

# Winter League Rules 2016-17

## THE LEAGUE AND FIXTURES

1. The League is in 6 Divisions. Clubs will play each team in their Division twice, once during September - December 2016, and again January - March 2017. Premier & division 1 play on Monday evenings; 2 & 3 on Wednesday, 4 & 5 on Thursday. Divisions play alternate weeks at 7.00 pm & 8.30 pm

## PLAYERS

2. ALL PLAYERS must be affiliated to England Netball through Oxfordshire and must be aged **14** years or over. A player may only play for one Club within the Oxfordshire League and **MUST BE AFFILIATED** through that Club. If a team plays an unaffiliated player they will, at least, forfeit the match.
3. PLAYERS **MUST NOT TRANSFER AFFILIATIONS DURING THE SEASON** except with the approval of the League Committee.

4. CLUBS must NAME ALL PLAYERS in ALL their teams on the '**NAMED PLAYER & CODE OF CONDUCT**' form provided, at least 7 names per team. PLAYERS TO SIGN beside their **clearly printed name and include their EN affiliation number.**

**Regional Div 3** teams or individual members of them are allowed to play in regional and Oxfordshire League Premier division with no restriction but must indicate with a (R3) next to their name on the named player list. (for Regional Div 1 & 2 players, see rule 5)

**A club with two teams in any one division must indicate which is the 'senior' team, to inform the playing up and down rule (6).** Non-compliance with this rule will at least mean forfeiting the match.

This form must be sent to the Results Secretary (**Becky Dearlove 8 Ferry Lane, Cholsey, WALLINGFORD, OX10 9GZ [onlresults@hotmail.com](mailto:onlresults@hotmail.com)**) **BEFORE PLAYING THE FIRST MATCH.**

**If the list is not complete with the full squad, the interim list with those playing the first/second game MUST be sent by post or e-mailed prior to the match(es) and the final list MUST be received BY POST by 26.09.16. Points will be deducted for each match that the list is not received**

Named team players may be changed between teams after the last match of the first half of the season (before 31st December 2016) and before the first match in January 2017; a paper copy of the revised list must be sent to the Results Secretary.

However **new players** may be added to a team during each half season. The amended list with new signature(s) **MUST** be sent to the Results Secretary **prior to the new member(s) playing – it may be e-mailed in the first instance but must then be posted immediately**

**Clubs MUST keep their own copy of all current signed team lists/codes of conduct**

5. A club that has a team in South Region (SR) Div 2 and above and has teams in the Oxfordshire league must **name their core players for the SR team to ONL** along with their ONL team lists. These players can each only play down ONCE and only one in any one match and only in the Premier division, as per rule 6. They must indicate SR1/SR2 by their name on the match card. All other players affiliated to their club are deemed to be players in their Oxfordshire League teams.

However, once one of these ONL players has played 16 or more quarters (24 quarters for U18s) in SR matches, they are then deemed to be a SR player and can no longer play in the Oxfordshire league from that point in the season.

SR Div 1 & 2 clubs are therefore required to keep records of **all their SR games** showing who plays each quarter so that these can be checked at any time, if requested by the league. The record must be submitted to the ONL Results Secretary at the end of the season

**This rule applies to any individual players who are members of a team in a regional league other than South**

If a regional player is **coming back from injury/pregnancy**, special arrangements may apply. Clubs must discuss the situation with the League Committee prior to the player returning.

6. Any team in a club may borrow ONE NAMED PLAYER, PER MATCH, from the club team immediately above SEVEN TIMES during the WHOLE SEASON and it must be a DIFFERENT PLAYER each time. NO OTHER NAMED PLAYERS MAY PLAY DOWN A TEAM(S). Regional players may ONLY play in the premiership. Individual players may PLAY UP a team(s) FOUR TIMES during the season. Non-compliance with this rule will AT LEAST mean forfeiting the match. The match card must indicate with a ↓ or ↑

## OFFICIALS OF THE GAME

7. **Umpires:** Teams MUST provide an E.N. qualified umpire who must be affiliated to England Netball & registered with the ONDB Officiating Secretary before umpiring any matches. Clubs may arrange to swap the umpiring commitment with a club playing in the alternate session of the evening but still remain responsible for the umpire at their own match. Teams attending a match without an umpire must drop a qualified/approved umpire/player to umpire, if available, or forfeit the game, unless a qualified umpire from another club is available. **All umpires must sign the officials' code of conduct, with affiliation number – to be submitted to the Results Secretary prior to the beginning of the season, as with team lists**
8. **Umpires** will be neutral and officiate on a different court from their club's match, as designated by the ONL. See 'Neutral umpiring' excel document, which also includes arrangements for 'no show' of umpires. Umpires should report to the duty team and then be on court at least by the 5 minute warning siren so any adjustments of courts can be made if necessary, prior to the match start time
9. Teams pay their own club/appointed umpire; **the recommended league fee per match is £15**, but a £5 travel allowance may be added if applicable. No one should be paid more than £20.  
**Umpires are reminded that they are responsible for their own income tax arrangements**
10. Umpires must **NOT** be changed during a match except for illness or injury to the umpire. If any umpire is injured or taken ill during a match and there is no other umpire available, the match will be replayed.
11. **Umpires** should not converse with the players at any time during the match (including the breaks) except that the captain may approach them for **clarification of a rule during a break**.
12. **Umpires** should wear white or light coloured clothing, so they are easily visible. High visibility vests are available to borrow from the duty team.
13. **Scorers:** All teams **must provide a scorer for each game**. A scorer can be provided by the other team if mutually agreed before the start of the match. Teams not providing a scorer will have to drop a player, if no one else is available/willing. The scorers from each team stand together, away from spectators, in the gap between courts, to the right, and confirm the score with each other after each goal. One of them should call out the score loudly and clearly after every goal is scored. Umpires indicate whose centre pass it is. Scorers are match officials and may not encourage/coach their team. No spectators may stand with them. At the end of each quarter umpires and scorers agree scores and who has the first centre pass of the next quarter. Scorers may change during the match if the scorer is also a player and is required to go on court; the player coming off takes over the scoring.  
If a player is injured and the scorer is required to be the substitute player and no one else is available to take over the scoring, the match may continue with one scorer. The umpires should be informed.
14. **Duty team :** A duty team is designated for each session through the season for controlling the session : time keeping, collecting results etc. **At least 2** people should be assigned, arriving and ready by 6.30 for the 7.00 match and 8.10 for the 8.30 match (unless playing in the 7.00 game; in which case by 8.20) Detailed responsibilities and guidance are listed separately – **if an issue arises not covered by the guidance, the Duty team has the authority to make a decision on the night – but ONL officers should then be informed.**  
Duty team members are officials and should not be involved in any way with their club's fixture for that session. Failure to provide duty officials will result in a loss of points:
  - no show or late arrival after half time - 3 points deducted
  - late arrival during second quarter – 2 points deducted
  - late arrival after 6.45/8.20 or during the first quarter – 1 point deductedTime of their late arrival is to be written on the results sheet  
**If a duty team does not arrive**, any available players or spectators are encouraged to take responsibility; the club which has failed to do the duty is expected then to cover for the volunteer club(s) on a future occasion. If no one is available/willing, each court should time its own match; the captains of the teams playing on **court 1** are responsible for the completion & e-mailing of the results sheet and leaving the cards/sheet for collection.

## CONDUCT OF GAMES

15. ALL PLAYERS and SUBSTITUTES to PRINT and SIGN their own name **before start of play** on the result card collected with a clipboard by the first named club, from the duty team. Players should indicate on the card, with an arrow if playing up or down and R1, 2, 3 if a regional player. Umpires must check, before completing the card at the end of the match that all players have signed. Captains sign; Umpires print their name and sign, **adding any issues during the match** and the card/clipboard is handed back to the duty team.

16. Matches are centrally timed by the duty team. A 5 minute, 2 minute, 30 second warning will be sounded prior to the match and the time card displayed. Play starts and finishes on the umpire's whistle.
17. Games consist of 4 quarters of 15 minutes with an interval of 3 minutes between the 1st and 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters and an interval of 5 minutes at half time; a 30 second warning will be sounded for players to return to the court after each break. Teams change ends each quarter.  
Intervals and, in very extreme situations, playing time may be reduced, if the weather is dangerously/impossibly inclement or first session matches have all started late because of traffic conditions. Captains and umpires must be in majority agreement.

### REGISTRATION/LATE ARRIVAL

18. Each team captain and umpire should **report to the duty team on arrival**, be registered and the first named team collect the match card and clipboard.
19. If **a team arrives late**, the opposing team which is ready must be on court for 15 minutes, and claims one goal per minute. During this time, if at least 5 of the opposition and their umpire arrive, they **must** take to the court and play. Further late arriving players may only join at a centre pass. If this does not apply, the team ready to play claims the points for the match and 15 goals at the end of the first quarter.
20. **Late arrival of an umpire** If an umpire is known to be on the way and due to arrive within 10 minutes of the session start time, the Duty team should **hold the start for all courts until 7.10/8.40**. If the umpire arrives between 10 & 15 minutes late, the teams on that court must then time their own match. If the umpire arrives after 7.15/8.45, the effected match may be abandoned and rearranged **OR** played on court 6 and independently timed – to be decided by the captains and umpires.
21. **Late arrival of lots of players** If traffic/weather conditions result in the late arrival of many players/umpires, the Duty team should hold the start time **for all courts until 7.10/8.40** or such time that allows the majority of matches to start. See **rules 20 & 17** re playing & interval time

### CANCELLATION/POSTPONEMENT

22. Matches WILL NOT BE CANCELLED/POSTPONED except through events beyond the ONL's control, either prior to the match or on the day (court condition, *extreme* traffic conditions, *extreme* bad weather)  
Postponement prior to the day and on the day will be decided by the ONL. A message will be posted on the Oxfordshire Netball site ([www.oxfordshirenetball.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshirenetball.co.uk)) and the ONL facebook page by 5.00pm when weather conditions are doubtful.

Players/umpires who are delayed on route should contact their own captain &/or the ONL mobile :  
**07729 705 680**

**No matches may be rearranged due to lack of umpire or players.** A club unable to field a team or provide an umpire **MUST** concede the match. If a team concedes a match they will still be liable for their court fees **and those of the other team**, payment for which must be arranged between the two clubs. **If, because of late notice, there are also umpire costs, the conceding team must also cover these.**

**The conceding team must notify by the previous day (1) the opposition** – and they should be sure to speak to someone, not just leave a message **(2) the Results Secretary** by e-mail or phone **(3) the duty team on the duty phone 07729 705 680 giving the match date, teams and court number**

### 23. ABANDONMENT DURING A MATCH

**Abandoning all matches for a session** (because of weather/court deterioration)

The duty team will call all Captains and Umpires together: the duty team leads discussion of safety &/or other issues and takes a vote – the majority decision of all Captains & Umpires prevails. If the vote is tied, one member of the duty team has the casting vote.

In this case the matches are replayed **unless play is under way in the fourth quarter**, in which case the score at the time of stopping the game stands. The results sheet and cards should still be completed and posted.

**Abandoning a single match during the session** (because of illness or an accident)

If a team still has 6 players available but does not wish to play on, following illness or an accident, the match is conceded and points/15 goals are claimed by the non-conceding team unless play is under way in the fourth quarter, in which case the result/score at the time of stopping the game stands.

**In all cases, the reason must be recorded by the duty team on the results sheet and also on the match card**

## **STOPPAGE FOR INJURY**

- 24.** There is a **DUTY OF CARE** to all players. If there is a call for time, for play to be stopped for **injury/illness**, the decision to stop play is at the discretion of the umpire. Two minutes may be allowed but no extra time will be played for injury, as all matches are centrally controlled. A player should if possible get off/be helped from the court and the position either left vacant or a substitution made to the injured player's position, as soon as possible. Other players should stay on side, unless one is the first aider and is needed to assist. No other position may be changed by either team until the next match break. A player may return to an unfilled position only at a centre pass, indicating her return to the umpires; any further change of position/substitution must wait until the next match break.

If a player is on the ground and feels unable to move or be moved after **two minutes**, the match should be relocated to the spare court; a first aider should be called; a spectator or duty team member should stay with the injured player and call the emergency services if necessary.

**NOTE : vehicles are not permitted on court. The Arena staff will open the gate to the car park if an ambulance is called. A wheelchair is available to move the injured player to the vehicle.**

For any **stoppage due to blood**, any wounds must be adequately covered off court, within 2 minutes, or play continues with a spare position or a substitution (see above)

Blood stained clothing must be removed or cleaned and the ball and court cleaned if necessary.

- 25.** **All injuries** must be recorded in the accident file held by the duty team. **Updated information about treatment, absence from work etc. should be added later**, for accidents to be monitored.
- 26.** Teams are responsible for providing their own **first aid kit including instant ice**; that in the duty crate is for emergency only. Some Community Arena staff are first aid trained.

## **PLAYER CONDUCT**

- 27. PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS** must all sign the ONL Code of conduct, prior to the start of the season. This is integrated with the teams/signature list submitted to the Results Secretary before the first match; a copy should be kept on file by the club. IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL MATCHES WILL BE PLAYED IN A COOPERATIVE, SPORTSMANLIKE, ALBEIT COMPETITIVE, SPIRIT. ATTITUDES SHOULD REMAIN POSITIVE AT ALL TIMES. ABUSE OF ANY KIND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

Any player who behaves unacceptably on or off court, towards another player or umpire, will be warned by the umpire and may be sent off for a fixed period or the rest of the match. **In all cases of misconduct, a report must be sent by the umpire(s) to the League Chair**, who will refer the case to the Oxfordshire Netball Disciplinary Officer. **See EN rules & Oxfordshire Discipline and complaints policy**

## **RESULTS**

- 28.** The **match card** will be completed and returned to the duty team, who will also complete the pro forma sheet listing the matches and results for the session. Once a card has been signed by captains and umpires, the result cannot be challenged. **The second session duty team takes a photo of or scans the results sheet and emails it to the Results Secretary (onresults@hotmail.com) The sheet & match cards, are left for collection in a dated envelope in the box file**  
Teams can monitor results on the website ([www.oxfordshirenetball.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshirenetball.co.uk)) and should inform Becky Dearlove if a result has gone astray or an error has been made.
- 29.** POINTS WILL BE AWARDED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER: Win = 5 points, Draw = 3 points, Scoring **within 5** goals of winner's total = 2 points, and 1 point if scoring 50% or more of the winner's score.
- 30.** If any team withdraws from the League at any time during the season, any match(es) they have played during that half season shall be declared void.

## **END OF SEASON ARRANGEMENTS**

- 31.** The **top two teams** (in all but the Premier division) in each division at the end of the season will automatically be promoted to the next division the following year. The bottom two teams in each division **may be** relegated to a lower division depending on the number of entries the following year. The League Committee will accept representations of clubs' reasons for non-promotion but reserves the right to insist that teams move up/down even when there has been a drastic change of membership.

32. The winners of the Premier division can proceed to qualification for the South Region League but may, if they wish, continue to play in Oxfordshire Premier division, whilst in SR division 3. If the winners cannot commit to the South Region, the team in 2nd position may take that place in the qualification tournament.
33. A team demoted from South Region division 3 will automatically be admitted to the ONL Premier division

#### **LEAGUE AUTHORITY**

34. If any of the above rules are broken, teams may be liable to a fine, loss of points or suspension.
35. The League Committee will make **final** decisions on all the above rules.

#### **POLICIES & RECOMMENDATIONS**

36. The Oxfordshire League abides by all **ENGLAND NETBALL POLICIES** on : safeguarding, discipline **AND DIRECTIVES** on : gloves, headscarves, jewellery, studs, leg braces, medical alert bracelets and pregnancy. It is **RECOMMENDED** that a player more than 12 weeks pregnant should not participate in any further matches, and when over 20 weeks pregnant, should not umpire  
All directives can be found on the Oxfordshire Netball website [www.oxfordshirenetball.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshirenetball.co.uk).
37. **BIBS** The League recommends that all clubs should travel with two sets of bibs in case of a colour clash but there is also a spare set in the duty team crate
38. There is to be **NO SMOKING** at the courts/Arena.
39. For safety reasons, players and umpires **should not chew** (gum or any other substance) during the game or bring gum to the courts
40. All **rubbish** should be taken home or deposited in the litter bins provided.

***ALL PLAYERS, UMPIRES and OFFICIALS are expected to be cognisant of these and the rules of the game of netball***

#### **ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

- **Neutral umpiring guidance**
- **Team named players and code of conduct**
- **Named officials and code of conduct**
- **Duty team guidance**
- **Session results sheet/Duty team checklist**
- **Discipline and complaints policy**