

**The Medway Junior Netball League (MJNL)**

This league is part of the Medway Netball League

###### **Mission Statement**

We exist to provide and promote safe, quality netball opportunities for players aged 8 to18years and to provide opportunities for trainee umpires.

**Contents**

Winter League/Summer League Information

Medway Junior Netball League Regulations

Local Rules

Health & Safety

Equity Policy Statement

Safeguarding Policy

# Winter League and Summer League Information

The Winter League will start in September and the Summer League in the following March/April depending on fixture arrangements.

Fixtures will be supplied by the fixture secretary.

The Junior League also holds training sessions as Medway Emeralds for those younger members and those new to netball to allow them to develop to a certain standard before taking part in the summer or winter league games.

To safeguard those younger players who are aged Under 11 (School year 6 and below) and to reduce the risk of injury or incident the Junior League will include:

* Having a separate lower division for those teams who have Under 11s (School year 6 and below) playing for them.
* Players from the teams in this division will not be able to play up.
* The teams in this division cannot be promoted until all their players are no longer aged Under 11.
* For new teams coming from Medway Emeralds, or elsewhere, consideration will be given to the grouping of girls of similar ages.
* Any new teams who have no Under 11s will be placed in the next division.
* The minimum age for players in the Junior League will be those in school year 4 (Under 9s).

 An exception to the above may be made in extenuating circumstances where the Medway Junior League Committee in discussion with the team coach agree the younger Under 11 players are capable and of the right stage in their netball development to play in a higher division.

**Please note that parents and carers are responsible for their children at all times.**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Severe Weather Procedure:**

In the event of severe weather being forecast the Junior League committee will check the weather forecast on the Friday evening at 7.00 pm for Saturday morning. If conditions are to be icy or heavy rain the 09:10 games will be cancelled and the relevant teams informed by email, a message put on the Junior League Facebook page and on the Medway Netball League website ([www.medwaynetballleague.co.uk](http://www.medwaynetballleague.co.uk)) on the Friday evening. On the Saturday, nominated committee member(s) will check the courts at 09:00 to make a decision on the 10:25 games and likewise at 10:00 for the 11:40 games, where the courts are not playable teams will be informed by email and on the Junior League Facebook page. In the event of snow all games will be cancelled on the Friday evening and teams informed. Teams should ensure their first and second contact details are up to date and the Junior League is made aware of any changes at the desk.

**TEAM LEADERS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMING THEIR TEAM PLAYERS.**

**The Medway Netball website at** [**www.medwaynetballleague.co.uk**](http://www.medwaynetballleague.co.uk) **can also be accessed for information/news regarding the junior league.**

Medway Junior Netball League REGULATIONS

### 1 Name

The Medway Junior Netball League is part of the Medway Netball League.

### 2 Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the Junior League (JL) will be:

1. to offer competitive opportunities in netball for girls aged 8 to 18yrs
2. to promote the League within the local community/schools and netball
3. to manage the administration of the Junior League
4. to provide all its services in a way that is fair to everyone
5. to ensure that all present and future participants receive fair and equal treatment.

### 3 Membership

Membership should consist of officers, members (team leaders and players) of the League. All officers and members will be subject to the rules and by joining the League will be deemed to accept these rules and codes of conduct that the League has adopted.

### 4 Membership fees

Fees will be set and agreed by the Committee before the start of the season.

Individual Team fees will be paid before the start of each match game.

### 5 Officers of the JL committee

The officers of the committee will include:

1. Chair
2. Secretary
3. Vice Chair
4. Treasurer
5. Results Secretary
6. Fixtures Secretary
7. Umpiring Representative
8. Complaints Secretary

### 6 Committee

The League will be managed through the JL Committee. A quorum (deciding vote) required for business to be agreed at JL Committee meetings will be three.

The JLCommittee will be responsible for adopting new policies, codes of conduct and rules that affect the organisation of the Junior League.

The JL Committee will have powers to appoint additional sub-committees as necessary and appoint advisers to the main sub-Committee as necessary to fulfil its business.

The JL Committee will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the league rules/regulations. The JL Committee will be responsible for taking any action of suspension or discipline following such hearings.

### 7 Annual General Meeting

### The Medway Netball League annual general meeting is held in October of each year. The Junior League is represented by officers from the junior league committee and reports at that annual general meeting.

### 8 Finance

All league finance will be banked in an account held in the name of the Medway Junior Netball League. The League Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the league.

Any cheques drawn against League funds should hold the signatures of the Treasurer plus one other officer.

The league finance will be audited at the end of the summer season each year and a report provided to members and the Medway Netball League.

### 9 Discipline and appeals

All complaints regarding the behaviour of players, officials, team officials, members of the committee or spectators should be submitted in **writing/by email** to the Junior League complaints secretary within seven days of the said incident. This must be clearly marked as a complaint, to avoid ambiguity. If the complaints secretary is involved in the complaint it should be sent to the chairman. Any complaints made after this time, will not be heard by the MJNL committee and will be deemed invalid. Any issues regarding the behaviour of players during the game should be dealt with at the time by the umpires.

MJNL Complaints procedure:

* The complaints secretary will acknowledge the complaint and notify the MJNL chairperson of its receipt and advise the committee at the next meeting.
* The complaints secretary will write to all persons involved and request a written statement about the incident, to arrive within 14 days from the date of the request.
* If a reply is not received (although allowance may be made if the respondent can produce evidence of absence), the adjudication will go ahead without that information.
* All relevant information will be put before a complaints sub-committee that will consist of the Complaints Secretary and two members of the MJNL committee, chosen by the complaints secretary in light of any particular expertise they may have. Where there is a conflict of interest that person will be excluded from the sub-committee and it may mean the MJNL is not the appropriate authority to carry out the complaint investigation, in which case it will be passed to the appropriate authority, for example the Medway Netball League or Kent Netball. The sub-committee will decide the adjudication.
* The adjudication will be sent to the person who is the subject of the complaint and the complainant. The complaint case notes will be kept on file for three years.
* If disciplinary action is to be taken against any individual, that individual has the right to appeal against the decision. This appeal should be addressed to the MJNL chairperson in writing, within 14 days from the sent date of the original adjudication.
* An appeal committee of three committee members that may include committee members from the Medway Netball League, who were not involved in the original sub-committee adjudication, led by the chairperson or another appropriate person will hear the appeal.

**All information provided in relation to the Complaints Procedure shall be regarded as confidential information and should be kept securely by all those concerned in the process, including the complainant, respondent and committee members. Where there is a conflict of interest that person will be excluded from any discussions.**

### 10 Amendments to the regulations/local rules

The regulations/local rules will only be changed through agreement by majority vote at a committee meeting.

**Local Rules**

# Umpires

All umpires in the junior league are required to have current membership of England Netball.

Umpires for the Premier division games in the junior league require an England Netball qualification or a minimum of a Medway white card. The League actively encourages trainee umpires, particularly from the older girls who umpire for the younger members games. Although we would expect qualified umpires and teams/players/coaches to make allowances for unqualified umpires, assistance/advice should only be given on request.

MJNL qualified umpires or trainee umpires may only umpire the 09:10 and 10:25 games when the umpiring representatives have confirmed they are of a standard able to do so. Those MJNL qualified umpires that have met the appropriate standard may receive a payment for umpiring; the sum and eligibility to be agreed by the Committee*.*

Umpires can ask spectators to keep score (a game requires 2 scorers, if one or both are not the umpires, the scorers should stand together).

**Spectators**

All spectators will stand outside the fence during the games. Only the team leader and the coach are allowed to stand court-side on the team bench throughout the game. They should not move up and down the court or position themselves in the way of the umpires but should position themselves at the goal end where their team were shooting at the start of the game.

**Conduct of players and non-players**

The Medway Junior Netball League (the League) is committed to following the principles of the England Netball Code of Conduct.

The League requires the highest standards of conduct from everyone involved in netball. It expects everyone to conduct themselves in an honest, fair, impartial, transparent way and to ensure their behaviour and actions allows that netball is played in a safe and a fair manner so that it can be enjoyed by all.

Generally behaving in what can be deemed an unsporting manner will not be tolerated and includes:

* **Swearing and abusive language by players or spectators during play on or around the courts**
* **Threatening and intimidating behaviour**
* **Inappropriate comments and questioning of umpires during play with regards to their decisions**
* **Lack of respect from spectators and unsporting remarks**
* **Lack of discipline on court by players**

Players and spectators are entitled to hold an opinion of umpires however they are not allowed to voice this opinion in the form of questions or abuse during a match. If clarification of a rule is required then the appropriate team manager can approach the umpire at the end of any quarter. If after speaking to the umpire a query has not been answered or a query is related to the conduct of a non-player, clarification may be obtained from the umpiring representative for the day. The name of the umpiring representative can be found at the desk in the pavilion.

As many players admit they would not like to umpire themselves it is even more important that we do not lose those we already have. Your umpire should be thanked at the end of each match, we cannot play without them!

Umpires do not claim to get it right all of the time, none of us are perfect!

This is a Junior League and consequently there is a wide range of player experience (from ‘played a few games at school’ to more experienced players), therefore it is the responsibility of experienced umpires to take the initiative and avert the frustrations of young players not familiar with the rules, by calmly explaining the infringements at the time.

Any foul play by players including unfair play, dangerous play or misconduct should be addressed at the time by the umpire taking into account the level of netball experience and the Rules of Netball Section 13 Game Management.

The League has a formal complaints procedure as per section 9 ‘Discipline and appeals’ in the Junior League Regulations. In the first instance any concerns regarding behaviour of non-players during a match should be brought to the attention of a committee member via the desk in the pavilion. Any formal complaints should be made in accordance with section 9.

As a league we wish to set a strong example of fair play and respect to our young players and to keep Netball as high profile as we can, it is a sport we all love and want to ensure that all participants enjoy.

# Time

We aim to start all match games on time however, delays are sometimes unavoidable. Games will be four of ten minute quarters. A team can start the game with a minimum of 5 players. Time will be signalled centrally by the ‘Hooter’, however, the game will start on the umpire’s whistle.

**Results Sheets**

Both umpires should confirm and agree the final match score at the end of the game and hand both result cards into the desk.

# Points

4 points for a win

3 points for a draw

2 points to the losing teams who score within 5 or less goals of the winning score

1 point to the losing teams who score 50% or more of the winning score.

1 point will be deducted from a team that concedes a game

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points, final placing shall be determined by calculating the team with the greater overall goal difference across all the matches of the season. If the teams are still equal, the MJNL will arrange a play-off to decide the order of the winners.

# Registration

All players must complete a parental consent/MJNL registration form before playing in the Junior League in any one England Netball membership year.

All players must have current membership of England Netball. A player shall be registered and play for only one Medway Junior Netball League team at any one time. No more than three new players shall be registered to play with a team in any one League game after the start of the winter or summer season.

Players wishing to transfer to another team must notify the team leader of the team they are leaving and the divisional representative of the old and new team before playing for their new team. Players may only transfer once in any one season.

Where a club has more than one team, a player may only ‘play up’ for a maximum of two games in one season, and only a maximum of two players may ‘play up’ per game providing the players do not play in the lowest division for younger less experienced players. No players may ‘play down’ or across.

A point will be deducted for infringement of the rules.

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

**Court and Players safety:**

* Parents/supporters/spectators are not permitted on the courts during play unless they are a team official, and will be asked to move if they do so
* Younger children need to be supervised at all times and should be kept well away from the courts during play
* Bikes, scooters, footballs and buggies/prams/pushchairs are not permitted in the court areas
* Parents and carers will be expected to administer any first aid required. There will be basic first aid supplies available for parent/players use if needed. In the event of an injury an accident report form, available in the pavilion, should be completed and returned to the desk. The accident report form will be kept by the junior league secretary for insurance purposes.
* All players are required to play in appropriate foot wear (trainers that offer the necessary support to play netball, with laces correctly tied) and clothing for the sport and weather conditions
* Long hair should be securely tied back
* No jewellery shall be worn during play, this includes the taping of jewellery except for wedding rings; and fingernails will be short and smooth
* Safety should be considered during all weather conditions and appropriate precautions taken
* The Rainham Netball Centre, courts and grounds are ‘**Smoke Free**’ areas
* **No dogs** are permitted in the grounds/courts
* **SAFETY IS EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY and any concerns should be reported to an official and/or committee member straight away**

# Photography

# Any person wanting to take photographs of teams/team play/individuals must sign in at the desk and seek permission in advance from a committee member at the desk and from the team leaders, who will be aware if parents have given their consent to the taking of photographs.

**Equity Policy Statement**

1. This League is committed to ensuring that equity is incorporated across all aspects of its development. In doing so it acknowledges and adopts the following Sport England definition of sports equity:

**Sports equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society.**

1. The league respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their sport, regardless of age, ability, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.
2. The league is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
3. All participants have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.

The league will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, in accordance with disciplinary procedures.

# Code of Conduct for Young Player

**T** - Treat team-mates, coaches and opponents with respect

**H**  - Have fun, reach for the top and always try your best

**U -** Umpires are there to apply the rules for you, accept their decision

**N**  - Never use bad language or insult opponents, coaches or spectators

**D** - Do not try to gain an unfair advantage over opponents

**E** - Enjoy yourself, know the rules and play by the spirit of the game

**R** - Realise that without opponents, there would be no game

**Safeguarding Policy**

Safeguarding is everyone’s business. It is important that everyone who comes into contact with children and young people is alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and refers any concerns immediately to children’s social care.

Medway Junior Netball League (the league) is committed to this approach and believes that all young people, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, social status or sexual orientation have the right to be protected from harm. This safeguarding policy and that of the Medway Netball League sets out what the league will do to protect children and promote their welfare.

Anyone under the age of 18 is considered a child or young person in relation to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of young people. (This policy uses the term children to refer to children and young people.)

**What will we do?**

The league will provide a safe environment for children to play and experience netball. We will do this by:

* putting the needs of individual children at the centre of all our policies;
* running netball sessions as a fun and enjoyable experience and putting the welfare of children first above winning;
* giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism;
* responding quickly and in line with the latest government guidance to any safeguarding issues raised;
* offering opportunities for young people to give feedback on issues that affect them;
* operating a safe and appropriate relationship with all players. This includes treating all players and umpires fairly and offering opportunities to everyone;
* providing appropriate basic first aid provision at all events and record any accidents in accordance with the latest statutory guidance;
* being open and honest in communications with children and their parent/carers;
* seeking permission each year for the taking of photographs and recording of games in accordance with the latest national guidance;
* referring any cases of suspected abuse and neglect of a child to the local authority or the local safeguarding children board as set out in statutory guidance “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015” and any subsequent updates;
* appointing a designated safeguarding officer to work with the committee, coaches, team managers, parents and children to make sure that all children have a positive experience of netball;
* complying with the regulations relating to the vetting of officials and volunteers;
* responding quickly and taking the appropriate action against any allegation made against any official or volunteer associated with the league– including umpires and coaches; and
* giving a written update in any annual report on any safeguarding issues raised in that year.

It is not for the league to investigate any concerns of abuse and neglect – that is for the professional agencies including children’s social care. The league **WILL** refer any concern if they believe a child may be suffering harm.

The league recognises that working in partnership with parents and carers is essential for safeguarding and protecting young people. To achieve this, the league will:

* operate open sessions where parents and carers are welcome to observe;
* make clear that parents/carers must take responsibility for their own children at all times including the timely collection of their children at the end of any session;
* respect any information given by parents to the league in confidence;
* respond quickly to any concerns raised in accordance with national and local guidance; and
* request written parental consent if league officials are required to transport young people in their cars.

The league expects all parents/carers and all spectators to respect children and young people and not to make unsporting comments or harass any team, umpire or individual player. If inappropriate behaviour by a parent /carer or spectator is proven then the individual may be reported to professional agencies and will be banned from future attendance at matches or training.