



SOMERSET COUNTY NETBALL LEAGUE



Rules – 2026 - 2027

Somerset County Netball League (SCNL) has been a part of Somerset Netball for many years. The rules have been developed over the years to help clubs and to make playing fair for all players.

- Section 1 Membership
- Section 2 Joining the League, Kit, Venues, Structure, Points, Relegation and Promotion
- Section 3 Fixtures
- Section 4 Player Categories
- Section 5 Regional Team/Squads/Players
- Section 6 [Knock Out Cup Rules \(currently not being run\)](#)
- Section 7 Health and Pregnancy
- Section 8 Officiating
- Section 9 Umpire Endorsements
- Section 10 Code of Conduct
- Section 11 Playing Under 16s in SCNL

Somerset County Netball League Rules 2026/2027

1 Membership

- 1.1 All Players must be members of England Netball (EN) with current membership paid to a Club playing in the SCNL for the appropriate season.
- 1.2 All Players must be registered SCNL prior to playing in any league or cup competitions games in SCNL and/or Netball South West Regional Leagues (NSWRL).

2 Joining SCNL, Kit, Venues, Structure, Points, Relegation and Promotion

- 2.1 All Players must be members of EN with current membership paid to a Club playing in the SCNL for the appropriate season.
- 2.2 All Players must be categorised and registered with SCNL prior to playing in any in league or cup competitions games in SCNL and/or NSWRL.
- 2.3 All entries and withdrawals must be notified to SCNL by the Somerset County Netball Association (SCNA) AGM, although in exceptional circumstances late entries may be permitted.
- 2.4 SCNL has no objection to Clubs from other counties entering the SCNL providing the home county has no objections and all necessary financial transactions are completed with the home county, Netball South West (NSW) and EN.
- 2.5 All Divisions shall consist of a maximum of 11 teams and a minimum of 9 teams. When possible, all divisions will consist of an equal number of teams, but when this is not possible the lowest or lower divisions shall have the fewer teams. During exceptional circumstances where the league structure may need to be completely reviewed or modified then SCNL will provide clubs with suitable alternatives to the standard league format.
- 2.6 All matches shall be of one hour, divided into four quarters of fifteen minutes each, with an interval of three (3) minutes between the first and second, and third and fourth quarters, and a five (5) minute interval at half time.
- 2.7 Club colours must be registered with the SCNL. Any changes to the colour of kit must be approved by the SCNL. Consideration should be given to the Club colours of other clubs in the SCNL – if a Club wants any clarification **before** changing their Club colours they should discuss with the SCNL.
- 2.8 If teams have similar match day kits then the home team will be responsible for providing and wearing a distinguishable different set of bibs or kit.
- 2.9 Clubs must provide identification for their teams' on-court captains. This should be visible on their kit.
- 2.10 All matches must be played on courts in accordance with EN guidance and rules with adequate surrounds and adequate lighting. Posts, tripping hazards etc need to be risk assessed by the home club and reviewed regularly.

Somerset County Netball League Rules 2026/2027

- 2.11 All matches will be played on outdoor courts and only on indoor courts where available at the discretion of the home club.
- 2.12 Clubs shall where possible, ensure that the courts are checked prior to any matches taking place to check the status of the court conditions, equipment etc.
- 2.13 If any club is dissatisfied with any of the court conditions referred to above, they should report the matter in writing to the SCNL who on receipt of such a complaint will make the necessary arrangements to assess the situation in liaison with the County Officiating Lead.
- 2.14 A team whose opponents are not ready to start with 5 players on court within 15 minutes of the agreed start time may, if they wish, postpone the match. If this is the case a report should be forwarded to the SCNL for discussion and a recommendation made on the outcome of the match.
- 2.15 All efforts must be made by the opposition to let the home team know of any unforeseen events whilst travelling to a game and to make the home team aware of any delay to the fixture. Not allowing enough time to travel to a fixture is not sufficient. It should also be noted that in most circumstances the teams will be asked to play the match on an agreed date.
- 2.16 SCNL 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 goals	1 point

- 2.17 At the end of the season if teams tie as Division winners the SCNL Division trophies will be shared and will be held by the teams for equal periods. The last team to hold the trophy will be responsible for returning at least 1 month prior to the SCNA AGM.

If trophies are damaged or lost, then SCNL will expect the last team responsible for the trophy to repair it or replace it.

- 2.18 Where two or more teams are level on points to determine promotion or relegation the final placings will be decided as follows:
- a) If any of the teams level on points have forfeited one or more league matches during the season, then the team which has forfeited the greater number of matches shall be placed lower.

Somerset County Netball League Rules 2026/2027

- b) If teams are still level, goal average shall be used to determine their relative positions, i.e. the team with the higher goal average over the course of the season shall be placed the higher.
- c) Where one of the teams level on points has had a match or matches cancelled and therefore no goals have been scored or conceded then the goals from the corresponding fixture of the other team(s) level on points shall be omitted from the goal average and goals scored calculations.
- d) In the event that goal average does not differentiate between the teams, then goal difference shall be applied, i.e. the team with the greater difference between goals scored and goals conceded shall be placed the higher.
- e) In the event that neither goal average nor goal difference can differentiate between the teams, the aggregate score in the matches played between the teams over the course of the season shall be calculated and precedence given to the winning team.
- f) In the event that none of the above differentiates between the teams, SCNL will determine the means of differentiation.

2.19 Should a team withdraw from the SCNL all points and goals gained from matches already played will be totally discounted.

2.20 SCNL Promotion and Relegation shall be as follows:

a) Premier Division - Promotion

- (i) The winner of the Premier Division will represent Somerset at the NSW regional playoffs and if successful will then compete in NSWRL Division 3 the following season.
- (ii) If the winner is either not eligible or does not want to be part of the NSW Regional League consideration will be given to the 2nd or 3rd placed teams being put through to the play-offs to represent Somerset.

b) Premier Division - Relegation

- (i) If no teams are promoted to NSWRL Division 3 and no Somerset teams relegated from the NSWRL Division 3 then the bottom 2 teams will be relegated from the Premier Division.
- (ii) If the winner of the Premier Division is promoted to NSWRL Division 3 and no teams are relegated from the NSWRL Division 3 then only the bottom team will be relegated from the Premier Division.
- (iii) If the winner of the Premier Division is promoted to NSWRL Division 3 and a team is relegated from the NSWRL Division 3 then the bottom 2 teams will be relegated from the Premier Division.

Somerset County Netball League Rules 2026/2027

- (iv) If there are any situations not covered by the above, then the SCNL will make a recommendation to SCNA.

- c) Lower Divisions - Promotion
The winner and runner up in each Division will be promoted – applying Rule 2.18, if necessary.

- d) Lower Divisions - Relegation
The 2 bottom teams in each Division above the lowest Division will be relegated – applying Rule 2.18, if necessary.

- e) Lower Divisions - other
If there are any situations not covered by the above, then SCNL will make a recommendation to SCNA.

Overview

Division	Promotion	Relegation
Premier	Teams eligible to attend playoffs for NSWRL Division 3	See 2.17 (a) for the different scenarios
1	2	2
2	2	2
3	2	2
4	2	2
5	2	2
6	1	0

2.21 NSWRL Promotion and Relegation shall be as follows:

- a) The top team in the Premier Division will be eligible for promotion to the NSWRL and will contest a playoff with the winners of other SW Leagues in accordance with the rules laid down by CEWG (Competitions and Events Working Group) of NSW. In the event that the winners of the Premier League are not eligible or do not wish to contest for the promotion, the second placed team will be eligible.

- b) Any Somerset team relegated from the NSWRL will automatically be placed in the SCNL's Premier Division for the following season.

- c) Depending on the movement of teams in 2.16 a) or 2.16 b), promotion and relegation within SCNL will be amended as necessary as detailed in 2.5.

3 Fixtures

3.1 The SCNL will prepare the proposed fixture list for the season and forward to all clubs as soon as possible after the AGM of SCNA.

Somerset County Netball League Rules 2026/2027

- 3.2 Fixtures can be amended with the agreement of both clubs provided that SCNL is notified by both clubs by email by the first week in August at the latest.
- 3.3 A final Fixture list will be issued by SCNL 2 weeks prior to the season starting.
- 3.4 Matches are to start between 9:30am and 3:00pm unless agreed between both teams in advance.
- 3.5 All matches shall be played as arranged between the clubs.
- 3.6 Following publication of the final fixture list matches, matches must be played on the set dates. Matches can only be altered, rearranged or cancelled in the following exceptional circumstances:

- a) For Severe inclement weather i.e. – snow or ice. Consideration must also be given to:
- (i) Court conditions, especially games to be played outside early in the morning. The onus is on the home team to have checked facilities to ensure the court is safe for play.
 - (ii) Travelling conditions for away teams.

Contact must be made with teams and SCNL at appropriate time, preferably the evening before a game and before the away team depart for the match.

- b) It is the umpires' responsibility regarding the general health and safety of the players and the court surroundings. If both umpires agree that the welfare of the players is in danger, then the match will be abandoned and the details referred to both the County Officiating Lead and the SCNL. Any fixture deemed to be abandoned will need to be rearranged as per Rules 3.8 and 3.9.
- c) If **MORE** than one player categorised in that team is playing, umpiring, coaching, selecting in International, Super League or Regional matches.
- d) If **MORE** than one player categorised in team is being tested for umpiring/coaching or attending an official EN course.
- e) If a club is arranging a club visit to an International match or Super League match/opening date e.g. Super Saturday.
- f) If a team is unable to fulfil a fixture due to umpire unavailability there should be discussion with SCNL and the County Officiating Lead to try to resolve the issue.

- 3.7 If a club cannot field a correctly categorised team, clubs should:

- a) Pull players up from a lower team to field teams in higher divisions to ensure fixtures are fulfilled.

Somerset County Netball League Rules 2026/2027

- b) Clubs must exhaust all possibilities, including all eligible players to fulfil fixtures where appropriate.
- c) **ONLY** the lowest team of a club, who is unable to field a team on any given day may offer to rearrange or cancel the fixture.
- d) Where the welfare of more than 1 player having to move up is a concern – this must be discussed with the opposition and SCNL and in exceptional circumstances rearrangement may be permitted of a team which is not the lowest placed team in SCNL for that club.
- e) **ONLY** the lowest team of a club, who is unable to field a team on any given day can offer to play a friendly, fielding players from other categories. Only players with membership to that club and to EN can play in such a friendly. SCNL must be informed **BEFORE** any friendly takes place.
 - (i) If the friendly takes place – 5 points and 25 goals will be awarded to the non-offending team. The offending team will NOT incur a deduction of points but will lose the match and have 25 goals against them. In addition the team may incur a fine – the minimum fine will be £50 for cancellations.
 - (ii) The non-offending team can decline the offer of a friendly - 5 points and 25 goals will be awarded to the non-offending team. The offending team will NOT incur a deduction of points but will lose the match and have 25 goals against them. In addition, the team may incur a fine – the minimum fine will be £50 for cancellations.

3.8 In circumstances where Rule 3.6 (a)-(f) above or 3.7 have occurred, Clubs will be given 14 days to agree a new date for any re-arranged fixtures.

3.9 Any league fixture which is required to be rearranged (in accordance with Rules 3.6 (a-f) or Rule 3.7 is to be played a maximum of 14 days either side of the original scheduled date (where possible and the schedule permits) provided that both teams agree to the change, and it is not played after the scheduled last day of the season. Where clubs cannot agree on a rescheduled date the final decision will be made by SCNL-

3.10 A league fixture between two teams from the same club can be rearranged to be played within one month either side of the original scheduled date. It cannot be rearranged after the scheduled last day of the season, and it cannot be the last game of the season for either team.

3.11 Clubs must discuss **ALL** potential cancellations in line with Rules 3.6 (a-f) or Rule 3.7 above with SCNL at the earliest opportunity to ensure that the interpretation of the rules is correct and that no teams are penalised for making an incorrect decision. The final decision regarding the cancellation in relation to the rules will be made by SCNL.

3.12 Clubs will ensure that SCNL are notified by both teams of any changes, cancellations or rearranged games.

3.13 Any team cancelling a match or arranging a friendly shall forfeit the points. 5 points and 25 goals will be awarded to the non-offending team. The offending team will incur a deduction of 2

Somerset County Netball League Rules 2026/2027

points, 25 goals against and a fine to be determined by SCNL – the minimum fine will be £50 for cancellations.

Paper result sheets

- 3.14 Paper result sheets will be made available to clubs for distribution to the teams for completion at their home matches.
- a) A paper result sheet must be completed appropriately and accurately by both teams. This includes substitutions for injuries and illness which must be shown on the result sheet under the appropriate quarter.
 - b) The paper result sheet must be emailed by the home team immediately after the match and at the latest within 3 days of the match being played to the following email addresses:

SomersetNetballLeague@outlook.com
SCNLcategories@hotmail.com
somersetumpirechecking@gmail.com

- c) If the result sheet is not received within 3 days a £10 fine will be imposed on the home team.

Online Results

- d) Online Results will also be submitted by Clubs/Teams via text or using the <https://netballresults.uk/somerset/> website.
 - a. Clubs must ensure submissions of results using text or online by 7pm on the day of the match
 - b. Home and away teams must both submit their results electronically
 - c. If any Team has any issues, or there is a discrepancy of the score they must contact SCNL immediately.

4 Player Categories

- 4.1 All players must be registered and have appropriate membership as stated in Rules 1.1 and 1.2. Any team breaking Rule 4.1 will incur a penalty of 3 points and a fine (minimum of £20), but the result of the match and points awarded will stand.
- 4.2 All players should be categorised by their clubs as follows (these include Regional Teams):

Team	Category	Team	Category	Team	Category	Team	Category
1 st	A	4 th	D	7 th	G	10 th	J
2 nd	B	5 th	E	8 th	H	11 th	K
3 rd	C	6 th	F	9 th	I	12 th	L

Somerset County Netball League Rules 2026/2027

- 4.3 All clubs must keep a register of matches/quarters played by each player in all matches.
- 4.4 There should be a minimum of 7 players in each category. This minimum number must be maintained throughout the season.

At the start of the season, where possible, players must start their first game in the category they have been registered. However, if a player is categorised in a team but is not able to play for the first match then this is acceptable.

- 4.5 Clubs must ensure that where they are categorising players as the lowest category (commonly referred to as 'X category') that they are then further categorised by ability as follows:
 - 4.5.1 'X'1 category player – an X category player only able to play in Division 2 matches and above;
 - 4.5.2 'X'2 category player – an X category player only able to play in Division 3 matches and below. This is used for those categorised for the lowest playing team within a Club.
- 4.6 A player cannot miss more than 3 consecutive matches in their assigned category or above, before they must be re-categorised for the 4th match.
- 4.7 A player who becomes pregnant or injured will have to be re-categorised into the lowest category. See rule covering pregnancy at Rule 7.
- 4.8 If a player is re-categorised to a higher/lower category (other than the lowest category), they must play in the next match at that category.
- 4.9 Players in a lower category may play unlimited matches in any higher category (not including NSWRL Teams).
- 4.10 Any club/team playing a player in a category below their category or fails to re-categorise a player immediately after a player misses 3 consecutive matches (including cup matches), will incur a penalty of 2 points and a fine (minimum £20), but the result of the game and points awarded will stand. The only exception is un-tied NSWRL Players see Rule 5.5.
- 4.11 There shall be no re-categorisation of players after March 24th, unless agreed by SCNL.
- 4.12 SCNL and ultimately SCNA has the power to impose whatever penalty it deems appropriate, especially if it feels a club or team is deliberately flouting the rules to gain an advantage.
- 4.13 Any player wishing to change clubs during the season may do so once SCNL has received written details from the two clubs concerned. This player may not play in the KO cup or associated competitions if they played in the KO Cup for that season for their original club. If a player does play for a team before it is agreed, then the team will automatically forfeit the match concerned and any points gained from that match. The points will be awarded to the

Somerset County Netball League Rules 2026/2027

opposition. In addition, the offending team will have 2 points deducted and a fine may be levied by the SCNL.

- 4.14 A player cannot play for more than one club within SCNL but can play for a separate Somerset club in the NSWRL but will be subject to the 18 quarter Rule at 5.5 & 5.6.
- 4.15 A player is eligible to play for a Somerset club if they are registered with a club in another county playing at a local league or county league level. Their membership to EN would be recorded according to NSWRL rules. It will be up to the Somerset Club to check that the player's original registration with EN has been accepted and recorded.
- 4.16 The SCNL will carry out weekly checks of score sheets to ensure that the category rules are not being broken. If there are any teams that think their opposition are abusing the registration rules, they should report this to the SCNL in writing. The complaint will then be investigated and reported to SCNA. If the complaint is upheld a fine may be levied in addition to the forfeiture of points as detailed in Rule 4.9.
- 4.17 Any club/team failing to pay fines within 4 weeks may incur subsequent fines or points deductions as SCNL deems necessary until the fines have been paid.

5 Regional Team/Squads/Players

- 5.1 All players representing Somerset Clubs in the NSWRL must have membership to EN, NSW and a SCNL Club for the appropriate season.
- 5.2 Clubs playing in NSWRL are responsible for sharing accurate squad and match information with SCNL within 3 days of any NSWRL matches. The score sheets from the NSWRL matches, which includes details of all players, including quarters played for each game need to be sent to the following email addresses (in addition to the NSWRL manager)

SomersetNetballLeague@outlook.com and SCNLcategories@hotmail.com

Failure to share match team sheets and accurate squad sheets will result in minimum fine of £20.00.

- 5.3 No player registered with a Super League franchise, National Premier Team, other Regional League team may play in the SCNL except in exceptional circumstances, and then they must have prior consent of the SCNL. It is the SCNL club's responsibility to ascertain new players' previous playing experience, especially if joining mid-way through a season. Permission may be requested from the player to contact previous clubs and league to ascertain the number of quarters they have played in higher level competitions before any permission is granted to play in the SCNL.
- 5.4 Clubs which have (a) team(s) participating in a connected league i.e. NSWRL RL1, RL2 or RL3 (South or North), must abide by the principle of having separate squads. The following provisions will control the movement of players.

Somerset County Netball League Rules 2026/2027

- 5.5 All NSWRL squads must identify a minimum of seven (7) 'tied' players at the time of registration with NSWRL, these players must also be notified to the SCNL. None of these players will be permitted to play in any lower team in their club, in the SCNL.
- 5.6 Only 'untied' or 'bench' players categorised within SCNL in a Club's highest team playing in SCNL (i.e. Premier Division) will be permitted to play with NSWRL squads. These 'untied' players will be permitted to play a maximum of 18 quarters in NSWRL, when they then will become tied to the NSWRL squad for the remainder of the season. No SCNL categorised player or other categorised player may play at NSWRL.
- 5.7 Clubs can register with NSWRL extra squad players from other Clubs after the initial registration with NSWRL in September of each season. Any additional players must be registered and categorised appropriately with SCNL at the same time as registering with NSWRL. Any player registered as a squad player with SCNL will be able to play in a NSWRL squad up to a maximum of 18 quarters. Thereafter they will be tied to the higher level and identified as a permanent member of that squad and will not be able to play down into SCNL for the remainder of the season.
- 5.8 If a tied player is released from the higher squad for reasons of injury the club must seek permission of the SCNL for them to play in lower teams in the SCNL.
- 5.9 It is the responsibility of SCNL clubs playing NSWRL to ensure all NSWRL players are categorised/re-categorised appropriately throughout the season, failure to do so will result in £20 minimum fine per individual.
- 5.10 In the event of end of season play-offs being required to resolve promotion or relegation issues, the eligibility of players in each team shall be covered by the rules regarding quarters played over the season and tied players.

6 Knockout Cup Rules

THIS IS CURRENTLY NOT BEING RUN BUT THE RULES REMAIN IN PLACE FOR FUTURE SEASONS WHEN IT IS DECIDED TO RUN A KO CUP TOURNAMENT

- 6.1 Annually the Executive Committee of SCNA will agree the format of the Knock Out cup competition(s), and this/these will then be put in place by the Fixtures Sub committee.
- 6.2 The Finals of the Knock-Out cup competition(s) will be played as arranged by the Fixtures Sub Committee and the date published in the Final Fixture List. Clubs are requested not to move matches to Cup rounds or Cup Final day.
- 6.3 Any team entering the Knock-Out cup competition(s) must be a team from the SCNL and the affiliation and registration rules will apply.
- 6.4 Rules 3.5, 1.1, 1.2, 4.11 also apply to the Knock-Out cup competition(s), except that there will be no points deducted, however a heavier fine will be levied – Minimum £40 for non-fulfilment of fixture, £20 for administration error.

Somerset County Netball League Rules 2026/2027

- 6.5 Any team breaking Rules 1.1, 1.2, 3.5 and 4.11 (and SCNL umpiring Rules 9.1 and 9.5) in KO Cup games will forfeit the match.
- 6.6 If the KO Cup is played prior to the last date for re-categorisation, a player will only be eligible to play in any Cup final if
- a) She has played for that team in a previous cup tie in the same season and is categorised in that team or below.
 - b) She is categorised in that team or below and has NOT played in a cup match in the same season for a higher team.
 - c) A player cannot be re-categorised down specifically to play in the Cup Final
 - d) If a player does play for a team before it is agreed then the team will automatically forfeit the match concerned and any points gained from that match. The points will be awarded to the opposition. In addition the offending team will have 2 points deducted and a fine may be levied by the SCNL.
- 6.7 In the Knock-Out Cup competition(s), in the event of a draw, the following will occur:
- a) There will be a two (2) minute interval at the end of full time. Substitutions and/or team changes are permitted.
 - b) Extra time of two halves of seven (7) minutes each shall be played. Teams change ends at half time without an interval. No substitution and/or team changes are permitted. The centre pass is taken by the team entitled to the next centre pass.
 - c) In the event of a tie remaining at the end of extra time, a visual signal shall be used to indicate that play shall continue until one team has a two (2) goal advantage.
- 6.8 The draw(s) for the Knock-Out Cup competition(s) will take place on a date fixed by the Executive Committee of SCNA. The matches will be played on the nominated dates shown on the Final Fixtures List.
- 6.9 Those teams knocked out in the first round that they play of the Knock-Out cup(s) competition, will be automatically entered into the Upper and Lower Plate competitions. They will be expected to participate in the Plate competition and failure to do so will result in the fines detailed in 3.5h.
- 6.10 Trophies will be awarded as follows:

Somerset County Netball League Rules 2026/2027

Premier/1 /2 Division KO Cup Winners	Upper Cup
3/4/5/6 Division KO Cup Winners	Lower Cup
Premier/1 /2 Division Plate Winners	Upper Plate
3/4/5/6 Division Plate Winners	Lower Plate

7 Health & Pregnancy Recommendations

- 7.1 EN recommends that individuals (player, coach, umpire) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidelines issued by EN. Neither EN, nor the club will be held liable for any pregnant individual participating in recognised and authorised activity should the individual suffer a miscarriage or permanent damage to herself and/or unborn child because of participating.
- 7.2 The EN Personal Accident cover will not provide any benefit for injury, loss or expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage or any consequence thereof. For example, if an 'Insured Person' who is pregnant is involved in an accident (not pregnancy related) and suffers a broken leg then, subject to claims validation, EN would pay any broken bones benefit, the Hospital Confinement benefit and Temporary Total Disablement benefit due under the Personal Accident Insurance Policy resulting from this injury.
- 7.3 However, if the absence or hospital stay is prolonged as a direct result of pregnancy, pregnancy complications or even early childbirth then this would not be covered. The EN insurance scheme is provided as a Membership benefit and ensures that Affiliated Members (referred to in the Liability insurance documents as 'Registered Participants') and in the Personal Accident documents as an 'Insured Person' are covered for Liability and Personal Accident Insurance, at the level of cover applicable to their category of membership.
- 7.4 Full terms and conditions apply as detailed in the EN insurance policy documents, in association with EN's current Memorandum, Articles, Regulations and Policies. These documents are available to individuals on request by email or can be downloaded by every member on the downloadable documents in ENGAGE. Please note this guidance supersedes previous guidance that players, coaches, officials should only participate up until their 12th week of pregnancy.

8 Officiating

- 8.1 All umpires must have current membership to EN for the season they officiate in. All umpires need to be registered with the County Officiating Lead) before officiating matches at any level.
- 8.2 All umpires have a responsibility for their personal fitness and for keeping up to date with rule changes. They also need to check that they have the correct umpiring level recorded on their ENGAGE account.

Somerset County Netball League Rules 2026/2027

- 8.3 When allocating umpires, clubs should ensure that they allocate umpires that meet the fitness requirements to officiate the level of game they have been allocated. Clubs can complete the umpire expression of interest form and submit to the County Officiating Lead for development support.
- 8.4 Members of EN and SCNL may serve on the Officiating Sub Committee. It is preferable that they hold an umpiring qualification.
- 8.5 All resolutions decided upon by the Officiating Sub Committee can serve as recommendations to SCNA. Action may be taken upon approval from SCNA.
- 8.6 The Officiating Sub Committee shall hold at least four meetings during their year of office.
- 8.7 All umpires who wish to umpire SCNL matches and cup competition matches must have current membership with EN. Teams that use umpires that do not have EN membership will be fined £30.00 and the SCNL will consider the result of the match and whether the result stands.
- 8.8 Umpires from outside Somerset must provide proof of EN membership and their umpiring qualification to the County Officiating Lead prior to officiating in SCNL. If possible, umpires from other counties who are being used regularly by clubs should be registered as 2nd claim with the Somerset club. This will allow the County Officiating Lead to check details on ENGAGE.
- 8.9 Teams that use umpires that do not have EN membership and/or do not have the correct umpiring qualification will be fined £30.00 and the SCNL will consider the result of the match and whether the result stands.
- 8.10 All matches within the SCNL and cup competitions require the following umpire awards:

Somerset County Netball League Rules 2026/2027

Premier Division	<p>A and B Award umpires.</p> <p>C Award umpires actively working towards the B award qualification. Umpires should be assessed in line with the EN A, B, C assessor criteria prior to being given premier division and RL3 endorsements.</p>
Division 1	<p>A and B Award umpires.</p> <p>Competent C Award umpires. Umpires should be assessed in line with the EN A, B, C assessor criteria who will be regularly observed by the SCNA Officiating Sub Committee.</p>
Division 2	<p>A, B award and competent C Award umpires.</p> <p>C Award umpires who have been observed using the EN C, B, A assessor criteria.</p>
Division 3	<p>A, B and C Award umpires.</p> <p>C award umpires who have been observed using the EN C, B, A assessor criteria.</p>
Division 4	<p>A, B, C and Into Award umpires.</p> <p>Competent Into Award umpires actively working towards the C award qualification. Umpires should be assessed in line with the EN A, B, C assessor criteria who will be regularly observed by the SCNA Officiating Sub Committee.</p>
Division 5/6	<p>A, B, C and Into Award umpires.</p> <p>Competent Into award umpires, or newly qualified Into award umpires who have been observed by a member of the umpiring subcommittee, or an experienced umpire in their club. This must be communicated to the County Officiating Lead.</p>

8.11 For C award umpires, a Premier Knock Out (KO) Cup match will not be included in their match allocation. Teams playing in the KO cup must provide an umpire who is qualified to the level of the highest team in their match.

8.12 Ill or Injured Umpires During a Match

8.12.1 For Tournaments

It is the responsibility of the Tournament organisers to ensure that a reserve Umpire (at the appropriate level) is in attendance where possible.

8.12.2 For SCNL Matches

If an umpire is ill or injured and unable to finish the game, their position can be substituted by a relevant qualified umpire, who can be an on-court player. No on-court player must be forced to umpire. Any change must be agreed by both teams.

Somerset County Netball League Rules 2026/2027

Where there is no suitably qualified umpire present, the umpire, after consulting with the team captains, should abandon the game and the matter referred to both the County Officiating Lead and the SCNL.

- 8.13 For game management please refer to IFNA Official netball Rules Section 18, Game Management (Rules of Netball 2024 edition). The same two umpires must start and finish a match unless changed under Rule 4 of the Rules of Netball 2024 edition or unless agreed by both teams and umpires before the start of a match or as detailed in SCNL Rule 8.12.
- 8.14 For SCNL Knock Out Cup competition neutral umpires will be allocated by the Officiating Sub Committee for the semi-final and final.
- 8.15 Complaints will be investigated by the Officiating Sub Committee and shared with SCNL if appropriate and recommendations sent to the SCNA. Follow up will be made with the umpire and club as appropriate.

9 Umpire Endorsements

- 9.1 For information regarding allocations and endorsements for SCNL matches please refer to the SCNA Umpiring Pathway document.

10 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 10.1 All Clubs agree to abide by the SCNA Code of Conduct for that season. The Club Chairperson will take reasonable responsibility for the behaviour of club members, associated members and supporters to ensure that they are upheld. A Clubs' continued participation within the SCNA infers that the Chairperson is agreeing to abide and uphold the Codes of Conduct and ensure that their members and supporters are familiar with the Codes of Conduct. The Chairperson understands that if the club or its members, fail to follow the Codes of Conduct, SCNA may take action against it under the Disciplinary Regulations, which may result in sanctions including fines and suspension.
- 10.2 With regard to unacceptable behaviour towards umpires (including eye rolling, verbal and facial expressions and opinions on decisions made), all players, coaches and spectators should observe the Code of Conduct set out by the SCNA and International Rules. Umpires are constantly at different points in their officiating journey, and with support will continue to grow and attain a good standard of umpiring. Please be kind, respect the decisions that are given and be constructive in any questions you have in respect of confirmation of the rules throughout a game.
- 10.3 All Clubs will be required to follow England Netball's Safeguarding Policy and/or have a copy of their own.

11. PLAYING UNDER 16s IN SCNL

- 11.1 SCNL recommends that the minimum age of players is 14. Any players at age 14-16 (school Year 9, 10 and 11), will require a written recommendation from a qualified coach who is

Somerset County Netball League Rules 2026/2027

required to assess the players' suitability for SCNL in terms of both skills, standard of play and emotional maturity.

- 11.2 Any Club intending to play any player aged 14-16 (school Year 9, 10 and 11) must complete and send the Age Banding form (**Appendix A**) to the SCNL League Secretary at least 1 week in advance of the player taking the court. This must accompany a written recommendation from a qualified coach as above.

<https://somerset.englandnetball.org/Media/Somerset/Documents/Age-Banding-Form.doc>

- 11.3 It is the responsibility of all Clubs and their members who may interact with young players to ensure the environment is suitable and that the relevant Codes of Conduct and safeguarding provisions are met.

- 11.4 With regards to court time, please refer to the Somerset Player Loading Guidance (**Appendix B**). There are many opportunities available for our younger players to take to the court, but any Club and members supporting them must endeavour to manage court time as per the Guidance to ensure they are not over committed and that other life factors such as education are not hindered.

[https://somerset.englandnetball.org/Media/Somerset/Documents/Guidance%20on%20Junior%20\(U16\)%20loading.pdf](https://somerset.englandnetball.org/Media/Somerset/Documents/Guidance%20on%20Junior%20(U16)%20loading.pdf)