

## 5. JUNIOR LEAGUE

- 5.1 A Junior League will be organised each season if there are sufficient entries.
- 5.2 A Junior League Representative will be elected at the AGM and a Sub-Committee appointed working under the Somerset County Netball Committee.
- 5.3 It will be the responsibility of the Junior Sub-Committee to organise a meeting of all Clubs entering teams to finalise league fixture dates and any other details for the season. The number of divisions for each age category will be finalised after the seeding tournaments (if necessary) dependant on numbers entered.
- 5.4 SCNA has no objection to Clubs from other counties entering the Junior League providing the home county has no objections, all team entries fees are paid, clause 5.6 has been actioned and proof of membership to EN has been submitted to the Junior Chair/Junior Secretary.
- 5.5 Team entry fees will be determined by the Junior Committee at the start of each season with the intention of covering the costs of organising the League.

### **Player Information**

- 5.6 All junior players are required to have purchased England Netball membership prior to competing at league fixture.
- 5.7 Age
- Under 16s must be under 16 on 31.08 at the start of the season (Year 7 or under)
- Under 14s must be under 14 on 31.08 at the start of the season (Year 9 or under)
- Under 12s must be under 12 on 31.08 at the start of the season (Year 11 or under)
- 5.8 No first team player (A Team) in any age group should play down unless the match becomes a friendly with the points then awarded to the opposition. A second team player (B Team) may play up.
- 5.9 Players must not exceed allotted minutes match play time on any given day (please see the Player Loading Guidance).
- U12 and U14 - 1 full match or 40-48 minutes
- U16 - 1 full match or 60 minutes

### **Safeguarding and Codes of Conduct**

- 5.10 All Clubs will be required to follow England Netball's Safeguarding Policy and/or have a copy of their own.
- 5.11 All Clubs to have reviewed the Somerset Code of Conduct and 'Tournament' Code of Conduct and ensure all players, parents, coaches, umpires and volunteers aware of and abide by the necessary Codes of Conduct.
- 5.12 All Clubs to ensure that all spectators abide by the 'respect line' and only those who have been allocated tasks (i.e. scorer, nominated first aider etc) to be allowed court side.
- 5.13 All Clubs are to ensure that all spectators, coaches, players and other volunteers to abide by the Photography Policy and ensure that parents are not taking unauthorised photos and displaying photos on social media. .
- 5.14 Clubs to ensure that no scores are detailed on their website/socials when writing up match reports post-game.
- 5.15 If there is any major breach of the Code of Conduct, Clubs will inform the Junior Sub-Committee Chair in the first instance who may then report any incidents to the SCNA Chair and which may then be reported to England Netball Disciplinary Panel.
- 5.16 Any new team entering the League will go into the applicable age group.
- 5.17 Should a team withdraw from the League all points/goals will be discounted.

### **Regional Entries**

- 5.18 An U16 seeding tournament may be held at the start of the season to determine which 2 teams will go forward to represent Somerset at Regional U16 competition. The winners and runners up will be expected to represent Somerset as Somerset 1 and 2 at Regional Level for that season. The remaining teams will continue to compete in the Somerset U16 League for the remainder of the season.
- 5.19 An U14 seeding competition may be held to determine which 2 teams will go forward to represent Somerset at the Regional U14 competition. The highest placed 2 teams will be expected to represent Somerset as Somerset 1 and 2 at Regional Level for that season. The remaining teams will continue to compete in the Somerset U14 League for the remainder of the season.
- 5.20 Any team put forward for U16/U14 Regional Level and are unable to fulfill the requirements must inform the Junior Sub-Committee Chair and Secretary as well as Netball SW, where the position will be offered to the next qualifying team (if at the start of the season).

- 5.21 Any Clubs outside of Somerset entering the Junior League will not be permitted to enter any Somerset seeding play offs and will not be permitted to represent Somerset at Regional.

### **Match Rules**

- 5.22 Matches to be played on Sundays at a central venue (Strode College, Church Road, Street BA16 0AB) from September to April/May.
- 5.23 Matches to be independently timed at all fixtures.
- 5.24 All fixtures (except any seeding tournament) shall be divided into four quarters with appropriate intervals: -
- U16 - 1 hour in total (4 x 15mins)
  - U14 - 48 mins in total (4 x 12mins)
  - U12 - 40 mins in total (4 x 10mins)
- 5.25 Any seeding tournament (if required) timings shall be arranged by the relevant Fixtures Secretary and will be dependent on the number of teams entering.
- 5.26 Matches may be rearranged at the central venue(s) (if there is availability at another fixture date) or played home /away with confirmation from the Fixtures Secretary and /or Junior Chair. If an agreed venue then the Clubs are to pay any necessary costs.
- 5.27 Any rearranged fixtures are to be notified to the relevant Fixtures Secretary and Junior Chair. Any team not able to rearrange will forfeit the match and points will be awarded to their opponents along with a goal average up to the point of the forfeiture. Any forfeited game is to be reported to the relevant Fixtures Secretary.
- 5.28 Any new team entering the League will go into the applicable age group.
- 5.29 Should a team withdraw from the League all points/goals will be discounted.
- 5.30 If any team fails to turn up on a given match day, the match will be forfeited and Rule 5.16.16 will apply. Any forfeited game is to be reported to the relevant Fixtures Secretary and Junior Chair.
- 5.31 Each team should supply their own umpire/official for every fixture:
- U12 - officials must have attended an EN Into Officiating Course (must be within the 2 year course time period) AND be endorsed by a member of the Officiating Sub Committee

U14 – Into Officiating qualified AND be endorsed by a member of the Officiating Sub Committee OR C Award Course and above

U16 - Into Officiating qualified AND be endorsed by a member of the Officiating Sub Committee OR C Award Course and above

5.32 Any umpiring at U12 level must be sympathetic to the age group and standard. Umpires are encouraged to 'coach' and 'correct' any player being penalised, in order to facilitate the game to progress.

5.33 Junior (U16) umpires are only permitted to umpire games at their own age level or lower and should have a mentor on the sideline (umpire, coach or experienced parent/volunteer).

5.34 All officials are required to have full EN membership prior to undertaking any umpire duties.

5.35 Clubs may (at the discretion of the SCNA Junior Committee and Officiating Sub-Committee) be penalised should they continuously use an incorrectly qualified umpire -

1st offence – a fine £20 and 2 points deducted for using an incorrectly qualified umpire on one occasion;

2nd offence – a club will be questioned by the Junior Sub-Committee as to the circumstances surrounding the offence.

3rd offence – the Junior Sub-Committee will report to the Officiating Sub Committee and support may be offered.

4th offence – a club may be subject to a formal investigation potentially leading to disciplinary action in line with EN's disciplinary policy OR SCNA CoC should they continue to use an incorrectly qualified umpired for matches, after receiving support.

5.36 League points will be awarded as follows

Win	5 points
Draw	3 points
Loss, by less than 5 goals	2 points

Loss but more than half of winning teams goals	1 point
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- 5.37 If any teams tie for the League winners/runners up on points then the winner/runner up will be decided on goal difference.
- 5.38 If any game is forfeited then the 'winning team' will be awarded 5 points for a win plus a standard score of 10-0 in order to clarify any goal difference issues.
- 5.39 These rules are subject to any revision due to any exceptional circumstances within the Country/County and will be reviewed as necessary.
- 5.40 If applicable, trophies will be awarded as follows:
- U16s - League Winners and Runners Up
  - U14a - League Winners and Runners Up
  - U14b - League Winners and Runners Up
  - U12s - League Winners and Runners Up

(June 2026)