



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 school year 4 to school year 12 and to provide opportunities for trainee umpires and coaches.

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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 maximum age of any players in this division will be Under 13 (School year 8).
- 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 or a new team are not at the right stage in their 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 first session games will be cancelled and the relevant teams informed on the Friday evening. On the Saturday, nominated committee member(s) will check the courts at 09:00 to make a decision on the second session games, where the courts are not playable teams will be informed. 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 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:

- to offer competitive opportunities in netball for girls aged 8 to 17 years (school year 12)
- to promote the League within the local community/schools and netball
- to manage the administration of the Junior League
- to provide all its services in a way that is fair to everyone
- 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:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Vice Chair
- Treasurer
- Results Secretary
- Fixtures Secretary
- Umpiring Representative
- 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 five.

The JL Committee 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

9.1 Complaints and Disciplinary Policy

The Medway Junior Netball League (MJNL) expects the highest level of conduct from all involved with and engaged in the MJNL. Specifically, the MJNL expects that everyone respects the rights and views of the individual and strives to resolve any differences quickly and respectfully. This procedure is in accordance with England Netball disciplinary regulations and must be adhered to by players, umpires, members of the committee, coaches and spectators. Failure to abide by this policy may mean suspension or expulsion from the Medway Junior Netball League.

The following will be deemed as gross misconduct by the MJNL committee and will also apply if the individual is in the vicinity of the game, whether the game is in progress or not.

- Intentionally striking another player, umpire, coach, official or spectator.
- Physical or verbal abuse, unacceptable behaviour or language, as perceived by any person directly involved.
- Inciting or encouraging unacceptable behaviour in others, whether the game is in progress or not.

Other actions may also be deemed as gross misconduct, the above list is not exhaustive.

9.2 Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure

MJNL believes it is important to respond to complaints, over which it has jurisdiction, quickly and efficiently. MJNL expects clubs to manage issues with their players and spectators, and may refer a complaint back to a club or a team for a local resolution.

- All complaints must be made in writing, such as by email, clearly marked as a complaint to avoid ambiguity, to the MJNL committee via the divisional representative or other committee member if the complaint is regarding the divisional representative. Only complaints from those persons involved in the MJNL netball fixture will be considered as part of this procedure.
- The complaint and any associated information 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. This includes not discussing on social media. Where there is a conflict of interest for any committee member that person will be excluded from any discussions.
- The complaint must be received within seven days of the game concerned. If the complaints secretary is involved or is connected in any way to the complaint, the MJNL chairperson will assume that role.
- The complaints secretary will acknowledge the complaint, notify the MJNL chairperson of its receipt and advise the committee at the next meeting.
- The Complaints secretary could advise an initial conversation may be the most appropriate way to resolve a dispute or a complaint. If this is the case, this will be notified to the parties involved.
- Should the complaint progress to a formal hearing, it will be heard by a Complaint Panel that will consist of the Complaints Secretary and two other persons that may include a MNL life president who is independent of the League Committee or a Committee member, chosen in light of any particular expertise they may have.
- The complaint and any relevant information will be discussed fully by the panel and the findings with any

sanction will be sent in writing to the subject of the complaint and the complainant.

- **Right of Appeal:** If the subject of the complaint or complainant disagrees with the decision or sanction there is a right of appeal. The appeal must be in writing and include the reason for the appeal stating clearly the supporting facts for the appeal. An appeal cannot be heard unless this supporting information is provided. This appeal must be received by the Complaints Secretary within seven days of the notification date of the original sanction/decision. Any appeal received will be heard by a new Complaint Panel selected by the MJNL chairperson or other appropriate committee member. Once the final decision is made by the appeal panel there will be no further right of appeal.
- The complaint will be processed in a timely manner and where the complaint is upheld, the complaint information will be kept for two years in line with the Medway Netball League (MNL) privacy policy.

9.3 Sanctions

Sanctions may be imposed by the Complaints Panel that may include for example deduction of points, suspension for a fixed term dependent upon the considered severity of the misconduct, or in extreme circumstances expulsion from the League for those players, coaches, umpires, committee members or spectators concerned.

9.4 Complaints Regarding Umpires

- 9.4.1 Umpires are there to control the game and their decision during the game, will be final. If clarification of a rule is required, then the team captain or coach can approach the umpires at the end of any quarter to discuss. It is not appropriate for spectators to ever approach an umpire. The MNL will not tolerate any abuse of umpires and points may be deducted for such behaviour.
- 9.4.2 Any inappropriate behaviour by players or team officials in a match including unfair play, dangerous play or misconduct should be addressed at the time by the umpire taking into account the Rules of Netball Section 13 Game Management.

- 9.4.3 Complaints about any umpire should be submitted as set out above in 9.2.
- 9.4.4 If the complaint regarding an umpire is upheld, the Complaint Panel may request the umpire to undertake some mentoring, training or updating of the rules. If the umpire does not comply with this in a reasonable timescale the MJNL committee may suspend validation to umpire in the MJNL and remove from the MNL approved Umpiring list for a fixed period. In cases of repeated suspensions or in exceptional circumstances, the MNL may suspend validation indefinitely and remove the umpire from the MNL approved Umpiring List.

9.5 Complaints Regarding Coaches

- 9.5.1 Complaints about coaches should be made as set out above at 9.2.
- 9.5.2 If the complaint regarding a coach is upheld, the Complaint Panel may refer the coach to the Coaching secretary to undertake some mentoring or training. If the coach does not comply with this in a reasonable timescale the MJNL committee may suspend validation to coach in the MJNL and remove from the MNL approved Coaches list for a fixed period. In cases of repeated suspensions or in exceptional circumstances, the MNL may suspend validation indefinitely and remove the coach from the MNL approved Coaches List.
- 9.5.3 Should the complaint include a safeguarding issue this will be dealt with under the England Netball policies and local safeguarding policies as set out in the MNL safeguarding policy. Complaints relating to safeguarding issues can be raised with the MNL safeguarding officer.
- 9.5.4 MJNL will follow the procedures set out by England Netball (EN) regarding whistleblowing and all members should be aware of the EN policies.

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.

All Umpires for the Premier division games in the junior league require an England Netball qualification C award or above, an IO award umpire that is working towards their C can umpire opposite an experienced C as part of the umpiring pathway. All other divisions need a minimum of an IO award umpire or where a trainee umpire has been determined by the umpiring representative able to umpire that division.

The League has a robust development programme for all trainee umpires. They must have first been on an IO award course before entering on to the programme. They will be assigned a buddy going forward in their development. Once the buddy feels they are ready they will be pre-assessed by the Umpiring Representative and then put forward to Kent for their IO assessment.

We expect qualified umpires and teams/players/coaches to make allowances for unqualified umpires and any assistance/advice should only be given on request.

MJNL trainee umpires may only umpire the first session games until the buddy has said they are ready to umpire later session games and when the umpiring representative has confirmed they are of a standard able to do so. Those MJNL umpires may receive a payment for umpiring, the amount to be agreed by the Committee.

Umpires can ask teams to provide a scorer (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. If the team leader or coach is not available then a responsible adult (aged 18 years or above) shall stand court side on the team bench. They shall not move up and down the court or position themselves in the way of the umpires. Parents or primary carers shall only enter court-side if requested by the team leader/coach or umpire following an injury or illness of a player.

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. 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 team where the difference with the winning score is 5 goals or less.
- 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 have current membership of England Netball and be registered to play in the Junior League. 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.

All players taking part in a match will be listed on the result card and a photo of this will be taken by the team representative at the end of the game for sending within 48 hours to the appropriate divisional representative to enable players' registrations to be checked.

A point will be deducted for each infringement of the rules.

Players

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 to another team within their club or to another club (team) during the transfer window:

TRANSFER WINDOW

- during the Winter season first half term (October) break week and the Christmas break.
- during the Summer season Easter break and the Summer season Whitsun (May) break week.

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.

Photography or video recording

There is to be no taking of photographs or video recording of team/individual play or officials whilst on the courts for the Junior League other than where the committee have authorised the taking of official photographs or video for promotional/website purposes subject to the necessary registration consent form being signed.

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
- Dermal piercings (that are located below the skin and cannot be easily removed) and flat religious bracelets (which are not to be removed for religious and / or cultural reasons) are to be suitably covered with padding / tape as necessary to prevent injury to others. Daith/Tragus Piercing - The medical evidence regarding a Daith/Tragus piercing is only anecdotal at this time with some Doctor's prepared to support its use and some that do not. If a player has a Daith/Tragus piercing for medical reasons they should obtain a supporting letter from their doctor and submit to the League committee for a decision on whether they can play with the piercing. If granted the player should tape the piercing and wear a headband covering it.
- 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

Equity Policy Statement

- 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.
- 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, sexual orientation or social/economic status.
- The league is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
- 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 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. The Medway Netball League Safeguarding Policy sets out what the league will do to protect children and young people to promote their welfare. Further information is available at [Documents - Medway Netball League](#)