



## **COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES**

***(CRAG) 2025-2026 V1 approved***

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**NNI Competitions Working Group**  
**Revisions approved October 2025**

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## **REGULATIONS GOVERNING ALL NETBALL NORTHERN IRELAND (NNI) CLUB COMPETITIONS**

All clubs, players and relevant members should have an up to date working knowledge of the Competitions Rules and Guidance's document and World Netball Rules.

All final decisions made by the Competitions Working Group are binding, subject to appeal to the NNI Board.

### **Points of Contact**

- **Competitions Working Group** – NNI [CompWG@gmail.com](mailto:NNICompWG@gmail.com)
- **Officials Working Group (Officials & Umpires)** – contact [nniofficialsWGroup@gmail.com](mailto:nniofficialsWGroup@gmail.com)
- **League Managers** - All teams and leagues have an assigned league manager. The list can be found on NNI website [www.netballni.org](http://www.netballni.org) and is sent to all clubs at the start of season. As a club if you have an issue re competition your first point of contact for any queries /issues regarding a fixture, player registration etc or general competition query is your league manager.
- **Head of Development** - Lisa Rickett - [Headofdevelopment@netballni.org](mailto:Headofdevelopment@netballni.org)  
Queries relating to online team/player registration, online result queries and League Tables on NNI website.

### **1.0 GOVERNING BODY**

- 1.1 The Articles of Association of Netball Northern Ireland (NNI) will govern the game of netball from grassroots to elite athlete participation in the province.
- 1.2 The Rules of World Netball (WN) and NNI Rules are the official regulations for conducting all League and Shield/Plate matches.
- 1.3 The Competitions Working Group (CompWG) are authorised by NNI to take responsibility for the administration of netball in competitions and fixtures, and to ensure the appropriate implementation of these rules.
- 1.4 The Official Working Group(OWG) are authorised by NNI to take responsibility for the administration of netball officials in competitions and fixtures, and to ensure appropriate implantation of these rules.
- 1.5 The Schools Working Group (SWG) will have responsibility for affiliated Secondary School competitions, and Primary Schools Working groups have the responsibility for Primary schools' competitions.
- 1.6 Players, Coaches, Officials, all club and NNI members should ensure they are aware of rules, penalties and are bound by the NNI [Code of Conduct](#).
- 1.7 Clubs and Schools are required to disseminate the information shared via NNI.
- 1.7 All clubs **must** have a minimum of **one** registered club member attend the NNI AGM.
- 1.8 All competition (e.g. League and Shield) entry fees must be paid by specified deadline.

## **2.0 NETBALL NORTHERN IRELAND COMPETITIONS WORKING GROUP**

- 2.1 The CompWG shall consist of volunteers (min. 5).
- 2.2 The CompWG shall administer and organise:
- (i) All NNI affiliated competitive Domestic club competitions.
  - (ii) The annual production of Fixture Lists and results of Senior and Junior competitions.
  - (iii) All shield and plate fixtures for relevant competitions will be drawn by CompWG.
- 2.3 The CompWG may at any time scrutinise team lists, re-registrations or other relevant material and apply competition regulations as appropriate.
- 2.4 The CompWG and NNI shall co-ordinate rules for all domestic competitions and reserves the right to amend or incorporate a new rule during that time to benefit the game and members of NNI, subject to ratification by the Board of NNI. If this does happen, then all clubs will be notified in writing of the reason and decision taken by the CompWG, through the Competitions Working Group email. Every effort will be made to ensure any update takes place after the end of each season and before the start of the next.
- 2.5 If any club has a concern or query regarding a particular rule within the current edition of the NNI Competition Rules & Guidance (CRAG), their Club Secretary **must** put it in writing to the CompWG contact ([NNICompWG@gmail.com](mailto:NNICompWG@gmail.com))

## **3.0 NNI AFFILIATION & ONLINE REGISTRATION PROCESS**

NNI affiliation runs from 1<sup>st</sup> September – 31<sup>st</sup> August the following year.

- 3.1 All Senior and Junior Club players, **ALL additional club** members, qualified umpires and officials must, **individually**, affiliate to NNI via the online registration portal.
- 3.1.2 All Social and Casual, Senior and Junior Club players must, **individually**, affiliate to NNI via the online registration portal to participate in social rallies and Development Tournaments.
- 3.1.3 Each Club **must** pay their affiliation fee directly to NetballNI via NNI Online registration Platform. If a club has any issues regarding a payment please contact [headofgovernance@netballni.org](mailto:headofgovernance@netballni.org)
- 3.1.4 No team or individual will be permitted to play any competitive matches until this affiliation and payment of NNI fees has been confirmed by this registration system. **See Sanction (S2)**
- 3.2 A new club or team entering the leagues, which is, or has been previously withdrawn from the leagues, may be added into the lowest league division at the discretion of the CompWG.
- 3.2.1 A club may apply to the CompWG, in writing, to enter a new team in a higher league.

The CompWG reserves the right to alter League allocations and will decide where such team(s) shall be placed.

- 3.2.2 The CompWG reserves the right to adjust teams within the leagues before the start of each season if adjustments are required due to the number of new teams entering competition in any year.

No club may have more than 2 teams in any league division and each division a maximum of 8 teams in any single division of the league.

- 3.2.3 If a new club wishes to affiliate and enter the competitions after **club registration** deadline then they need to contact NNI [headofdevelopment@netballni.org](mailto:headofdevelopment@netballni.org) .NNI and Comp WG are not obliged to accept any applications submitted after the prescribed deadline has passed.
- 3.2.4 A club shall not affiliate using the name or part of the name of an existing club without **written** permission of the established club and the agreement of the CompWG.

### 3.3 **Club Team Allocation to NNI Competitions**

- 3.3.1 All teams **MUST** have a **minimum** of 7 players registered via the online portal for each team. **See Sanction (S3)**
- 3.3.2 Club personnel must register all players into the relevant club teams/squads using the online portal system under the "Team Panel" in the current online registration system **before taking part in** their first match. **See sanction (S2)**

## 4.0 **SENIOR REGISTERED PLAYERS PLAYING UP RULES FOR LEAGUE**

- 4.1 A player from a lower club team may play on any higher club team a maximum of **4 times**.
- 4.2 Prior to playing for the **fifth time**, the player must be re-registered with a higher team of their **choice** on the online registration portal and both League Managers **MUST** be notified, via League Manager's email, before the player commences a match with this team, this includes league play off matches. **See Sanction (S2)**
- 4.2.1 **trial caveat for 25-26 season, ALL teams who reach Premier Cup play off stages or league play off matches, may be awarded 1 extra 'play up' if required for players to play in these matches. Please ensure you contact your league / competition manager in advance**
- 4.3 The player will then be a member of that team and must not play for any other team for the remainder of the season in league matches. **See Sanction (S2)**
- 4.4 The notification to the league managers needs to be sent to the League Managers prior to the individual taking the court. The responsibility is on the club to make this notification. **See Sanction (S2)**
- 4.5 Please refer to section 12 Seniors S&P competition play up rules

### **Junior Registered Players Playing Up Rules for Senior & Junior Competition**

- 4.6 Only junior players, 15 years old or above, can play up into senior teams.  
- Applications may be made to CWG in the case of underage performance players wishing to request to play in a senior age group above what 4.6 states as standard. See Appendices Section 19.5 -Appendix E Underage performance (player guidance and application process to play in Senior level Competition.
- 4.7 Junior players can play up to 6 times **in total for the entire all stages of competition) in the current season** and then on their 7<sup>th</sup> time **must** be registered permanently on the senior team or higher junior team of their club's choice. Once registered on a senior or a higher junior team these players are no longer eligible to play in any other junior or senior league team for League competition only. ***See Sanction (S2)***
- 4.8 It is recommended the final Cut National Players, once selected on to the U17 or higher National Squad, play for an U19 team or Senior Team, in the relevant competitions. However, any decision on this is for individual athlete consideration and must be made by Coaches, parents, and players collaboratively.

It is recommended All U21 National Squad players should be playing for senior teams from Premier to Senior Six, to develop their skill and stamina and provide the relevant level of challenge. However, any decision on this is for individual athlete consideration and must be made by Coaches, parents, and players collaboratively.

### **PLAYERS MOVEMENT DOWN OR SOCIAL PLAYER MOVING TO SENIOR COMPETITION**

- 4.9 If a club team wishes to drop a registered team player to play in a lower team, the club secretary **must contact** the League Manager for permission to do so. Once permission is received the player will then be regarded as a member of the lower team and must not play for any higher team for the remainder of the season, including Shield & Plate. ***See Sanction (S2)***
- If an injury or illness to the player was the primary cause for the player to drop to the lower team, then the **League Manager** may consider the player's reinstatement to the higher team on receipt of written evidence.
- 4.10 If a registered Social Player wishes to play in a competitive match, they are required to **top up their affiliation** to the appropriate level and be added to a relevant team panel online before they take to the court. Normal playing up rules apply. ***See Sanction (S2) eg a social playing in league counts as 1 time playing up and so on.***

## **5.0 PLAYER TRANSFER BETWEEN CLUBS**

- 5.1 If a registered player wishes to leave one affiliated club and register with another affiliated club, during the same season, the player must advise the current club they wish to transfer from and confirm they are free to move.
- Once a player has **informed their current club they wish to move and confirmed they are free to do so** ( eg no outstanding fees) , **The player must initiate a transfer request via sportlomo** from their own personnel record by clicking 'start transfer' and completing all the requested details
  - Once the player has initiated a transfer online - The club they are **transferring from** will receive an approval request under their membership section on sportlomo - transfers. They must then tick to approve
  - The club the player wishes to **transfer to** will then receive an approval request to accept the player transferring, they must also tick approval.
  - Once both clubs have approved the transfer request , **in order to complete** the transfer and become active on new club teamsheets, the player must go back in to their own record , and in the same place they started the process, they must now click '**Complete Transfer**' in order to complete the process - the player must do this via their own log in. A player must be placed on a team sheet in order to take the court.
  - If no action is taken as noted above by either club ( transfer **from** or **to**) approvals will automatically be enacted by the system after 3 working days. The Player themselves **MUST STILL** click '**complete transfer**' and complete process as noted above in order to be eligible to play
  - The new club the player transferring to should inform their League Manager.
  - The new club must not play that new player in a competitive match until they are available to add to a team sheet. If the new player has played in a Shield fixture for their former Club, they cannot participate in any future Shield fixtures in the same season for their new club. **See Sanction (S3(i)) & (S4)**
  - If a player is transferring out of season (see 5.2 below) the club will still need to approve transfer on their membership system if within 3 days. Follow the online steps above
- 5.2 Players can transfer between clubs during the off season, providing all outstanding fees are paid to the original club. During the season players can request a transfer by the **31<sup>st</sup> December. Player transfer requests will not be valid hereafter.** Affected players can train with their new club but not play in competitive matches. **See Sanction (S3 (i))**

## **6.0 NNI JUNIOR & SENIOR LEAGUE STRUCTURE**

- 6.1 The structure of the leagues will be decided by the Competitions Working Group on behalf of NNI.
- 6.2 The NNI leagues will be split into 3 or more divisions as required - Premier League, Senior 1, Senior 2, and so on, with the Premier League division being the highest. Under 19 is Year 14 and below within the date range of born on 2 July 2007 or after (number of leagues e.g. A, B etc in any age group may be subject to change depending on entries in any particular season). Date of birth is deciding factor if any of the above are in conflict
- 6.3 Under 16 is Year 11 and below within the date range of born on 02 July 2010 or after (number of leagues e.g. A, B etc in any age group may be subject to change depending

on entries in any particular season). Date of birth is deciding factor if any of the above are in conflict

- 6.4 Under 14 is Year 9 and below within date range of born on 2 July 2012 or after (number of leagues e.g. A, B etc in any age group may be subject to change depending on entries in any particular season). Date of birth is deciding factor if any of the above are in conflict

## **7.0 JUNIOR & SENIOR LEAGUE/S&P MATCH PROTOCOL & RESULT SHEET**

- 7.1 Each Team must log into the online registration portal and complete the official online team sheet with the players' name (from the team panel) by the match sheet submission deadline see section 7.5. **See Sanction (S6) see edit sanctions**
- 7.2 No team can exceed 12 players listed on the team sheet. Only the 12 players and team officials can be seated in the team bench area. **See Sanction (S5)**
- 7.3 Each team **must** produce their correctly printed official team sheet at the start of the match.
- 7.4 The 2 captains/coaches and 2 umpires (also noting any sanctions administered with associated names/club), timer and scorer **must** sign the Official Team sheet **immediately** at the end of the match before leaving the venue, ensuring that any player who did not take the court is amended correctly before sign off by the Captain (or coach with junior teams) of each team. **See Sanction (S7)**
- 7.5 The winning team must send results via the official match sheet by email to the League Manager by midnight on the Sunday of 'week ending' date for competition (**unless otherwise stated for individual competitions**).

In the event of a draw the home team should return the match sheet by the same deadline. The online team sheets for both teams **MUST** also be input accurately by this deadline, each team responsible for their own. Issues with incorrect online team sheets could result in sanctions. (**See Sanction S7) see ref 7.14**

- 7.6 Both captains should take a photo of the final completed Official Team Sheet.
- 7.7 The Subject Title of the email to relevant League Manager or S&P Manager must contain League name, names of teams and score , e.g., Senior 5, Crumlin (score) v Spires 2 (score) and a clear photo of the correctly completed match sheet must be attached **See Sanctions (S5,S6,S7)**.
- 7.8 Official timekeepers and scorers **MUST** sit together. They must sit away from team benches.

- 7.9 The home team will be the official Scorer. A coin toss is only required for first centre pass and the loser of the toss will choose which goal end to start.
- 7.10 The match sheet recorded by the official scorer is deemed the official match result.
- 7.11 All matches should be on standard court size regulations as outlined in WN Rules Edition 2024 Rule 1 Technical Specification for international games, unless prior agreement has been reached between both teams in advance of fixture being played on a smaller court in exceptional circumstances. In this instance the HOME team MUST inform the AWAY team when arranging the fixture, if the away team accepts the fixture on the noted court sizing, then the umpires cannot stop the match unless there is a safety issue, detail must also be noted on the results sheet.
- 7.12 (i) All matches in the Senior Leagues/Competitions and U19 League(s)/competitions shall consist of 4 quarters of 15 minutes each, with an interval of 3 minutes between the first and second and third and fourth quarters, and with 5 minutes interval at half time. Teams will change goal ends each quarter. ( WN rules 2024 Rule 2.22-2.4)
- (ii) All matches in the Junior section ( U14 and U16) shall consist of 4 quarters of 10 minutes each, with an interval of 3 minutes between the first and second and third and fourth., with 5 minutes interval at half time. Teams will change goal ends each quarter. (WN rules 2024 Rule 2.22-2.4)
- 7.13 Where time is short then the relevant rules should be consulted in the current edition of WN Rule Book Rule 21. **(See also Late Arrival ref S19)If both teams are in agreement to shorten match time due to unforeseen reasons, final results will stand.**
- 7.14 When a draw occurs, and if a winner is needed, then extra time is required (WN Rule 2.5-2.8 2024). At this point the relevant rules should be consulted in the current edition of the WN Rule Book.
- 7.15 Any changes to time e.g., interval lengths etc., must be made with mutual agreement of the Captains (or coach for junior teams) and relayed to the umpires. **(See also Late Arrival ref S19)**
- 7.16 All teams should provide a minimum of five players ( WN Rule 3.2- if playing with 5 ,1 player must play as centre) - maximum of 7 on court, with a maximum of 12 players on the squad at match in total ( **See Sanction (S5)**) plus an extra person to act as the timer or scorer. This can be the coach, a spectator, reserve etc. If a reserve is needed to play, then the person being substituted can take over their role. If there are extenuating circumstances one team may provide both timer and scorer, but this should not be abused. All decisions should be taken with the agreement of both team captains and to get the match played within the time constraints. Umpires can advise, but not enforce any decision, apart from those regarding safe conduct of matches. ( If a team cannot provide 5 players on court the forfeit sanction will apply)
- 7.17 During play no coach, bench player or team official may leave the bench (except bench players may leave for valid reasons such as warm up (Ref WN rules 2024 18.43). In the situation where two matches are taking place at the same time at the same venue, players, coaches and bench officials **may not move** between 2 active games, the exception being Primary carer/Dr/Physio if an emergency arises.
- 7.18 To distinguish both teams in a situation that an umpire deems both team kits to be too

similar, the **Away team** must provide contrasting-coloured bibs with position letters on front and back. These must be approved by the umpires. The CompWG advises it would be best practice for all travelling teams to bring an alternative set of contrasting bibs.

## **8.0 FORFEITS & RESCHEDULING MATCHES**

- 8.1 If forfeiting a match, an email from the forfeiting team and/or team awarded the match, **must** be sent to the relevant league manager/S&P Manager with the date of the match, team and reason for forfeit as soon the match is confirmed a forfeit. The non-forfeiting team must be copied into the email to the relevant League Manager or S&P Manager ***See Sanction (S8)&(S9)***
- 8.2 If a team fails to turn up or forfeits for a previously accepted confirmed match, then the offending team **must pay all** Court fees if the venue demands it, on production of a relevant invoice/receipt. This includes where a club has arranged a confirmed match on their club training night; the relevant court fees **must be paid**. This includes all stages of the shield and plate. Forfeit rules will apply. ***See Sanction (S8) & (S9)***
- 8.3 If Home team fails to contact the Away team with a confirmed fixture date a **minimum of 14 days** (unless otherwise stated for individual competitions) before the date of the fixture, then the Home team has forfeited the match. The non-offending team will email the league manager and copy the offending team in the email with the date, time and evidence of emails sent. ***See Sanction (S10)***
- 8.4 If away teams do not confirm they have **received** the match date min. of 7 days in advance of match date ( when receiving 14- 21 days advance notice - if notice is over 21 days in advance teams must confirm receipt of match fixture min. of 14 days in advance of match date) - regarding fixture which is provided by the home team due a response within **minimum of 7-14 days( see note 3 lines above) in advance** (unless otherwise stated for individual competitions) of each fixture, the away team will forfeit this match. The non-offending team will email the league manager with fixture, date, time and cc offending team as well. Include evidence of email sent regarding the match. ***See Sanction (S11)***
- 8.5 The team forfeiting will lose their Home court advantage for the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg of the fixture, if applicable, at the discretion of the League Manager and if necessary, consultation with the CompWg if required. ***See Sanction (S12)***
- 8.6 A confirmed match **may only be rescheduled in exceptional circumstances.** Exceptional circumstances shall be given a restrictive interpretation. The NNI CompWG would advise that the following are examples of exceptional circumstances (but are not confined to the following):
- Death or sudden illness of team member, club member or close family of club or team member
  - Force majeure
  - Civil disturbance
  - Facility issues / court unplayable.

- Exceptional Weather conditions

For the avoidance of doubt matches may be rescheduled if a team has 2 or more players involved in **Official International Matches/Competitions** as confirmed by Netball Northern Ireland.

- 8.7 This decision will be made by the relevant League Manager or S&P Manager and if necessary, consultation with the CompWG if required.  
The following are examples of what will **not** be considered as exceptional circumstances (but are not confined to the following):
- Employment commitments
  - Pre-arranged holidays
  - Wedding preparations
  - Involvement in any other team sport (for the avoidance of doubt this shall include involvement of team members in other netball leagues such as Super League)
  - Lack of transport for team members to attend.
  - Moving house
  - Exams
  - School holidays
  - Team Coach unavailability
- 8.8 The team must consult the appropriate League Manager or S&P Manager as soon as any difficulty is known, and as far in advance of the original match fixture date as possible.
- 8.9 If a match is approved as a reschedule, the league manager will advise both teams of the rescheduled date/time frame for the match to be played.
- 8.10 The rescheduling of a fixture can only happen **ONCE**. The Home team reschedules the fixture ( can offer up to max of 2 options) and may have to use their training night to play. If 2 dates are rejected by the away team then the fixture will be awarded to the Home team ( **See sanction S13**).
- Rescheduled fixtures involving Premier league teams can be played on any day of the week in order to be completed within a reschedule timeframe of 2 weeks.
- 8.11 If the new - reschedule confirmed match date then becomes unsuitable for either team no further rescheduling will occur and the offending team will forfeit the match. **See Sanction (S13)**
- 8.12 Teams **must** take the court with a minimum of 5 players i.e., no team may take the court with fewer than 5 players (WN 2024 Rules;Rule 3 Team; (2) A team must take the court if there are at least 5 players present, one of whom must play as Centre) If a team does not have five players available at any time, the umpires will award the match to the opposing team *See Sanction (S8)*  
**See Sanction (S8)**
- 8.13 Match Abandonment**

If a league match, quarter, semi or final match is abandoned due to unforeseen circumstances , the score at the time of abandonment stands as the final result, if the match has progressed into the second half ( whistle blown, center pass taken).

However if the match was abandoned before the second half or 3rd quarter commenced ( whistle blown, center pass taken), the match will be rescheduled and the score will return to zero. The league/ shield and plate manager must be notified within 24 hours and teams will be advised of the rescheduled date.

Umpires/Bench Officials are responsible for making the initial decision to abandon a match, unless advised to for safety reason by facility closing etc. They also note the time and score at the time of abandonment.

Umpires should submit a written report stating the stage of abandonment and relevant details within 24 hours.

## **9.0 SNR, JNR LEAGUE COMPETITION RULES**

Please note: For each relevant league/competition for Junior, Premier, Senior, S&P structure/format please see information documents on [www.netballni.org](http://www.netballni.org)

- 9.1 It is NNI and CWG's ambition to see **all** matches played.
- 9.2 If any Club player wishes to video any netball footage pertaining to a player's GCSE/'A' Level schoolwork or performance analysis, both Clubs and match officials must be in agreement and this consent must be detailed in writing on the match result sheet. It is also required to confirm that the venue permits this practice. If these conditions are not met, videoing will not be permitted.
- 9.3 Premier League will be utilised for umpire development including the use of video recording for umpire performance analysis with mentors.
- 9.4 Home teams must arrange matches and book venues as soon as the Fixtures List comes out at the start of each season.
- 9.5 Home Team must contact the Away team a **minimum of 14 days** in advance of each fixture to arrange the date, venue and match time. The home team must formally confirm via email and the away team must confirm in response the agreed match fixture. ***See Sanctions (S11) \*\* in shield and plate competitions this may be less dependant on stage***
- 9.6 If Home team fails to contact the Away team a **minimum of 14 days** before the date of the fixture, then the Home team has forfeited the match. see also pt 8.4, ***See Sanction (S11) \*\* in shield and plate competitions this may be less dependant on stage***
- 9.7 If away teams do not confirm they have **received** the match date min. of 7 days in advance of match date ( when receiving 14- 21 days advance notice - if notice is over 21 days in advance teams must confirm receipt of match fixture min. of 14 days in advance of match date) - regarding fixture which is provided by the home team **minimum of 14 days in advance** (unless otherwise stated for individual competitions) of each fixture, the away team will forfeit this match. The non-offending team will email the league manager with fixture, date, time and cc offending team as well. Include evidence of email sent regarding the match. ***See Sanction (S11)***
- 9.8 All Home teams **are required to offer one date**. All Away teams **must make** the Home teams aware of any difficulty they might have with fielding a team and ideally both teams can mutually agree on a suitable date, if not forfeit sanction will apply also ref pts 9.5,9.6,9.7- see-Forefits /cancelling section of sanctions.

-If participation issues are due to religious reasons e.g., Sunday match, then the team MUST advise all teams in their league and League manager at the start of season. Home teams are not obliged to offer alternative days for a match, but NNI encourages all clubs to be as accommodating and co-operative as possible. However, it is recognised that venues have limited hall bookings and clubs schedule matches on a variety of days to work with this.

-if there is no workable option then Away team forfeit sanction will apply.

Any Pre - scheduled competition finals days booked for Sundays cannot be changed and the team may not be accommodated due to venue and officials availability

9.9 Matches in the leagues may be played on any day of the week, in the week ending, as stated on the Fixtures List. Premier League and Senior 1 fixtures are prebooked by NNI (however Premier League and Senior 1 rescheduled fixtures can be played on any day of the week in order to be completed with reschedule timeframe see pt 8).

9.10 When setting the time for matches, all clubs should take into consideration the distance and time needed by the Away team to reach the venue, in the interests of good sportsmanship and where possible, try to arrange midway venues to accommodate travelling distance if requested. If this is not possible the fixture reverts to rules as stated in section 9.

If a team does assist and arrange a halfway point for their home fixture, the away team in return leg of fixture will forfeit home advantage and must arrange a midway venue for their own home fixture if travelling in said fixture requests.

9.11 All matches scheduled for weeknights should start no later than 8:30pm. NNI and Comp WG reserve the right to arrange events which may be later due to scheduling constraints

9.12 All matches scheduled for Saturday or Sunday should finish by 6:00pm NNI and Comp WG reserve the right to arrange events which may be later due to scheduling constraints

9.13 It is the duty of each club to fulfil all their scheduled competition fixtures.

9.14 If a team forfeits **more than one quarter** of its scheduled matches in any competition it will be dropped one or more League Divisions and may risk being excluded from entering a particular competition at the discretion of the CompWG, in the following season, whichever is appropriate. **See Sanction (S14)**

9.15 If a club, having more than one league team, withdraws a higher team from a competition then the lower league team must be renamed accordingly, e.g. The 1<sup>st</sup> team withdraws, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team is renamed the 1<sup>st</sup> team and replaces the latter in the 1<sup>st</sup> team's original higher league.

9.16 If a club team wishes to withdraw from an NNI League mid-season, they **must** officially inform their League Manager and the CompWG **before** withdrawing.

**NB: If the club team needs any assistance to continue participating in the league, then please contact [headofdevelopment@netballni.org](mailto:headofdevelopment@netballni.org)**

9.17 If a team withdraws from an NNI league during the season, the CompWG reserves the right to adjust the points within the League Table to ensure fairness for the other teams affected by the withdrawal. For example, all affected matches will be **removed**, and any

points derived from these matches will be removed from their totals to ensure that fairness is maintained for accurate comparison of records at the end of the season.

9.18 Competitive matches **must** have 2 registered qualified umpires, one umpire provided by the 'Home' team and one umpire provided by the 'Away' team. Excluding Premier League whose umpires will be appointed by the Officials Working Group. **See Sanction (S17)**

9.19 The scoring system for all NNI Leagues and Shield Matches is as follows:

	<u>Pts</u>
Win	3
Draw	2
Loss	0
Forfeit (Offending team}	-3
Forfeit (Non-offending team)	+3
Null	0
Winning bonus point (winning team win by 6 or more goals) Senior/ U19 leagues	+1
Winning bonus point (winning team win by 11 or more goals) U14/16 leagues	+1
Losing Bonus point (losing team within 5 goals)Senior/u19 league	+1
Losing Bonus point ( losing team within 10 goals) u14/u16 league	+1

## **10.0 SENIOR LEAGUE PROMOTION, RELEGATION AND PLAY OFFS**

10.1 The CompWG reserves the right to alter and adjust the number of teams to be promoted and relegated to individual leagues depending on team numbers entering the leagues for the following season.

10.2 At the end of the season, one or more teams with the most points in any League Division will be promoted to the league above.

10.3 At the end of the season one or more teams with the least points in any League Division will be relegated to the league below (if applicable).

10.4 In the event of a tie, which directly affects the win, promotion or relegation of a team(including Premier League Cup), the following rules may be implemented by the CompWG:

- The goal difference of each team will be taken into consideration (goals scored minus goals conceded)
- Goal average (goals scored divided by number of games applicable)
- **In an event one of the teams having their goal difference affected by forfeited matches, then all goals scored by and against the forfeiting team(s) in all games shall be omitted from the calculations of BOTH team's level on points. Goal difference will be taken from like for like games completed by teams on equal points removing the effect of forfeited games for all parties, and then Goal average as before if required.**

10.5 The teams who finished 2nd bottom (or as noted in specific season play off illustrations) and 2<sup>nd</sup> top (or as noted in specific season play off illustrations) in concurrent leagues **will have a play-off game** hosted by NNI, to play for the remaining promotion place winner securing promotion or holding their place in the higher league.

10.6 Forfeits in respect of play off matches will result in the forfeiting club having to pay the full court hire fee for the match, this is at the discretion of the CompWG. **See Sanction (S9)**

## **11.0 NNI SENIOR SHIELD AND PLATE COMPETITIONS**

Please note: S&P structure/format please see information documents on [www.netballni.org](http://www.netballni.org)

- 11.1 NNI Shield and Plate competition entry rules and regulations follow the NNI protocols and procedures.
- 11.2 The player and club registration rules 3.3.1 to 3.3.2 apply to the NNI Shield & Plate matches. **See Sanctions (S2 & S3)**
- 11.3 The player team allocation and Play up rules: Once Shield and plate competitions commence the required team panels revert back to those entered at the beginning of the league season. Play ups count back to zero ONLY for senior players. Times playing up will change to maximum of 2 times and then prior to playing on 3<sup>rd</sup> time must be re-registered with a higher playing team of club's choice.  
See reference 4.6 regarding junior players playing up into seniors sections
- \* Please note re-registrations of players will only be approved for quarter, semi, prelim finals and final days when advance notice has been given to S&P manager (min 24 hours)..
- 11.4 Each Shield & Plate Comp Team **must** log into the online portal and complete the official team sheet with the players' names completed in full before the start of match commencing. **See Sanction (S2)**
- 11.5 No team should exceed 12 players listed on the team sheet. Only the 12 players and team officials can be seated in the team bench area. **See Sanction (S5)**
- 11.6 During play no coach, bench player or team official may leave the bench, (except bench players may leave for valid reasons such as warm up. Ref WN rules 2024 18.43). In the situation where two matches are taking place at the same time at the same venue, players and coaches and bench officials may not move between 2 active games, the exception being Primary carer/Dr/Physio if an emergency arises.
- 11.7 The first round of this competition is a Pool structure with a round robin format. All teams are expected to fulfil their fixtures to produce a ranking of teams in each group.
- All teams will progress to the next stage of the competition. Please see S&P format on [www.netballni.org](http://www.netballni.org) when active for competition layout
- 11.8 Any team(s) who forfeits a match at ANY of the stages of the S&P **will be** eliminated from the whole competition. **See Sanction (S16).**
- 11.9 All registered teams which forfeit any Shield or Plate match **will be** excluded from Shield and Plate competitions the following season at the discretion of the Competitions Working Group. **See Sanction (S16)**
- 11.10 As soon as the team receive the fixtures, any matches requiring teams to self-arrange the matches, it is the responsibility of the first-named team (on the left) in both parts of the competition to:

- Contact the opposing Team Secretary in writing to inform them of **at least 1 proposed date**
- First named Team must contact the opposition team as soon as fixtures have been posted in advance of each fixture to arrange the date, venue and match time. The first named team must formally confirm via email and the opposition team must confirm, again by email, in response to the agreed match fixture.  
**See Sanctions (S11)**
- These dates **must** be inclusive of training nights for both teams if initial dates cannot be agreed upon.
- When the date, venue and time of a Shield fixture requiring to be self-arranged between the 2 teams is confirmed, the Shield and Plate Manager **must be immediately** notified of these dates - **See Sanction (S6)**
- If there are any issues delaying the match being confirmed, then the Shield and Plate Manager needs to be informed **immediately** and will decide on when the match will be played (in line with any reschedule requests where possible) ( Section 9 reference). If required, the Shield and Plate Manager may liaise with the CompWG. Both teams should be included in any correspondence with S&P manager.
- It is imperative that all Shield and Plate matches are played by the fixture dates unless permission to reschedule has been granted by the Shield and Plate Manager.
- All results sheets must be returned within 24 hours of match being played to the Shield and Plate Manager [shieldandplatem@gmail.com](mailto:shieldandplatem@gmail.com)  
**See Sanction (S6)**
- When returning the match result sheet of a Shield fixture via email it is imperative that the names of the Shield, Pool Group, names of the 2 teams and score are entered into the subject heading of the email. eg. Margaret Shaw Pool A Larkfield 1 (60) v Crumlin 2 (59)
- NB illegible or incomplete match sheets may be rejected and as a result risk losing winning points if not completed or made clearer within deadline timeframe **See Sanction (S6)**

11.11 The cost of all court hires and umpires in ALL stages except finals days **must be** split equally between the two teams involved in every match.

11.12 At any of the stages as highlighted in the S&P calendar requiring Club to self-arrange matches, matches should be played at any venue arranged by the first named team.  
**Umpires do not have to be neutral.**

11.13 Players must have participated in at least 1 match within any stage of the S&P competition to be eligible to play in the Finals. This does not have to be the specific shield/ plate or team which is playing in the final.

11.14 The Shield and Plate Quarter Final, Prelim finals, Semi Final and Final will be organised by the NNI COMPWG. (See section 12.0). Teams cannot reschedule any of these NNI COMPWG booked matches

11.15 All court and umpire costs for any matches arranged by NNI COMPWG will be split between the 2 team's eg, when courts are arranged on team behalf at knock out stage Or umpires are assigned by OWG. Payments for courts to be made to NNI via Bacs, Umpire payments to be made directly to umpires engaged at each match

11.16 Finals days will be arranged by CWG, and Netball NI will cover all court and umpire costs.

## **12.0 SHIELD & PLATE MATCH PROTOCOL & RESULT SHEET**

- 12.1 All Shield and Plate matches played within NNI competitions will follow 'League Match' regulations, on scoring, courts, and match duration, as stated under Section 7.0-7.17.
- 12.2 Completed Match Results Sheets should be filled in correctly with names of each team, centre passes and scores. They then must be signed by both umpires and two captains, photographed and emailed by the winning team to the Shield and Plate manager [ShieldandPlateM@gmail.com](mailto:ShieldandPlateM@gmail.com) . **Both team captains should take a photo for reference.** (s)
- 12.3 If any matches after pool stage of Shield or Plate result in a draw the procedure for Extra Time (after a draw at full time) is as follows to get a final result:
1. There is an interval of 4 minutes at the end of full time.
  2. Extra time consists of 2 halves of equal length, not exceeding **7 minutes** each, with a half time interval of 1 minute.
  3. Team change ends at half time.
  4. The first centre pass in each half is taken by the team entitled to the next centre pass.
  5. In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time, a visual sign is placed at the official bench/ held by timer, to indicate that play will continue until one team leads by 2 goals.(as outlined in **WNF 2024 RULES, rule 2.5: match duration. 4.2 Extra time**) will be followed.
- 12.4 CWG will arrange the date, time and venue for all matches highlighted in S&P Calendar (NNI ARRANGED) for example semi-finals, prelim Finals and final matches court hire. Therefore, will endeavour to ensure extra 30 minutes booked in case of drawn match.
- 12.5 Forfeits will result in payment of full court hire on production of invoice from the booking team and will be issued to the forfeiting team **Also see pt 13.4 .See Sanction (S 8 & 9)**
- 12.6 The requirement of players, team officials and bench players to behave in a manner consistent with good sporting behaviour extends throughout the entire match including intervals, stoppages, when the ball is both in and out of play, and immediately after the match

(During a match (including intervals, stoppages and when the ball is both in and out of play) team officials and bench players must not:

- a. Criticise the umpires or their decisions.
- b. Use offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.
- c. Use excessive noise or interruption.
- d. Encourage foul play by on-court players.
- e. Enter the court other than in extreme circumstances where player safety is endangered.)

During an interval, clarification of any Rule may be sought from the umpires by the captain and/or any other player concerned. The umpires must provide such clarification in a way that is clearly understood. WN 2024 Edition Rule 3

### **13.0 RESCHEDULING OF SHIELD AND PLATE MATCHES**

- 13.1 A match at Pool Stage may only be rescheduled after consultation with the Shield & Plate Manager, who **must** be consulted as soon as any difficulty arises. See section 9.0 and 11.10 Both teams should be included in any correspondence.
- 13.2 Any reschedule of any matches AFTER pool stage including finals is at the discretion of the Shield and Plate Manager with support if required from the Competition Working Group.
- 13.3 The rescheduled fixture timeline to be played will be confirmed by S&P Manager. This timeline will be notified to both teams involved in the rescheduled match
- 13.4 Cancellation & Forfeit of Shield or Plate matches at the 'Pool' stage and or knock out stages will result in the team leaving the competition, and may be excluded from the competition the following season at the discretion of the Competition Working Group ***See Sanction (S13)***
- 13.5 Shield and Plate Manager in conjunction with CWG will endeavour to arrange matches involving Premier League teams ( ref 12.4) on their regular fixtures nights, (however rescheduled fixtures may be played on any day of the week see section 8.0-8.12 & 13.1-13.4) When clubs are asked to self-arrange matches, these may be played as noted on any day of the week.
- 13.6 In the event that a match has to be abandoned due to unforeseen circumstances where the match had been started but is unable to be concluded follow the delayed/ abandoned match protocol section 8.13

### **14.0 SHIELD AND PLATE FINALS**

- 14.1 The NNI COMPWG will arrange the quarter, semi prelim finals and finals on the dates stated in the NNI Calendar Fixtures List. (see 13.2 above relating to reschedules)
- 14.2 The NNI COMPWG will decide the venue of all Quarter, semi, prelim finals and finals.
- 14.3 Umpires will be appointed by the NNI Officials Working Group for senior shield and plate semi finals and finals  
Payment for Umpires for ALL matches within the S&P Competition will be covered by each teams. Except NNI will cover payment of umpires on Finals Day.
- 14.4 Final matches, each team must ensure all players nominated, maximum 12 players comply to all applicable competition rules eg.11.4 ,11.5, 11.13. ***See Sanction (S2,S3, S4,S5+all applicable)***
- 14.5 The NNI COMPWG will organise the Table Officials, from within the Competitions Working Group, Umpires working group and/or volunteers, for Finals Days only.
- 14.6 On match day Team and Officials' benches should adhere to WN guidelines and NNI regs as noted for the event (read 12.6 also) . Only recognised Team Officials and players should be on the Team Bench. This is compulsory on Finals Day.

- 14.7 Communication at events will take place between all appropriate match personnel simultaneously, i.e., Captain, Officials and Competition Manager and only take place at the Official's Bench.
- 14.8 At all Shield and Plate Finals, NNI Official match result sheets will be completed by match Table Officials and then collected by the Competitions Manager.
- 14.9 In Shield & Plate Quarter/Semi and Final matches, a winner is needed, (Reference 12.3 regarding a draw.)

### **15.0 KIT/DRESS UNIFORM**

- 15.1 Any new clubs entering the league for the first time cannot adopt identical playing/match kits of other affiliated teams. All club colours must be officially registered by sending an email to the CompWG. A confirmation email must be received before any playing/match kit order is made.
- 15.2 Any existing club making changes to their playing/match kit (registered colours and design) must be officially registered by sending an email to the CompWG. A confirmation email must be received before any kit order is made.
- 15.3 Inclusive kit is encouraged; dresses are not compulsory.

### **16.0 ADDITIONAL NNI EVENTS, TOURNAMENTS AND COMPETITION**

Please Note: See section on netballni.org U19 & Junior Season Grading Tournament section

### **18.0 UMPIRES**

- 18.1 There **must** be 2 qualified umpires for every competitive fixture. If a team fails to provide an umpire, the forfeit sanction will apply. However, the match can still be played by mutual agreement, but the non-offending team will receive the points.
- 18.2 Newly Qualified Cs over the age of 18 can only Umpire in Senior Division 3-6 for the first season or until they are Signed off by an NNI mentor. (NNI mentors are those that have completed the Europe Netball Assessors training and are approved by NNI).
- 18.3 Newly Qualified Cs only appointed to games within their age groups. E.g., U19s can only umpire at this age group or below etc.
- 18.4 All NNI Competition matches involving Premier League teams **must** be umpired by a minimum **of 2 'B' award umpires** or higher appointed by officials Working Group. **Any Talent Identified C Umpires , or selected umpires from 'C to B support programme' may be appointed by the Officials Working Group at their discretion and provided with appropriate mentoring.**

- 18.5 For Shield and Plate quarter finals, semi-finals and Finals, umpires will be appointed by NNI Umpire Working Group. Payment for Umpires for Quarter Finals and Semi-Finals will be covered by the teams. NNI will cover payment of umpires on Finals Day.
- 18.6 A registered qualified umpire has the authority to warn, suspend or order off a player, bench member/player or coach if their behaviour infringes on the foul play rule (**WN 2024 Rules, Rule 19 Game Management** )
- All umpires will record Game Management actions via the Player Discipline record section on the team sheet and will be monitored by NNI & OWG.
  - If the number of warnings, suspensions or ordering offs is deemed to be excessive or inappropriate, further action may ensue which may include match bans.
- 18.7 Umpires should only commit to a fixture if they are **confident they** can fulfil it.
- 18.8 Once committing to a fixture, Umpires **must** attend, or work with the match organiser to **find** a suitable replacement if they are unable to fulfil a fixture.
- 18.9 During an interval, clarification of any Rule may be sought from the umpires by the captain and/or any other player concerned. The umpires must provide such clarification in a way that is clearly understood. WN 2024 Edition Rule 3
- 18.10 *At **NNI Premier League**, following the conclusion of the match Umpires will return to their area and will be available for 5 MINUTES for rule clarification purposes only.*

*The following must be adhered to:*

- 1 *Both umpires and mentor/assessor/NNI rep must be in attendance. Coaches CANNOT approach individual umpires.*
- 2 *Coaches or players may only approach for **clarification on rules**.*
- 3 *If anything other than clarification on rules is addressed, then the mentor/assessor/NNI rep will step in, the conversation will finish, and the individual will be reported to NNI.*

## **EQUALITY STATEMENT**

If there are any issues within this document which are perceived by any party as conflicting with their rights, that party should bring these to the attention of the Competitions Working Group.

## 19.0 APPENDICES

### Appendix A - NNI DOMESTIC COMPETITIONS - SANCTION LIST

As soon as a difficulty arises, contact the relevant League Manager immediately for advice. Shield and Plate = (S&P)

#### KEEP THEM FULLY INFORMED

Incorrect Registration/Affiliation Club & Player		Offending Team	Non-offending Team
<b>S1</b>	Any Club plays an incorrectly registered/unregistered/ NNI unaffiliated junior/senior, social player.	The match is declared null and void. Winning points will be deducted from offending teams points For S&P- the team will leave the competition.	Will be awarded the winning points for the match S&P will be declared winner of this match-pool stage. S&P knockout stage will progress to the next stage.
<b>S2</b>	Team/s under the minimum 7 players registered on online portal panels both League and Shield & Plate competition.	The team will be deducted minus winning points  For S&P- the team will leave the competition.	S&P will be declared winner of this match-pool stage. S&P knockout will progress to the next stage.
<b>S3 (i)</b>	Playing a newly transferred player from another NNI club before transfer is complete online and available for online teamsheet selection or after the transfer time period has expired to transfer ( 31st December of current season).	The match is declared null and void. Winning points will be deducted from offending teams points total or -2 if a draw. S&P -The team will leave the shield and plate competition.  The above apply plus: the NNI CompWG will determine if there is a further penalty for using this transferred player without permission.	Will be awarded the winning points for the match. S&P - Group stage -Will awarded win points -pool stage. Will proceed to the next stage- Knockout stage.
<b>S4</b>	Playing a transferred player in the shield and plate competition when they had already played with another club in the same season.	S&P -The team will leave the shield and plate competition	Group stage -Will awarded winning points -pool stage. Will proceed to next stage- Knockout stage

	<u>Junior &amp; Senior League, Shield &amp; Plate Match Protocol &amp; Result Sheet</u>	<b>Offending Team</b>	<b>Non-offending Team</b>
<b>S5</b>	A team exceeds 12 players listed on the team sheet.	The match is declared as a forfeit. If they have won the match, then 3 points will be deducted from the offending team's total score. 1 for a draw	Will be awarded the winning points.
<b>S6</b>	If the winning team, or home team in event of draw, do not submit a match sheet by the required competition deadline as outlined for each competition.	The match is declared void. If they have won the match, they will not be awarded the winning points or points for a draw	
<b>S7</b>	Illegible or incomplete match sheet	May be refused by the League Managers and points may not be awarded to the offending team/s	
	<b><u>Forfeiting/Cancelling</u></b>		
<b>S8</b>	Team which forfeits a match	They will be deducted 3 points.  Shield & Plate will leave the competition, and may be excluded from entering the following season at discretion of the CWG  Play Offs – Will remain in ,or be moved to, the lower league in question.  The offending team must pay <b>all</b> Court fees if the venue demands it, on production of a relevant invoice/receipt.	Will be awarded 3 points.  S&P will be declared winner of this match-pool stage. S&P knockout will progress to the next stage.  Play Offs – Will remain in ,or be moved to, the higher league in question
<b>S9</b>	If a team fails to turn up or forfeits for a previously accepted confirmed match. If having made no contact since the confirmation to accept.	They will be deducted 3 points. Shield & Plate will leave the competition. Play Offs – Will remain in ,or moved to, the lower league in question  The offending team must pay <b>all</b> Court fees and umpires	Will be awarded the 3 points.  S&P will be declared winner of this match-pool stage. S&P knockout will progress to the next stage.

		who have arrived. If the venue & umpire requesting payment demands it, Venue/club on production of a relevant invoice/receipt.	Play Offs – Will remain in ,or be moved to, the higher league in question
<b>S10</b>	If Home team fails to contact the Away team a <b>minimum of 14 days</b> before the date of the fixture, ref CRAG 8.3	The home team has forfeited the match. Deduction of 3 points. Shield & Plate will leave the competition.	Will be awarded the 3 points after email has been sent to League manager with details and LM has confirmed
<b>S11</b>	If away teams does not confirm their acceptance of match date provided by home team in advance of each fixture - as detailed in CRAG in 8.3, 8.4	The away team will forfeit this match. Deduction 3 points  Shield & Plate will leave the competition.	The non-offending team will gain the 3 points after they have emailed the league manager with details of fixture, date and have cc offending team as well. Include evidence of emails sent to away team regarding the match. LM will confirm and the non-offending team will receive the 3 points. S&P AS IN S15
<b>S12</b>	Any team cancelling/forfeiting an Away league match (not sanctioned for reschedule)	Will forfeit home advantage in the return fixture.	
<b>S13</b>	The granted rescheduling of a fixture can only happen once. 2 dates can be offered to the club for this match to be played. If both dates from the HOME team are rejected then forfeit shall apply against the away team as noted.	The offending team will forfeit and deducted -3 points.  Shield & Plate will leave the competition.	Will be awarded the 3 points.  S&P As in S15
<b>S14</b>	Any team forfeiting more than one quarter of its league matches in any season	May be dropped one or more league divisions and risks being barred from a competition the next season at the discretion of the Competitions Working Group.	

<b>S15</b>	If an Away team arrives to find a court unavailable	The Home team's court is double booked, etc. On evidence of a confirmed booking from club and mistake proved by centre reschedule will be granted.	If no reschedule requested/ granted Will be awarded the points
<b>S16</b>	Any team forfeiting one match in the Pool stage of Shield & Plate competition -or- any team forfeiting a match at any Knockout stage of the Shield & Plate competition	Will be eliminated from the whole competition. The offending team may be excluded from entering the Shield & Plate competition the following season.	S& P pool – will be awarded win. S& P knock out- Will progress to the next stage.
<b>S17</b>	Failure of a team to provide/or have arranged the necessary qualified umpire – if not applicable for an extension	Will result in the points for that match being forfeited -3	Will be awarded the 3 points for the match
<b>S18</b>	If a team requests to cancel or postpone a match due to unforeseen reasons, they should give at least 24 hours' notice, prior to the pre-arranged start time of the match, to the opposing team's club secretary. The League Manager <b>must</b> be consulted as soon as the difficulty arises.	If venue costs are incurred then the team cancelling must pay for them, on production of an invoice. If extension not granted the game will be a forfeit and -3 points	If extension not granted, then will receive 3 points
<b>S19</b>	If any team arrives on court more than 10 minutes after the official match start-time.  The CompWG stipulates that all teams are afforded this 10-minute leeway	The team will forfeit the points for that match to the non-offending team -3  Shield & Plate will leave the competition.	Will be granted 3 points.  S&P will be declared winner of this match-pool stage. S&P knockout will progress to the next stage.

Appendix B – NNI Official Match Sheet ( also downloadable from netballni.org)

**Official Match Results Sheet 2024**

DATE.....VENUE.....

LEAGUE / SHIELD ( delete as appropriate)					
TEAM:			TEAM:		
If a player is playing up a team then the Captain must write in the empty box on player line ( at Right hand end of relevant name box) whether it is the 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> / 3 <sup>rd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup> time etc. Must be confirmed re-registered prior to playing final time up (ref CRAG for either senior or junior limits)					
1 GK			GK		
2 GD			GD		
3 WD			WD		
4 C			C		
5 WA			WA		
6 GA			GA		
7 GS			GS		
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
Coach(es)/First aider			Coach (es)/ First aider		

Winning Team	Score	Losing Team	Score

**Only named officials may sit on a team bench**

Officials' Names	Print Name	Signature	Grade
Home Umpire			
Away Umpire			
Captains ( adult teams or coaches may sign for underage teams)	Team 1 Team 2		
Video permission 4 signatures	Team 1 Team 2	Umpire 1 Umpire 2	
Official Score/ Time enter names for both	Score Time	Score Time	

Player Discipline Any game management protocols used during the match must be recorded below.

<b>Player ( Name)</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Warning /Suspension/ Ordering off</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Issued by ump</b>
<b>Player ( Name)</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Warning /Suspension/ Ordering off</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Issued by ump</b>



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## **Appendix D - Domestic Match Protocols and Etiquette for Umpires , Officials and Teams/Players.**

### **Guidance based on WN Match protocols and 'Rules of Netball' 2020 (which should be used for further clarification of rules if required)**

1. The purpose of these guidelines is to:
  - a. Streamline match conditions across all league disciplines in Northern Ireland
  - b. Increase the professionalism of the domestic game.
  
2. Improve understanding of match protocols and rules to reduce misunderstanding and breach of rules at fixtures.

### **Expectations of the Umpire**

#### **Umpires:**

1. Will arrive 15 minutes before the start time of the match and be professionally dressed in clothing that is distinct from the teams' playing uniforms and suitable sports footwear. (NNI COMPWG would suggest white is worn).
2. Inspect the court and goal posts to ensure they conform to rules and provide a safe environment for play.
3. Ensure that players and bench officials **only** are sitting on the team bench.
4. Agree which goal end each umpire will control.
5. Whether extra time will be played if scores are tied at full time.
6. To umpire according to the Rules of the International Netball Federation.
7. To forward by email, the name(s) of player(s) who have been disciplined and a report to the OWG within 7 days of the match taking place. The NNI COMPWG should also be copied into all correspondence regarding discipline of players.
8. Umpire **at least** 6 matches per season in order to keep up their level of performance and for their name to remain on the Umpiring Register, maintained by NNI.

### **Expectations of Players, Team Officials and Supporters**

- Players, team officials, bench officials and supporters are requested to show respect and courtesy to everyone involved in netball by refraining from making derogatory comments before, during or after the match. **See NNI Code of Conduct on Netball NI website ([www.netballni.org](http://www.netballni.org)) downloads section**
- Teams should arrive in good time for a match (minimum 15 minutes before agreed start time). If any team arrives on court more than 10 minutes after the official match

start-time, then they will forfeit the points for that match to the non-offending team. The CompWG stipulates that all teams are afforded this 10-minute leeway. (S19) Forfeit rules apply.

### **Expectations of the match organisers, Coach and Captain**

- Secure the court booking (where applicable) and commitment from the other team before approaching umpires to fulfil a fixture.
- Ensure that the pre-booked umpire and opposing team secretary is reminded of the fixture **within 3 days** of the match.
- Provide two balls that meet all the specifications stated in the rules. The same ball will be used throughout the match unless the umpires ask for it to be replaced.
- Appoint a primary care person for the match if applicable to level
- Ensure that all players arrive at the match location on time for the fixture.
- Ensure that the playing enclosure meets the required specifications.
- Prepare the playing enclosure for the fixture.
- Ensure that all players have hair tied back appropriately and that all Jewellery is removed (if a wedding ring must be worn it should be taped)
- Ensure that all players have their nails cut and shortened to avoid injury to other players.
- Ensure that captains carry out a toss for first centre pass and goal end and ensure that this is communicated to the umpires.
- Carry two sets of bibs in case of similar uniforms at the fixtures.
- Ensure players are wearing registered playing uniform /colours if no registered kit available in circumstance relayed to umpire( e.g., new player, choosing alternative kit configuration and suitable sports footwear

### **Complaints**

- Any complaint, request or point of information should be emailed by the club secretary to the League Manager or Shield and Plate Manager , where applicable. It will then be brought to the NNI CompWG for their attention. If any matter is not settled at the NNI Working Group level, then it will be NNI who shall make a binding ruling on the matter, subject to any right of appeal.
- **NB** If your club has a problem or query, **do not** approach a member of the CompWG at a match when they are there as a player, coach, bench official or umpire. Please follow the procedure of contacting them by email.
- The Competitions Working Group will meet monthly during the season to discuss any issues as required