

COLCHESTER NETBALL LEAGUE

HANDBOOK

2024/25



www.colchesternetball.org.uk

facebook.com/colchesternetballleague

COLCHESTER NETBALL LEAGUE

COMMITTEE 2024/25SEASON

This handbook contains email details of the committee, they are for netball purposes only. Please do not use personal details for any other purpose.

Honorary Life President

Angie Syrett

Chairperson

Donna Parker

doparke@icloud.com

Vice Chairperson

Amy Longhurst

amyclonghurst@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer

Linda Gaine

linda.gaine@icloud.com

Secretary

Nicola Rees

nicrees@hotmail.com

Minute Taker

Sam Harwood

samanthaharwood@hotmail.co.uk

Membership, Fixtures, and Cancellation Officer

Kim Watson

katsnc@outlook.com

Youth League Officer

Kim Watson

katsnc@outlook.com

Officiating Lead

Becky Asbridge

bexdorey@btinternet.com

Communication Officer

Becky Henry

becky.henry10@yahoo.com

Committee Member

Lorraine Adams

Safeguarding

Please contact League Secretary - Nicola Rees - nicrees@hotmail.com

East Essex Representatives

Kim Watson

Linda Gaine

CONSTITUTION

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Colchester Netball League shall be to provide netball leagues at youth and senior levels as per 3.3 providing equal opportunities for all to participate in the game of netball in a competitive and friendly manner.

2. ENGLAND NETBALL MEMBERSHIP

The clubs, players, umpires, coaches, Committee members and officials participating in **Colchester Netball League** must be members of England Netball and their relevant County Netball Association each year by 1st September. All participating members (players, coaches, umpires and officials) should be a full adult or junior member. All non-participating members (committee members, general helpers for example) should be social and supporting members

3. LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1. All Clubs, players, umpires, coaches, Committee members shall be considered as “Members” or the Colchester Netball League and must be registered with the league. For voting procedures see 7.
- 3.2. In accepting membership, a person agrees to abide to the constitution and rules of the Colchester Netball League and to the application of these by the annually appointed Colchester Netball League Committee.
- 3.3. Members from school years 2 -11 will be eligible for the youth league. All members from School Year 10 can be considered senior players.
- 3.4. A Senior and Youth League will be provided by the ‘Colchester Netball League’
- 3.5. All League matches will be played at the Central Venue of Leisure World Highwoods. In the event these become unavailable the committee may substitute other venues.

4. COMMITTEE

- 4.1. All members of the Committee (4.2) shall be elected annually by a vote at the AGM.
- 4.2. The Committee shall comprise of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and such officers and Committee members as determined by the AGM and ability to coopt further members as need arises.
- 4.3. The Committee shall act for the members. Liabilities incurred shall fall upon the membership (provided they act in accordance with the constitution, in honesty and good faith).
- 4.4. The Secretary shall convene meetings of the Committee and the Committee shall meet at least 4 times a year, with dates of future meetings being arranged at the previous meeting.
- 4.5. The quorum for the transaction of business at Committee meetings shall be 50% of Committee members.
- 4.6. At a Committee Meeting, all appropriate matters shall be determined by a majority with every member having one vote. In the event of a tie the Chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote.
- 4.7. The interpretation of the Colchester Netball League constitution shall be vested in the Committee, who shall decide all questions relating to the Colchester Netball League.
- 4.8. The Committee shall be responsible for considering any application for membership and shall decide if this application should be accepted.

- 4.9. In the event of a resignation from the Committee for both a named officer and general committee member "officers named or otherwise" the Committee are empowered to appoint from within the Committee or co-opt from the general membership."
- 4.10. Only three members of the same club allowed on the Committee during a year to ensure balance and equality.
- 4.11. If any Committee members change clubs within a season that affects 4.10. the members will either resign or continue in that post for continuity with the agreement and endorsement of the remaining committee members throughout that season, until the next AGM.
- 4.12. The Committee will be copied in on all correspondence that is sent by the Committee to all the teams.

5. FINANCE

- 5.1. The financial year of the Colchester Netball League ends on 30th June each year.
- 5.2. Proper accounts shall be kept of all sums of money received and paid out by the Colchester Netball League.
- 5.3. A statement of accounts up to and including this date shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Colchester Netball League.
- 5.4. The funds of the Colchester Netball League shall be lodged at a bank in an account in the name of the Colchester Netball League, and all cheques, drafts etc. drawn on these accounts shall be authorised by at least two named signatories.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND OTHER MEETINGS

- 6.1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Colchester Netball League shall be held every year after the end of the winter league when the annual report of the Committee and the statement of accounts, up to the end of the financial year, will be presented.
- 6.2. Not less than 6 weeks' written notice of the date of the AGM shall be given to all members by the Secretary.
- 6.3. The Secretary shall receive written nominations for officers, not less than 4 weeks prior to the AGM. Nominations can only be accepted from persons eligible to vote at the AGM and shall require a minimum of 2 named nominees. No nominations shall be accepted from the floor of the meeting.
- 6.4. This constitution shall be reviewed on an annual basis.
- 6.5. Amendments to the constitution shall only be agreed at an AGM or at an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting).
- 6.6. Additions to, or alterations of, the constitution or league rules shall be submitted to the Secretary up to 4 weeks before the date of the AGM, or with a request for an EGM of Colchester Netball League members. **No resolution involving an amendment to the constitution or league may be proposed or amended from the floor of a meeting.**
- 6.7. In the event of a proposal for amending the constitution or league rules being submitted, the Secretary shall inform the membership of the proposed motion not less than 3 weeks before the AGM
- 6.8. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of all league member clubs will be called by the Committee to discuss and vote, if necessary, on major decisions concerning the league.

- 6.9. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) can also be called by an application in writing to the Secretary signed by not less than 25% of member clubs.
- 6.10. The quorum for all General Meetings (AGM and EGM) shall be 50% of the existing member clubs.

7. VOTING PROCEDURES

- 7.1. Each member club is allocated one vote at the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 7.2. A motion shall be carried by a simple majority of those present and voting, except when the motion is a constitutional amendment, which shall require a two-thirds majority.
- 7.3. The Chair shall have a casting vote.

8. DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS

- 8.1. The Committee shall have the power to take appropriate disciplinary action against any member and shall have the authority to terminate the membership of any member guilty of conduct deemed to be to the detriment of the Colchester Netball League.
- 8.2. There shall be the right of appeal to the Committee, against any decision made by the Committee of the Colchester Netball League.
- 8.3. The appeal should normally be considered within 14 days of it being received by the Secretary, by a specific appointed appeals committee, which shall not contain any representative individual of the team appealing.

9. COMPLAINTS

Any complaints should be submitted to the League Secretary in letter or email form, within one week of the "incident"; failure to comply with these criteria will result in the complaint not being considered by the Committee. If a young person (18 or under) is involved, the complaint must be made by the team's Safeguarding Officer

PROCEDURE

- Complaint letter or email to be received by the League Secretary within 1 week of the incident only from a registered league member of Colchester Netball League as listed in 3.1 of constitution.
- The League Secretary to send acknowledgement of complaint letter or email within 7 days of receipt
- The League Secretary will investigate the complaint which may involve contacting other teams, umpires, etc.
- The complaint and the investigations findings will be discussed at the next Committee meeting, unless it is too serious to wait until then.
- Any matter which relates to discipline will be dealt with under the procedures set out in England Netball Disciplinary Regulations Manual. (Copy available on England Netball website) If a serious breach of the rules, a Special Committee will be called as per the full Colchester Netball League procedure included on the Colchester Netball League website
- The League Secretary will write to all concerned with 1 week of the Committee's decision to advise the outcome.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- 10.1. All correspondence to the Committee should be submitted only from a registered league member, of Colchester Netball League as listed in 3.1 of constitution to the **League Secretary**, in letter or email form.
- 10.2. The Committee will **not recognise anonymous correspondence** or non-registered members of Colchester Netball League. Non-registered members will need to go through the club they are associated with e.g., if a parent/carer etc

11. SAFEGUARDING POLICY

- 11.1. All clubs, participants, officials, parents and spectators will adhere to the England Netball Safeguarding Young People in Netball Policy, and each club with U18 participants will have a safeguarding officer and procedure in place and notify league.

12. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

All officers, clubs, participants, officials, parents and spectators will adhere to the England Netball Social media policy [Policy-Social-Media-redated-0222.docx \(live.com\)](#)

13. DATA PROTECTION POLICY AND DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY NOTICE and GDPR

All officers, clubs, participants, officials, parents and spectators will be aware of and adhere to the Colchester Netball League Data protection policy and data protection privacy notice which will be available on the website.

14. DISSOLUTION PROCEDURES

- a. A proposal for the dissolution of the League must come from a unanimous vote of the members. In the event of the Colchester Netball League ceasing to exist, the Committee would remain in place until debts, liabilities and assets are discharged. Any such assets shall then be transferred to Colchester Netball League for netball development within North East Essex, as agreed and voted by the Committee.
- b. The Colchester Netball League may be wound up on a resolution of the members, passed by a two-thirds majority at a special meeting convened for that purpose upon the request of the Committee. At least 21 days' notice of the meeting shall have been sent to all members of the Colchester Netball League.
- c. In the event of the passing of the resolution to wind up the Colchester Netball League see paragraph 16.1 for the distribution of assets.

RULES FOR SENIOR LEAGUE

1. REGISTRATION AND FEES

1.1 All fees and dates for payment will be set annually by the Committee.

- a. The registration fee for teams to ensure a place in the League must be paid **by 31st August**.
- b. Court fees will be payable bi-annually by each Club participating in the League in accordance with the facility's fees set by Colchester City Council. Payments will be by the end of the first and second half of the winter league

Any request for fees must be paid on presentation of a CNL invoice.

Penalty

Failure to comply with Rule 1:

- Any club/team with outstanding monies at the end of a season will be refused entry into the League for the following season until those outstanding fees are paid.

1.2. All clubs, players, umpires, and other officials that are participating in the Colchester Netball League must be members of England Netball and their relevant County Netball Association each year. All participating members (players, coaches, umpires and officials) should be a full adult or junior member. All non-participating members (committee members, general helpers for example) should be social and supporting members

1.3. All clubs are responsible for ensuring their players, umpires and other officials that are participating in Colchester Netball League each year are members of England Netball by the first game played. All participating members (players, coaches, umpires and officials) should be a full adult or junior member. All non-participating members (committee members, general helpers for example) should be social and supporting members.

1.4. a) Each individual team will register at least 7 of their members including England Netball membership numbers with the Fixtures and Membership Secretary at least 7 days before their first league match, and pay the TEAM registration fee set by the Committee.

b) All umpires should be registered with the League Umpiring Secretary

1.5. A new player must be registered with the fixtures and membership secretary before prior to the match they are to take part in by either:

- Emailing the fixtures and membership secretary and including a copy of the supplementary player registration form

1.6. All teams that include U18 players must submit a completed and signed U18 permission form to be authorised by parents/guardians, in order to play in the senior league

It is the responsibility of the clubs to ensure participants are members of England Netball, the league will check via the Engage system to ensure clubs and their players are EN members. If the club and any of their players are found not to be members the penalty below will apply.

Failure to comply with rules 1.2 to 1.3 will result in:

Player excluded from taking any further part in the league until they are a member of England Netball)

Failure to comply with rules 1.4 to 1.5 will result in:

- If a game is played, the offending team will forfeit it and have no goals or points awarded for that match.
- Points will be awarded to the non-offending team with 'goals for' added to the league table

Failure to comply with rules 1.6 will result in:

- Player excluded from taking any further part in the league until U18 permission form is received.
- 1.7. A club is classified as one team or more. If your club has more than one team you must state whether the teams are A, B, or C etc. e.g., your A team is your highest ranked team, your B team your second highest ranked team and so on.
 - 1.8. A player may only play for their registered club in a League Match. You may not play for any other club under any circumstances unless a transfer is requested and approved
 - 1.9. Within a club of more than one team a player may only “play up” to any of their club teams twice, regardless of which Division they normally play in. On the third occasion the player will become a member of that team and must remain in that team for the remainder of the season. For example: Player A is in Team 4 and plays up first for Team 3, then plays up for Team 2 and then plays up for Team 1. That player is now a member of Team 1 as this is the third occasion of playing up for her club. The player cannot play up twice for each team.
 - 1.10. Within a club of more than one team, no player may play for a lower placed team in the league.
 - 1.11. Once a player has commenced a game (i.e., at 7.00pm) with one team, she cannot then leave that game to play for another team within that same time period. However, a player would be able to play at 7.00pm for one team and then “play up” within the next set of matches on that evening.
 - 1.12. A player may apply to transfer between clubs only once in a season by 31st December at the latest no other transfers will be considered after this date. Written application, with notice of release from the team they are leaving, must be given to the Committee for their consideration and decision.
 - 1.13. England Netball 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 England Netball, nor the club will be held liable for any pregnant individual participating in recognised and authorised activity should the expectant mother suffer a miscarriage or permanent damage to herself and / or unborn child as a result of participating. The England Netball 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, England Netball 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. 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 England Netball insurance scheme is provided as a Membership benefit and ensures that EN 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. This document is intended as a guide only - full terms and conditions apply as detailed in the England Netball insurance policy documents, in association with England Netball'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.

Health & Safety. In the interest of fair play/sportsmanship, a player who appears to be at a later stage of gestation may be requested by the Committee to refrain from playing any remaining fixtures.

- 1.14. A player that was registered with a club/team withdrawing from the League may request a transfer to another team/club. This must be put in writing to the Committee whose consideration and decision will be final.

Penalty

Failure to comply with rules 1.7 – 1.14 will result in:

- If a game is played, the offending team will forfeit it and have no goals or points awarded for that match.
- Points will be awarded to the non-offending team with 'goals for' added to the league table

2. MATCH RULES

- 2.1. All matches will be played in accordance with the INF Rules of Netball (Change to World Netball – Rules of Netball 2024 with the exception of:

Local rules will be applied according to the competition provided (all winter and summer leagues, knockout cup and tournaments and depending on facilities and resources available. This will apply to specifically, but not exclusively to:

Rule 1 - Technical Specifications

Rule 2 – Time

Rule 3 – Team

Rule 4 - Match Officials

Rule 5 – Technical and Event Officials

- 2.2. Each team will play all other teams within their division on a home and away basis at the central venue notified by the Committee. In the event these arrangements become unavailable the Committee may substitute other venues.
- 2.3. Any teams withdrawing from the League before the end of the season will have all their match results expunged. All outstanding fees must be paid in full.
- 2.4. Any team failing to fulfil a total of three consecutive League matches **or** five matches throughout the season will be expelled from the League. All results will be expunged. All outstanding fees must be paid in full.
- 2.5. If a team contravenes more than one rule within a fixture, the Committee, at their discretion, will decide the appropriate penalty.

3. MATCH TIMES

- 3.1.
- a. Matches will take place commencing at 7pm or 8.30pm on a Monday at a central-venue location but depending on facility availability matches may take place at 7pm, 8pm and 9pm, at the discretion of the committee.
 - b. Duration of the matches will be 4 x 15 minutes for all divisions, but again will depend on facility availability or circumstance, at the discretion of the committee.
 - c. There will be 2-minute interval between all quarters.
 - d. Teams shall change ends after each quarter.
- 3.2. Matches must commence not later than 5 minutes from the stated time of the fixture where a team has 5 players present and a suitably qualified umpire. Both teams and umpires are responsible to ensure this is adhered to.

4. CANCELLATIONS

- 4.1. Matches will be cancelled or postponed only under the direction of the Committee for extenuating circumstances. The Committee will rearrange and confirm by CNL WhatsApp/ email
- 4.2. Notification of a cancellation for any other reason must notify the Fixtures and Membership Secretary and opposing team via the CNL WhatsApp group, asking for confirmation. Both teams must contact their umpires to notify them of the cancellation also.

Penalty

Cancellation of a fixture will result in:

- the offending team will pay their own and opponents court fees
 - the non-offending team will have five points and +10 goals awarded.
- 4.3. If there are extenuating circumstances that occur on the night (e.g. traffic issues) that leads to a cancellation by one or both teams, both teams or the offending team can appeal for a rearrangement of the fixture, which will be considered by the committee. This must be sent to the Fixtures and Membership Secretary within 48 hours of the fixture, or else will not be considered and the penalty applied as below.

Penalty

Failure to comply with rules 4.2 and 4.3 will result in:

- the offending team will pay their own and opponents court fees
 - the non-offending team will have five points and +10 goals awarded.
- 4.4. Any game played as a friendly match, due to the inability to comply with League rules, will not be included as an official fixture, add in **but the above penalty will be applied.**

5. ABANDONMENT

- 5.1. It is the responsibility of both umpires to ensure that the full four quarters is played. The decision to abandon a game in extenuating circumstances will be made by the two officiating umpires in consultation with the league organisers on the night. A decision regarding replaying the abandoned fixture will be at the discretion of the Committee after all events have been considered.
 - If a match does not start or is not played in full that is called off **by both teams** (without the agreement of the umpires and league organisers this will be deemed null and void and will not be replayed and no points or goals will be awarded to either team.
 - If a match does not start or is not played in full that is called off by **one of the teams** without the agreement of the umpires and league organisers or other team the match points and goals will be awarded to the non offending team. The team that called off the match will pay for both team's court fees

6. RESULTS

- 6.1. **Both teams** will provide a result card for ALL matches. These must be completed IN FULL and handed to the umpires before the start of the match.
- 6.2. On completion of the match, the captains **MUST** cross-through any non-players' names on the card. The card should then be passed to the umpire to record the scores and then the umpire to print their names on the card to verify the score. **PLEASE MAKE SURE BOTH THE SCORES ON EACH SCORE CARD AGREE AND ARE THE CORRECT WAY AROUND BEFORE POSTING**

- 6.3. **Both teams** are responsible for returning the completed result card to the Fixtures and Membership Secretary, by either placing it in the CNL post box on the night or adding to the CNL WhatsApp Group if not posted. It is responsibility of teams to ensure card is completed correctly

Penalty

Failure to comply with rule 6.3 will result in:

- The offending team will forfeit the game and have no goals or points awarded for that match.
- Points will be awarded to the non-offending team with 'goals for' added to the league table

6.4. Points will be awarded as follows:

- 5 for a win
- 3 for a draw
- 2 if the losing team loses by 5 goals or fewer
- 1 for a loss with 50% or more goals
- 0 for a loss of less than 50%

7. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

- 7.1. The top two teams in each division (with the exception of division one) will be promoted to the next higher division.
- 7.2. The two teams occupying the bottom two places will be relegated to the next lower division (with the exception of the bottom division).
- 7.3. Should two or more teams finish on equal points at the end of the season *goal difference will determine the winner of that division.*
- 7.4. Depending on the number of teams in each division the Committee shall decide whether additional teams will be moved if more or less divisions are required.

8. UMPIRES

8.1 All umpires (both qualified and Umpire in Training) **MUST** be members of England Netball for the current season before they can officiate in the Colchester Netball League. Any umpire not registered as a player with a team in the Colchester Netball League must notify the Officiating Lead of their EN membership number and whether they are members independently or through a club, and if so, the name of the club. **Add Please note to comply with the England Netball Insurance policy the following applies**

8.2 Umpires will be defined as the following:

- Unqualified – those who have not yet attended an England Netball IO Course. These unqualified umpires will not be insured under the England Netball insurance policy. Please note only IO Umpire in Training and qualified umpires are permitted to umpire in the Colchester Senior League. See definitions below:
- IO Umpire in Training – those who have attended an England Netball IO Course and actively working towards their IO assessment.
- Qualified – those who have obtained either their IO, C, B or A Award.

8.3 In accordance with England Netball Insurance Policy, an "Umpire in Training" will be covered by EN Insurance as long as:

- The co-umpire is qualified (See above definition).
- There is a qualified umpire, mentor or assessor present at the match in case of need.

- 8.4 Depending on the number of Divisions required the below points will be updated annually

First & Second Division

Each team within the first and second divisions will provide a qualified umpire of at least EN “C” Award standard for their home and away fixtures.

Third & Fourth Division

Home fixtures - Each team within the third and fourth division will provide a qualified umpire of at least EN “C” Award standard.

Away fixtures – Each team within the third and fourth division will provide an umpire who has passed an Into Officiating Assessment **and** completed a C award course **and** is working towards their EN C Award Final Assessment. Change to Away fixtures – Each team within the third and fourth division will provide at a minimum an umpire who has passed an Into Officiating Assessment **and** completed a C award course **and** is working towards their EN C Award Final Assessment.

Fifth and Sixth Division

Home and away fixtures – Each team within the fifth and sixth division, will provide either a qualified umpire those that have obtained either their IO, C, B or A Award, or will provide an umpire who is an IO Umpire in Training – those who have attended an England Netball IO Course and actively working towards their IO assessment.

- 8.5 All umpires within CNL must have at least attended an Into Officiating Course and have been deemed as a ‘competent umpire’ by the Committee, will have two years to take and pass their IO Assessment or not be allowed to umpire in the senior league.
- 8.6 Netball 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 England Netball, nor the club will be held liable for any pregnant individual participating in recognised and authorized activity should the expectant mother suffer a miscarriage or permanent damage to herself and / or unborn child as a result of participating. The England Netball 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, England Netball 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. 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 England Netball insurance scheme is provided as a Membership benefit and ensures that EN 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. This document is intended as a guide only - full terms and conditions apply as detailed in the England Netball insurance policy documents, in association with England Netball'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.

Currently: Health & Safety. In the interest of fair play/sportsmanship, an umpire who appears to be at a later stage of gestation may be requested by the Committee to refrain from umpiring any remaining fixtures

- 8.7 In accordance with the Rules of Netball Match officials Rule 4.2 – The umpires wear clothing that is distinct from the teams playing uniforms and suitable sports footwear.
- 8.8 All teams must offer their umpire a minimum of £15.00 per match

- 8.9 **Scorers must be used for ALL Division 1 and Division 2 matches** (it's recommended a discretionary £5 could be offered by team but not compulsory). A player will need to be dropped from the team to score if one of these options available.
- 8.10 Wherever and whenever possible, with the agreement of the opposing team and both umpires, umpires should be allowed to use scorers on the games they are umpiring for all other Divisions.
- 8.11 Umpire Assessments - Throughout the season matches will be required for umpiring assessments. The Officiating Lead will select appropriate matches for the assessment to be completed on. In the interest of development, teams are encouraged to support these requests. Teams participating in any assessment fixtures are responsible for paying umpire or umpires being assessed as usual. Scorers will also need to be appointed for these assessments.
- 8.12 Umpiring Pathway
- Into Officiating
Attend an "Into Officiating course" -> Under 16: Umpire in the Youth League or Over 16: Umpire Division six -> Take and Pass the IO Assessment -> Progress to C Award.
- C Award (must have passed the Into Officiating Award)
Attend a "C Award" course -> Umpire within division six, five, four and third (away) -> Take and Pass the C Award Assessment -> Umpire all Divisions.
- 8.13 England Netball's recommendations regarding the age limits for younger umpires are as follows:
- Minimum age for the England Netball into Officiating Award and Netball Europe 'C' Award is 13 years old.
- Minimum age for taking the Netball Europe 'C' Award practical assessment is 14 years (they can pass the written assessment and the practical pre-assessment before they are aged 14).
- If they pass the Netball Europe 'C' Award Practical Assessment, they receive accreditation as a NE 'C' Award umpire but the following restrictions apply until they reach their 16th Birthday:
They may only umpire matches up to U17 level
They may not umpire matches with over 18's participating
They may not umpire mixed sex matches
- 8.14 All qualified umpires, that have held their qualification over 3 years and wish to umpire in the CNL, must attend an umpire refresher workshop organised by Colchester Netball League in partnership with East Essex County Netball Assn at least once every 3 years.

9. SCORERS

- 9.1. Any person may act as the scorer for an umpire. They do not have to be a qualified umpire and could be a team member, a parent or spectator.
- 9.2. Scorers may be replaced during the game, i.e., if a substitute player starts as the scorer but is then required to play, another scorer may take their place.
- 9.3. Scorers will stand at a place designated by both umpires.
- 9.4. Scorers will record each goal scored on their score-pad.
- 9.5. Both scorers will work together and one will "call" the score after each goal is scored; the "caller" will be agreed prior to each quarter.
- 9.6. At quarter and half times, the scorers will advise the umpires which team has the first centre-pass of the next quarter.
- 9.7. At the end of the match, the scorers will advise the umpires of the final score; the umpires will then complete the official score-card.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

- 10.1 Any senior club not represented at any meeting (either face to face for virtual) convened by the Committee (e.g., AGM, EGM) will be fined £15.00, a minimum of one person to represent each member club.
- 10.2 New and/or redefined teams entering the League may be assessed and shall be placed in a division at the discretion of the Committee.
- 10.3 The Committee reserves the right to refuse entry into the League of any team/club.
- 10.4 A breach of the rules not covered by a specific penalty will be dealt with at the discretion of the Committee.
- 10.5 In the event of a colour clash the away team is responsible for a change of bibs.
- 10.6 If there is a conflict of interest, e.g., you are a committee member and your team is involved, another of the Committee members will be asked to mediate.
- 10.7 Teams must not call the central venue facility regarding a netball query, as the Netball League only hires out their facilities. A member of the Committee should be contacted.
- 10.8 Any person wishing to use video or photographic materials must have permission from the teams concerned at least two days in advance of the proposed match, via the CNL WhatsApp group. They will not be granted permission on the night
- 10.9 All teams must carry a first aid kit, including ice packs, and should only contact the Sports Centre in the event of an emergency. *In the case of an accident an accident form should be completed and sent to the League Secretary (accident forms can be found on the website)*
- 10.10 All team members to remove their litter from the courts, including bottles.
- 10.11 Teams should not congregate in the Sports Centre corridor.
- 10.12 Spectators are not permitted to enter the court area during play.
- 10.13 Smoking (including the use of electronic cigarettes, etc.) is not permitted on any part of the Central Venue Premises.
- 10.14 In accordance with the central venues policy, dogs are not permitted on any part of the premises.
- 10.15 Safeguarding for Under 18s
 - Senior League teams that have U18s playing within them, or have a full team of U18s playing in the senior league, MUST ensure they have a named responsible adult (over the age of 18) present during their games. This could be the captain, team manager, first aider or designated team welfare officer. Teams should ensure the umpires are aware who this person is before the game starts.
 - All teams that have U18's included should have a safeguarding policy and designated club safeguarding officer so that any safeguarding issues can be reported to and can be followed up. There is plenty of guidance on the England Netball website if unsure. The league will only inform EN if notified by a team/umpire/coach/parent of an incident, they will not investigate as this needs to be young person led through their club safeguarding officer.
 - Any person wishing to use video or photographic materials must read The England Netball Taking and Use of Photographic and Recorded Images of Young People Guidance, and must have permission from the teams concerned at least two days in advance of the proposed match, via the CNL WhatsApp group. They will not be granted permission on the night

10.16 Weather policy

- a. In case of ice, snow, extreme wind and rain and if cancelled by sports centre, teams will be notified by 6pm and games will be rearranged where possible but if unable to rearrange will be null and void fixtures for that night.
- b. If the sports centre gives the go ahead for games to take place the fixtures officers will inspect the courts and inform the Team Managers if games will take place by 6pm. If no, games are cancelled the sanction applies as above, or, if yes, the games will go ahead and teams do not wish to play and cancel games, the usual cancellation rule will apply.
- c. If the games are abandoned either during or before the second fixtures due to worsening weather, the abandonment rules will apply, the exception being when abandoned / cancelled by committee members where games will be rearranged during the season where possible, but if unable to rearrange will be null and void fixtures for that night
- d. (Please note that it may be difficult to contact teams for second fixtures if above applies so you may not be informed before you arrive at venue).

SENIOR LEAGUE SUMMER LEAGUE RULES

1. The Club/Team must be members of England Netball according to winter league rules
2. It is up to your club to ensure players are members of England Netball if they aren't you need to inform players, they will be uninsured and play at their own risk
3. There is a Taster rate available from England Netball after March which is eligible for summer league. This only applies if they are **new** to membership or **returning** to membership after a **three (or more)** year absence.
4. Matches will be played in accordance with the COLCHESTER NETBALL LEAGUE RULES FOR SENIOR LEAGUE with the exception of:
5. There will be no paid registrations to the League
6. The Summer League court fee's will be payable at the end of the summer league in accordance with the facility fees charged by Colchester City Council. Any request for fee's must be paid on presentation of a CNL invoice.
7. Teams need to register their players including under 18s with the league and there is flexibility for players to play for any team within the league but they **cannot** swap teams halfway through a game.
8. Games do not need to be confirmed, but teams are asked out of courtesy to be prompt and to ensure they turn up on the dates and times stated.
9. If cancelling a game please ensure you inform, the opposing team, your umpire and the Summer League Secretary
10. Each game will be 4 x 10 minutes duration.
11. Games will be at 7pm, 8pm and 9pm OR 7pm and 8pm start depending on number of teams entered. If 3 timeslots played in one night this may be subject to central timing
12. Teams must be prompt and ready to start on time, allow time for drawing of positions.
13. There will be the relevant number of pools depending on entries (four pools, five pools etc.) which will be divisional pools (based on previous winter league placings in the Divisions) depending on entries.
14. New teams will be entered into the relevant pool at the discretion of the committee.
15. Players to draw for positions with the opposition umpire overseeing the process. In all quarters, the bibs are returned and the process repeated with playing positions drawn again.
16. In the event of injuries and substitutions, the following will apply: -
 - Substitutions are to pull a position/bib out first, then replace it and the remaining seven players pull as normal. If any injury occurs, the sub moves to the position she pulled out and that position then moves to the injured player's position.
 - If no substitutions are available and there is an injury to the C, GA, GS, GD or GK, then the WD may move to that position.
 - If there is an injury to the WD or WA and no substitute is available, then that position stays vacant.

- In the event of late arrivals, the WD bib is removed from the bag before the others are pulled out. The late arrival then plays in the WD position.
17. Teams will need to provide a suitably qualified umpire for their matches.
 18. All teams must offer their umpire a minimum of £15.00 per
 19. For pools containing first and second division teams from the previous winter league will need to provide a C Award or above qualified umpire. Scorers are required for 1st and 2nd Division/Pool.
 20. For pools containing third and fourth division teams from the previous winter league they will need to provide at least one C Award or above qualified umpire, for the game and will provide an umpire who has passed an Into Officiating assessment **or** completed a C award course **and** is working towards their EN C Award Final Assessment.
 21. For Pools containing fifth and sixth division teams from the previous winter league they will need as a minimum, to provide an umpire who has passed an Into Officiating Assessment **OR** will provide an umpire who has attended at least an Into Officiating Course and who has been assessed and deemed “competent” by the Officiating Lead.
 22. The Summer League will take place between May and July with all games to be played on the dates stated, there will be **NO** re-arrangements in any circumstances including abandonment
 23. Umpire score sheets to be placed in the box situated near the courts. If you forget please scan and WhatsApp/email your score sheet to Summer League Secretary within 48 HOURS of the game taking place.
 24. As this is a fun league no trophies will be awarded

RULES FOR YOUTH LEAGUE

1. REGISTRATION AND FEES

- 1.1 All fees and dates for payment will be set annually by the Committee.
- The registration fee for teams to ensure a place in the League must be paid **31ST October**.
 - Court fees will be payable bi-annually by each Club participating in the League in accordance with the facility's fees set by Colchester City Council. Payments will be by the end of the first and second half of the winter league. Any request for fees must be paid on presentation of a CNL invoice.

Penalty

Failure to comply with Rule 1:

- Any club/team with outstanding monies at the end of a season will be refused entry into the League for the following season until those outstanding fees are paid.
- 1.2 All clubs, players, umpires, and other officials that are participating in the Colchester Youth Netball League must be members of England Netball and their relevant County Netball Association each year. All participating members (players, coaches, umpires and officials) should be a full adult or junior member. All non-participating members (committee members, general helpers for example) should be social and supporting members
- 1.3 All clubs are responsible for ensuring their players, umpires and other officials that are participating in Colchester Netball League each year are members of England Netball by the first game played. All participating members (players, coaches, umpires and officials) should be a full adult or junior member. All non-participating members (committee members, general helpers for example) should be social and supporting member. All umpires and Umpires in Training should be registered with the League Umpiring Secretary
- 1.4 It is the responsibility of the clubs to ensure participants are members of England Netball
- 1.5 A club is classified as one team or more.
- 1.6 A player may only play for their registered club in a League Match. You may not play for any other club under any circumstances.
- 1.7 A player within a club can play within their age group pool or play up for an older age group they cannot play for a younger group.
- 1.8 If players are regularly playing in the Adult League, they should only play in the youth league in exceptional circumstances (e.g. team short of players) and should NOT be playing regularly in both leagues
- 1.9 A player may change clubs at any time during the season but must notify the league organisers that they have changed clubs.

2. MATCH RULES

- 2.1 All matches will be played in accordance with the INF Rules of Netball (Change to World Netball – Rules of Netball 2024 with the exception of:

Local rules will be applied according to the competition provided (all winter and summer leagues, knockout cup and tournaments and depending on facilities and resources available. This will apply to specifically, but not exclusively to:

- a) Rule 1 - Technical Specifications
- b) Rule 2 – Time
- c) Rule 3 – Team
- d) Rule 4 - Match Officials
- e) Rule 5 – Technical and Event Officials

- 2.2 Each team will play all other teams within their division on a home and away basis at the central venue notified by the Committee. In the event these arrangements become unavailable the Committee may substitute other venues or league formats.
- 2.3 Any teams withdrawing from the League before the end of the season will have all their match results expunged. All outstanding fees must be paid in full.
- 2.4 If a team contravenes more than one rule within a fixture, the Committee, at their discretion, will decide the appropriate penalty.

3. MATCH TIMES

- 1.1. Matches will take place commencing at 6.30pm. 7.30pm or 8.30pm on a Thursday at a central-venue location
- 1.2. Duration of the matches will be 4 x 10 minutes for all divisions, but again will depend on facility availability or circumstance, at the discretion of the committee.
- 1.3. These matches will be controlled by central timing starting and finishing each quarter on a hooter.
- 1.4. Teams shall change ends after each quarter.

4. CANCELLATIONS

- 4.1 Matches will be cancelled or postponed only under the direction of the Committee for extenuating circumstances. The Committee will rearrange and confirm CNL WhatsApp/ email
- 4.2 Notification of a cancellation for any other reason must be communicated via the Youth League Managers WhatsApp group. Each team must also notify their umpire of the cancellation.
- 4.3 If there are extenuating circumstances that occur on the night (e.g. traffic issues) that leads to a cancellation by one or both teams, both teams or the offending team can appeal for a rearrangement of the fixture, which will be considered by the committee. This must be sent to the Youth League Secretary within 48 hours of the fixture, or else will not be considered and the penalty applied as below.

Penalty

Failure to comply with rules a and b will result in:

- the offending team will pay their own and opponents court fee's
- the non-offending team will have five points and +10 goals awarded.

- 4.4 Any game played as a friendly match, due to the inability to comply with League rules, will not be included as an official fixture but the above penalty will be applied.

5. ABANDONMENT

- 5.1 It is the responsibility of both umpires to ensure that the full four quarters is played. The decision to abandon a game in extenuating circumstances will be made by the two officiating umpires in consultation with the league organisers on the night. A decision regarding replaying the abandoned fixture will be at the discretion of the Committee after all events have been considered.
- 5.2 If a match does not start or is not played in full that is called off **by both teams** (without the agreement of the umpires and league organisers) this will be deemed null and void and will not be replayed and no points or goals will be awarded to either team.
- 5.3 If a match does not start or is not played in full that is called off by **one of the teams** (without the agreement of the umpires, other team and league organisers) the match points and goals will be awarded to the non offending team. The team that called off the match will pay for both team's court fees

6. RESULTS

- 6.1 **Both teams** will provide an umpires scorecard card for ALL matches.
- 6.2 On completion of the match, the umpires should agree the scores and then the umpire to print their names on the scorecard to verify the score. They should also write on Player of the Match for each team.
- 6.3 **Both teams** are responsible for returning the completed scorecard, by either placing it in the CNL post-box on the night or adding to the CNL WhatsApp Group if not posted, it is responsibility of teams to ensure the scorecard has the correct scores on them.
- 6.4 Points will be awarded as follows:
- 5 for a win
 - 3 for a draw
 - 2 if the losing team loses by 5 goals or fewer
 - 1 for a loss with 50% or more goals
 - 0 for a loss of less than 50%

7. UMPIRES

- 7.1 All umpires (both qualified and Umpire in Training) **MUST** be members of England Netball for the current season before they can officiate in the Colchester Youth Netball League. Any umpire not registered as a player with a team in the Colchester Youth Netball League must notify the Officiating Lead of their EN membership number and whether they are members independently or through a club, and if so, the name of the club. *Add Please note to comply with the England Netball Insurance policy the following applies*
- 7.2 Umpires will be defined as the following:
- Unqualified – those who have not yet attended an England Netball IO Course. Please note these unqualified umpires will not be insured under the England Netball insurance policy.
 - Umpire in Training – those who have attended an England Netball IO Course and actively working towards their IO assessment.
 - Qualified – those who have obtained either their IO, C, B or A Award.
- 7.3 In accordance with England Netball Insurance Policy, an “Umpire in Training” will be covered by EN Insurance as long as:
- The co-umpire is qualified (See above definition).
 - There is a qualified umpire, mentor or assessor present at the match in case of need.

- 7.4 Qualification of umpires:

Year 6 age group and below

Each team, as a minimum, will provide an umpire who has had some initial training within their club at club training, and who's club has deemed them competent to umpire, this for this age group only. The officiating lead will also undertake informal observation of these new umpires. They can also appoint both qualified umpires (IO, C, B or A Award) and IO Umpires in Training.

Year 7/8 age group

Each team, as a minimum, will provide an umpire that is either qualified (IO, C, B or A Award) or an IO Umpire in Training or an unqualified umpire that has been observed and approved by the Officiating Lead or qualified mentor and is either booked on to an IO course or has registered their interest to EN to attend an IO Course.

Year 9 and above age group

Each team, as a minimum, will provide an umpire that is either qualified (B, C and IO) or an IO Umpire in Training.

- 7.5 Netball recommends that umpires, if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidelines issued by EN.

Neither England Netball, nor the club will be held liable for any pregnant individual participating in recognised and authorised activity should the expectant mother suffer a miscarriage or permanent damage to herself and / or unborn child as a result of participating. The England Netball 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, England Netball 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. 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 England Netball insurance scheme is provided as a Membership benefit and ensures that EN 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. This document is intended as a guide only - full terms and conditions apply as detailed in the England Netball insurance policy documents, in association with England Netball'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.

- a. Please note this guidance supersedes previous guidance that players, coaches, officials should only participate up until their 12th week of pregnancy.
- b. Currently: Health & Safety. In the interest of fair play/sportsmanship, an umpire who appears to be at a later stage of gestation may be requested by the Committee to refrain from umpiring any remaining fixtures

- 7.6 All umpires and scorers shall wear suitable clothing, including appropriate footwear

- 7.7 All teams must offer their umpire a minimum of £10.00 per match

- 7.8 Scorers are recommended for all games to add in umpire development

- 7.9 Umpire Assessments - Throughout the season matches will be required for umpiring assessments. The Officiating Lead will select appropriate matches for the assessment to be completed on. In the interest of development, teams are encouraged to support these requests. Teams participating in any assessment fixtures are responsible for paying umpire or umpires being assessed as usual. Scorers will also need to be appointed for these assessments.

- 7.10 England Netball's recommendations regarding the age limits for younger umpires are as follows:

- Minimum age for the England Netball into Officiating Award and Netball Europe 'C' Award is 13 years old.
- Minimum age for taking the Netball Europe 'C' Award practical assessment is 14 years
- If they pass the Netball Europe 'C' Award Practical Assessment, they receive accreditation as a NE 'C' Award umpire but the following restrictions apply until they reach their 16th Birthday:
 - They may only umpire matches up to U17 level
 - They may not umpire matches with over 18's participating
 - They may not umpire mixed sex matches

8 SCORERS

- 8.6 Any person may act as the scorer for an umpire. They do not have to be a qualified umpire and could be a team member, a parent or spectator. Scorers may be replaced during the game, i.e., if a substitute player starts as the scorer but is then required to play, another scorer may take their place.
- 8.7 Scorers will stand at a place designated by both umpires. Scorers will record each goal scored on their score-pad.
- 8.8 At quarter and half times, the scorers will advise the umpires which team has the first centre-pass of the next quarter. At the end of the match, the scorers will advise the umpires of the final score.

9 MISCELLANEOUS

- 9.6 New and/or redefined teams entering the League may be assessed and shall be placed in a division at the discretion of the Committee.
- 9.7 The Committee reserves the right to refuse entry into the League of any team/club
- 9.8 A breach of the rules not covered by a specific penalty will be dealt with at the discretion of the Committee.
- 9.9 In the event of a colour clash the away team is responsible for a change of bibs.
- 9.10 If there is a conflict of interest, e.g., you are a committee member and your team is involved, another of the Committee members will be asked to mediate.
- 9.11 Teams must not call the central venue facility regarding a netball query, as the Netball League only hires out their facilities. A member of the Committee should be contacted.
- 9.12 Any person wishing to use video or photographic materials must have permission from the teams concerned in advance of the proposed match.
- 9.13 All teams must carry a first aid kit, including ice packs, and should only contact the Sports Centre in the event of an emergency. In the case of an accident an accident form should be completed and sent to the League Secretary (accident forms can be found on the website)
- 9.14 All team members to remove their litter from the courts, including bottles.
- 9.15 Teams should not congregate in the Sports Centre corridor.
- 9.16 Spectators are not permitted to enter the court area during play, and refrain from making adverse comments in respect of players or umpire or they may be asked to leave.
- 9.17 Smoking (including the use of electronic cigarettes, etc.) is not permitted on any part of the Central Venue Premises.
- 9.18 In accordance with the central venues policy, dogs are not permitted on any part of the premises.

10 Safeguarding for Under 18s

- 10.1 All teams that have U18's included should have a safeguarding policy and designated club safeguarding officer so that any safeguarding issues can be reported to and can be followed up. There is plenty of guidance on the England Netball website if unsure. The league will only inform EN if notified by a team/umpire/coach/parent of an incident, they will not investigate as this needs to be young person led through their club safeguarding officer.
- 10.2 Any person wishing to use video or photographic materials must read The England Netball Taking and Use of Photographic and Recorded Images of Young People Guidance, and must have permission from the teams concerned at least two days in advance of the proposed match, via the CNL WhatsApp group. They will not be granted permission on the night

11 Weather policy

In case of ice, snow, extreme wind and rain and if cancelled by sports centre, teams will be notified by 6pm and games will be rearranged where possible but if unable to rearrange will be null and void fixtures for that night.

If the sports centre gives the go ahead for games to take place the fixtures officers will inspect the courts and inform the Team Managers if games will take place by 6pm. If no, games are cancelled the sanction applies as above, or, if yes, the games will go ahead and teams do not wish to play and cancel games, the usual cancellation rule will apply.

If the games are abandoned either during or before the second fixtures due to worsening weather, the abandonment rules will apply, the exception being when abandoned / cancelled by committee members where games will be rearranged during the season where possible, but if unable to rearrange will be null and void fixtures for that night

(Please note that it may be difficult to contact teams for second fixtures if above applies so you may not be informed before you arrive at venue).

YOUTH LEAGUE SUMMER LEAGUE RULES

1. The Club/Team must be members of England Netball according to winter league rules. It is up to your club to ensure players are members of England Netball if they aren't you need to inform players, they will be uninsured and play at their own risk
2. There is a Taster rate available from England Netball after March which is eligible for summer league. This only applies if they are **new** to membership or **returning** to membership after **a three (or more)** year absence.
3. Matches will be played in accordance with the COLCHESTER NETBALL YOUTH LEAGUE RULES with the exception of:
4. There will be no paid registrations to the League
5. The Summer League court fee's will be payable at the end of the summer league in accordance with the facility fees charged by Colchester City Council. Any request for fee's must be paid on presentation of a CNL invoice.
6. There will be the relevant number of pools depending on entries and new teams will be entered into the relevant pool at the discretion of the committee
7. Games do not need to be confirmed, but teams are asked to be prompt and to ensure they turn up on the dates and times stated, and allow time for drawing of positions
8. If cancelling a game please ensure you inform, the opposing team, your umpire and the Summer League Secretary and post this on the relevant WhatsApp group.
9. Each game will be 4 x 8 minutes duration and at 6.45pm, 7.35pm and 8.15pm with central timing unless otherwise stated.
10. There is flexibility for players to play for any team within the league AS LONG AS THEY ARE THE CORRECT AGE GROUP OR OLDER
11. Players to draw for positions with both umpires overseeing (if possible). In all quarters, the bibs are returned and the process repeated with playing positions drawn again.
12. In the event of injuries and substitutions, the following will apply:
 - Substitutes are to pull a position(s) out first, then replace it and the remaining seven players pull as normal. If any injury occurs, the sub moves to the position she pulled out and that position then moves to the injured player's position.
 - If no substitutions are available and there is an injury to the C, GA, GS, GD or GK, then the WD may move to that position. If there is an injury to the WD or WA and no substitute is available, then that position stays vacant
 - In the event of late arrivals, the WD bib is removed and the late arrival plays WD.
13. Teams will need to provide a suitably qualified umpire for their matches as per youth league winter rules
14. All teams must offer their umpire a minimum of £10.00 per match
15. The Summer League will take place between May and July, all games to be played on the dates stated, with NO re-arrangements in any circumstances.
16. Umpire score sheets to be placed in the box situated near the courts. You do not need to record

Player of the Match. If you forget please WhatsApp your score sheet

17. As this is a fun league no trophies will be awarded.

CODE OF CONDUCT (Applies to all Leagues)

1. All clubs, participants, officials, parents and spectators will adhere to the England Netball Safeguarding Policies ([England Netball | Safeguarding Policies](#)) and Diversity and Belonging Policies ([England Netball | Guidance and Resources](#)) and should familiarise themselves with these policies. It is the responsibility of each club to acquaint their officials, players and spectators with these policies, this code of conduct and England Netball codes of conduct.
2. The highest standards both on and off the court are expected and will be observed in keeping with the dignity and best traditions of the game.
3. All clubs should ensure there is a responsible adult with players under 18 when playing league matches.
4. If there is an issue please address it in the appropriate manner as per rule book, do not take matters into your own hands especially if an U18 involved as this could result in a safeguarding issue.
5. The club/team shall be responsible for the behaviour of their club officials, players and spectators both on and off the court and via email, websites and social media sites, and must exercise the strictest control over them.
6. This includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Abuse or coercion including intimidation, threats, aggressive behaviour and deliberate distraction of opponents.
 - b. Obscene, offensive, insulting or abusive language.
 - c. Violent conduct.
 - d. Violation of the principles of fair play.
 - e. Discrimination of any kind, through words or actions.
 - f. Negative language towards teams and umpires.
7. Umpires have the responsibility and the authority to act in the best interest of players, officials, and spectators, and will assign the appropriate penalty which should be accepted by teams and their supporters.
8. Dissent at an umpire's decisions, by players, is unacceptable, including offensive, insulting, or abusive language or gestures and may lead to the Game Management protocols to be actioned. This also applies to team officials and bench players.
9. Players should thank other players and the umpires after the game.
10. Please respect the facilities and staff.
11. Please make sure spectators are outside the court and no other obstructions are on or surrounding the courts (**umbrellas, chairs etc.**). Please ensure, if asked you remove any obstructions.
12. Teams must ensure accident forms are completed where necessary and a copy provided to League and Sport Centre.
13. For the procedure regarding an issue or concerns with any of the above points please see points 8, 9 or 10 of the Colchester Netball League Constitution