

North Yorkshire Netball Association
Playing Regulations for
North Yorkshire Junior League 2024-2025



1. Organisation & Administration

- i The NY Junior Competition Subgroup, which is part of the NY Competition Group, will organise and manage the North Yorkshire Junior League (NYJL).
- ii. The decisions of the NYJL Sub Group or its nominee(s), in respect of these rules and regulations and on any other matter related to the game which is not provided for below, shall be considered final and binding on all parties (subject to the right of appeal which is specifically provided for under Disciplinary Regulations).
- iii. It is the responsibility of all Club and Team managers/ coaches, other Officials and parents/spectators involved with the League to ensure that they are familiar with the Competition's Regulations and the England Netball Code of Conduct.
- iv. The matches in the NYJL will be played at indoor venues on Sundays between 11.00am and 4.00pm with exceptions in timing if necessary. In addition, Clubs that have teams in the same Division will play their fixtures at a training session during the week designated by the NYJL Group.
- v. The NY Junior League for 2024-25 will be for Club teams at Under-12; Under-14 and Under-16 level. The NYJ League will include an Under-11 League subject to interest.
- vi A WhatsApp group for coaches will be set up. In addition, a list of all Club coaches for each team will be circulated via e mail.

2. Playing Qualifications & Eligibility

- i The NYJL is a competition for female players. Only players who were born as biological females can be included on the team registration sheet as a player. However, Trans girls may be allowed to play subject to a case-by-case review in line with England Netball's Trans Inclusion Policy. Queries should be made in writing to the Lead of the NYJL.
- ii. All players must hold a current EN membership and membership to North Yorkshire County for the season 2024-25.
- iii. *For 2024-25 season, there is NO Entry Fee payable upfront.* You will be invoiced for the games that you are scheduled to play. Invoices will be generated at the end of each Phase or the end of the whole competition.
- iv. By entering a team in the NYJL, clubs/teams agree that they will abide by these Regulations and the England Netball Code of Conduct for players, coaches, parents and volunteers and that they are able and willing to fulfill all costs and commitments relating to the League. Any breaches of the Regulations and/or the Codes of Conduct will be subject to the processes outlined in these Regulations. Links to the Codes of Conduct, Safeguarding Policy and DBS regulated Activity Flowchart are below. These Regulations will be circulated via e mail to every coach and on the NY website.

<https://d2cx26qpfwuhvu.cloudfront.net/englandnetball/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/01095413/Codes-of-conduct.pdf>

<https://d2cx26qpfwuhvu.cloudfront.net/englandnetball/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/08154324/Safeguarding-Children-and-Young-People-In-Netball-Policy-Jan-2024.pdf>

v. Players may only play for one club within the NYJL in any one season. Once a player has been named on a squad sheet and played, she cannot just transfer to another Club and compete for that new Club unless there are extenuating circumstances. Should a player wish to change Clubs during the season, a written application for approval of the move must be sent to the Lead of the NYJL sub group – Christine Stephen – nyjuniorcompetition@outlook.com – before the player is able to play for her new Club. Details should include the reasons for the transfer and confirmation that membership fees to EN have been paid. Once transferred, the player may not revert to her previous Club for the rest of the season.

vi. All players in the NY County Junior League must play within their own age group unless the appropriate Age Banding procedures have been followed. If clubs wish to play a talented player up an age range **for developmental purposes only** they should obtain 'age-banding' permission. Clubs must complete the appropriate documentation. Age banding is necessary for 'Duty of Care' for players and is the responsibility of the club they are playing for.

Under-12 – this is for players in Year 7 only unless they are age banded to play for the right reasons i.e. talent development. Players below Year 7 should not be played just to make up numbers.

Under-14 - all players must be over 12 years of age and under-14 years of age (Years 8 and 9) unless they are age banded to play for the right reasons i.e. talent development..

Under-16 – all players must be over 14 years of age and under-16 years of age (Years 10 and 11) unless they are age banded to play for the right reasons i.e. talent development.

Age is taken as at 11.59pm on 31st August 2024.

viii. North Yorkshire Netball recommends that individuals (player, coach, umpire) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor. England Netball and therefore North Yorkshire Netball, follows World Netball's pregnancy guidance. This outlines that it is ultimately the participant's' choice to play and emphasises the importance of seeking medical advice due to the inherent risks. The link for full details is :

<https://netball.sport/wp-content/uploads/2012/Pregnancy-Guidelines- December 2021.pdf>

The England Netball Personal Accident insurance cover excludes any loss or expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage or any consequence thereof. If, for example a member who is pregnant is involved in an accident not related to the pregnancy, subject to the conditions of the policy, the relevant benefits would be payable. However, if any situation (such as hospitalisation) was prolonged as a direct result of pregnancy, pregnancy complications or even early childbirth, then this portion of any claim is not covered.

3. Registration of Squad Members

i Clubs must register all players to play in the competition. Squad registration sheets for each participating Club must be completed fully for each player and lodged with the appropriate Results Secretary as specified prior to the start of the Competition. A minimum of 7 players must be registered per team.

ii. Any additions to the squad sheets must be lodged with the appropriate Results Secretary before the fixture in which any additional player(s) wish to compete.

iii. Registration Sheets must be completed at the start of the Competition in September and again at the beginning of January. This allows teams to move young players to a higher or lower team. For Phase 1 this is Friday 27th September 2024; for Phase 2 this is Friday 10th January 2025. The name of the Coach/appropriate adult attending matches for the squad must be recorded on the Registration sheet along with their DBS number as processed through England Netball. Late Entries may not be accepted.

iv. Clubs entering more than one team must nominate on the squad form A / B / C etc teams. If teams have names instead of letters then the rank order must be shown on the Entry Form and Registration Form.

- v. Teams may only use players registered on the squad list held by the relevant Results Secretary.
- vi. Where a Club has multiple teams competing in the competitions, players registered in a higher team may not compete for a lower team unless there are special circumstances as in 3(x).
- vii. Players from the lower teams may play for higher teams for no more than (12) quarters during each Phase. Where this happens, it must be clearly recorded on the result sheet. If players start a 13th quarter, they are automatically moved into the next highest team and are no longer eligible to play up again or to compete for a lower team.
- viii. Each team may declare up to twelve (12) players on the result sheet prior to the start of each match. Any of these players will be eligible to compete during the match.
- ix. Movement of players from a higher positioned team to a lower positioned one is not allowed except in exceptional circumstances (e.g. return from serious injury) and with prior approval from the NYJL Sub Group Lead, through the relevant Results Secretary.
- x. A player may only play for one team on any one day in the NYJL.

4. Structure of the League

i. The playing structure for each Division in each age group will be determined by the NYJL Subgroup and may vary between age groups and seasons.

In general, every team will play every other team in their Divisional age group on 2 occasions between September and December if the number of teams in a Division and the number of available playing weeks allows. This constitutes Phase 1 of the League.

Where possible, Divisions will have an equal number of teams. *Teams may opt to play on only one occasion but also, should a Division have more than 6 teams it is likely that these teams will only play on one occasion.*

ii At the end of Phase 1, if there have been 2 Divisions, the teams from the top of Division 2 will move up into Division 1. Teams at the bottom of Division 1 will move down into Division 2 This will affect 1 or 2 teams depending on whichever better balances the Divisions. Teams then continue to play from January to March/April in Phase 2 of the competition. Any such movement will be agreed based on the best interests and needs of the majority of the young players involved and approval from the respective coaches concerned. Should there be more than 2 Divisions then the promotion/demotion will be implemented across all Divisions.

In addition, at the end of Phase 1 the top 2 teams in Division 1 in the Under-14 League and the Under-12 League have the option to move into Division 1 of the Under 16 League and the Under-14 League respectively. This would involve the players being Age Banded to play out of their normal environment but it could provide development challenge for the teams concerned.

iii. The number of entries received will determine the number of Divisions in any league and any new entrants to the NYJL will be placed in a Division at the discretion of the NYJL Subgroup and recommendation from Club coaches.

iv. Points for matches will be awarded as follows:

5 points for a win.

3 points for a draw.

2 points to losing team if there is less than 5 goals difference between the two scores.

1 point to losing team if goals scored are more than 50% of winning teams score.

A league table will be compiled based on the points awarded. Final placings in the League will be based solely on the total points awarded. Where teams are level on points, the teams will share the placing unless a suitable date for a Play Off can be arranged and only in the case of affecting relegation and/or promotion.

Goal average and goal difference calculations will not be used to differentiate the final placings. This is in the interests of encouraging participation and enjoyment by as many young players as possible and to avoid huge – and often demoralising – margins in the scores of games.

At the end of each Phase, the winners of each Division will receive individual medals or awards. In addition, individual Awards will be made to the Player of the League for each Division in each age group and for each Phase of the competition. If there is a draw on votes for the Player of the League in Phase 1 then no award will be given. The number of votes received will be recorded. Should there be a tie at the end of Phase 2 then a look back to the votes from Phase 1 will decide the overall winner.

5. Fixture Arrangements

i All fixtures will be played on the dates and times scheduled and at the venue as stipulated on the fixture schedule apart from in exceptional circumstances and only with permission from the NYJL Subgroup. In such a case, individual teams may be liable for full court hire costs.

ii. The fee per fixture will be calculated from the cost of the running of the league. The NY Treasurer will issue an invoice for the matches played. This is payable as directed and agreed with the County Treasurer. Any bank charges incurred by the County arising from any default by any Club/team, will be passed on to that Club/team and these charges must be paid immediately. The cost per team per match will be approximately £30 (tbc). Please be aware that, having issued to Clubs, the Fixtures' Schedules for each Phase, if a team then withdraws from the NYJL, the team that is withdrawing will have to pay the full court hire that arises from their cancelled matches.

iii. Teams MUST leave the court at the times indicated for the next round of matches to be played even if the game has not finished. Coaches and officials of the first matches in the afternoons are responsible for setting up the court. Coaches and officials of the last match in the afternoons are responsible for putting the equipment away.

iv Any team failing to arrive in sufficient time for the match to be completed within the allotted 1 hour, will forfeit the match. 5 points will be awarded to the non-offending team. The defaulting team will pay the FULL hire cost of the court.

v If for any reason a fixture cannot be played (e.g. venue problem) both teams must inform the appropriate Results Secretary immediately. Adverse weather conditions – it is the responsibility of every team to make the decision whether to travel to play matches. Should a team decide not to travel then the two teams involved in the match should agree an alternative date and venue. Both teams should then inform the Lead of the NYJL of their decision.

vi. In the event that a match has to be abandoned for any reason (e.g. serious injury), the result of that match will be determined by the NYJL subgroup, having regard for the score at the time and taking into consideration any recommendations from the umpires officiating the fixture. The decision of the NYJL Group is final.

vii At all matches in the NYJL, teams must have present an appropriate adult in the role of "Coach". This is to ensure that the players know who the "Coach" is for them and so that the Umpires know who to approach if necessary. In this League it should not be usual for umpires to speak directly to the young players. In the first instance, Umpires should address any concerns about a player through the responsible adult ("coach") who is present.

The coach/responsible adult must be named on the Results sheet. The coach/responsible adult must hold a current DBS verified through England Netball. A list of verified personnel is held by the NY Governance Lead and also each Results secretary. Checks of attendance of the named coach/responsible adult will be made each week. Noncompliance will deem the game void and 5 points will be awarded to the non-offending team. Further additional breaches may risk the team being asked to leave the League.

viii At all matches there must be a person responsible for First Aid/ Primary Care. Each team must have easy access to a comprehensive First Aid Kit for every match. The First Aider must have access to a telephone for emergencies and know where at each venue, the Defibrillator is located.

The ratio of adult supervision to player is in this link:

<https://d2cx26qpfwuhvu.cloudfront.net/englandnetball/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/09101424/Coaching-and-adult-supervisor-ratio-guidance.docx>

6. Match Regulations

i All games will be played in accordance with the latest current rules of England Netball – as from January 1st 2024 for Domestic competition, except where specific NYJL Regulations apply.

ii. The duration of the matches will be the same for all age groups- 4 x 10 mins quarters with 2 mins intervals at quarter and three quarters time and 3 mins at half time. This should allow sufficient time for a warmup etc. Matches will be allocated a time slot of 1 hour. Umpires should ensure that matches are time managed well to fit into the time slot.

iii. Both teams will provide a suitable match ball and present both balls to the umpires. The umpires will decide which ball is to be used.

iv. If there is a clash of playing colours, the first named team for the fixture will change colours.

v. The situation of the Team Bench (for substitutes and team officials) will be at the start of play to the right-hand side of the goal post defending end and remains the same for the whole game. If this area is unsuitable then the Team Bench will be as determined by the umpire. Team coaches may not move up and down the court sidelines to coach.

vi. **Substitution** – substitutions may be made according to the EN Rules :

- at an interval.
- In the case of injury/illness
- Tactical substitutions

Coaches (appropriate adults) should advise their players and umpires of the options and explain the procedures to them. The procedures are clearly documented in the New Rules book – Page 40 ff
Coaches are advised to have a spare set of positional bibs at every match to avoid unnecessary delays when substituting players.

vii. **Scorelines** – if there is a huge difference in the scoreline in a match then Umpires and coaches (responsible adults) should get together and agree a way forward at half time for the rest of the match (eg perhaps be more lenient with a particular rule for the weaker team etc). A commonsense approach is advised especially for the youngest age group. Division 2 especially is a grassroots League and we want the players to enjoy the games.

7. Match Officials

Umpires

Each team must provide a suitably qualified and/or competent and confident umpire for their games and should be prepared to reimburse any reasonable travel expenses incurred by the Umpire. (please see below EN Domestic Guidance FYI).For all age groups, unless special permission from the Lead of the NYJL is received, the following criteria will be used:

Under-16 – The minimum is an umpire who has recently completed the current C Award Theory Course and is actively working towards the Practical assessment.

Under-14 – The minimum is an umpire who holds the Into Officiating Award ie both the Theory and practical elements.

Under-12 - The minimum is an umpire who has recently completed the current Into Officiating Theory Course and is actively working towards the Practical assessment

Clubs are encouraged to use Learner Umpires whenever possible as these Junior games are good match experience for younger umpires especially. *The conditions provide development opportunities for Learner umpires and which will help to grow the number of qualified Umpires in our County.*

In all cases, the level of competition presented should provide an experience that is in the best interests of the Umpire. It is acknowledged that youngsters mature at different rates both physically and mentally and so it may be that a qualified C Award Umpire who is under the age of 16yrs may officiate in an Under-16 game if the environment is carefully controlled and monitored and the young umpire is competent and confident. Advice on the appropriateness and competitiveness of the various games should be given by the young umpires' mentors.

If a team is experiencing real difficulties in finding an Umpire, and to enable the games to go ahead, the coach or manager (if suitably qualified as above) may umpire the game and talk to her team at the intervals.

Umpires in the NYJL should appreciate that the NYJL competitions are about encouraging grassroots participation. Umpires should therefore officiate appropriately especially in the Under-12 and Under-14 sections. At these levels there should be no need to strictly apply the Game Management procedure as in the official EN Rules which are designed for international matches. At Under-16 level, Game management should be used sensitively.

EN DOMESTIC GUIDANCE for Umpires. The full Domestic Guidance for can be found via this link:

<https://englandnetball-admin.soticcloud.net/document/domestic-rules-guidance>

Umpire Expenses

Umpires should be discouraged from expecting a 'fee' of their own choosing. Inland Revenue tax laws allow 'reasonable expenses' to be reimbursed for the cost of travel only. If a local league, County, Region, or com

petition wishes to reimburse a 'reasonable expense' it is recommended that the EN travel expense rate of 40p per a mile is used.

If an umpire requests a 'fixed fee' for a match, then it is strongly recommended that the umpire 'fee' is settled by cheque. This establishes that a payment has been made for a service given. This will be important to a local league, County, Region, or competition who make the payment, in the event of a random check by the Inland Revenue. It is the Umpires responsibility to declare any 'fee' on their tax return. *This is EN guidance for Clubs; not a ruling that can be enforced by the NYJL.*

Number of Matches Umpired

Umpires should only umpire one 1-hour match per day. This is to ensure they maintain their standards and effectiveness and provide the correct level of service to the teams they are umpiring. In exceptional circumstances, a further match may be umpired in the same day but it is recommended that there is a break of at least 1 hour between matches.

Where more than one match is umpired, if there is no additional travel incurred between matches, then multiple expense payments should not be made/requested.

In the NYJL, it is advised that Umpires officiate in a maximum of 2 Junior League games per day. This guidance is to maintain as high a standard of umpiring as possible.

Scorers

i. Each team must provide a competent scorer for each fixture. The minimum age of any scorer is 12 years.

ii. The scorer from each team will stand or sit together as directed by the umpires. and take no part in the game (i.e. coaching or shouting)

iii. The scorers must agree the score after each goal is scored and this should be called immediately.

iv. The scorers should identify themselves to the umpires before the start of each match.

In order to develop interest and competency in Scoring, the Scorer does not have to be the same person throughout the whole of the match.

8. Registration of Results

i. All winning teams must forward the result of their match immediately after the match by Whatsapp ONLY.

The Results text number is:07795257837.

The format is:

NY Junior League

Under

Division.....

Hornets - 30

Mermaids - 20

Jane Smith from Hornets.

ii. Each team is responsible for completing a match Results Sheet. This must be fully completed, recording full squad details with details of any players “playing up” highlighted. There is no requirement for the Umpires or Scorers or Coach/responsible adult attending to sign the Cards – the Umpires’, Scorers’ and Coach/responsible adults’ names should be printed instead on the card. In addition, a Player of the Match for each team should be printed on the Results Cards. Captains do not need to sign the Results Cards. The name of the Coach/Appropriate adult will be checked each week by the relevant Results secretary. In addition, spot checks will be made and coaches should be aware that photo ID will be required to confirm the Coach/Appropriate adult’s compliance.

iii. The result of the match must be accurately recorded. The sheet must then be sent – by **email ONLY** - to the appropriate Results Secretary within 24hours of the fixture. **Please send the Results Form as an attachment to your e mail.**

iv. Once the Results Sheet has been agreed, the result of the match is final, and no dispute can be lodged. If there is disagreement over the final score, then the Results Sheet should not be completed, and details of the disagreement should accompany the card to the appropriate fixtures’ secretary.

Not adhering to any of the Regulations pertaining to Fixture arrangements and/or Match Officials would result in 5 points being awarded to the non-offending team and no points awarded to the offending team.

Any penalty pertaining to the non-compliance of the Regulations regarding the completion and processing of Results Sheets would be at the discretion of the NYJL Subgroup.

9. Photography

All players should have signed agreement through their Club that photographs may be taken at matches. Permission for Photography/recording of any NYJL fixture should be obtained from opponents and Umpires in advance of the game

10. Queries, Complaints & Disciplinary

Should a concern arise in any match with players, coaches, umpires, parents, spectators etc, it is hoped that the parties involved would try to resolve the concern immediately by talking together in private. Should this not be possible the following procedure will be in place:

- i. Any team who intends to raise a query regarding the playing of a match and/or its result must inform their opponents and the umpires on the day of the match.
- ii. Any queries or issues regarding the playing of a match/and or its result must be submitted in writing to the Lead of the NYJ League within seven (7) days of the fixture.
- iii. All queries, issues and disputes regarding the playing of a match and/or its result will be determined in the first instance by the NYJL subgroup, using best endeavors to determine the issue within ten (10) days of receipt of correspondence.
- iv. The NYJL Sub group will have the power to determine the penalty to be imposed on teams and players who are in breach of League regulations regarding the playing of matches in the leagues - such penalties will include reprimands, the deduction of league points, fines, suspensions, and expulsion from the competition.
- v. In the event that any team/player wishes to appeal against any decision of the NYJL Subgroup, it must notify this intent within five (5) days of receipt of the decision. In this event the matter should be referred to the Governance Lead of the NYNACMB.
- vi. Any team wishing to appeal more generally against the governance and management of the competition by the NYJL Subgroup, or against specific decisions made by it, must also observe the procedures set out.
- vii. Any team/individual that fails to observe the procedures laid out in the preceding clauses will invalidate their right to raise a query, issue or appeal.
- viii. Any complaint which does not concern the playing of a match and/or its result, but which is made in respect of a disciplinary offence, should be made in writing to the Lead of the NYJL Subgroup in the first instance.

11. Miscellaneous

I Qualification for a place in the Yorkshire Regional League is via a qualifying Tournament as from September 2024.

ii All Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, officials, parents and supporters. Club coaches should circulate the Regulations and Codes of Conduct to all umpires and parent helpers who may be involved with team management and as spectators.. Parents should not be allowed to approach or confront a coach of the opposition or other official directly. Any concerns should be made through the coach of the player whose parent has a concern. Abuse, inappropriate comments or foul language of any kind by any persons will not be tolerated and the offending person/people will be removed from the venue immediately. This also applies to players on and off the court.

iii Spectators – all Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their spectators. All reported incidents of poor and inappropriate behaviour by a parent (to coaches, umpires or general comments) will be processed as follows:

The name of the “offending” person must be recorded in either a verbal or written concern raised to the Lead of the NYJL group. This should be processed within 2 days of the incident.

The incident details will be recorded and the Club concerned must advise the parent/spectator of this action.

Should a second report be received then the offending parent/spectator will receive a ban from the team’s next game. The lead of the NYJL will send written details to the Team coach who should then inform the parent/spectator. A member of the NYJL group will attend the team’s next match to monitor.

Any further reports will impose an indefinite ban at games for the parent/spectator concerned.

If there is a complaint received about a whole crowd/group of supporters from a team, then a ban of one match for all spectators from that team will be imposed. A member of the NYJL will attend the next match to monitor.

Any further complaints about the conduct of parents/spectators then the team concerned risks receiving a ban from all remaining games in the League.

iv. It is the responsibility of each team to provide adequate first aid cover for its players and officials, which should also be made available to the match officials on request.

v. **Inhalers** – we advise that any inhalers are placed near to the team coach (responsible adult). If a player needs her inhaler during a match, she should alert her coach who will take the inhaler to the side of the court. The player may go to the sideline and use the inhaler as long as she does not go offside or leave the court.

vi. If gloves are required for medical reasons, or temperature extremes, the umpires will allow seamless soft leather or microfibre materials (e.g. neoprene) gloves to be worn on the production of an appropriate medical certificate, and provided that they are satisfied that any gloves worn do not present an obvious hazard to other players.

vii. All jewellery must be removed when playing netball. Any players wearing jewellery (including body piercing) will not be allowed to participate. The following exceptions may apply:

Wedding rings may be worn but must be taped.

Medic alert bracelets may be worn but must be secured in such a manner that they will not constitute a danger to an opponent, i.e. with clear tape, and in such a way that it cannot be removed/lifted off by any accidental contact.

Daith piercing on medical grounds are allowed if the piercing is well taped. The player concerned should have available the appropriate medical letter to show to Umpires if asked.

Libre sensors used by diabetic players to monitor blood sugar levels are not required to be covered as they pose no additional risk to the wearer or other players.

viii. Hair must be suitably secured up or back. Chewing gum on court is not allowed.

ix. If scarves need to be worn because of religious practices, the material used must be soft, without embellishments, which might constitute a danger, and with potential flowing/flapping edged secured as neatly and securely as possible.

x. All players must wear the registered team playing uniform when competing.

xi. The NYJL Subgroup may review and amend these regulations following changes communicated by England Netball.

xii. The NYJL Subgroup will adjudicate on any matters not covered by these regulations and their decision on all matters will be final.

xiii The NYJL Subgroup forms part of the wider NY Competition Group.
The Lead of the NY Competitions' Group is Emma McAra.

The NYJL Sub group is Christine Stephen (Lead); Charlotte Smith (Results Secretary Under-12); Louise Shermer (Results Secretary Under-14); Kate Kennady (Results Secretary Under-16).

These final Regulations are ratified by the NY Chair (Felicity O'Leary-Francis) and the NY Governance Lead (Katie Puplett).