



About the National Netball League®

The purpose of the National Netball League® is to introduce and generate awareness of Netball within the American community while simultaneously developing, expanding, and enhancing the Netball athletes playing experience while providing opportunities for coaches and officials development. The goal is to facilitate and promote world class Netball competition in the USA through a national netball league.

NATIONAL NETBALL LEAGUE® REGISTRATION RULES

Section 1.0 Team Registration

1.1 Any Netball America member club may choose to register one or more team(s) in the National Netball League®. Current Netball America paid-up member clubs may apply.

1.2 For the 2024 season, the National Netball League® will be a women's only competition. All players participating in the 2024 National Netball League® women's division must be female identifying. The Netball America Code of Conduct covers the regulations on providing a safe, fair, and inclusive environment for everyone.

1.3 The application period opens January 1st of every calendar year and closes March 31st for the 2024 year.

1.4 Any team wanting to participate must register and pay the applicable registration fee by March 31st 2024.

1.5 Teams registering after the last day of registration may be allowed to participate at the discretion of the National Netball League® Committee. A late fee of \$100 will be applied to the registration fee.

1.6 A team's entry fee is non-refundable after the registration deadline for the season has passed. Failure to attend a Game Day is not in the spirit of the program and unfair to other teams. Teams have committed to Game Day dates. A withdrawal or non-attendance by a team is at their own discretion and fees are non-refundable. This may result in penalties being applied to teams and/or restrictions from participation in future events.

1.7 The entry fee will allow a team to register up to 12 athletes and 5 team officials in each National Netball League® Game Day. Only registered participants are allowed on the team bench during Game Day. Note: No-one under the age of 16 is allowed on the Team Bench.

1.8 A team does not have to use the same 12 players or team officials in each Game Day.

1.9 All teams must provide a Club/Team Lead. This lead will be the key liaison between the National Netball League® Committee and the Netball America® member club in relation to all aspects of the League and will be responsible for timely communication and response to the Committee.

1.10 Every team participant must register in Leagueapps and read/agree to the event waiver, media release and code of conduct.

1.11 Every team must be responsible for their own medical insurance. This will not be covered by the National Netball League®.

1.12 All participants will be expected to abide by all registration and tournament rules.



Section 2 Individual and Team Players

2.1 Multiple Team Clubs

2.1.2 A Multiple Team Club must notify the Committee of the ranked order of their teams ("A", "B" etc)

2.2 Individual Player Registration

2.2.1 Players who are not members of a Netball club or are members of a club that has not entered a National Netball League® team may contact the Committee to ask if any teams need players.

2.3 Hybrid Teams

2.3.1 If a Netball club feels that they will not be able to consistently field a team in the National Netball League® then they may elect to form a "Hybrid" team with another Netball America® member club.

Section 3 Hosting Expectations and Requirements

3.1 Each team registering in the National Netball League® should be prepared to have the facilities and volunteers available to host a game day.

3.2 Teams may be able to enter the National Netball League® without appropriate facilities at the discretion of the National Netball League® Committee.

3.3 Game Day requires the following physical features:

- A. One full Netball court (100ft by 50ft)
 - a. It is permissible for the Netball court to be taped or otherwise temporary markings.
 - b. It is permissible for the Netball court to be reduced dimensions down to a minimum of 90ft by 47ft
- B. Two Netball posts of 10ft height with no backboards
 - a. It is permissible for the court to also have basketball hoops; however, these should not be positioned in a place where they would significantly interfere with play.
- C. At least 2 feet space around the court for umpires.

3.4. Game Day requires the court to be available for at least 2 x 6 hours or 1 x 10 hour period(s). Note-time may vary depending on the number of teams participating at a location.

3.5 The Committee will reimburse clubs for court rental up to \$500 per Game Day, however official quotes must be submitted to the Committee for approval.

3.6 Game Day courts may be indoors or outdoors.

3.7 Hosting locations must follow the Netball America 'Look of Venue' Setup. Banners/tablecloths/balls etc will be sent in advance to locations and Team Leaders are responsible for setting up all the equipment and then returning it to Netball America after the event. Teams will be responsible for any lost or damaged equipment.

3.8 Hosting locations will welcome any community members, volunteers, sponsors, teachers, youth, umpires and coaches in development. One of the aims of this league is to develop and promote Netball development through opportunities provided by the League.



NATIONAL NETBALL LEAGUE® GAME DAY TOURNAMENT RULES

Section 4 Game Day Travel

4.1 Each team will have the opportunity to submit a “Preference Form” before the start of each National Netball League® season. The Preference Form will allow teams to rank their preferred away venues to travel to for Game Days. Where possible, the National Netball League® Committee will schedule Game Days to account for team preferences.

4.2 Team preferences are not guaranteed, and teams should be expected to travel to any location in North America that is less than 3 hours by air from their home city.

4.3 The Club leaders will approve the Season schedule of dates with the National Netball League® 8 weeks prior to Game Day 1.

4.4 If a team fails to appear for a Game Day, there will be no refunds, and the team will be allocated 0 points. Other penalties may apply and it's up to the discretion of the Committee.

4.5 All Club Teams and Team Officials will be responsible for their travel expenses and other costs associated with participating in the National Netball League®.

Section 5 Rosters

5.1 Each National Netball League® team must submit a roster ten days ahead of Game Day to the National Netball League® Committee using the method communicated by the Committee. Each individual participant must register within LeagueApps to ensure all participants review and sign all waivers. This will also be how the Committee communicates with teams.

5.2 The National Netball League® Committee will verify each individual to ensure they are current Netball America members with no current disciplinary or monies owing and ensure they are not registered with another competing league or National Netball League® team. The National Netball League® will communicate to the Club Lead if any player is deemed to be ineligible for Game Day at least 7 days before Game Day.

5.3 A player may not play for two teams in the National Netball League® during one season without completing a transfer notification in writing to the National Netball League® Committee. This transfer notification needs to include approval from the current team releasing the participant from the team.

5.4 A player may transfer to another club in the National Netball League® if that player relocates to another “Geographic Zone” within the USA/North America. A player’s “Geographic Zone” is defined as a 1 hour radius by car or public transport from the player’s primary residence or workplace. A player who relocates to another “Geographic Zone” during the season may continue to represent their existing club in the National Netball League® for the remainder of the season if they wish to.

5.5 Transfer notification must be submitted to the National Netball League® Committee no later than 10 days prior to any game where the player will be representing the new team. The player must not play for the new team until they have received email confirmation from the National Netball League® Committee that their transfer has been approved.

5.6 Transfers are non-reversible within the same season: once a player has transferred they may not play to their former club in the same season.



Section 6 Game Days

6.1 The Committee will set the schedule of Game Days for each season in conjunction with the Club leaders. Clubs participating in a Game Day will vote on whether their Game Day will be a one day (Saturday OR Sunday) or two-day format where the matches are played on both Saturday and Sunday of the Game Day weekend

- A. The NNL Committee will assist with this decision-making process. Also the availability of venue will come into play in making this decision.
- B. If no resolution can be made between clubs the Committee will have the final decision.
- C. Clubs should be prepared to play in either the one day OR two day format when entering the league.

The National Netball League® Committee will release a schedule of host teams and visiting teams for the season at least 6 weeks before the first Game Day of the season.

6.2 Game Days will take the format of a where each team plays each other twice and the points table will determine the winner of the National Netball League®.

6.3 The National Netball League® Committee will provide a schedule of matches and location for each Game Day at least 3 weeks before each Game Day.

Section 7 National Netball League® Format

7.1 Matches will be four x 15 minutes quarters.

There will be a 4-minute break between the quarters with a 8 minute break at half-time. However, time may be adjusted based on availability of venue.

7.2 The Game Day Tournament Manager reserves the right to shorten the length of matches if an unforeseen scheduling issue (for example: a weather intermission or an injury stoppage in a prior game) on the Game Day arises.

7.3 If a scheduling issue arises, all remaining matches of the Game Day will first be shortened to 12-minute quarters. Quarters of all remaining games may continue to be shortened until the scheduling issue is resolved.

7.4 There will be no extra time in the event of a tied game.

7.5 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:

- a. Three (3) points for a win
- b. Two (2) point for a draw c.
- Zero (0) points for a loss

7.6 The National Netball League® Champion will be the team with the most points at the end of the season after all scheduled fixtures have been completed.



7.7 A League table will be compiled based on the points awarded to each team. Where two teams are level on points:

- a. In the event that goal average does not differentiate between the teams, then goal difference shall be applied, i.e., precedence shall be given to the team with the greater difference between goals scored and goals conceded;
- b. In the event that goal difference does not differentiate between the teams, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence;
- c. In all of the above calculations where one of the teams has its goal difference, goal average or total number of goals scored affected by cancellations or forfeited matches, then the team without an affected match will have their lowest scoring game or lowest goal difference game omitted from the calculations. For example when calculating goal difference, in the event that Team A received 3 points for a cancelled fixture, then Team B's game with the lowest difference in goals will not be included in the calculation;
- d. In the event that neither goal average nor goal difference nor goals scored can differentiate between the teams, the aggregate score in the match or matches played between the teams over the course of the season shall be calculated and precedence given to the winning team; and
- e. In the event that none of the above differentiates between the teams, National Netball League® Committee shall determine the means of differentiation.

Section 8 Team Forfeit

8.1 If a team intends to forfeit their participation in an National Netball League® Game Day they should give the National Netball League® Committee as much notice as possible (at least 8 weeks).

8.2 If a team forfeits a National Netball League® Game Day then the National Netball League® Committee reserves the right to withdraw the team from the league.

8.3 If a team cancels or elects to withdraw from the National Netball League® they will not be entitled to any refund of entry fees. Other penalties may be imposed by the Committee, after considering the impact to other teams and expenses incurred.

8.4 A match is considered forfeited if a team does not have five (5) players on court including a Center at the scheduled start of the game. Missing players may only take the court at the next center pass as defined by International Netball Rules.

8.5 For each individual fixture within a Game Day forfeited, teams will be penalized as follows with respect to league table points:

- a. Minus (-) one (1) point when the National Netball League® Committee is given at least eight (8) weeks' notice via email
- b. Minus (-) three (3) points when the National Netball League® Committee is given less than eight (u8) weeks' notice via email or a no show at a Game Day.

The opposition team in any forfeited fixture will be considered to have won the fixture and thus receive three (3) points in the league table.



Section 9 Adverse Weather

9.1 For a Game Day taking place on an outdoor court the Game Day Manager will monitor the weather for severe weather events one week prior to the Game Day

- a. In the event of an expected severe weather event (for example, but not limited to, severe heat or storms) a meeting will be convened of the Club Leads, the Game Day Manager, and the Committee 7 days before the Game Day to make a decision on the viability of the Game Day.
- b. The Committee will follow local, city, and state guidance about outdoor physical activities and travel.

9.2 On the Game Day itself the Game Day Manager and Club Leads will make the decision about continuing in adverse weather conditions

- a. If necessary, each Club Lead and the Game Day Manager will have one vote on whether to continue or not.
- a. If there is not a majority decision, the Game Day Manager's vote will be the deciding vote.

9.3 In the event of adverse weather conditions, the Game Day Manager will shorten games as necessary.

9.4 If a fixture is cancelled due to unforeseen events, then both teams scheduled in that fixture receive 1 point to your league standing point.

9.5 If it is possible, without an additional financial cost of court rental, cancelled fixture may be postponed within the Game Day weekend if agreed by both participating Club Leads/Game Day Captains in that fixture.

9.6 There will be no rearrangement of cancelled fixtures outside of the Game Day weekend, unless teams and Committee agree, and no additional cost is borne by the Committee. Teams may elect to cover the cost difference.

Section 10 Game Officials

10.1 Each Game Day will have an appointed Game Day Tournament Manager appointed by the National Netball League® Committee. Game Day Managers will oversee the logistics of the Game Day before, during and post-Game Day.

10.2 Given this is the pilot year for this new format, there is an expectation each participating team will contribute to providing umpires. Player Umpires are volunteer positions.

10.3 For the 2024 season, player umpires do not have to hold a formal umpiring qualification, however there is an expectation that all National Netball League® umpires will participate in the Umpire development sessions leading up to the National Netball League® games.

10.4 Each National Netball League® team must supply Player Umpires, Scorers and Timers per Game Day.



Section 11 On Court Rules

11.1 The 2020 rules of World Netball govern the course of play. However specific National Netball League® Registration and Tournament rules super cede any of World Netball Rules.

11.2 Injuries: If a player or any on court player calls injury time, one umpire will blow their whistle to pause the game and the injured player must leave the court within 30 seconds, unless an injury that prevents from doing this safely. Any players may swap positions at this time, or the injured player may be replaced with a bench player. If the position is left open the injured player may return to the game after a goal is scored or after a break.

11.3 The timekeeper will pause time upon hearing the umpire's whistle.

11.4 Should a player be bleeding or have blood on their uniform, the umpires will stop the game at the first available opportunity to check that player for blood. If a player has blood on them (theirs or someone else's) or on their uniform, the player must immediately leave the court and has up to thirty (30) seconds to do so. That player may not return to the court until the blood has been cleaned up, and in the case of the uniform / bib having blood, may require a uniform / bib change. If an umpire has blood on them, the timekeep will pause the game to allow the umpire to change uniform. For more serious cases, an umpire may need to be replaced.

11.5 The umpires' decision is final in all games. The game will start and stop only on the umpires whistle (not the hooter or other timing mechanism). Only the Team Captain may approach the umpire for any rule clarification before or after the game or during a game break.

Section 12 Rules and Regulations Disputes

11.1 If a National Netball League® Club Lead or Game Day Captain wishes to raise a dispute regarding a participant's conduct they may do so within 15 minutes of the end of each game. The dispute must be in writing using the 'National Netball League® Dispute Form' and submitted only by the Club Lead or Game Day Captain to the Game Day Manager.

11.2 The Game Day Manager, along with any relevant National Netball League® Committee members and/or Game Day Lead Umpire will discuss and resolve the dispute in a manner that they deem most fair and effective on Game Day. If it is something that cannot be resolved on Game Day, such as future participation of teams or participants, this will be escalated further according to the Netball America® rules governing disputes.

11.3 An Incident Report will be completed, and this will be submitted by the Game Day Manager to the National Netball League® Committee Chair.



Section 13 Code of Conduct

Every participant must abide by the Code of Conduct, which can be found at www.NetballAmerica.com and it is included in the LeagueApps Registration.

Section 14 General

14.1 Changes to these rules and regulations shall be voted on by the National Netball League® Committee or in an Emergency General Meeting by Netball America® called explicitly for that purpose. All rules and regulations will be approved by Netball America Inc® Board of Directors.

14.2 Any player or club who is a Netball America® member may submit a proposed rule change to the Committee for the following season by December 31st of the preceding year.

14.3 In the event that any matter arises/occurs which is not covered by these rules or conflicts with these Rules the National Netball League® Committee shall have the authority to make a ruling or determination as appropriate. Also, safety of players, volunteers and all those involved is the utmost importance.

The decision of the National Netball League® Committee shall be final.