



Bedfordshire County Junior League Regulations 2024

The League – The Bedfordshire County Junior League is a full 7 aside competitive league. There will be the following age groups U9/10, U11, U12, U13 in the junior league. The league will run on Sunday mornings June to July for an 8 week period starting on June 2nd 2024. Each team will play each other at least once depending on numbers entered. Please try not to cancel or concede matches as one of the aims of the league is to provide additional matchplay and experience.

Mixed teams are allowed in accordance with EN ruling for all players under the age of 11 years. Teams in the U9/10 and U11 age groups may register boys in their squad. A maximum of 2 boys per match day squad can be named and take to court in any Q.

See entry form for the cost to enter the league which will include all court fees & umpire fees. Clubs do not need to be CAPS registered.

Match Times - Games will consist of 4 quarters of 12 minutes each for U12s & U13s with 3 minutes in between each Q and half time. U9/10 & U11 matches will consist of 4 quarters of 10 minutes each with 3 minutes in between each Q and half time. A central hooter will indicate the start, Q time, half time and the end of the matches, although each match will start and end on the umpires whistle.

Please take to court on time and leave the court promptly after each match to prevent a delay and help us keep to schedule.

No team may start a game with less than 5 players.

Captains to coin toss before the start of the match for the centre pass.

Substitutions – Substitutions and positional changes may be made during the 3 minute intervals at Q times and half time by both teams.

Substitutions can also be made in the event of an injury or illness during play.

Bibs and Balls – please have an alternative colour of overhead bibs in case of a clash of kit colour with your opposition. Both captains to toss a coin to decide which team wears the alternative bib colours if a clash.

Each team to bring own size 4 pumped up match ball for U9/10 & U11 age groups and own size 5 pumped up match ball for U12 & U13 age groups. Umpire to assess which team's ball to be used for the match.

Players - Clubs may enter 1 team per age group.

All players must be affiliated to England netball and Bedfordshire County. Clubs may name for the County League as many affiliated, age appropriate players as they wish

on the registration form, but for each match as per England Netball rules a maximum of 12 eligible players can play in a matchday squad.

For the U9/U10 league all players must be year 4/5 from 1st September 2023

For the U11 league all players must be year 6 from 1st September 2023

For the U12 league all players must be year 7 from 1st September 2023

For the U13 league all players must be year 8 from 1st September 2023

Players may only play for one club throughout the league.

Players can play up one age group for their club e.g. U12 players can play in the U13 team. Club coaches are responsible for ensuring players are physically capable and confident to play up an age group.

If a team is unable to field a team of 5 players they may play up a maximum of 3 players from the same club so the game can be played.

Coaches must be mindful of the age of the players in their care and their loading. No player may play more than 6Qs in one day in the Bedfordshire County League.

All requests to play up players must be directed to the Competition Referee before the match is played and the player/s must be added to the matchday squad registration sheet and marked as playing up.

Venue – Outdoor courts x 4, Redborne Upper School, Flitwick Road, Ampthill, Bedfordshire, MK45 2NU

Umpires – Umpires will be provided and allocated by Bedfordshire County Netball Association. Each court will be allocated umpires, and each team will pay an umpiring fee of £15 per match included as part of the entry fee. Bedfordshire County Netball Association reserves the right to use any matches to mentor umpires for assessment purposes for umpiring awards.

Please can all players ensure nails are short and any jewellery, watches or piercings are removed before taking to court. Only a medical alert bracelet may be worn during a match and must be secured with tape.

Scorer – Each team is asked to provide a scorer for their own game, a person with a good working knowledge of scoring is acceptable.

Scorers for each team to stand together.

Team Officials – A team may have up to 5 Team Officials courtside. These must include a coach and a scorer. It is each team's responsibility to have their own First Aider and first aid provisions courtside.

Team Officials to please stand at the start and for the duration of the match at your teams defending end to the right of the post and away from courtside.

Insurance – As all players are affiliated to England Netball, and the County League is sanctioned by England Netball, this provides Liability and Personal Accident insurance as a benefit to all members (see EN website for more information)

Bedfordshire County Netball will conduct a full risk assessment and take all reasonable steps to mitigate any risk so identified. Bedfordshire County Netball Association and Redborne Upper School will not accept liability for any personal injury to players, officials, or spectators nor responsibility for any loss or damage to personal items, valuables, or clothing.

Spectators – are welcome to watch from outside the courts. Please ensure the walkway is always kept clear for the safety of all.

Only players and team officials are allowed onto the courts.

Codes of Conduct – All persons attending must abide by the EN Codes of Conduct see link below:

<https://d2cx26qpfwuhvu.cloudfront.net/englandnetball/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/07164639/Codes-of-conduct.pdf>

Parking – There is parking at the school in front of the courts but please be aware this may get busy throughout the morning with other sports also using the facilities at the school.

Photography – Bedfordshire County Netball are committed to safeguarding and protecting children and young people in netball and follow the principles set out in the England Netball Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Netball Policy. We ask parents/carers to please respect our **NO** video or photos policy for the County League.

If a club wishes to take a team photo after the match it is the team/club's responsibility to ensure these are used in the correct manner as per EN Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Netball Policy and EN social media policies and protocols.

Results – Both scorers and umpires to agree the final score at the end of the match and scorer of the winning team to take both scorecards to the central scoring table. League points will be awarded as follows:

- 5 points for a win
- 3 points for a draw
- 1 point to the losing team if their score is within 50% or more of the winners score
- 0 points to the losing team if their score is less than 50% of the winners score

Where two teams are level on points at the end of the league then goal difference will be used to determine their positions.

If a match is conceded the result will be recorded as a 30-0 victory to the non-conceding team and they will be awarded 5 points for the win. The conceding team will receive 0 points for the loss of less than 50% of the winner's score. Please try not to concede matches as the match play experience is valuable for all the players.

Medals will be provided to the winning team and runners up in each age group.

League results and tables will be updated weekly on the Bedfordshire County Netball website www.bedfordshire-netball.com

COMPETITION REFEREES

Competition Referees will be appointed by Bedfordshire County for the Bedfordshire County League and teams will be notified on the match schedule who the Competition Referee/s for each day of play will be.

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

- Altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary
- Determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction/s (including disqualification of any individual, Player or Team)
- Instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour or behaviour that brings the sport into disrepute including instances of Teams predetermining or attempting to predetermine the outcome of a Match and/or the Competition.
- Determine the score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance
- Any matter not covered specifically within the regulations

The Competition Referee may call upon, or delegate to additional persons to assist with the League or consult with other persons prior to making any decision. However the final decision and accountability for the decision will rest with the Competition Referee.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

All queries and complaints (a Complaint) should be directed to the Competition Referee in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows:

- Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a Match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant Squad member, or Team Official, must do the following:
 - a) Inform their opponents and the Umpires of their complaint.
 - b) Mark the Score Card with the words 'Under Protest'.
 - c) Take the Score Card marked 'Under Protest' to the Competition Referee, straight after the Match.
 - d) Explain the issue in full to the Competition Referee.
 - e) The Competition Referee will acknowledge receipt and decide what action should be taken within 72 hours of the match
 - f) The Competition Referees decision in relation to any Complaint received is binding apart from where parties to the complaint have the right to appeal the decision.

- Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Competition by The Bedfordshire County League Committee, such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of Bedfordshire County and should be sent to the County Secretary.
- Where a Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual Player or Team, volunteer or individual attending the Competition which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations, such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures set out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations and should also be directed through the County Secretary.
- Complaints cannot be made in relation to a decision made by an umpire in line with the INF rules of netball

APPEAL OF THE COMPETITION REFEREES DECISION

These are the only grounds of appeal:

- The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with the Complaints Procedure above shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:
- If the decision has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of the competition; and
- If there has been a failure by the Competition Referee to follow or act in accordance with these Regulations and/or the Competition Referee has reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact.

Appeal Process – any appeal must be submitted in accordance with the appeals process set out below:

- An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the Coach or Team Manager of the appealing Team to the Competition Referee within seventy-two (72) hours of receiving the decision who will refer it to the Resolution Lead of The Bedfordshire County League who will form a Competition Appeals Committee (CAC)
- The appeal shall be accompanied by a cheque for £100 which shall be returned if the appeal is upheld or if there are any other extenuating circumstances. The Competition Appeals Committee (CAC) will decide whether the extenuating circumstance warrant the cheque being returned.
- The Resolution Lead of the Bedfordshire County League will establish a CAC which will consist of a minimum of 3 individuals that are independent of and not committee members of the Bedfordshire County League. One of those individuals will be appointed as Chair of the Appeals Committee. The CAC will usually but not exclusively be 3 members of Bedfordshire County.
- The Chair of the CAC will send the appeal to the opposing Team and any other Team the CAC believe could be affected by the outcome of the appeal. These Teams will be permitted seventy-two (72) hours, from the date the appeal notice is sent from CAC to submit any evidence or submission that they wish the CAC to consider.

- All submissions and evidence must be submitted in writing. The Chair of CAC will have the discretion to determine the process, procedure, and direction of the appeal.
- The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy-two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions.
- The CAC will notify all the parties that made submissions and presented evidence of its decision and any penalties and sanctions imposed within twenty-four (24) hours of it reaching its determination. The CAC shall have the discretion to publish the decision through whatever means it considers appropriate.
- The CAC shall have the delegated power of the Bedfordshire County League to make all decisions and impose and enforce any penalties and sanctions (including but not limited to, reprimands, the deduction of points, fines, suspensions and expulsions from the Competition) relating to the appeal. There is no further right of appeal on this decision.
- The procedures set out in this section shall be governed by the Arbitration Act 1996 (the Act) and amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of Section 6 of the Act.
- The parties also waive irrevocably their right to any form of appeal, review or recourse to any court or other judicial authority, or under England Netball's Disciplinary Procedures Manual or otherwise, in so far as such waiver may be validly made.
- The seat of arbitration shall be England, the language used shall be English and the governing law of the regulations and these proceedings under this shall be English Law.
- If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than provided for by this section, and all parties to the appeal consent, the timetable which an appeal is raised, submissions made, and the decision taken can be shorter than seventy-two (72) hours stated. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised directions timetable which shall be binding on all parties.