

Winter League Rules 2022-23

NOTE : all EN COVID-19 requirements have now been dropped

But to ensure arriving 8.30 session players do not interfere with the unfinished 7.00 players, the gate to the courts will remain closed until the final siren goes.

Ensure all Captains & essential team contacts are included in the relevant WhatsApp group to aid communication on rule changes, weather conditions etc

THE LEAGUE AND FIXTURES

1. The League, played at the Oxfordshire Netball Centre, Marston, is in 6 Divisions, Premier, 1-5. Prem Plus, playing indoors at Cheney School, Headington on Tuesday evenings, is organised separately by ONDB
2. 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

3. ALL PLAYERS must be members of England Netball through Oxfordshire and must be aged **14** years or over.
A player may only play for one Club within the Oxfordshire Netball League and **MUST HAVE MEMBERSHIP** through that Club. If a team plays a non-membership player they will, at least, forfeit the match.
BUT a player may be affiliated to a different club playing in Prem Plus; ONL must be informed.
4. PLAYERS MUST NOT TRANSFER EN MEMBERSHIP DURING THE SEASON except for a specific acceptable reason, with the prior approval of the League Committee.
5. CLUBS must NAME ALL PLAYERS in ALL their teams on the **on line 'NAMED PLAYER & CODE OF CONDUCT'** form, at least 7 names per team with no prescribed maximum.
Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all players have read and agreed to the code of conduct
6. **Regional and national league players may only play in Prem division and never play down further ; 2 players may be named in any one match and only one on court at a time; they must indicate R/N on the match card**
Non-regional players from a Prem Plus team may play down : 3 may play in any one match, only 2 on court at once. They must indicate PP on the match card, even if they are named players in the Prem team.
U17 regional players and U17 hub players may be named in Premier division squads : 3 may play in any one Match/2 on court at once. They are also covered by the playing down rule 10
7. **Players may be members of and play for a different club in ONL and a regional league** – EN requires that the first declared membership is to the latter club. The named player & code of conduct list must indicate this status

All **regional teams** must also submit their **full regional squad list**, as registered with the regional league, to the **ONL results secretary in September and again in January**

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

8. The **TEAM LIST/CODE OF CONDUCT** must be sent to the Results Secretary (**Sophie Andrews** onlresults@hotmail.com) **BEFORE PLAYING THE FIRST MATCH.**
If the list is not complete with the full squad at that time, the interim list with those playing the first/second game MUST be e-mailed prior to the match(es) and the final list MUST be received 30.09.22.
Points will be deducted for each match that the list is not received : 1 for the first match, 2 for the second, 4 for the third
9. **Named team players** may be changed between teams after the last match of the first half of the season and before the first match in January 2023
However **new players** may be added to a team during each half season. The amended list with new signature(s) **MUST** be emailed to the Results Secretary **prior to the new member(s) playing**
Clubs MUST keep their own copy of all current team lists/codes of conduct

Playing up and down

10. Any team in a club may borrow ONE NAMED PLAYER, PER MATCH, from the club team immediately above **SEVEN TIMES** during the WHOLE (September – March) SEASON and it must be **a DIFFERENT PLAYER** each

time. NO OTHER NAMED PLAYERS MAY PLAY DOWN A TEAM(S) **unless teams are renamed in the second half of the season.** **see also rule 6**

Individual players may PLAY UP a team(s) **SEVEN** TIMES during the season, with no restriction on the number of players per match. Non-compliance with this rule will AT LEAST mean forfeiting the match. The match card must indicate with a ↓ or ↑

OFFICIALS OF THE GAME

11. **UMPIRES will be neutral and will be allocated to games by Oxfordshire Netball;** the schedule will be entered and regularly updated on League Republic.
For Premier & division 1, it is hoped that only one match will be officiated each evening but this may not be possible. This principle may eventually be extended to the other divisions when we have enough officials.
All umpires must sign the officials' code of conduct, with affiliation number – to be submitted to Oxfordshire Netball Officiating Secretary prior to the beginning of the season, or when beginning to umpire, if joining later
12. **ALL umpires must attend the bi-annual Umpires' Forum, to authorise them to umpire in Oxfordshire.**
Non attendance will mean no umpiring.
Individual arrangements may be made to update umpires returning to officiating if they miss the Forum
But note that no Forum is planned at this time
13. **Umpires should report to the duty team, by 6.45/8.15** and proceed to the assigned court. Together with the co-umpire, they check the teams (nails, jewellery, hair, shoes) and that the match card has been completed; they walk onto court with their co-umpire and the match ball at the 2 minute siren
14. **Teams pay the appointed umpire on their court before the start of the match, cash in an envelope ; the Oxfordshire Netball fee per match is fixed at £20.**
Trainee Umpires pay £10 of this to their mentor
Umpires are reminded that they are responsible for their own income tax arrangements for payment received
15. Umpires must **NOT** be changed during a match except due to 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.
16. **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.**
17. **Umpires** should wear white or light coloured clothing, so they are easily visible. High visibility vests are available to borrow from the duty team if white/light clothing is not available
They should wear/carry a stopwatch facility in order to time accident stoppages and suspensions
18. **SCORERS:** All teams **must provide a scorer for each game.** Teams not providing a scorer will have to drop a player, if no one else is available/willing to cover. The opposition may provide the second scorer if mutually agreed before the start of the match.
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, alerting the umpires immediately if there is a discrepancy.**
In the case of very inclement weather, scorers may sit in a shelter but must be sure to be away from any spectators and not be distracted.
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, scorers agree the score and **remain on court** until they have confirmed with the umpires which team 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.
19. **DUTY TEAM** A duty team is designated for each session through the season for registration, time keeping and results submission **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 as soon as possible and 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 deducted

Time 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 4** are responsible for the completion & e-mailing of the results sheet, entering results on League Republic and leaving the cards/sheet for collection.

20. **It is really important that the duty team prepares and follows the guidance and instructions for e-mailing the results to the Results Secretary and recording them accurately on League Republic. Note that an email is sent from the ONL Vice Chair to the coming week's duty teams' club e-address each weekend, with the guidance paperwork and reminders attached. Please ensure these are forwarded to the club members who will be fulfilling the role. Points will be deducted for careless conduct of the role**

CONDUCT OF GAMES

21. **ALL PLAYERS and SUBSTITUTES** are to PRINT and SIGN their own name **before the 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 N, R1, 2, 3 if a national/regional player, PP if a Prem Plus 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, **indicating any sanctions applied during the match. see rule 36** The card/clipboard is returned to the duty team.
22. 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.
23. Games consist of 4 quarters of 15 minutes **with an interval of 3 minutes between each quarter**; 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 extreme situations/conditions, 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

24. 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.
25. 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 arrive, they must sign the match card, be checked by the umpire and take to the court and play.
Further late arriving players must sign the match card and present themselves to the umpire for a check. They may only join the team in a vacant position and at a centre pass.
If 5 players do not arrive, the team ready to play claims the points for the match and 15 goals at the end of the first quarter.
26. **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 1 and independently timed – to be decided by the captains and umpires. The result must then be loaded on to League Republic.
27. **Non-arrival of umpire** If the assigned umpire fails to arrive, and no other qualified umpire is available at the courts, the match will be rearranged, with reference to the ONL Chair for date and venue
28. **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 **rule 23** re playing & interval time

CANCELLATION/POSTPONEMENT/CONCEDING/ABANDONMENT/STOPPAGE

29. 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 sent to the WhatsApp group for that day's teams and to the umpires WhatsApp group** by 4.30 pm to announce cancellation and/or when weather conditions are doubtful and play is confirmed
Players/umpires who are delayed on route should contact their own captain
30. **No matches may be rearranged due to lack of players.** A club unable to field a team 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 12.00 pm the previous day
(1) the opposition – and they should be sure **speak to someone/receive a text/voicemail** confirmation, not just leave a message
(2) the Oxfordshire Netball Officiating Secretary* & Umpire Scheduler + - so that umpires can be notified or possibly reassigned
* Jill Allington : officiating@ondb.co.uk + Sara Beswick : sara@thebearsinc.com
(3) the Results Secretary onresults@hotmail.com
(4) the duty team via the WhatsApp group giving date, time, court, opposition
31. **If an umpire is unable to fulfil her/his assigned game**, s/he must inform the **ON Officiating Secretary** immediately; she will attempt to find a substitute. If this is not possible, the fixture will be rearranged.

32. 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 League Republic completed

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

33. There is a **DUTY OF CARE** to all players. If there is a request for play to be stopped for injury/illness to an on court player, the decision to stop play is at the discretion of the umpire. The **injured player** should be the person who asks for play to be stopped (unless they are unable to do so, in which case another on court player from that team should make the request). Once the umpire has stopped play, the injured player has **30 seconds to leave the court. For more serious incidents the umpire has the discretion to extend this time.** If the injured 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. 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 immediately and any substitutions/position changes must be made within the 30 seconds; the injured player **MUST** leave the court).

All other players should stay on court, unless one is the first aider and is needed to assist.

If the relevant substitution cannot be made within the 30 seconds injury time, play continues.

The injured player or a substitute player may return to an unfilled position only after a goal is scored or another stoppage for injury/illness/blood or at an interval. They must indicate their return to the umpires; any further change of position/substitution must wait until the next match break.

NOTE : vehicles are not permitted on court. There is a key to the gate to the car park in the mobile phone/stopwatch box to use if an ambulance is called. A wheelchair is available in the duty shelter to move the injured player to the vehicle.

For any **stoppage due to blood**, any wounds must be adequately covered off court, within **30 seconds** or play continues with a vacant position for the player to return at a goal or a substitution is made (see above)

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

34. **All injuries** must be recorded in the accident file held by the duty team along with the player's name, club, contact number. **Updated information about treatment, absence from work etc. should be added later**, for accidents to be monitored.
35. 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

36. **PLAYERS** 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, through rule breaking, towards another player, umpire or supporter, will be **cautioned, may be given an official warning by the umpire and subsequently may be suspended for 2 minutes or sent off for the rest of the match, in line with EN rules** In all cases of misconduct, the fact **MUST BE NOTED on the match card and RECORDED on the sanctions report sheet, sent to the ONL Chair**, who will refer the case to the Oxfordshire Netball Disciplinary Officer if applicable
- On the card**, add C (caution), OW (official warning), S (suspension), SO (sending off) by the player's name on the card – large and clear
- On the sanctions sheet** held by the duty team, give the team, the player's name, the sanction (C,OW,S, SO) and details of the incident.
- Duty team e-mails a photo/copy to the ONL Chair onlchair@gmail.com**
- See EN rules & Oxfordshire Discipline and complaints policy**
37. **OFFICIALS** sign the ON Umpires' Code of Conduct, which is submitted to the Oxfordshire Officiating Secretary officiating@ondb.co.uk

RESULTS

38. 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 (1) enters and posts the results on League Republic (2) takes a photo of the results sheet and emails it to the Results Secretary (onlresults@hotmail.com)**
- The sheet & match cards, are placed in a dated envelope from the box file and left in the designated plastic box**
- Teams can monitor results on the website (www.oxfordshirenetsball.co.uk) and should inform **Sophie Andrews, the Results Secretary**, if a result has gone astray or an error has been made.
39. 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.
40. 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

41. The **top two teams** at the end of the season in each division, 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 or demotion but reserves the right to insist that teams move up/down even when there has been a drastic change of club membership.
- The arrangements for the top two teams in the Premier division have yet to be established : they should in theory be promoted to Prem Plus but this has not yet happened**
42. **The winners of the Prem Plus division can proceed to the qualification tournament for the South Region League.** If the winners cannot commit to regional netball, the opportunity will be offered to each team in the division in result order to take the place.

A team demoted from South Region division 3 will automatically be admitted to the ONL Prem Plus

LEAGUE AUTHORITY

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

POLICIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

45. The Oxfordshire League abides by all **ENGLAND NETBALL POLICIES** on : safeguarding, discipline, privacy **AND DIRECTIVES** on : gloves, headscarves, jewellery, studs, leg braces, medical alert bracelets

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 **Players beyond 12 weeks/Umpires beyond 20 weeks are no longer insured for any pregnancy related injuries or illness.**

All directives can be found on the Oxfordshire Netball website www.oxfordshirenetball.co.uk.

46. PHOTOGRAPHY

In line with ON policies, it is the responsibility of clubs to collect and keep on file signed photography/ filming consent forms from all U18 players, those for U16s also to be signed by their parents.

Any club whose players wish to photo/film matches should **give at least a week's notice to the opposition team** and receive confirmation that all players have given consent.

The **photographer** must complete and hand in to the duty team **a registration form** (downloadable from the website and available from the duty team) prior to the match . They are also **recorded on a register** and must wear a dated sticker (provided)

47. **BIBS** The League recommends that all clubs should have two sets of bibs in case of a colour clash but there should also be a spare set in the duty team crate
48. There is to be **NO SMOKING** at the courts/Community Arena
49. For safety reasons, players and umpires **should not chew** (gum or any other substance) during the game or bring gum to the courts
50. 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

1. Team named players and code of conduct (on line)
2. Named officials code of conduct (c/o ON)
3. Duty team guidance
4. Session results sheet/Duty team checklist
5. How to enter results on League Republic
6. Discipline and complaints policy (ON)
7. ON Policy on use of photography & recorded images
8. ON Policy statement on use of photography & film – consent form
9. ON Policy statement on use of photography & film – registration form