

Oxfordshire Open & Inters Netball League Rules

General Information

The League consists of:

- Prem Plus – Tuesday evenings
- Prem 2 & Inters – Monday evenings
- Div 1, Div 2 & Div 3 – Wednesday evenings

Matches:

- Monday & Wednesday evenings are played at our Central Venue facility in Marston, Oxford OX3 0NQ
 - Times of games : 6.40pm, 7.45pm & 8.50pm
- Prem Plus at Cheney School, Headington, OX3 7QH
 - Times of games: 7pm & 8.30pm

Teams will rotate through the playing times each week. Where possible on Monday nights, the early games will be mainly allocated to the Inters Divisions.

Players

- ALL PLAYERS must be members of England Netball through Oxfordshire and must be aged 16 years or over.
- A player may only play for one Club within the League and MUST HAVE MEMBERSHIP through that Club. If a team plays a non-membership player they will, at least, forfeit the match - **Except where the rule regarding borrowing of players from other clubs applies.**
- PLAYERS MUST NOT TRANSFER EN MEMBERSHIP DURING THE SEASON except for a specific acceptable reason, with the prior approval of the Competitions Working Group (CWG).
- CLUBS must NAME ALL PLAYERS in ALL their teams on the 'NAMED PLAYER & CODE OF CONDUCT' form, at least 7 names per team with no prescribed maximum.
- The form has been redesigned and is now electronic. There is no need to gain players' signatures before the form can be submitted, but you must ensure membership numbers are submitted at the same time as the players' names.
- Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all players have read and agreed to the code of conduct.
- If the form is not submitted before the first match teams will be deducted 1 point for every day, it's late up to a maximum of 5 points. If we have not received the form before the 2nd fixture, then a fine will be imposed to be decided by the CWG.
- A new list must be submitted if changes have been made before the restart in the following January

1. Player regulations for Open Divisions

- National league players may only play in Prem Plus.
- Regional players may play down to Prem 2 but no further; 2 players may be named in any one match in Prem 2 and only one on court at a time; they must **indicate PPR** on the match card.
- Non-regional players in a Prem Plus team may play down to Prem 2 only: 3 may play in any one match, only 2 on court at once. They must **indicate PP** on the match card.

2. Player regulations for Inters Divisions

- Inter (U19/17) players may only play a maximum of 1.5 games on a Monday night. If they are named in either an Inter team or a Prem 2 team. Meaning they can play for their own team and be borrowed for half a game to play for another team whether your own club or playing for another club under the borrowing of players rules. This only applies to Inter players.
- No adult player may play in an Inter team. Clubs with multiple Inter teams, the same rules apply. Players may only be played for a full game in their own team and half a game for the team borrowing them.
- Inters regional players and Inters hub players may be named in an Inters team & Prem 2.
- Only 3 may play in any one Match and only 2 on court at once. They may not play in any other division except in line with the playing down rule 9.
- Players may be members of and play for a different club in ONDB and a regional league. The named player & code of conduct list must indicate this status with an **R** and name the regional team.
- All regional teams must also submit their full regional squad list, as registered with the regional league, to the ONDB results secretary in September and again in January
- If a regional player is coming back from injury/pregnancy, special arrangements may apply. Please speak to the CWG Lead.
- 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. However new players may be added to a team during each half season. The amended list with new players needs to be re-submitted via the link on the website. This will be shared with the Results Secretary prior to the new member(s) playing. Clubs **MUST** keep their own copy of all current team lists/codes of conduct

3. Borrowing of Players

- Any team in a club may borrow ONE NAMED PLAYER, PER MATCH, from the club team immediately above. NO OTHER NAMED PLAYERS MAY PLAY DOWN A TEAM(S) unless teams are renamed in the second half of the season.

- Individual players may PLAY UP a team(s) 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 ↑

4. Borrowing from other clubs: New Rule trialing this season

This is a new rule which we will monitor this season. Any feedback from teams would be welcomed. This will hopefully stop the conceded games due to lack of players.

- Clubs in the Open & Inters League may borrow up to 2 players from another club within their division. If there are no spare players from within their division, they may borrow 2 players from the division directly above or borrow 2 players from the divisions below them.
- No National Prem players from Prem Plus may play down to Prem 2. That includes any players who play for another club within national prem.
- If clubs borrow regional players from Prem plus, then the ruling regarding how many are allowed on the court at any one time applies. Prem Plus players may not play down to Div 1, 2 or 3. Non regional Prem Plus players may play down to Prem 2, but no further.
- A borrowed player must be clearly marked on the card with a B ↑ or B ↓ whether playing up or down and from which club.
- It is advised that a player doesn't play 2 games in one night. We will monitor this during the trial season and may adapt rules.
- If you need to borrow more than 3 players from another club, then the game will be played as a friendly match and the opposition will receive the points for the win.

5. Conceded games

The above borrowing rule should remove the need to concede matches. However, if a club feels there is a need to concede the following will apply

No games are to be conceded. However, there may be exceptional circumstances. If this is the case, you must inform CWG, who will consult the ONDB committee for a decision.

- If a club is to concede a match this must be their lowest team.
- If a team concedes within 24 hours of the match, they will be liable for the venue costs £35.
- If a team concedes with 6 hours or less of the game, they will be liable for the venue and umpiring cost which will be £75 and 5 points deducted.
- If a team concedes more than 2 league matches, they will be removed from the league with immediate effect and may be refused re-entry to the League the following season

6. OFFICIALS OF THE GAME

Umpires

Umpires will be neutral and will be allocated to games by ONDB and should report to the duty team before the start of the games.

- Teams pay the appointed umpire on their court before the start of the match, Oxfordshire Netball fee per match is fixed at £20 for qualified umpire and 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.
- 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.

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.

Duty Team

A duty team is designated for the whole evening for registration and time keeping. Detailed responsibilities and guidance are listed separately in the duty hut.

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 first or second quarter – 2 points deducted

7. CONDUCT OF GAMES

Result cards are to be collected from the Duty hut by the first name team.

- ALL PLAYERS and SUBSTITUTES are to be printed on the results card before the start of the game. PLAYERS do not need to sign the card, just their printed name is fine.
- Players should indicate on the card, with an arrow if playing up ↑ or down ↓ within your own club.
- Players being borrowed from another club with **B ↑** or **B ↓**
- Players playing down from Prem Plus should be indicated as follows: Regional player **PPR ↓** or **PP ↓**
- Umpires must check before completing the card at the end of the match that all players are on it.

- Captains & Umpires print their name and sign, indicating any sanctions applied during the match. The card/clipboard is to be returned to the duty team.
- If there is a query/disagreement on the final score, then you must register this on the card and inform the CWG immediately – details of who to contact are on the last page of these rules

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 timecard displayed.

Play starts and finishes on the umpire's whistle.

Games consist of 4 quarters of 12 minutes with 1.5 minute at quarter time and 2 minutes at half time.

8. Tactical Changes (New Rule)

Both teams may make tactical changes immediately after a goal has been scored following a request from an on-court player to hold play for this purpose, ensuring that:

- **The umpire is clear the request is for a tactical change and not for injury/illness of a player or blood.**
- **Any substitutes need to be already bibbed up waiting on the sideline to make the changes**
- **Any on-court players being changed must do so quickly.**
- **If there is a delay in completing the substitutions and/or team changes the infringing team will be penalised for delaying play. See rule 19.1 & 19.2 in the rule book**
- **The number of substitutions or team changes is unlimited. However, if the number of requests for tactical changes becomes frivolous, the umpires may refuse the request and/or penalise the infringing team for delaying play. See rule 19.1 & 19.2 in the rule book.**
- **Delaying play will result in a penalty pass to the non-infringing team and can be advanced up to a third of the court by the controlling umpire.**

9. Registration/Late Arrival

- Each team captain and umpire should report to the duty team on arrival, be registered and the first named team collects the match card and clipboard.
- If a team arrives late, the opposing team which is ready must be on court for 12 minutes and claims one goal per minute. During this time, if at least 5 of the opposition arrive, they must add their name to the match card, be checked by the umpire and take to the court and play.
- Further late arriving players must add their name to 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 by the start of the 2nd quarter, the team ready to play claims the points for the match and 12 goals at the end of the first quarter.
- If traffic/weather conditions result in the late arrival of many players/umpires, the Duty team should hold the start time for all courts for a maximum of 10 minutes and it is the Duty Teams responsibility to post on the relevant WhatsApp group, so teams on the proceeding games are aware of a delayed start.

10. 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.

1. Captains must inform the Duty Team so they can report it to the CWG.
2. CWG will advise on the date & venue of replayed game.

11. Cancellation/Postponement/Abandonment/Stoppage

Matches WILL NOT BE CANCELLED/POSTPONED except through events beyond the ONDB'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 CWG.
- Communications will always be sent via the relevant WhatsApp group by 4.30 pm to announce cancellation and/or when weather conditions are doubtful.

No matches may be rearranged due to lack of players – please see rule 4 above about borrowing players from other clubs.

12. Abandonment of Matches

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.

13. Stoppage due to injury

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 playing, the injured player has 30 seconds to leave the court. For more serious incidents the umpire has the discretion to extend this time. Scorers should make a note of the time of stoppage and advise the umpires when play resumes how long needs to be added.
- 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 (if there is one available, if no court available the Duty Team should make a note and the CWG will advise if match is to be replayed.
- For serious injuries the Duty Team should be notified, and they should radio the on-call personnel from Oxford City to advise if:
 - a wheelchair needs to be brought to the courts
 - An ambulance has been called and ask them to open the gate on court 6.
- A first aider should be called, and a spectator or duty team member should stay with the injured player until a first aider or ambulance have arrived.
- If the player is able, whilst waiting for first aid or ambulance, the Duty Team should get name and contact details for the injured player and submit this online via the Injury & Accident form. Link to form is below.
- A player should, if possible, get off/be helped from the court immediately and any substitutions/position changes must be made within 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 breaks.
- 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.
- **All** injuries must be recorded on the Injury & Accident form (link is below to form) which is now electronic. Minimum required information: player's name, club, contact number. Updated information about treatment, absence from work etc. should be added later, for accidents to be monitored.

Teams are responsible for providing their own first aid kit including instant ice; that in the duty crate is for emergencies only. Some Community Arena staff are first aid trained.

14. Coach, Player & Spectator Conduct

It is expected that all matches will be played in a cooperative, sportsmanlike, albeit competitive spirit. The attitudes of all those involved should always remain positive.

- Abuse of any kind will not be tolerated.
- Oxfordshire has a no strike policy.
- Any coach, player or spectator who behaves unacceptably on or off court, towards another player, umpire or supporter will be asked to leave the court.
- The incident will be reported to the CWG and in discussion with the ONDB committee will advise of sanctions to the named person/s

NB: This may result in a fine and suspension from several matches or for more serious incidents exclusion from the League for that season.

15. RESULTS

The completed match cards are to be returned to the duty team. The home team are responsible for photographing the results cards and posting to the relevant WhatsApp groups and the Duty Team is responsible for checking the cards have been shared and stored in the box before leaving the Duty Shelter.

Points

- win = 5 points,
- draw = 3 points,
- scoring within 5 goals of winner's total = 2 points
- 1 point if scoring 50% or more of the winner's score.

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.

16. End of Season arrangements

The **top two teams** at the end of the season in each division will go to play offs with the bottom two teams of the division above them. The Winners and Runner up of the playoffs will be placed in the higher division and the two losing teams will be placed in the lower division. The date of playoffs will be advised but will be before the league finishes in July.

The winners of the Prem Plus & Inters 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 Prem Plus Division

17. League Authority

If any of the above rules are broken, teams may be liable to a fine, loss of points or suspension. The CWG in consultation with the ONDB committee, will make final decisions on all the above rules.

Policies & Recommendations

ONDB abides by all ENGLAND NETBALL POLICIES on safeguarding, discipline, privacy and directives on gloves, headscarves, jewellery, studs, leg braces, medical alert bracelets.

Photography

In line with EN policies, it is advised that ALL clubs at the start of the season ask all players, whether adult or junior for permission to be photographed/filmed. This will speed up the process should any requests come from players to film for exam purposes.

- Any club whose players wish to film matches should give **at least a week's notice** to the opposition team and umpire and obtain permission from all parties before filling in the "Request to Photograph/Film" form. The form is now electronic, and the link is listed below.
- The photographer must complete the form, the link is below.
- An email should also be sent to: Lisa Litt (see email below) so that this can be matched to the submitted form.
- Photography/filming may only take place once Lisa has confirmed in writing and will notified the team on Duty.
- On the day of the filming the person with the photographic technology must report to the Duty Team and must wear the sticker provided whilst filming
- Any person (s) found filming or taking photos within the court surrounds or outside the court perimeter, without authorisation will be asked to delete from their phone/camera.
- Any person (s) that does not comply with the request to delete images/video, 5 points will be deducted from the team they are associated with.

Bibs

With the new tactical rule coming into play this season, the ONDB recommends that all clubs should have two sets of bibs.

- in case of a colour clash
- to be used for tactical changes to speed up the process

Other general rules/guidance

- There is to be NO SMOKING within the courts
- For safety reasons, players and umpires should not chew (gum or any other substance) during the game or bring gum to the courts
- All rubbish should be taken home or deposited in the litter bins provided

WINTER SEASON FEES

Division	Fees per team includes entry fee to league	50% by End of September	50% by End of January
Prem Plus	£570	£285	£285
Prem 2	£380	£190	£190
Div 1	£360	£180	£180
Div 2	£380	£190	£190
Div 3	£300	£150	£150
Inters Div 1	£340	£170	£170
Inters Div 2	£320	£160	£160
Inters Seeding Tournament	£21 per team	Payable by end of September	

All fees are per team entered into the league.

Oxfordshire Open League (OOL) - the entry fee to the league is included in the cost.

Oxfordshire Inters League (OIL) the entry fee is **not included**. Please pay £21 per team for the seeding tournament by the end of September.

Bank Details

Please note below is the new bank account. Please don't pay your fees into the account you may have set up on your online banking from last season. It will just bounce back to you as the old account is now closed.

Oxfordshire Netball Leagues

Lloyds Bank

Account no: 29221668

Sort code: 30-99-50

- OOL teams please use reference: ClubnameOOLF24 eg WallingfordOOLF24
- OIL teams please use reference: ClubnameOILF24 eg TeamMatrixOILF24
- OIL seeding Tournament please use: ClubnameOILS24 eg TrinityOILS24
(if you have already paid your tournament fee, you obviously don't need to pay this again)

We appreciate that this information has come to you very late, so you have one week's grace at the end of September to pay your fees. If you split the fees 50/50 then we would expect January's half to be on time.

Any club that has not paid by the deadlines, 5 points will be deducted for every week it is late. If you are experiencing any difficulties, please contact one of the committee members listed below to discuss.

Have a great season everyone.

Important Contacts & Links

Competitions Working Group

CWG Lead – Jackie McKay – jackie.mckay@agilent.com

CWG Results – Sophie Andrews – onlresults@hotmail.co.uk

ONDB Committee

Chair – Lesley Killpack – lkillpack@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary – Lisa Litt – onlchair@gmail.com

Officiating Lead – Gina Pearce – gina.pearce@btinternet.com

Treasurer – Teresa Cook – Teresa.cook@talktalk.net

Link to Photography/Filming Form – [Filming consent form](#)

Link to Accident Form – [Accident Form](#)

Link to Name player & Codes of conduct – [Code of Conduct 2024 2025](#)