



MKINL 2024/25 League Rules

Milton Keynes Indoor Netball League Rules (supplementary to England Netball rules).

1. Registrations

1.1. All Club Registrations

Every CLUB must nominate at least seven players and a maximum of 15 players for their team(s) and the MKINL Affiliation Officer (mkinlaffiliations@outlook.com) should receive this information no later than 5pm on the Friday prior to the first match of the season, along with the England Netball confirmation affiliation email and in line with the Affiliations Procedure. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a 1 point penalty deduction.

Teams who need to affiliate more than 15 players in a season must contact the affiliation officer prior to the player taking court. There are allowances for long term injury / pregnancy if a player will no longer be taking court for the remainder of season, then they can be moved out for another player to slot in. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a 1 point penalty deduction.

1.2. Multi-team Club Registration

Every multi-team CLUB must seed their teams and the MKINL Affiliation Officer should receive this information no later than 5pm on the Friday prior to the first match of the season. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a 1 point penalty deduction, with the team seeded highest to receive the penalty.

Multi team clubs can only have a maximum of 5 teams

Multi team clubs cannot have more than two teams where the majority of the 15 affiliated/registered players are 16 and under.

1.3. Code of Conduct form

All Teams registered to play in MKINL must have sent their Code of Conduct form to the MKINL Affiliations Officer by 30 September. Failure to do so will result in a 1 point deduction. Any team that fails to provide this information by 30 September will have a 1 point deduction applied for every month or part thereof, until the MKINL Affiliations Officer is in receipt of this document.

1.4. Teams without Umpires

MKINL reserves the right to refuse entry to teams registering or re-registering, without a suitably qualified umpire.

1.5. Team Sheets

Teams are required to complete and upload their player sign in sheets for each match. The deadline is 11.59pm on match day. Teams that fail to comply more than three times in a

season will be deducted 1 point for each offence thereafter.

2. England Netball Affiliation

All Clubs and players must be affiliated to both England Netball (EN) and North Bucks Netball Association (NBNA) prior to taking court. Clubs that do not play in North Bucks as their first county must be second-claim affiliated to NBNA.

Failure to comply with this rule will result a 1 point penalty deduction per match per unaffiliated player. Any points won by the offending team will not stand, goals for and against will not be added.

The offending player(s) will be unable to participate in MKINL until adequate proof has been supplied and received by the MKINL Affiliations Officer.

3. Players

3.1. Age of Players

All players must be at least 14 years of age to be eligible to play in the MKINL.

However, if a player is competing at regional level or above, an Age Banding application form, completed in line with the EN Age Banding process (found on MKINL website) must be completed and sent to the MKINL Committee for approval then permission may be given for a younger player to participate.

- If a player is found to be under 14 years old and not competing at regional level or above, then a 1 point penalty deduction per player per match in which that player(s) played, will occur.

Any points won by the offending team will not stand, goals for and against will not be included.

The offending player/s will be unable to play in MKINL until they reach 14 years of age or the correct documentation is received and accepted by the MKINL Chair (mkinlchair2023@outlook.com).

3.2. Transfers during the season (including transfers within multi-team clubs)

Players may transfer between clubs and between teams during the season but cannot return to their original club or team during the same season. If a player leaves one club and joins another, then an administration fee of £5.00 will apply on each occasion.

Transfers can take place on the night of matches, as long as payment is made and the MKINL Affiliations Officer is informed as soon as possible by email on match days. Payment must be made by bank transfer before the match (cash & cheque is not acceptable for security reasons).

3.2.1. Playing up / Transferring

Within multi-team CLUBS players are allowed to play up twice to the team directly seeded above their own. If a player then transfers up to this team, she must play there at least twice before playing up or transferring again. Playing up for a third time will

mean that the player has transferred to the higher seeded team and must play there at least twice before playing up or transferring again. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a 1 point penalty deduction per match per offending player. Any points won by the offending team will not stand, goals for and against will not be added.

3.2.2. Playing down / Transferring

Players are not allowed to play down to a team in a lower division or a lower seeded team for multi team clubs.

They will have to transfer down.

This movement must take place before the lower team's last four fixtures.

Once a player has transferred downwards, they cannot return to any team in a higher division or a higher seeded team for multi team clubs for the remainder of the season.

Failure to comply with this rule will result in a 1 point penalty deduction per player, per match.

Any points won by the offending team will not stand, goals for and against will not be added.

3.3. Player affiliation

If a team plays an unaffiliated player(s) then a penalty of 1 point deducted per match, per offending player, will occur. Any points won by the offending team will not stand goals for and against will not be added.

Teams can affiliate new players throughout the season including on match days, up to 5pm with confirmation of their affiliation number being emailed to the MKINL Affiliations Officer. Payment must be made to EN before the player takes court. A copy of the confirmation email from EN must be given to the team on duty on the night that the player plays for the first time. Please remember it is a maximum of 15 players per teams affiliated per season as per rule 1.1

3.3.1 Play offs

New players cannot take court in a teams play off if they have not taken court for the team within their last six games.

Failure to comply with this rule will result in the offending team either being demoted if in the higher division or not being promoted if in the lower division.

The offending team will be liable for all court and umpiring costs.

4. Rules of Play

4.1. Miscellaneous

All payments due must be paid on the night or in advance by bank transfer. CASH & CHEQUE IS NOT ACCEPTED.

Fixtures appearing on the fixtures list are compulsory and must be played. The MKINL Committee may make changes to these fixtures at any point during the season where

necessary.

All teams will play other teams in their division twice, according to the fixture list issued by the MKINL Committee (this format may be altered by the Committee if required).

All matches will consist of four quarters of 13 minutes, with a 1 minute break at quarter times and up to 2 minutes break at half time. If matches start late, then breaks only should be reduced. Under no circumstances should the four quarters be reduced. If this occurs, then matches will be deemed void and there will be no automatic right for a replay.

Captains will toss a coin to decide who will take the first centre pass / ends prior to the beginning of the match.

A player arriving late and filling a vacant position may only take court after a goal has been scored, a stoppage for injury, illness or blood or an interval.

Any team who has a query about the match score MUST NOT sign the score-cards and clear notes must be made by the team on duty on the duty sheet for that evening. Disputing teams should contact the MKINL Secretary by email (mkinlsecretary@outlook.com) within 7 days, with umpires and scorers identified in their email. It will be up to the MKINL Committee to adjudicate on such matters. Umpires must still sign the score cards.

Score-cards, once signed by captains and umpires, are final.

4.2. Points awarded & final positions

Points will be awarded as follows:

- 5 points – for a win if score is less than doubled
- 3 points – for a draw
- 2 points – for a loss if score is 50% or more
- 1 point – for a loss if score is less than 50%

In the event of a tie (points) at the end of the season, goal difference will decide the final positions. Should goal difference be the same, the team with the most wins and 'who beat who' will decide who is placed in the higher position.

4.3. Delayed Matches

Teams must be on court and in position ready to play their matches at the appointed times. Should one team not be on court at the appointed time, the non-offending team will be awarded one goal per minute up to the start of the second quarter of the match, provided this team are all on court, in their correct thirds and ready to play.

If a team does not arrive by the start of the second quarter of a match, the non-offending team will be awarded the equivalent points due for a win. At the end of the season, the non-offending team will receive goals equivalent to their average score for matches played. The offending team will gain no points and no goals averaged for and against. The offending team will be liable to pay court fees for both teams and the fee to both umpires. This should be received no later than the offending team's next match.

4.4. Disrupted Matches

If a match at any venue is interrupted for any reason that is not due to injury (i.e. fire alarm etc.), the match will be deemed a draw, unless it has reached the end of the second quarter or beyond. In this instance the score will stand.

4.5. Conceding Matches

To concede a league match before taking court, the conceding team must inform the MKINL Secretary. mkinlsecretary@outlook.com, MKINL Chair mkinlchair2023@outlook.com, MKINL Vice-Chair mkinlpr@outlook.com.

The conceding Team must also inform the opposing team, the teams that will be umpiring the conceded match and the duty team. The team conceding a match must still provide an umpire, as per normal rules. The Team Contact details should be used to find the contact details of the other teams. The team conceding the match should request confirmation of receipt of all emails that they send, to ensure all parties are aware of the cancellation.

The non-offending team will be awarded the equivalent points due for a win. At the end of the season, the non-offending team will receive goals equivalent to their average score for matches played. The offending team will gain no points and will have no goals averaged for and against. The offending team will be liable to pay court fees for both teams and the fee to both umpires. This should be received no later than the offending team's next match.

Once a match has been conceded, the remaining match start times may be adjusted for the mutual convenience of the remaining teams but full agreement must be reached by all parties. No variation of full match conditions is permitted. It is the sole responsibility of the team conceding to authorise and manage this process. Should full agreement not be received by all remaining parties, then the original match timings must be adhered to.

4.6. Replaying Matches

Matches cancelled in the first half of the season, whereby it is not the fault of the teams taking court will be rescheduled.

Matches cancelled in the second half of the season, whereby it is not the fault of the teams taking court, once all the facts have been gathered, the committee will make a decision and teams will be notified accordingly.

4.7. Injury Time / Injuries

An umpire must stop play for blood/injury/illness, when requested by an on court player. Umpires must stop play without being requested to do so by an on-court player if they feel it is in the player's best interest or if blood has been noticed.

If injury time has been called, the player concerned must leave court AND must do so within 30 seconds. The Duty Team must manage the 30 seconds of injury time and advise the umpires when there is 10 seconds remaining. The main clock will not be stopped; injuries will be timed on a separate timer. The umpire, at their discretion may extend the injury time but the main clock will still not be stopped.

During the injury time, teams may make substitutions and/or team changes, provided these are completed within the stoppage time (30 seconds).

If no substitution is made for an injury/illness or blood, then play may resume with that position left vacant (if this position is Centre and no substitutions have been made, one player must move into the Centre role). If the position is left vacant, the player concerned or a substitute may take court after advising the umpire and after one of the following: a goal, a stoppage for blood, injury, illness or sanction or an interval.

If an injury is so severe that play cannot continue, the match will be deemed void, unless it has reached the end of the second quarter or beyond, when the score will stand. The match will be replayed (at the cost of the League) if the outcome of the match affects final standings.

5. Umpiring and Duty

5.1. Umpiring

Umpires are expected to be fully focused on their duties at all times.

There will be central time keeping and matches will start and end on the umpire's whistle. It is the sole responsibility of the umpire nearest the time keeper, to inform the time keeper when to start the clock at the beginning of all quarters and they should instruct this person accordingly.

Either umpire may blow the whistle for quarter, half and full time, regardless of whether play is in their half of the court. No league fixture will be played with less than two suitably qualified umpires.

An umpire who is deemed to have a conflict of interest with the playing team will not be eligible to umpire the match.

A conflict of interest would consist of, but not limited to:

- Related to a member of the playing team
- Is the affiliated/registered umpire to the playing team
- Is the main affiliated coach of the playing team
- Any player that changes teams either by transferring or playing up/down

It is also encouraged that you do not umpire other teams in your club unless you are covering your own teams umpiring slot.

Failure to comply with this rule will result in a 1 point penalty deduction to the related team.

The match will be deemed void and rescheduled if possible.

Where it is not possible for the game to be rescheduled the non-offending team will be awarded the equivalent points due for a win. At the end of the season, the non-offending team will receive goals equivalent to their average score for matches played. The offending team will gain no points and will have no goals averaged.

The related team will be responsible for court and umpire costs.

If there are no other alternatives, approval must be received from the MKINL Officiating Officer, mkinlofficiating@outlook.com and copied into the MKINL Secretary, mkinlsecretary@outlook.com, before the match takes place. Both captains must agree in order for the match to go ahead.

5.2. Umpires

All listed umpires must be seen to be active throughout the season. Active is defined as umpiring a minimum of 25% of matches for their registered team.

- e.g. 18 games @25% = 4.5 so a minimum of 5 games would be expected

Failure to comply to this rule will result in the umpire being removed from the list for the following season.

For any mitigating circumstances, please email the MKINL committee, mkinlsecretary@outlook.com.

5.2.1. Umpiring Housekeeping

It is recommended that all umpires wear white tops whilst umpiring to clearly distinguish themselves from the players, team benches and duty team. However, if an alternative colour is worn that is clearly different then this will be allowable.

The Committee will provide all teams with an Umpiring Contact List. Should any of the umpiring details change after publication, umpires must advise the MKINL Secretary mkinlsecretary@outlook.com by email within 7 days.

All umpires MUST be affiliated to England Netball. All umpires officiating for MKINL must be named on the Umpire Contact List. Should any other umpire be used, you will need to contact the MKINL Secretary, mkinlsecretary@outlook.com and MKINL Officiating Officer, mkinlofficiating@outlook.com for authorisation from the committee.

This umpire must register with MKINL and be provided with an “umpiring number”, which must be subsequently used by that umpire. If an unauthorised umpire is used, the team supplying that umpire will be deducted 2 points.

All umpires must be over 16 years old. Umpires between 16 and 18 years old will only be given permission to umpire if they have a mentor who will always be present on the side line, during any particular fixture. The MKINL Officiating Officer must assess the umpire before authorisation can be given. Clubs using umpires between the ages of 16 and 18 years old, must provide the MKINL Officiating Officer with their names. The MKINL Officiating Officer should be advised when and where these umpires are officiating, on a weekly basis. MKINL reserves the right to withdraw permission to officiate from any umpire between 16 and 18, should it be felt that it is not in the younger umpire’s best interests. The MKINL Officiating Officer will determine which division(s) the young umpire may officiate; this may change throughout the season should the MKINL Officiating Officer feel that this is appropriate and dependent upon the qualification level of the umpire.

All umpires will be allocated a number, which must accompany their signature and printed name on the back of all scorecards and used in all correspondence.

Teams without their own qualified umpire must use the Umpire Contact list to find officials to umpire on their behalf. Teams without qualified umpires will be contacted

by the MKINL Officiating Officer with regards to putting some of their members on a suitable umpiring course at the earliest available opportunity and, by the end of their first year playing in the MKINL, should aim to have a qualified umpire.

Umpires wishing to have the scores called out during a match, should make this request directly to the scorers, who should comply.

If an umpire is playing as well as umpiring on a particular evening, umpires may only umpire once. Umpires may officiate a maximum of twice in one evening according to the following:

- If an umpire is not playing on a particular evening, an umpire may umpire a maximum of twice.
- If an umpire is playing at 9.00pm, an umpire may umpire twice.

Should further umpiring be required on a particular evening, permission **MUST** be obtained from the MKINL Officiating Officer in advance.

All umpires must attend umpiring forums as informed by the MKINL League.

5.2.2. Umpiring Matches

Teams must supply an umpire as follows:

Match 1 – supplies umpires for match 3

Match 2 – supplies umpires for match 1

Match 3 – supplies umpires for match 2

When there are only two scheduled matches at a venue, teams will be required to umpire the other match.

5.2.3. Payment of Umpires

The teams will each pay an umpire (for their own match) a sum specified at the start of the season, and this must be paid on the night. This payment should be made before the start of the match.

5.2.4. Umpiring Qualifications

Umpires must be of 'C' Award qualification for Championship, Division 1 and Division 2.

Into officiating awards will be allowed to umpire in Division 1 and Division 2 on attendance of a C course but only with a suitable mentor that has been agreed by the league.

Into officiating umpires that don't have a mentor and don't wish to progress to their C award can only umpire Division 3.

For the Premier Division, all umpires must be a 'C' Award umpire or above AND have been approved, through assessment, to umpire this division. Teams supplying these umpires who are found to be in breach of this rule, will be deducted 2 points per match and further sanctions may follow, should a repeat occur. If the match is played with an unsuitably qualified umpire, then this match will be deemed to be a friendly and the result will not stand. Court fees and umpiring fees will still be payable if the match is played.

5.2.5. Non-Attendance of Umpires

The penalty for not supplying a suitably qualified umpire will be a deduction of 2 points and the match fees and umpire fees are to be covered by the offending team. This should be received no later than the offending team's next match.

If on the night, a suitably qualified umpire stands in so that the match can proceed, the team failing to supply the original umpire will still be deducted 2 points and the match fees will still be covered by the team responsible for supplying the umpire.

If only one umpire is available, then the match will not be under full match conditions and should not be played.

If a match does not go ahead due to an Umpire failing to turn up, and a suitably qualified umpire does not stand in on the night, the match may be eligible for a replay at the end of the season, as per rule 4.6. The team responsible for providing the umpire will be deducted 2 points.

All teams providing / booking umpires should re-confirm the umpire's continued availability.

Any team that is deducted 2 points for not supplying an umpire more than twice in a season, will be further penalised with a 2 point deduction and a fine of £25.00 payable to MKINL

Teams should note that if the match does not go ahead due to non-attendance of an umpire and there is no substitute umpire, they should not take court. If they decide to play a friendly then they will be charged match fees (and umpire fees) for the friendly they play AND the cost of the replayed match later in the season.

5.2.6. Testing Umpires

Any match played in MKINL may be used to assess or pre-assess (test) umpires relevant to the qualification they are taking. Matches used on test nights will be authorised by the MKINL Officiating Officer. The teams playing will be advised in advance by the MKINL Officiating Officer. All due care will be given to the selection of these assessment matches.

The test will consist of 2 trainees and can take part in the relevant division as required. This will be monitored and regulated by the Committee.

All those taking the Into Officiating Award Assessment may only be tested on division 3 matches.

All those taking the 'C' Award Assessment will be tested on Championship matches following the successful completion of a pre-assessment which should also take place on Championship matches, designed to confirm that they are ready to be assessed.

5.3. Duty

Duty members are expected to be fully focused on their duties at all times.

The duration of duty is defined as all three duty members (from the specified team/club and their associates) turning up at least 10 minutes before the start of the first match and all three members leaving after the end of the last match.

There must be at least three people from a team/club (including associates) undertaking the role of duty at any time: two duty members will score / time and all other(s) must manage the other requirements of duty, as set out in the Duty Procedure.

Failure to comply with this rule will result in 1 point deducted for each person from the duty team who is late. "Late" is defined as any time after the first match starts. Should a team completely fail to show for Duty then they will receive maximum penalty a deduction of 3 points.

Should any team seek any variation in the above rule, on any occasion, then a formal request must be made in writing to the MKINL Secretary at least 7 days in advance.

For duty teams that don't attend their duty where fixtures are cancelled as a result, the duty team will be responsible for court fees and umpiring fees (if umpires have attended) for all matches cancelled.

The official MKINL paperwork must be used for duty.

Failure to comply with this rule will result in a 1 point penalty on the second infringement.

6. Promotions and Relegations of teams

At the end of each season, the top team in each division will be promoted to the higher division and the bottom team in each division will be demoted to the lower division for the following season.

There will be playoffs each season to determine the second promoted and demoted teams for each division, i.e. second from bottom teams will play second from top teams (e.g. div 1 second bottom will play div 2 second top).

This format may be altered by the MKINL Committee if required and will be advised to all teams as soon as possible.

The team that finishes at the bottom of the lowest division will be relegated from the league. If they wish to re-enter the league they will be put on the waiting list.

The team at the top of the waiting list will be offered the position.

New teams entering the League will normally be placed in the last division.

If a new team entering the League is of a higher standard than the last division, the MKINL Committee may assess the team to decide on their seeding.

7. Withdrawal from the League

Should any team drop out of MKINL Winter League mid-season, they will be liable to a fine, the amount of which will not exceed the amount necessary to cover ALL court fees for ALL matches not played by that team, plus any outstanding monies owed to MKINL. The exact

amount will be determined by the MKINL Committee.

Should a team drop out having played all other teams in their division exactly once, then the results table will remain unaffected, but should a team drop out part way through the first or second half of the season, then points awarded in that half of the season will be removed.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1. Change of Team Contacts

Each team is responsible for notifying the MKINL Secretary (mkinlsecretary@outlook.com) of any changes to team contacts, by providing a new registration form signed by the new team contacts.

8.2. Attendance at MKINL and North Bucks Netball Association (NBNA) AGM's

All clubs must be represented at the MKINL AGM by at least one member, who will affiliate to that club for the forthcoming season. Failure to send a suitable representative will result in a 1 point deduction (in multi team clubs this means a 1 point deduction per team).

All clubs must be represented at the NBNA AGM each year by a member, who will affiliate to that club for the forthcoming season. Failure to comply will result in a 1 point deduction to each team (in multi team clubs this means 1 point per team).

Any extra point deductions that NBNA sanction will be upheld by MKINL.

8.3. Cause for Concern / Complaints / Disciplinary Regulations

For all complaints, please complete the Cause for Concern form in the first instance. This can be located on the MKINL website, members area.

8.4. Additional Sanctions - relating to behaviour deemed unacceptable.

MKINL will put into force the following sanctions for Clubs / Teams / Players that do not follow MKINL rules / persistently break MKINL rules / displays behaviour that is unsportsmanlike and against MKINL Code of Conduct. These sanctions will be used in place of or in addition to any of the MKINL rules or England Netball rules

The MKINL Committee will at its discretion and depending on the gravity of the situation have the power to implement any of these stages where it deems necessary

- First offence – formal warning and 5 point deduction plus £50 fine
- Second offence – final warning and 5 point deduction plus £75 fine
- Third offence – expulsion from the league with barring for a whole season and any repeat offences by that club within 12 months of re-entry resulting in a permanent ban.

8.5. Pregnancy

Further to the MKINL Constitution 1.10, written approval from a medical professional (ie Dr or Midwife) must be sent to the MKINL Secretary (mkinlsecretary@outlook.com) prior to taking court for the first time.

8.6. Policies

8.6.1 Social Media / Photographs / Filming

No filming, photography or social media posts are permitted without consent from all parties.

Failure to comply with this rule will result in a 5 point penalty.

For any further offences, additional sanctions may be incurred as per rule 8.4.