



WALES NETBALL
PÊL-RWYD **CYMRU**

National Competition Handbook 2023/2024

NATIONAL COMPETITION HANDBOOK 2023/2024

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GENERAL INFORMATION

CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

1. GENERAL RULES

- 1.1** All championship matches shall be played in accordance with the official 'Rules of Netball' as set out by the International Netball Federation (World Netball).
- 1.2** The Competition Umpire governs the event in accordance with the Championship Rules. In the event of a dispute their decision is final.

2. MEMBERSHIPS

- 2.1** Clubs should hold a current affiliated Organisation Category membership to Wales Netball.
- 2.2** Schools and colleges should hold a current affiliated Organisation Category membership to Wales Netball.
- 2.3** Players should be a current affiliated member of Wales Netball within one of the following categories:
 - 2.3.1** 7 – 11 Age Category (£10 for the season): For those members playing in junior clubs.
 - 2.3.2** 12 – 18 Age Category (£20 for the season): For those members playing in junior clubs.
 - 2.3.3** Full Adult Category (£40 until 31/10 every season, then £45 from 1/11 onwards): For playing, coaching, or umpiring members over the age of 18.

3. INJURY/BLOOD

- 3.1** No injury time is permitted. Injured players should be removed from the court as soon as possible and substituted immediately. In the event of a serious injury the player must not be moved without medical supervision. If necessary, the match will be abandoned and may be rescheduled if the result impacts on the overall outcome of the tournament.
- 3.2** No player may remain on court who is bleeding from an open wound. Any players with blood on them and/or their clothing must leave the court within 15 seconds and have the blood-stained clothing replaced, and blood cleaned off their body. They must remain off court when play restarts. They may return to the court as a substitute or to fill a vacant position. They may only return to the court after being checked by the umpire once a goal has taken place and a centre pass is not in play. During the stoppage both teams may make substitutions and/or team changes, provided these are completed within the time allowed for the stoppage by the umpires.
- 3.3** Wales Netball cannot accept any responsibility for accidents or injuries to unaffiliated players or spectators, which may occur during Championships.

4. PIERCINGS

4.1 All piercings must be removed prior to taking to court.

4.2 Players with single ended dermal piercings that require medical removal may only take to court, if the following conditions are met:

- A medical exemption letter from a doctor is provided to, and approved by, the Competition Organiser ahead of the competition taking place (medical exemption letters provided on the day of a competition will not be accepted and the player in question will not be allowed to partake in the competition).
- The piercing is suitably covered with a padded dressing and securely taped.
- The player presents themselves to the competition Umpire Mentor for a final check, prior to taking to court.

PRE-COMPETITION AND ADMINISTRATION

5. SPORT:80 ENTRY

5.1 For all competitions: entry forms, team lists (including Wales Netball affiliation numbers), and payments must be completed via Sport:80. Late entries may not be accepted.

5.2 Each team must have a minimum of a Coach, Team Manager and Scorer. The roles of Coach and Team Manager **must not** be doubled up with other roles/age groups.

5.3 Each team may name up to a maximum of 12 squad players and must name a minimum of 10 players. Only players who have been named on the team list submitted via Sport:80 may take to court. Amendments to the submitted team lists can only be made 3 weeks or more ahead of the event. Team list deadlines will not be reopened for late entries or amendments.

5.4 If a club's team list drops to below 10 players within the 3 weeks leading up to the event, team managers can request changes to the team sheet up to 48 hours before the event. Changes can only be made in cases where medical notes can be provided. Please speak directly to the Competition Organiser ahead of the event to discuss. Medical notes provided on the day of a competition will not be accepted and the replacement athlete will not be allowed to partake.

6. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

6.1 Players are advised to play in their age group. Teams participating in:

6.1.1 U12 & U14 may consist of players that are 10 years of age at midnight on the 31st of August immediately prior to the championship, this is the minimum age any player can be to participate in those age categories. A team may consist of a squad of up to 12 players, only three of whom may be 10 years of age.

6.1.2 U16, U18 & U19 may consist of players that are 13 years of age at midnight on the 31st of August immediately prior to the championship, this is the minimum age any player can be to participate in those age categories. A team may consist of a squad of up to 12 players, only three of whom may be 13 years of age.

7. TEAM COMPETITION DAY RESPONSIBILITY

- 7.1** Teams must register on time and check the fixtures and event timings for any amendments.
- 7.2** Captains shall toss for first centre pass or choice of ends at least 5 minutes prior to their match commencing – players must ensure an Umpire is witness to this.
- 7.3** Teams must be courtside at least 5 minutes prior to their match start time. All players must be on court for the start of the match. Any team not on court for the scheduled start will forfeit the game, with the opposition awarded the full “win” points and goals. The number of goals awarded will be based on the average number of goals scored in the competition, with witness by the Competition organiser. Persistent lateness may result in disqualification from the competition.
- 7.4** Each team is responsible for providing a non-playing person to record the score for all of their matches.

8. SCORING

- 8.1** At half time the two scorers should confirm the score and the next Centre Pass with each other and both umpires. At full time, the scorers must confirm the final score with each other and ensure umpires have both signed, before submitting the score sheets to the official's desk.
- 8.2** A hooter will indicate to the umpires to start/end the period of the game, but the match itself is controlled by the umpires' whistle. The game will not start /end until the umpire blows the whistle.

9. COMPETITION POINTS

- 9.1** Match points will be awarded as follows for all age groups.
- 5 points for a win
 - 3 points for a draw
 - 2 points for losing within 5 goals for matches longer than 30 minutes duration.
 - 1 point for scoring more than 50% of the winning team's final score.
 - 0 points for a loss
- 9.2** In the event of a points tie, positions shall be decided on 'Goal Average' (i.e., goals for, divided by goals against). Should goal average not differentiate between the teams then 'Goal Difference' will be used (i.e., goals for, minus goals against).
- 9.3** If 'Goal Difference' does not differentiate between the teams, the result of the group match(es) between the teams will be the decider. If the result of the group match(es) does not differentiate then the team with the greatest number of goals scored will take precedence.
- 9.4** In the event of a draw during knock out stages two minutes each way of extra time shall be allowed (with no half time). If it is still a draw at the end of extra time the winning team will be the first team to achieve a one goal advantage for games of less than 30 minutes, and a two-goal advantage for matches longer than 30 minutes.

9.5 Wales Netball has the right to adapt and alter the rules of Championships accordance to the circumstances.

10. UMPIRING

10.1 Wales Netball will control and organise all umpires for National Competition Finals. Umpires will be selected through the umpire pathway. Umpires will not take position of scorer at any National Championships.

10.2 Clubs, schools, and organisations will need to supply their own umpires at all Regional Rounds.

10.3 In the event of emergency circumstances, Wales Netball reserve the right to change original allocated umpires.

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (U12, U14, U16 & U19)

OVERVIEW

The National U12, U14, U16 and U19 Club final is organised by Wales Netball to enable clubs to compete against each other to determine a national winner, with the purpose to encourage participation in netball through an open, fair, and transparent competition. National Clubs creates opportunities to play at a higher level, against teams not known to them. National Clubs creates opportunities for the players and coaches to come against other clubs nationally of the highest standards rather than playing against local clubs. It therefore provides clubs with a Goal/Target, inspiring them to improve. National Clubs can also be used to gauge the players development through areas and clubs.

1. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

1.1 The competition shall comprise of the following structure:

- (Local Rounds – Dependent on Area)
- Regional Rounds – U12, U14 & U16 - (Wales Netball to organise with Regional Competitions Organisers - RCO)
- National Final – (Wales Netball)

1.2 Qualifying regional rounds for U12, U14 and U16 will take place in the eight areas of Wales as defined by Wales Netball. The regional rounds will be organised by the Wales Netball appointed RCO in those areas. The two qualifying teams from each area will be invited to the National Finals.

1.3 The U19 Championships will have an ‘Open’ competition entry, therefore qualification through a regional round is not required.

- 1.3.1** Entry to U19’s will be first come first serve basis. Once the maximum number of entries has surpassed (16 teams) the entry will automatically close. Teams who have missed the deadline and want to enter, will be added to a waiting list and in the circumstance that a team drops out the first team on the waiting list will be awarded the space in the competition.

2. PRE-COMPETITION AND ADMINISTRATION

1.1 Entry forms, team memberships and payment to all competitions must be processed through Sport:80. Late entries will not be accepted.

1.2 Prior to the championship, final and regional round, each team must add a minimum of 10 members and a maximum of 12 members to their club for each age group.

1.3 Please see more information regarding Sport:80 entry he

1.4 No player may play for more than one club at the any national competition (Regional Round or National Championship Final).

COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

3. AGE GROUP ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1** Players must be under 12, under 14, under 16 or under 19 years of age at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the competition.
- 3.2** No player under the age of 10 at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the competition may compete in the U12 & U14 Championship. A team may consist of a squad of up to 12 players, only three of whom may be 10 years of age.
- 3.3** No player under the age of 13 at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the competition may compete in the U16 & U19 Championship. A team may consist of a squad of up to 12 players, only three of whom may be 13 years of age.
- 3.4** The Championship is open to all players affiliated to, and playing in teams, that play in a Wales Netball affiliated League/s

4. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1** All players and officials must be individually affiliated to Wales Netball.
- 4.2** Players are only eligible to represent their primary clubs in national competitions (regionals and finals). This must be denoted in their Sport80 profile using the primary club function by October 31st*. Players will not be eligible to represent any other club at a national competition should they transfer after this date, as they are cup-tied to their original primary club.

*This date may be revised in the future at the discretion of Wales Netball.

- 4.3** Prior to the Regional Round entry deadline, all players are required to have taken to court in Wales for their primary club a minimum of 2 times in any Wales Netball affiliated league/s games (in the current season).
- 4.4** Prior to the National Club Championship Final entry deadline, all players are required to have taken to court in Wales for their primary club a minimum of 3 times in any Wales Netball affiliated league/s games (in the current season):
- 4.4.1** Games played in any affiliated league/s within Wales count towards eligibility criteria.
 - 4.4.2** Games can be played across multiple affiliated league/s within Wales.
 - 4.4.3** Games played in any league/s not affiliated to Wales Netball will not be counted towards eligibility criteria (e.g., England Netball affiliated leagues/competitions, BUCS affiliated leagues/competitions or private/social league/s not affiliated to Wales Netball).
 - 4.4.4** This will be evidenced by official team sheets submitted to the relevant league/s, as per league/s requirements.
 - 4.4.5** It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that team sheets are submitted according to league/s requirements.

4.4.6 In exceptional circumstances additional evidence may be considered on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of Wales Netball.

4.5 Where there are no league/s requirements for team sheet submissions the following will apply:

4.5.1 The act of a club registering a team for the National Clubs Championships (regional round or final) will be taken as confirmation that each member of the team meets eligibility requirements.

4.5.2 The Wales Netball Code of Conduct, Ethics and Behaviour, sets out an expected minimum standard of behaviour and conduct for clubs, which requires those involved to (amongst other things), at all times:

- Participate within the rules and regulations of the game.
- Be honest, consistent, objective, impartial and courteous when applying the rules of the game.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.

4.5.3 If a club knowingly names a player/s who do not meet the eligibility criteria when registering a team for National Club Championships (regional round or final) this will be deemed as a breach of the Code of Conduct, and the relevant disciplinary process will be instigated which may result in the club's permanent exclusion from Wales Netball Competitions.

5. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

5.1 Seventy percent (70%) of players must be the same as the original team stated on the Sport:80 regional round team list. Any new additions to the team list for the final (i.e., the 30%), must have taken court for their primary club, at least 3 times at any affiliated league/s games within Wales (in the current season) prior to the National Club Championship Final entry deadline, as stated above.

5.2 No player may play for more than one age group or more than one club in the National Club Championship – Regional Rounds or Final.

6. MALE PARTICIPATION

6.1 U12 National Club Championship Wales Netball regulations for National Competitions is that participating teams may be mixed or single sex (Female Biological Sex), male participation is restricted to a maximum of 2 players on court at any one time, with a maximum of one male player in each third.

6.2 U14, U16 & U19 National Club Championship Wales Netball regulations state that participating teams must be single sex only (Female Biological Sex)

7. UMPIRING

- 7.1** Wales Netball will control and organise all umpires for National Competition Finals. Umpires will be selected through the umpire pathway. Umpires will not take position of scorer at any National Championships.
- 7.2** Clubs, schools, and organisations may need to supply their own umpires at all Regional Rounds, dependent on area.
- 7.3** In the event of emergency circumstances, Wales Netball reserve the right to change original allocated umpires.

INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

OVERVIEW

The National Inter County Championship is organised by Wales Netball to enable area teams to compete against each other to determine a national winner. The purpose of the event is to encourage participation in netball through an open, fair, and transparent competition. National Inter County Championship creates an opportunity for individual players to play for their county, coming up against teams and players not known to them within their area. It therefore provides individuals with a Goal/Target, inspiring them to improve.

1. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

1.1 The competition shall comprise of the following structure:

- District Round (dependent on area)
- County training (selections of 12 players per team go through to nationals)
- National Final A&B – (Wales Netball)

1.2 The criteria for selection will be established by the Area Association Committee. This may lead to a variation in eligibility, but the Areas are the final arbiters of who plays in their team.

2. COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Players must be under 12, under 14, under 16 or under 18 years of age at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the competition.

2.2 All players and officials must be individually affiliated to Wales Netball

2.3 No player under the age of 10 at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the competition may compete in the U12 & U14 Championship. A team may consist of a squad of up to 12 players, only three of whom may be 10 years of age.

2.4 No player under the age of 13 at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the competition may compete in the U16 & U18 Championship. A team may consist of a squad of up to 12 players, only three of whom may be 13 years of age.

3. PRE-COMPETITION AND ADMINISTRATION

3.1 Entry forms, team memberships and payment to all competitions must be processed through Sport:80. Late entries will not be accepted.

3.2 Prior to the championship each county team must add a minimum of 10 members and a maximum of 12 members to their club for each age group.

3.3 Please see more information regarding Sport:80 entry here: **SPORT:80 ENTRY**

3.4 No player may play for more than one age group in the Inter County Championship

- 3.5** When there is an A and B team, players cannot move between teams once the entry form deadline has passed.
- 3.6** If a team drops to 7 players on the event day, it is at the discretion of the Competition Organiser to discuss potential player movement between A and B squads, to ensure player welfare is prioritised.

4. UMPIRING

- 4.1** Wales Netball will control and organise all umpires for National Competition Finals. Umpires will be selected through the umpire pathway. Umpires will not take position of scorer at any National Championships.
- 4.2** Clubs, schools, and organisations may need to supply their own umpires at all Regional Rounds, dependent on area.
- 4.3** In the event of emergency circumstances, Wales Netball reserve the right to change original allocated umpires.

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP (ANN SMART TROPHY PRESIDENT CUP)

OVERVIEW

The National School Championship is organised by Wales Netball to enable schools to compete against each other to determine a national winner, with the purpose to encourage participation in netball through an open, fair, and transparent competition.

1. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

1.1 The competition shall comprise of the following structure:

- County/Regional Rounds – (School Associations to organise with the support of Wales Netball RCOs, if requested)
- National Final – (Wales Netball)

2. COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Players must be under 16 or under 19 years of age at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the competition.

2.2 No player under the age of 13 at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the competition may compete in the U16 & U19 Championship. A team may consist of a squad of up to 12 players, only three of whom may be 13 years of age.

2.3 All players and schools must be affiliated to Wales Netball

2.4 All players must be on the school or college register prior to entering.

3. PRE-COMPETITION AND ADMINISTRATION

3.1 Entry forms, team memberships and payment to all competitions must be processed through Sport:80. Late entries will not be accepted.

3.2 Prior to the championship each school must add a minimum of 10 members and a maximum of 12 members to their club for each age group.

3.3 Please see more information regarding Sport:80 entry here: **SPORT:80 ENTRY**

3.4 No player may play in both the Ann Smart Trophy & President Cup.

3.5 Players involved with “consortia” schools may choose which school they play for. If that school is subsequently knocked-out in a qualifying round the player cannot play for another “consortia” or school in a later round.

4. UMPIRING

- 4.1** Wales Netball will control and organise all umpires for National Competition Finals. Umpires will be selected through the umpire pathway. Umpires will not take position of scorer at any National Championships.
- 4.2** Clubs, Schools and organisations may need to supply their own umpires at all Regional Rounds, dependent upon region.
- 4.3** In the event of emergency circumstances, Wales Netball reserve the right to change original allocated umpires.