 x 12 minute quarters.
- d) Points will be awarded as follows:
 - i. 3 points for a win,
 - ii. 2 points for a draw,
 - iii. 1 point to the losing team if they score 50% or more of the winning team's score.
- e) Home team to provide a size 5 match ball.

- f) Each team should wear appropriate playing kit in the team colours as detailed on entry form and should include suitable sport shoes, bibs/tops/skirts/dresses/bottoms/shorts.
- g) Any matches abandoned by the umpires can be replayed on request to the Committee. If the game is replayed, both teams must play the match with the same number of players as the original fixture. In any other instance 3 points and 10 goals will be awarded to the non-offending team.
- h) Cancellation due to adverse weather conditions is only allowed at the discretion of both umpires. If a game is abandoned during play because of bad weather, a replay will be awarded provided the Committee is advised by email by either/both teams. The Results Card must be submitted by the home team and must be signed by both umpires with details of why the game was abandoned. Failure to do so will result in the game being made void.
- i) If a team cancels a match or fails to arrive at the venue on the stipulated date and time, with a minimum of 5 players, a fine of £20 will be imposed. The offending team must cover the expenses of both umpires if they arrive at the venue. These expenses must be paid within 7 days of the cancelled game. If the offending team is the Away team, they must reimburse the Home team their court fees. The non-offending team will be awarded 3 points and 10 goals.
- j) The Committee will have the right to withdraw any team from the league that concedes 3 or more matches in a season. If the team wishes to re-enter the League in the future, they will be subject to a £50 bond which will be returned on the completion of that season's league fixtures, provided no more than 3 matches have been conceded.
- k) A replay may be considered by the Committee for a cancelled game, provided details are sent to the Honorary Secretary by the cancelling team within 7 days of the original fixture.
- l) Non-arrival of an umpire will not automatically result in a replay being granted by the Committee. The offending team and their umpire **MUST** write in to explain the reason for the oversight.
- m) In the event of the Committee awarding a replay and the two teams involved are unable to mutually agree a date prior to the end of the season, the Committee will determine the final arrangements for the replay. If any team fails to comply with the specified date set by the Committee, they will forfeit the game and 3 points and 10 goals will be awarded to the non-offending team. If both teams are unable to fulfil the fixture replay the game will be made void.
- n) Any team wishing to change a fixture to another night within the same playing week may do so providing agreement is obtained from the opposition and details of the revised fixture are confirmed in writing to the Honorary Secretary, at least 7 days before the scheduled fixture. The team requesting the change of fixture must check court availability with the Honorary Secretary. Failure to notify the Honorary Secretary will result in the game being made void.
- o) A team may request neutral umpires, via the Officiating Secretary, on two occasions per season. This must be requested 3 weeks prior to the fixture, and the requesting team must pay both umpire's expenses. The Officiating Secretary will advise both teams who the umpires for the match will be.
- p) Teams are responsible for the conduct and behaviour of their spectators. Spectators showing dissent or making comments directed against any player(s) or the umpire(s) shall first be warned about their conduct by the umpire. If such conduct continues, then the umpires may ask the spectator(s) to leave the court area and advise the captain that the team and spectator(s) will be reported in writing to the Committee. The umpire has the authority to abandon the game if the spectator(s) refuse to change their behaviour, or leave the court area, if asked. The Committee will consider all such reports and take action against the supporters' teams.

- q) Team secretaries must reconfirm their booked umpire 48 hours before each match. Should a team not reconfirm, and the umpire does not attend, a replay will not be awarded.
- r) If a Team 'double-books' an umpire, the 'double-booked' umpire will be paid £15 expenses, unless:
 - i. 7.15pm match - is either playing or umpiring at 8.30pm.
 - ii. 8.30pm match - has either played or umpired at 7.15pm.

As no expenses have been incurred, a 50% (currently £7.50) gesture of goodwill should be offered to the umpire.

- s) Games may be filmed for education or development purposes. At least 48 hours' written notice must be given to the opposition team and their umpire. No game may be filmed or photographed without prior consent being granted by the opposition and both umpires.
- t) Except in cases of serious injury and in accordance with World Netball rule 10.13:
 - i. Injury time up to 60 seconds will be allowed for a player to recover or receive treatment and they may not be required to leave the court. During this period time will be held.
 - ii. If the injured player requires further time, then they must leave the court by the end of the 60 second period and can be either substituted or they can return to the court in the vacant position at the next break in play.

7. PROMOTIONS AND RELEGATION

- a) The competition shall be decided by points system. In the event of a tie for any place, positions in each division will be decided by goal difference.
- b) In the event of a team withdrawal, voluntarily or by the Committee, all points achieved during the matches of the withdrawn team will be removed from the table.

8. UMPIRES AND SCORERS

- a) All umpires must:
 - i. Have valid EN membership.
 - ii. Have an EN Officiating qualification.
 - iii. Complete the SETNA Annual Compliance Form and meet all the requirements e.g. complete a Games Management course every 2 years.
 - iv. All umpires shall have reached their 18th birthday.
 - v. Any young umpire (16 or 17 years old) who has been 'Talent Identified' in accordance with the EN Young Umpire Guidelines, may, on completion of a successful observation by a qualified assessor/mentor apply to the SETNA County Officiating Lead to umpire 'matches involving players older than themselves'.

Failure by the umpire to comply with these requirements will result in them being excluded from umpiring SETNA league matches.

It is the responsibility of the club/team to ensure their umpire meets these requirements. Failure to do so will result in the match being made void.

- b) No person may umpire in any competition organised by SETNA after her 12th week of pregnancy. SETNA will accept no liability in the event of an accident or mishap, which could adversely affect the pregnancy.
- c) There must be two Umpires to every game.

- d) The Umpires shall have the deciding power on whether the court is fit to play on or not.
- e) The Umpire's decision shall be final in all respects.
- f) Each team shall pay their Umpire's expenses of £15.00, before the match.
- g) In the event of one team failing to arrive without giving prior notice, the offending team will pay both umpires' expenses. The non-offending team will be entitled to claim their court costs.
- h) EN 'Into Officiating' IO umpires may only umpire games in division 8 and 9. Umpires actively working towards their C award may only umpire games in division 7, 8 and 9. Actively working towards C Award means the IO Award umpire:
 - i. Has attended the online C Award course, and,
 - ii. Has passed the written C Award paper, and,
 - iii. Is being actively mentored and has been approved by the Officiating Secretary.

C Award & above	All divisions
IO actively working towards C	Division 7, 8 & 9
IO	Division 8 & 9

- i) EN states umpire assessments should, where possible, be carried out on league fixtures. If your match is selected for assessment purposes, you will not be required to pay any umpiring expenses.
- j) If necessary, the assessors may request a replay should the candidates prove unsuitable for the selected game, the league will cover any further expenses if this situation arises.
- k) All matches require 2 scorers, one provided by each team, in addition to the umpires. Failure by a team to provide a scorer on two or more occasions in a season will incur a £10 fine for any subsequent games where a scorer is not provided. During the match scorers are part of the Officiating team and should not coach players. Scorers should:
 - i. be aged 13 or over and understand how to score a netball match.
 - ii. stand together during a match and take it in turns to call out the score during the match
 - iii. keep time and using a timer provided by the team, a mobile phone is not an acceptable timer.
 - iv. write their names on the results card, along with the umpire.
- l) Each team shall pay their scorer expenses of £5 before start of match. If a team fails to provide a scorer, the offending team will pay the non-offending team's scorer and the umpires will score.
- m) Over 18 learner umpires who have attended both online IO sessions and a County organised practice session are permitted to umpire division 9 matches provided they are accompanied by an accredited mentor.