



Coppenhall Leisure Centre
Home of South Cheshire Premier
Netball League

**Rules of the South Cheshire
Premier Netball League 2008/09**



South Cheshire Premier Netball League

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SOUTH CHESHIRE PREMIER NETBALL LEAGUE

Head Office

Coppenhall Leisure Centre

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Andrew.Chandler@crewe-nantwich.gov.uk

Rules of Play – Effective of 3rd September 08

Administrative

1. Composition

- a) The League shall be called the “South Cheshire Premier Netball League”
- b) There shall be 3 Divisions with 34 teams being involved. Each team shall comprise of no more than 14 registered players.
- c) The League shall be fully controlled by a designated Duty Manager of the Leisure Centre. He/She will be aided by the league umpires.
- d) The Premier & Championship Divisions will be for affiliated players and teams only.
- e) Division 1 will be for Non-affiliated players and teams.

2. Registration

- a) Teams can affiliate and as such affiliated teams will be in the Premier & Championship Divisions, Non-affiliated teams will play in Division One. Affiliated players and non-affiliated players will not mix.
- b) All players must be fully registered on the sheet provided. NO unregistered players shall be allowed to play in any matches. A player shall register for one club and cannot register or play for another club during the season.
- c) No transfers of players are permitted.
- d) All players may play for one club only during a league season throughout the whole league. Any player or club found to be breaking this rule shall be subject to disciplinary action by the league organizer.
- e) All players in the affiliated divisions must provide the league with their personal affiliation number via the appropriate registration form.

3. Playing of Matches

- a) Matches will be played on full size courts at 3 leisure centre's. The Premier Div shall play on a Wednesday – Coppenhall = 7.30 – 10.30pm. VCC = 8.30 – 10.30pm and Shavington = 8.30 – 10.30pm. Championship Div shall play on a Monday – Coppenhall = 7.30 – 10.30pm and VCC = 8.30 – 10.30pm. Div One shall play on Tuesdays + Thursdays = Tuesday = Coppenhall = 7.30 – 10.30pm and Thursday = VCC = 8.30 – 10.30pm. In the event of availability problems at the facility, alternative dates may be given via the league organizer.

GENERAL RULES OF PLAY CONTINUED

- b) Dates and times of fixtures shall be arranged by the league organizer and notified to team captains at the AGM before every season.
- c) 4 points shall be awarded for a win, 2 points for a draw and 0 points for a loss. If a team loses but scores at least half of the points of the winning team then they shall be given 1 bonus point. If league placings are tied at the end of the season then goal difference shall be used to decide on placings. If places are still tied then goals scored shall decide.
- d) A team shall consist of 7 players and a maximum of 3 subs. Players who have been substituted may re-enter the field of play again but only at half time or quarter time breaks. If a team wishes to make a substitution of an injured player then the player coming on shall take the place of the injured player until half time or a goal is scored.
- e) Team player sheets must be completed to name all of the players you are using in your matches on each match night. NO matches will begin until this sheet has been completed. This is to ensure that the admin of the league can be undertaken promptly. Any team that has not completed their sheet shall have 3 mins to ensure their sheet is completed. If they do not complete their form during this time then they shall lose the match 25 – 0 and be responsible for all of the match fees.
- f) Match fees must be paid in full before any team begins a match. NO match shall begin until payments have been received. NO deviation from this rule shall be permitted.
- g) Any team failing to fulfill a fixture will lose that match 25 – 0 on paper. In addition that team would be responsible for the fees for that match in full. This includes the opponents fees. The match would not be re-played.
- h) The centre does not have the availability to alter fixture dates due to the centre programme. As such any matches missed cannot be re-programmed. As such – if you cannot field a team to play a match the above rule will come into force. In the interests of good sportsmanship to your fellow league players and to the umpires and management of the league we ask that 48 hours notice be given by any team not being able to make a match. 48 hours is 5 pm on the Monday before your Wednesday match night. The League organizer can be contacted by answer machine message on 01270 537264 or via e-mail to the centre on coppenhall@crewe-nantwich.gov.uk or to his e-mail box at Andrew.Chandler@crewe-nantwich.gov.uk . Please note any e-mails received will be responded to upon receipt. League fees are set low on the understanding that all teams are able to play their matches. It causes admin problems if there are occasions where we do not have payments through missed matches. If teams do have problems with their fixtures then please contact the league organizer at the beginning of the league to discuss your teams fixtures.

4. Cancellation of Matches

- a) Team captains will be notified if there are any problems with the Sports Hall that results in matches being cancelled. In such circumstances the league organizer shall re-arrange any matches missed.
- b) If any matches are cancelled the centre will endeavor to give as much notice as possible to team captains.

GENERAL RULES OF PLAY CONTINUED

5. Rules of Play

- a) The rules of play shall be those of the All England Netball Association as outlined in their official rules red booklet. There shall be suitable adaptations to ensure our league is operational and the full list of the league rules is attached to this copy and all team captains receive a copy at the beginning of the season.

6. Fees and charges

- a) The fee payable per team per match shall be £30.00 for the Premier Division, £30.00 for the Championship Division and £30.00 per match for teams in Division One. Every effort shall be made to ensure this fee remains for the entire season. The Centre Manager and League Organiser reserve the right to alter match fees if it is unavoidable or deemed necessary.
- b) All match fees must be paid before teams play their matches. Teams who have not paid their match fees shall have 3 mins (see rule 7 of the rules of play) to ensure payment is made. If payment is not made during that time then they will lose the match 25 – 0 and be responsible for all match fees. ALL teams that pay shall be issued with a payment card by the reception desk, this card is then to be handed in to the umpire and the match cannot start until the umpire has received both teams payment cards.
- c) Any team pulling out of the league or cup competition will be required to pay all monies outstanding if no replacement team can be found.

7. Misconduct

- a) Any misconduct reported, regarding teams or players shall be dealt with by the league organizer and Centre Manager if required.
- b) Any player, official or club suspended by the league organizer may not participate in the league until any suspension is lifted.

8. General

- a) All league decisions shall be made by the league organizer and such decisions shall be final.

9. Appeals

- a) Any appeal against a decision made by the league organizer must be made in writing and be received by the leisure centre within 48 hours of any decision. The contact address being:-
FAO Andrew Chandler – Netball League Organiser
Coppenhall Leisure Centre
Coronation Street
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 4DJ
- b) If an appeal is launched the league organizer shall review the appeal with the Assistant Centre Manager and decide on an appropriate action to take.
- c) All appeals shall be dealt with and completed within 7 days of an appeal being received.

** Please note Rule 3 f = The weekly players sheet MUST be completed in full with both Christian names and Surnames and this sheet will be reviewed with your Season registration form every Thursday.

GENERAL RULES OF PLAY CONTINUED

Dress Code Instructions

The Dress code for play is as follows:-

1. Jewellery – NONE is to be worn under any circumstances – the only acceptance is that you can use tape over wedding rings. ALL jewellery must be removed before you enter the court.
2. Nails – ALL nails must be kept short and smooth. You are NOT allowed to wear false nails for any reason.
3. Hair – ALL hair should be tied back. You are not allowed to wear any dangerous hair adornment. Long and beaded hair must be tied back. – IF you are unclear on this rule then please seek advice from the match umpires.
4. Kit – ALL teams must wear the same kit, the correct kit is –
 - a) Shirts of the same color
 - b) Skirts (no shorts)
 - c) Sensible shoes / trainers
 - d) NO Tracksuit bottoms at all – medical reasons must be notified to the match umpire.
 - e) Matching socks (colour and length)

NOTE – all of the above must be checked by the team captain before you enter the court and sports hall. It is team captains sole responsibility to ensure that your team is ready to play at your allotted time.

****** Please note that the league is now fully imposing its kit rule and NO team or player shall be allowed to play if they are not wearing the correct kit. Any team that arrives with incorrect kit shall be reported to the league organizer and if that team attempts to play in an incorrect kit then the team shall be deducted 10 points.

GENERAL RULES OF PLAY CONTINUED

Guidelines on Playing Etiquette

Before the start of the season

- Make sure that team players have a copy of the league rules.
- Ensure you are aware of your team match nights for your season as games must be played on the days/dates set via the fixture list.

Before the start of the match

- Allow the opposition time and space to warm up prior to the match (providing that there is sufficient court space).
- Should you believe that a league rule is about to be broken, challenge your opposition (with the umpire) prior to the commencement of the match. Do this in a non aggressive manner – cool, calm and collected is best. Be understanding and flexible.
- It is a nice gesture to shake hands with your opponent before the start of the match.

After Matches/between matches

- Refreshments are available via the vending machines in the foyer / reception area. There is also a water fountain in the social area that is free of charge.
- At the end of the game, opponents should shake hands with each other and the team captain say 3 cheers for the opposition and umpires.

Umpires and Umpiring

- Remember to thank the umpires. They have given up their time so that you can play the game.
- Players should not criticize an umpires decision whilst playing. Only the captain may question an umpire during the interval or after a match, in a respectful manner and accept her / their decision without question.
- Don't let other players bring our game into disrepute by using foul language or behaving badly.
- Umpires have asked that players listen to what is being said to them, the umpires are here to help you and give advice if possible. Players are requested to listen to umpires when match calls are being made so that you understand what decision has been made.

And finally

- The whole idea of playing netball is to enjoy a skillful, competitive game and the social aspect of meeting other players is just as important.

Worth Noting.....

- Over the last season there have been some incidents of bad sportsmanship towards opposing teams + umpires. Any team found to be breaking the etiquette rules shall be deducted points and may result in being asked to leave the league.

GENERAL RULES OF PLAY CONTINUED

General rules Instructions

1. Match start times = **ALL teams MUST** be ready to start their match on time. It is the team captain's responsibility for ensuring this happens. All kit should be checked, nails, hair and centre toss completed before you enter the court. The umpires will signal the match can begin and teams must be ready. Please note that rule 7 of the league rules of play states that teams have **3 mins** (**RULE CHANGED FROM 5 MINS TO 3 MINS**) from the start time to ensure that they are ready to begin (**THIS TIME IS PART OF THE ACTUAL MATCH TIME AS THE MATCH CLOCK WILL START ON TIME AND IT IS UP TO TEAMS TO BE READY**), and if they are not ready by then, they lose the match 15-0. I have instructed the umpires to be very firm with the match times this season to ensure that match nights can begin on time and end on time. **PLEASE NOTE** – If both teams are unable to start after the 3 mins time then **BOTH** teams will lose the match 25 – 0 and **BOTH** teams will lose their match fees.
2. Fees and Players sheets – NO match can begin until all monies have been paid and the sheet has been completed. Last season proved to be a good step forward with this point but there are still teams who do not complete their team sheet or pay before their match. This causes problems with the administration and reception functions. When a team pays its fee, that team shall be issued with a payment card by the receptionist, this card must be given to your match umpire and matches will not begin until the umpire has received a payment card off both teams.
3. Match fees for teams –
 - a) Monday Championship Div = £30.00 per match
 - b) Tuesday & Thursday Div One = £30.00 per match
 - c) Wednesday Premier Div = £30.00 per match
4. Injury times – IF an injury occurs during your match, the match clock will keep on running. The duty first aider will be called for, and this person shall commence first aid duties. Once the injury has been assessed and dealt with by the first aider then the match can resume (at the time left on the clock). The reason for this is that we have up to 3 matches playing on the courts during the night (dependant on match night and facility) and we must ensure fairness to all.

Unfortunately this rule means that if there is an injury in your match then your match time length will be shorter. I trust you will all understand the reasons for this rule

First Aid – AT ALL times it is the responsibility of the Centre Duty Manager as to how first aid is conducted and who undertakes this.

5. Subs – Teams should be aware that subs are allowed to be re-used during the match BUT player changes are only allowed at half time or quarter time. If you are unsure as to this then please consult an umpire.
6. Ages of Players – it has been brought to my attention that there are some under age ladies playing in the league. Please be aware that **NO PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 16 YEARS** is allowed to play in the league. This is a Safeguarding Children/Child Protection rule from Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council. Umpires have been advised to be vigilant on ages of players. If a player is known to be

GENERAL RULES OF PLAY CONTINUED

under age then that player will not be allowed to play. If a team uses an under age player then that team will be deducted 5 points from their league total.

7. Playing for more than One team – Please be aware that players are NOT allowed to play for more than ONE team in this league. You are also not allowed to play for a team in the affiliated section and a team in the non-affiliated section. Again – teams found breaking this rule shall be deducted 5 points.
8. Complaints/Queries – Recently I have been receiving a large numbers of match queries via e-mail for me to look into. Whilst I am more than happy to discuss the league operation with all teams, I must advise that the correct method to lodge a complaint / query is as follows:-
 - a) bring your query to your match umpire to discuss and resolve
 - b) resolve your query with the umpire on the night at half time or full time

IF you are unable to resolve your query with the match umpire then please contact me as a last resort. ALL match queries MUST be dealt with by the match umpires at the time.

General complaints/queries-

- a) Sports Hall query/complaint = to match umpires
- b) Reception or Outside centre complaint = myself as league organizer.

Following on from the Umpires AGM held on Monday 25th February 08 at Copenhall Leisure Centre, it has been agreed that the following extra rules/rule alterations are to be implemented. ALL teams are asked to be fully aware of them.

1. KIT = as listed above and on the other rule sheet – FULL kit (shirts of same colour + skirt) will be MANDATORY for September 08 and all teams are advised to look into arranging for kits if they require one.
2. Players in your squad – Each team is only allowed to use a maximum of 10 players per match. ALL teams are asked to note that you are only allowed to register 14 players for your squad for the season and once the 14 spaces have been used, you are not allowed to remove anyone to add new players.
3. Adding players to your squad sheet – there has been an un-usually high number of teams arriving on the night of their match and asking to register a new player – this can cause Administration problems for myself and the league, so, it has been decided that IF a team wishes to register a new team then you must give at least 24 hours notice to Andrew Chandler either by phone on 01270 537263 OR via e-mail to Andrew.Chandler@crewe-nantwich.gov.uk
4. Being ready on time – Umpires have asked ALL teams to be reminded that ALL teams must be ready to start on time for their matches.

GENERAL RULES OF PLAY CONTINUED

General Statement

The usual laws of Netball shall apply, with the following adaptations/alterations:-

1. The entire control and management of the league shall be vested in the leisure centre management via a designated Duty Manager (currently Andrew Chandler).
2. The rules of play shall be those of the All England Netball Association as outlined in their official netball rules booklet. This booklet can be viewed at the leisure centre, please ask at reception. Unfortunately this copy cannot be taken away from the building.
3. Once teams have registered their players, names may not be altered. Teams can register a maximum of 14 players for their season.
4. Knockout – All teams that enter to play in the league are automatically entered into the knockout/cup competition should we run one of these events.
5. All team and player registration forms must be submitted to the reception desk staff prior to the first match of the season. Any additions of players (up to the max number of 14 registered) must be done with at least 24 hours notice and to the League Organiser via phone on 01270 537263 OR e-mail on Andrew.Chandler@crewe-nantwich.gov.uk
6. No team may begin a match with fewer than 5 players.
7. If a team is unable to begin their match 3 mins after umpires signal the time to begin, that team shall lose the match 25 – 0 and will be responsible for all match fees.
8. If a new team enters the league to replace a team that has withdrawn from the league then the new team shall begin on 0 points. All previous results will stand.
9. During the league season all teams shall play a maximum of 2 matches per night. The only alteration being situations where the league organizer has to re-arrange other fixtures.
10. Match lengths will be as follows: Premier Div = 4 x 12 min Quarters, Championship Div = 4 x 12 min Quarters, Div 1 = 4 x 12 min Quarters.
11. NO teams are permitted to play or register any players who are under 16 years of age. This is a council policy to ensure that we do not breach Child Protection / Safeguarding children protocols.
12. Late arrivals to a match that are listed on the team player sheet to play, may enter the pitch after a goal has been scored and only after consultation with the umpires.
13. Hair should be neatly secured, fingernails kept short and no item of jewellery worn (RINGS MUST BE TAPED UP). It is the responsibility of the team captain to ensure that the above are adhered to and checked before teams enter the court to play. Please see the section listed Dress Code rules for more info.
14. If any player (in the opinion of the umpire) has consumed alcohol, then that player will not be permitted to play in any matches that night. Any such incidents may then be referred to the league organiser to review and select appropriate action.

GENERAL RULES OF PLAY CONTINUED

15. All teams shall wear the correct kit, the correct kit is – Shirts of the same colour, Skirt (no shorts), sensible shoes/trainers and NO TRACKSUIT BOTTOMS UNLESS MEDICAL REASONS STIPULATE AND CONFIRMATION RECEIVED VIA MATCH UMPIRES. No match shall be played if teams do not have the correct kit to play in. Teams shall have the 3 mins to ensure they get the appropriate kit before the match is lost. If a team has not got the correct kit then that team is responsible for losing the match 25 – 0 and responsible for paying the full match fees. If team colors clash then it will be the team who wins the first centre pass toss that decides which team must change the colors for that match. See rule 19 below for tracksuit rules.
16. Coppenhall Leisure Centre shall supply leather netballs for use in the matches. Umpires will not accept use of any other netball.
17. Anyone involved in serious misconduct i.e threatening behaviour, abusive language etc either on court or in the confines of the leisure centre may be refused admission to the centre. Any such behaviour may then need to be addressed by the league organiser to decide appropriate action.
18. The umpires have requested that they are more than happy to give feedback or answer questions but these must be undertaken at half time or preferably the end of the match. All discussion requests must be made by the team captain. See playing etiquette rules.
19. Tracksuit bottoms – these are NOT allowed to be worn under any circumstances. All teams are required to wear a skirt. If the match umpire deems any kit unsuitable, then the player will have to change or not be able to play. The kit rule is jointly agreed between the league organizer and umpires to ensure the development of our league in this aspect and all umpires have been asked to be very vigilant on team kits. Umpires will enforce the kit rules if required to.
20. The League organiser on behalf of the Centre management reserves the right to amend these rules if deemed Necessary during the season at any time.
21. The Management's decision is Final!!

ALL RULES OF PLAY TO BE REVIEWED ON / AROUND 3 – 10TH APRIL 09.

South Cheshire Premier Netball League

Frequently Asked Questions.

This section is intended as a brief guide to help teams and umpires with some quick answers to common questions.

1. How much do teams pay per match?

Answer = No matter which Division you are in, each team pays £30.00 per match.

2. How Long is our Match?

Answer = Every match is 4 x 12 minute quarters in length.

3. Are Under 16's allowed to play in matches?

Answer = No player age under 16 is allowed to play in our netball league. This is a rule of Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council as part of its commitment to Safeguarding Children and Child Protection.

4. Can I cancel my match and How much notice do I have to give?

Answer = Teams are not allowed to cancel their matches. Any cancellations result in the cancelling team being responsible for the match fees of both teams (£60). There is no notice period to cancel a match in light of the above.

5. Can I re-arrange a match I am unable to play?

Answer = No. This is because recently some matches have been re-arranged but never actually played and caused the league organizer vast amount of trouble in trying to arrange dates between 2 teams. We also do not have availability in our Sports Halls to accommodate extra matches as all leagues are pre-planned into the various Leisure Centre annual programme to ensure maximum usage and weeks that are not designated for the netball league are already pre-planned for other sports.

6. What is the minimum number of player to enable a match to be played?

Answer = A team must have at least 5 players to enable the match to start.

7. How long do we get to pay our money, complete our team sheet and get onto court at the start of our match before we lose the match?

Answer = Each team is allowed 3 mins from the kick off time to get onto court after paying their fees and completing their team sheets with centre staff at reception. New for this year is that each team will be issued a payment card that has to be passed to each umpire before the match can begin. This card is issued by the reception staff to each paying team. This 3 minutes is part of your actual match time as the clock will start on the official time even if one or both teams are not ready to begin.

8. Kit – What Kit do we have to have and is it mandatory that all teams wear the correct kit?

Answer = Yes it is mandatory that ALL teams wear the correct kit to play their matches in. the correct kit is:-

- a) Shirts of the same colour (all shirts must be short sleeved or all long sleeved)**
- b) Skirts of the same colour and same length and style NOT shorts**
- c) Socks of the same colour and length**
- d) No wearing of Tracksuit bottoms**
- e) Correct trainers**

9. Jewellery and Nails – What is the rule regarding Jewellery and Nails?

Answer = You are not allowed to wear any type of jewellery under any circumstances. We do allow ladies to wear wedding rings IF they are fully taped up and only if the ring itself has no raised parts to it. All nails must be kept short and smooth. You are not allowed to wear false nails for any reason. We do not allow false nails, even if they are taped up.

10. What happens if an injury occurs?

If an injury occurs, the first aider (member of staff) has 3 minutes to assess the injury, if the player can be moved to the side of the court then this should be undertaken, if the player cannot move due to a more serious injury then the clock shall still run until such time as the player is removed to hospital or the end of the game time occurs. At the end of the 3 minutes the match shall resume as normal from the time on the clock. We will not re-arrange matches due to injuries.

11. What happens if someone gets injured in the last few minutes of the game?

The above rule states that there will be 3 minutes to assess the injury, if this time runs and the normal time of the game ends then the match ends as through all injuries the match time

continues. If a match ends under injury time then the current score will stand as the match result.

12. Can I play with my shorts on?

No players are permitted to play in any garment other than a team kit. The only exception is for medical reasons and these must be explained to the match officials before you enter the court to play. If in the opinion of an official there seems to be little evidence of a need to wear shorts then that player will not play in the match.

13. Do we have to pay if another team has cancelled the match?

IF a team cancels a match then that team is fully responsible for the entire match fees which are both team fees + umpire fees.