**Birkenhead Netball League**

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

**For Adult Players**

The All England Netball Association Ltd in its continuing effort to increase the enjoyment and participation of the game of netball has introduced a Players Code of Conduct. We ask that all those involved in netball follow these guidelines to ensure that all competitions are played in the best spirit of the game.

* The league encourages Netball to be an enjoyable and positive experience for all netball players.
* Play fairly, be competitive but not aggressive.
* Please use these guidelines to support your club and fellow players in a manner that will enable you and others around you to enjoy your netball.
* Please: Accept responsibility in ensuring you are up to date with the laws of netball, understand and adhere to them.
* Encourage your team members to learn the rules of netball and play within them.
* Recognise the valuable contribution made by coaches and officials who are usually volunteers. They give their time and resources to provide netball for you.
* Publicly accept officials' judgements.
* Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials by anyone, both on and off court.
* Be a positive role model, treat other players and officials with the same level of respect you would expect to be shown to you.
* Recognise fair play and applaud the good performances of all, including the opposition.
* Accept success and failure, victory and defeat equally. Use correct and proper language at all times.
* Encourage everyone to enjoy the sport of netball and understand that people have different motivations to playing the game.
* Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their age, gender, ability, cultural background, religion or sexual orientation.

**Non Playing Members of a Club and Spectators**

* Anyone who is not playing in a match is expected to behave in a manner that does not cause a disturbance or distract those on the Court of play.
* Clubs/Teams are expected to ensure that any individual connected with them whilst attending one of the venues acts in a responsible manner.
* Any individual attending League fixtures, in whatever capacity, is expected to respect those officiating at the venue. In the event of a dispute or incident those on official duty are responsible for the decision on the night. Should anyone wish to appeal against the decision made, they should do so in writing to the League Committee.
* Anyone taking children to the venues must be responsible for their behaviour and safety.
* Young children especially should not be near the Court where they may be in danger of being hit by balls going out of play.
* Children should not be allowed to run around near the Court of play.
* Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.

**Officials' Code of Behaviour**

* Compliment and encourage all participants.
* To ensure you carry an up to date rule book
* Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
* Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
* Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than errors.
* Be a good sport yourself. Actions speak louder than words.
* Remember, you set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.
* Establishing rapport with players so that equity and security for ALL is paramount.
* Establishing an on court TONE which encourages maximum endeavour with an understanding of the nature of contest, player volatility and match pressures. Work to earn the respect of the player each time you officiate.