

## **BIRKENHEAD NETBALL LEAGUE CONSTITUTION**

1. The league is called the Birkenhead Netball League (BNL) and is divided as follows.

### **2. Management of the league.**

Chairperson/Vice chairperson/Secretary/Treasurer/Umpiring secretary/Registration, Fixture and AENA affiliation secretary.

#### **Management to co-opt Divisional reps.**

Election of officers takes place every 2 years at the AGM. Nominations are only accepted in writing to the secretary with a proposer and seconder to be received prior to two weeks before the date of the AGM. All existing officers may stand for re-election. The AGM will take place every year in the closed season to which all clubs are required to send a representative. Committee meetings will take place as and when necessary.

### **3. Team Application**

Applications will only be accepted on the official BNL form and returned by the given date. The committee reserve the right to reject an application if deemed necessary. All outstanding monies owed to the league must be paid at the start of the new season. All new teams must enter via the lowest division at that time. Teams returning with less than 50% of original players (which is 4) from previous season must start again in the lowest division. Teams missing a season must restart in the lowest division providing there is a vacancy in the division. If a team withdraws during the season they are then considered bottom and be demoted resulting in only one more team being demoted.

### **4. Registration and All England Affiliation**

Teams can only register 14 players at any one time. Players must be 14 years of age at the start of the season. Players who will be 14yrs in the coming year can only play in the lowest division i.e. Div 4. All players under the age of 16 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult and they are the sole responsibility of their club officials. New players after the start of the season can register on the night by informing the table clerk. All players and Officials must be affiliated to All England Netball by the 3<sup>rd</sup> match of the season and failure to do so will result in loss of points. If anyone knows that an unregistered player is about to play could they advise the clerk at the start of the match and not at half time so that teams do not unfairly lose points. If an unregistered player does play the team will forfeit the points. Players who are pregnant can play up to first 12 weeks and 6 weeks after the birth.

### **5. Transfers**

Players may transfer to another club providing both clubs confirm this in writing to the registration secretary and informing the table clerk to enable her records to be amended. There must be 1 weeks space between transfers. Where clubs have more than one team their players must register for a specific team and can only transfer once within their club. Transfers may not take place within 6 weeks of the leagues finishing. Players may not sign for another team if the division they were in finishes earlier.

### **6. Trialling**

During the season new players may trial for a team for 3 times without affiliating to A.E.N.A and this must be dated and recorded to the table clerks. If a team trials different players every couple of weeks this may be seen as an abuse of the system which is not the intention of this rule and may result in withdrawal of the facility for that team.

### **7. Fixtures/Matches.**

Fixtures are scheduled by the fixture secretary and no exceptions are made other than reasons beyond the control of the league and other reasons which will be decided by the committee. Each team will play each other twice in the season on the appointed date time and venue. In the event of a club unable to play a fixture then the points are awarded to their opponents plus they must reimburse their opponents with their match fees. Recovery of fees is the responsibility of the teams involved and not the league.

Matches are played in accordance with the AENA rules and umpires decisions are final and given without appeal. All courts must be correctly marked and any complaints regarding the court or venue must be made before the start of the match to make a complaint valid but if something occurs during the match then both teams and umpires should come to an agreement which satisfies both teams.

**5pts for a win- 3pts for a draw – 2pts if lose by one goal – 1pt if more than 50% of winning score achieved.**

At the end of the season the 2 top teams will be promoted into a higher division and the 2 bottom teams demoted into a lower division. In the event of a tie the winner will be the team with the better goal difference. Medals or a monetary award will be given to the top three teams in each division. All teams should register their kit colour and every player to wear the team kit with appropriate position bib. Teams with the same colour bib one team must change bib colour.

#### 8. Discipline and Disputes.

A code of conduct has been produced by AENA for players, umpires and spectators which must be adhered to, and A copy will be given to everyone present at the matches and one will be held by table clerks. All disciplinary action taken before, during and after a match must be reported to the umpiring secretary and to be dealt with by the Committee. Umpires after giving players verbal warnings for persistently breaking the rules may (a) advance play and (b) stand a player out for a time or in extreme cases send the player off for the rest of the match, or a match suspension if deemed necessary.

The league committee reserves the right to suspend or terminate the registration of a player whose conduct offends the interests of the league. Any objections regarding violation of the rules or disputes of any kind either with teams or umpires must be put in writing to the secretary who after consultation with the committee will respond to the writer within the season the objection was made time permitting.

#### 9. Treasurer.

Treasurer to keep records of all transactions and produce relevant documents when required. To prepare a Financial statement for league members at the AGM. In the event of the league being dissolved all creditors will be Re-imbursed with fees for that season. Any remainder will be dealt with by the committee at a special AGM for Members to decide.

Alterations to any part of this constitution made be proposed and seconded by members at the AGM and accepted by 2/3rds of votes in favour. Any matters not covered by this constitution or AENA rules will be decided by the Committee.

Updated August 2011.

