HUDDERSFIELD NETBALL LEAGUE
RULES & REGULATIONS 2026

1) The Huddersfield Netball League (HNL) follows the rules as laid out in the current World Netball rules of netball with the following variations as permitted under the current World Netball rules of Netball regulations:

   1.1 Team officials are not a requirement at HNL matches.
   1.2 All league matches shall be 4 x 10-minute quarters with intervals as appropriate.
   1.3 A reserve umpire shall not be appointed however, in the event of injury/illness to an umpire, another umpire present at the match may continue the match. This may include dropping a player that has participated already in the match.
   1.4 The number of technical officials shall be a minimum of two (one scorer and one scorer/timekeeper) provided by the teams. These roles may be interchanged to allow substitutes to score/keep time. As stated in World Netball rules of netball, the scorers are jointly responsible for keeping an accurate record of the score' and should, therefore, stand/sit together. If agreement cannot be reached as to where, this should be at the transverse line on the 'home' team side of the court. The score should be called loudly by one or both scorers after every goal. If there is a discrepancy in the score, the scorers should ask the umpire to hold time whilst the scorers resolve the discrepancy. Umpires and captains should only be consulted if agreement cannot be reached.

2) All clubs and their individual members must be fully paid members of England Netball for the relevant Membership Year.

   All teams must be registered and have paid the relevant registration fee to the Huddersfield Netball League.

   Copies of the HNL registration sheet, including membership numbers, should be submitted via email before the first match, to the membership secretary as advised via email from the league secretary, and the league website. Any additions to the register should be communicated via e-mail, including membership numbers, to the membership secretary at least 24 hours before fielding the player. Any game played with unregistered players or non-members of England Netball will be deemed as forfeited by the offending team (refer to rule 5a).

   To cover the cost of court facilities, all teams will pay a per match fee that will be set by the league committee. This will be reviewed as required. The match fee is payable in advance. Each match payment and subsequent payments should be cleared funds showing in the league account on the Friday of the week prior to the match. Payment can only be made by bacs. If the correct match fee is not received into the correct bank account by the previous Friday, a one-point deduction will be applied. Each payment submitted should be accompanied by an email to hnltreasurer@outlook.com and hnlsecretary@hotmail.co.uk confirming the amount, team(s) and match(es) it relates to. All bacs payments must include

the team's name in full as reference. Bank details are: Name: HNL, Sort Code: 309443, Account number: 72166668.

3) Players may only be registered with one club per season but if for any reason a club disbands players may register with another club. They must be registered by informing two members of the committee. No team may register more than 15 players. Any player that contravenes this rule and plays for a '2nd' club will be treated as an unregistered player for that club (refer to rule 2). If a player registered with a club hasn't played any part of a match during that season for that club, they can move and register with another club in the same season. They must inform and gain agreement from two members of the committee to do this.

4) Postponement or cancellation of matches will only take place under extreme circumstances. If the venue is closed or unavailable unexpectedly, matches will be rearranged by the committee and moved to reserve weeks at the end of the season. Any match fees already paid by teams will be retained and allocated to the rearranged dates.

   If the venue is open but the committee decides matches will be postponed, due to safety or travel concerns, matches will still be rearranged by the committee and moved to reserve dates at the end of the season. Any fees due to KAL for bookings not fulfilled will be met by the league. Any match fees already paid by teams will be retained and allocated to the rearranged dates.

   If the venue is open and the committee decides it is safe to travel, matches will go ahead. If a team decides not to attend it will be deemed as forfeited by the offending team (refer to rule 5a).

5) All games should start within five minutes of the allotted fixture time. No team may take to the court with less than five players. The times of the matches will be as follows:

   Game 1 – 19:05
   Game 2 – 20:05
   Game 3 – 21:05

   a) By entering the Huddersfield Netball League, teams agree to fulfil all the fixtures allocated. Should a team forfeit a fixture, this should be communicated to the relevant results secretary and secretary of the opposing team by telephone/text message or in person seven days prior to the fixture. A 20-0 win will be recorded for the non-offending team and a four-point deduction for the forfeiting team. This includes if a team fails to be on court at the allotted fixture time.
   b) For any team that attends the venue to take to court but must forfeit the game due to failure to provide an umpire, a 20-0 win will be recorded by the non-offending team and a two-point deduction for the forfeiting team.
   c) Any team forfeiting a fixture with less than seven days' notice will be required to pay all venue and umpiring costs incurred.
   d) Any team forfeiting three fixtures in any season will be expelled from the Huddersfield Netball League and their results for that season expunged. Their entry into subsequent seasons will be at the discretion of the league committee.

6) Points will be awarded: - 4 for a win, 2 for a draw, 1 for half score or above.

7) If there is a draw on points in any division the winner will be decided on goal difference. At the end of the summer season (when teams play each other twice), placings are determined with automatic promotion and relegation normally being that two teams are relegated, and two teams are promoted. It is at the committee's discretion if more than two teams are promoted to ensure the divisions are as equal as possible in numbers.

8) (Only applicable to the summer season (when teams play each other twice))

a) Any registered club player may participate in two league games for each other team within her club per season. If she participates in a third game with that team, she becomes registered with that team and may take no further part in any league games for her original team.
b) Any number of club players registered with a lower placed team may participate in a higher placed team game.
c) Only one named team player from any of the club's higher-placed teams may participate in a lower placed team game

Any game where rule 8 is contravened will be treated as forfeited by the offending team (refer to rule 5a).

9) For each game both teams must provide an umpire. All umpires, qualified or unqualified, must register with the league. Each team is responsible for ensuring the umpire they use is registered and is on the league umpire list. Each team is responsible for payment of their umpire. Qualified umpires should be offered a minimum of £15 per game. Unqualified umpires may be paid a minimum of £10. This is however at the team's discretion. The fee must be paid prior to the game being played. Any team failing to provide an umpire shall deem to have forfeited the game (refer to rule 5a). Umpires must not be involved in more than two Huddersfield league games in one evening, either as an umpire or a player, unless agreed by the committee. This does not include mentoring. To clarify, this means an umpire can umpire two games or play in one and umpire a second. Teams are responsible for ensuring umpires have not been involved in more than two games in one evening. At the third instance, any team using an unauthorised umpire will be deemed as forfeited by the offending team (refer to rule 5a).

10) Score sheets for every game must be submitted to the relevant WhatsApp group within seven days of the game being played. Players' names must be recorded with first names and surnames as per the registration sheet and all sections completed fully. If a player that is registered for one team within a club, plays for another team within the same club, the scoresheet must show which is their registered team by placing for example (A), (B) or (C) in brackets after their name. Failure to submit an accurately completed score sheet will incur a two-point deduction for the offending team. This does not replace rules 2 and 3 if the error relates to unregistered or incorrect players. Players must not be involved in more than two Huddersfield league games in one evening either as a player or an umpire. To clarify, this means a player can play in two games or play in one and umpire a second. At the third instance, any team fielding an unauthorised player will be deemed as forfeited by the offending team (refer to rule 5a).

11) Scores for each game should be sent via WhatsApp message or submitted online on the website within seven days of the fixture being played (for up-to-date details, see the website). Failure to do so will incur a two-point deduction for the offending team.

12) Each team can declare up to 12 players on the score sheet.

13) The committee will inform teams of rule infringements within 14 days via email. A further period should be allowed to dispute if deemed necessary.

14) Any new teams entering the league will be placed in the appropriate division. This will be decided by the committee.

15) Pregnancy – England Netball follow World Netball's Pregnancy Guidelines which say – in short – that the decision to play netball during pregnancy is ultimately the participant's choice and emphasises the importance of seeking medical advice due to the inherent risks.

World Netball's Pregnancy Guidelines state, "Netball is a physically demanding game which requires a high level of agility. It also involves a degree of contact and carries an inherent risk of accident and injury, both to the participant and the unborn child. Accordingly, participation in netball during pregnancy is at the risk of the participant." In the same vein, "Maternal and foetal responses to exercise can vary with pre-gestational maternal fitness levels, co-existing medical conditions and/or pregnancy complications. All women are encouraged to seek individual medical advice."

In accordance with World Netball, England Netball strongly recommends that the pregnant participant:

(i) consults with their own appropriately qualified medical practitioner to inform them, on a voluntary basis, of their pregnancy and to obtain individual and specific professional medical advice before participating in netball (both during and following pregnancy), in particular regarding the risks of such participation;

(ii) acts in accordance with the medical advice received; and

(iii) attends regular check-ups with their medical practitioner throughout and following their pregnancy regarding their participation in netball, adjusting participation accordingly.

By participating when pregnant, the participant will be deemed to have consented to any risks (including any risk of injury to the participant and/or the unborn child) that may arise from such participation. Aside from liability for death or personal injury resulting from negligence, the participant will also be deemed to have waived any and all claims, causes and rights of action against World Netball, England Netball, event organisers, players and match officials, whether at law or in equity, of whatever nature and in any jurisdiction or forum, that she may have as a result of such participation.

Members* should note that England Netball's centrally arranged programme of insurance excludes any loss or expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage, or any consequence thereof. You can find pregnancy guidance and information on the NETBALLHer website

16) Any complaints regarding teams or individuals whilst playing must be received in writing to the Complaints Coordinator to hnlcomplaints@hotmail.com, within seven days of the match being played. If it is necessary for a disciplinary committee to be formed, it will comprise committee members who are not involved in any way with the offending club, team or person.

17) Appropriate kit must be worn. Team colours are required although not necessarily a skirt. The home team is responsible for ensuring no clash of bibs and so must use an alternative set if required.

18) Every club should have the same ratio, or greater, of qualified and league-registered umpires to teams. E.g., if a club has three teams it needs three qualified, affiliated and registered umpires within its club. Any new clubs applying to join the league that don't have the requisite number of umpires, will be allowed one year's grace providing that they have the correct number of nominated unqualified umpires working towards their qualification. This rule only applies to umpires that are the designated team umpire. Learner umpires may still umpire in the Huddersfield league (refer to rule 19).

19) Unqualified umpires that have been on a C award course and are still working towards C award within time limits as specified by EN, may umpire in the third and fourth divisions. Those unqualified umpires that are working towards their practical assessment, with the recommendation of a mentor (as defined by County or Regional Umpiring Secretary), may umpire appropriate level games in division two. The names of these umpires will be communicated through the league committee via email as and when recommendations arise. Unqualified umpires are not permitted to umpire division one matches. Unqualified umpires must register with the league prior to umpiring in the league.

20) The Huddersfield Netball League will operate from a central venue, which is Huddersfield Leisure Centre, Spring Grove Street, Huddersfield, HD1 4BP.

21) Permission must be sought from players and officials prior to taking photographs or video recordings of match play. The secretary or captain must gain permission from those involved in the fixture with confirmation of how the images or footage is to be used.

22) All teams wishing to participate in the following year of fixtures must have a representative at the AGM. Failure to do so will incur a fine equivalent to the league entry fee. Repeat offenders not attending may be withdrawn from the league, at the discretion of the committee.

23) If a club folds one of its teams within its club structure, this should be the lowest placed team to fold.

24) By entering the Huddersfield Netball League all clubs and teams agreed to have a qualified first aider present on match days. Where there is an under 18 or vulnerable adult listed within the squad, there will be a trained safeguarding person present on match days. You will also provide evidence of training qualifications and a current England Netball DBS certificate to the league upon request. Any game where rule 24 is contravened will be treated as forfeited by the offending team (refer to rule 5a). Repeated safeguarding infringements could result in a team being expelled from the Huddersfield Netball League and their results for that season expunged. Their entry into subsequent seasons will be at the discretion of the Huddersfield Netball League Committee.

25) Under 18s may only umpire senior (adult) matches if they have been identified as ready, endorsed by a parent/guardian and a minimum C Award Assessor, and approved by the County Officiating Lead, in line with the England Netball Young Umpire Guidelines (October 2025). A responsible adult must be present courtside at all times.

26) The Huddersfield Netball League is a competition for female players. Only female participants can be included on the squad registration sheet as a player. For more information on eligibility based on Gender, please visit the England Netball website, and its Gender Eligibility and Participation Policy.