

ParaNetball Championships 2024

Rules & Regulations

Overview

The ParaNetball Championships is a national competition organised by England Netball that enables deaf and disabled people to compete in the Club and School Championships. The Club and School championships are open to participants with any disability and encourages participation and development in netball through an open, fair, progressive, and transparent competition structure.

The rules and regulations outline the way which the competition should be run.

The regulations must be followed by all teams, players, officials, spectators and administrators in the management, administration, and operation of the Competition.

Competition Structure

The Competition is a free to enter, open entry competition. Therefore, any team meeting the eligibility criteria outlined in the 'Team Eligibility section' can enter the competition.

Competition Organisation

The Competition and all rights and properties associated with it shall be owned, controlled, and managed by England Netball.

England Netball is responsible for the organisation and management of the Competition.

Competition Referees

A Competition Referee will be appointed by England Netball for the Competition

The Competition Referee will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising during the Competition Day including, but not limited to:

- Altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary.

- Determining if teams and/or players are in breach of these regulations and imposing an appropriate penalty (including disqualification of any individual or team)
- Maintaining and being responsible for a confidential Competition Referees Logbook (if appropriate);
- Upholding the decision by any medical advisor, including but not limited to the Competition doctor or physiotherapist, regarding the participation of a player.
- Instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour including instances of teams predetermining the outcome of a match:
- Any matter not covered by the Regulations

Pre-Competition Management and Administration

Team Entry and Eligibility

Entry to the Competition shall be through the completion of the Competition entry form.

By entering a team in the Competition, teams agree that:

- They will abide by these rules and regulations.

Player Eligibility

All players must be aged 12+ on the date of the competition (Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd June 2024).

A person is considered eligible to play if that person satisfies any one of the following requirements:

Under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.

- 'substantial' is more than minor or trivial, eg it takes much longer than it usually would to complete a daily task like getting dressed.
- 'long-term' means 12 months or more, eg a breathing condition that develops as a result of a lung infection

A child or young person has special educational needs and disabilities if they have a learning difficulty and/or a disability that means they need special health and education support.

They can affect their:

- behaviour or ability to socialise, for example they struggle to make friends.
- reading and writing, for example because they have dyslexia.
- ability to understand things.
- concentration levels, for example because they have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- physical ability

Registration of Teams

Teams may only use up to twelve (12) players in the competition whose names appear on their Team Registration Form held by England Netball.

Any additions or amendments to the Team Registration Form prior to the competition, must be lodged with England Netball's Competition and Events Officer prior to the start of the competition.

Team Registration Form will be made available on the Competition Day for the Team Manager to sign and return to the Competition Referee during the Registration Period

No changes may be made to the Team Registration Form once the Team Manager has signed it during the Registration Period of the Competition Day, even if the Registration Period has not closed.

Competition Venues

Matches will be played wherever possible on a court with adequate surrounds and surface and with ancillary facilities for participants, including changing and showering facilities for teams and officials, unless otherwise agreed by England Netball (If not possible all officials and teams will be made aware before arrival)

- England Netball is responsible for arranging the venue.
- It is the responsibility of England Netballs Organising Committee(s) to conduct a risk assessment.
- For all 'incidents' on or off the court at the selected venue an England Netball Accident Report form must be completed by England Netballs Organising Committee(s), and a copy sent to the Competition and Events Department with the England Netball

results sheet which will be stored for insurance purposes. Using Standard issued forms.

Competition Scheduling

England Netball must provide the teams and the umpires with confirmation in writing of the date of the competition, (email is the preferred method), its start time, and travel directions (including postcode) ten (10) days prior to the date of the competition.

All matches must be played as the schedule published by England Netball and take place on the date stated, unless otherwise agreed by England Netball.

Teams will be responsible for arranging their own travel, and for the costs of this, and should allow sufficient travelling time to cover any unexpected delays.

If a fixture is postponed or cancelled, it is the responsibility of the Competition Referee to ensure that the teams and umpire are informed immediately when the postponement or cancellation is known.

In the event that a match is abandoned for any reason, e.g., because of serious injury, the result of that match will be determined by the Competition Referee having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.

Playing and Competition

Match Rules and Format

All matches shall be played to The World Netball Rules of Netball currently in force in England at the time of the competition, except where specific regulations may apply for this competition (i.e. modified for players with Learning Disability)

- There can be a maximum of three male players on the court at one time.
- The male players must play one of the following:

Either Goal Attack or Goal Shooter

Either Wing Attack, Centre or Wing Defence

Either Goal Defender or Goal Keeper

Umpires

Umpires who actively hold a Netball Europe Award will be allocated for the Competition by England Netball.

Match Bench Officials

The match bench officials are the Scorers and Timekeepers (depending on the competition format). The two (2) scorers shall constitute the Officials Match Bench. As matches are centrally timed, no timekeepers will be required.

Scorers will be required for all fixtures. Each team must provide a competent scorer. A simple scorecard will be used.

It will be the responsibility of England Netballs Organising Committee(s) to provide a minimum of one (1) timekeeper, who will be responsible for timing all matches centrally.

Team Officials

The Team Officials are: Coach, Manager and up to three (3) other personnel, at least one (1) of whom must be a primary Carer who is qualified to diagnose and treat injury and/or illness for example doctor or physiotherapist. The Team officials and up to five (5) players, not on court shall constitute the Team Bench.

A Primary Care Person:

Must be qualified to diagnose and treat injury or illness (for example, doctor or physiotherapist)

Teams must provide evidence of the relevant qualification for their Primary Care Person along with the Squad Registration Form.

Must wear identification as specified by England Netball

Kit and Equipment

All teams must bring and wear positional bibs and teams must have a spare set in a different colour in case of a clash of colours.

In the event of a clash of colours, a toss of a coin between the two captains will decide which team retains their original colours.

Match Timings

All matches shall be 14 minutes in duration, seven (7) minutes each way, with three (3) minutes at half time and three (3) minutes between rounds.

England Netball reserves the right to amend the match timings, if timings are amended all teams will be notified.

Central timing, normally sounded by a hooter, will be used, but matches will start and finish on the umpire's whistle.

Team officials must ensure:

- Captains do the coin toss for centre pass well before the start of each game.
- All teams are on court, in position and ready to play at the time according to the central timing on the court stated in the playing schedule.
- No team may start a game with less than five (5) players.

Any team not on court will concede the match. 0 points will be awarded to the team conceding the match.

In instances of the above, the match points for a win (5) will be awarded to the team on court, in position and ready to play at the correct time.

The umpires must record on the Score Card, the name and arrival time of the team who arrived late.

Substitutes and Team Changes

Only substitutions for injury or illness will be allowed during play; however opposition teams may change playing positions at any time. During half time normal substitution rules apply. Teams are requested to make substitutions without delaying the restart of the game. *Modification: Substitution - in addition to normal substitutions, each team may make one additional substitution in each period of play, after a goal is scored or when the ball goes out to play, to bring off a player whose concentration or behaviour has broken down.*

Injuries and Accidents

Play may be stopped if the umpire deems it necessary due to the injury or illness of a player.

Team Officials are required to take great care in moving an injured player or ill player from the court.

Should the Primary Carer feel that an injury is critical (e.g. head, neck or back) and that the injured Player should not be moved without the Medical Staff. The Match Officials should note the time lost during treatment and report to the Competition Referee who will adjudicate.

For all accidents or injuries on or off the court at the Competition, where any player, coach, spectator, volunteer or staff member is injured, the Competition Referee must complete an England Netball Accident Report form and return this to England Netball.

This procedure should be followed for ALL injuries and accidents, regardless of whether medical treatment is given.

Where two teams are level on points:

Goal average (goals for divided by goals against) shall be used to determine their relative positions, i.e., the team with the higher average score over the course of the competition stage shall take precedence

In the event that goal average does not differentiate between the teams, then goal difference shall be applied, i.e., precedence shall be given to the team with the greater difference between goals scored and goals conceded.

In the event that goal difference does not differentiate between the teams, then the result of the group match(es) between the two teams will be the decider.

In the event that the group match result does not differentiate between the teams, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence.

In the event that neither goal average nor goal difference nor the group match result nor goals scored can differentiate between the teams, the winner will be decided with extra time process between the teams as outlined below for Placing Matches

In the event that neither goal average nor goal difference nor head to head nor goals scored can differentiate between the teams, the winner will be decided with the extra time process between the teams as follows: Extra time of 2 minutes each way will be played, changing over at half time without a break. Teams will toss for centre pass and change ends. In the event of a draw at full time, play will continue without a break, until the next goal is scored

Registration of Results

Both teams are required to complete England Netballs official Score card after each match.

Scorecards must be checked and signed by the Scorer(s) and both Team Managers. Once the official scorecards have been signed no dispute can be logged, unless it is marked 'Under Protest'.

If the final score is not in agreement, the process outlined in, Competition Complaints Procedure, should be followed.

A legible copy of the scorecard must be received by England Netball immediately after the match from both teams.

Competition Complaints Procedure

On the Competition Day, all queries and complaints should be directed to the Competition Referees in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows:

Where the Complaint relates to the competition format or management, including (but not limited to) the schedule, the opposing team, playing surface or other playing arrangements, a protest must be made, before the start of the match (or as soon as possible after the issue becomes apparent during the match) to the Competition Referee by the relevant Team or Match Official. The Complaint must then be acknowledged by the Competition Referee who will decide what action should be taken; or

Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant team or match official, must do the following:

Inform their opponents and the umpires of their complaint;

Mark the score card with the words "Under Protest";

Take the marked score card to the Competition Referee, straight after the match.

Explain the issue in full to the Competition Referee.

And the Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken.

Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Competition by England Netball, such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of England Netball.

Where a Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual or team participating, volunteering or attending the Competition which could be considered as a disciplinary offence under England Netball's Safeguarding Disciplinary Regulations, such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the processes set out in England Netball's Safeguarding Disciplinary Regulations.

Appeal of the Competition Referees Decision

A party to a complaint submitted shall have the right to appeal a decision made by the Competition Referee in relation to that complaint; If:

- The decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition; AND there has been a failure by the Competition Referee to follow these Regulations or the Competition Referee reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact.

These are the only grounds of appeal and any appeal must be submitted in accordance with the appeals process.

Miscellaneous Provisos

It is the responsibility of England Netball and each team to provide adequate first aid cover for its players, volunteers and officials.

England Netball will not be liable to any person, whether in contract, tort (including negligence) or otherwise for any direct or indirect loss or injury of any nature, howsoever caused and howsoever arising from the matters covered by these Regulations, provided that nothing in these Regulations excludes or restricts England Netball's liability for any personal loss or injury caused by England Netball's own negligence, the negligence of its employees, or for fraud.

All participants acknowledge that participating in the sport of netball involves a risk of personal injury and by taking part in the Competition, whether as a player, team member, volunteer, team official, other official or spectator, each participant does so at their own risk.

If any of these Regulations are held by any competent authority to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of the Regulations shall not be affected thereby.

These Regulations shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law.

Any questions regarding these Regulations can be addressed to; England Netball Community, Competition and Events Delivery Manager, England Netball, SportPark, 3 Oakwood Drive, Loughborough, LE11 3QF

England Netball will be entitled to amend these Regulations each year in advance of the Competition and such amendments will take effect from the first date of publication of the completed amended procedure on the England Netball website.

Modifications to the Official Netball Rules for Players with a Moderate Learning Disability

ALL COACHES SHOULD HAVE A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL NETBALL RULES. The following modifications must be read in conjunction with the Official Netball Rules published by World Netball.

Players aged 12 and over should play 7-a-side Netball with the modifications as summarised below.

The direction of play will change at half time only.

Held ball - 4 seconds replaces 3 seconds throughout these rules.

Footwork – players may pivot on either foot. Players may shuffle their feet to stop and / or to regain balance, as long as no progress is made down the court.

Throw-in – the umpire must ensure that all players are on court and say 'Play'.

Repossession - if the ball is dropped, the same player will be allowed to regain possession of the ball once.

Offside – the offside rule will only be used if it affects play, irrespective of who is in possession of the ball.

Substitution – in addition to normal substitutions, each team may make one additional substitution in each period of play, after a goal is scored or when the ball goes out of play, to bring off a player whose concentration or behaviour has broken down.

Contact – some players may be restricted in observing the rule because of their disability; if this is the case, umpires should demonstrate practical understanding (common sense) whilst ensuring the health and safety of other players is observed.

Officials Guidelines

Duration of the Game

Two (2) halves of seven (7) minutes with three (3) minutes at half time and three (3) minutes between rounds.

Change ends at half time only.

Each umpire should:

- Keep outside the court except when it is necessary to take a Toss Up;
- If the ball strikes the Umpire during play, or if an umpire interferes with the movements of the players, play does not cease unless one team has been unduly penalised, in which case a Free Pass shall be awarded to that team;

Additional guidance:

- Umpires must be prepared to assist the player preparing to take the penalty.
- Umpires shall state the infringement and penalty and use hand signals to clarify decisions. (Guidelines for appropriate signals for some of the Rules are listed below)
- Umpires should call the team having the next centre pass.

Stoppages - Injury or Illness

Play may be stopped for injury or illness, after a call for time by an on-Court player.

Additional guidance:

- A designated team Official may also call for time.
- The decision to stop play and when to stop play shall be at the discretion of the Umpire.
- Umpires are allowed to stop play whether play is in their half or not

Playing the Ball

A player may...

- Fall while holding the ball but must regain footing and throw within four (4) seconds of receiving the ball.
- A player may drop the ball and replay it, no more than once within 4 seconds without gaining ground

Footwork

Umpires should allow players to move their landing foot once to regain balance but NOT to make progress down the court. If a long stride is taken with the landing foot the player would be expected to move this foot back nearer to the other foot before passing. Some shuffling on the spot should be allowed and players may pivot on either foot.

- 1 – 2 – 3 steps with shuffle (without gaining ground is permitted). 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 steps is deemed to be footwork. When taking a penalty, the full footwork rule should be observed as these are taken from a static position, so no assistance with balance should be required.

Scoring a Goal

If the ball is won at a Toss Up in the Goal Circle, the Goal Shooter or Goal Attack may either shoot for goal or pass.

- Umpires should remind the Goal Attack or Goal Shooter that they may shoot.

Throw-In

The Umpire will be responsible for ensuring that all players are on court and that the player taking the 'Throw-in' is at the correct place. Indication that play may recommence is made by the Umpire calling 'Play'.

Failure to take the Court

A team must take the Court when requested to do so by the Umpires.

The Umpire shall notify the teams when there are thirty (30) seconds and ten (10) seconds remaining prior to the start of the game; and the end of an interval.

At the ten (10) seconds notification the teams shall move to their playing positions for the start or restart of play;

The teams must be on Court and be in position ready for the start or restart of play.

ENDS