



WALES NETBALL
PÊL-RWYD **CYMRU**

Club FAQs

New National Club Championship Qualifying
Structure for 2024/2025 Netball Season

Updated: 8th August 2024

What is the new qualifying structure for National Club Finals?

U16 qualification will remain the same – with the top two teams from each region qualifying via a single day regional round competition, held in each of the 8 regions.

U12 and U14 qualification will be determined by final league placing in the respective top division of the junior league in the region. The number of places each junior league has, has been determined based upon a combination of a) the number of established junior leagues in that region, and b) the amount of netball activity occurring in that region.

When & where are National Club Finals being held in 2025?

National Competition Calendars can be found on our website [here](#).

How many qualifying spots for U12 and U14 National Club Finals does my junior league have?

Region	Junior League	Qualifying Spots per U12 & U14 League
Cardiff	Cardiff & Vale Junior League	2
South East	South East Junior League	2
Glamorgan Valleys	Glamorgan Valleys Junior Netball League	2
Afan Nedd Tawe	Swansea Youth Netball League	2
West Wales	Carmarthenshire Netball Development Centre	1
	Pembrokeshire Junior League	1
Mid Wales	North Powys Junior League	1
	Ceredigion Junior League	1
North West Wales	North West Wales Junior League	2
North East Wales	Deeside Junior League	2

Will non-Welsh clubs be eligible to qualify if they play in a Welsh League?

No. Non-Welsh clubs (i.e. English clubs) will not be eligible to qualify, even if they play in a Welsh League. They will have the opportunity to qualify for [England Netball's National Club Championships](#) in their own area. In the event that a non-Welsh club finishes in a qualifying position in a U12 or U14 junior league, the next highest placed Welsh club will be offered the qualifying position.

Will my club be able to qualify via two leagues, if they play in both?

No. All clubs wishing to qualify for National Club Championship Finals will need to indicate via an online form at the beginning of the season, which league they wish to qualify via. In the event that a club finishes in a qualifying position in a league that they have not indicated as their qualifying league, they would not progress to the National Club Championship finals. The online form will be circulated by Wales Netball via email using designated club contact details in Sport:80, so please ensure these are up to date.

My club has two teams in the same age category – are they both eligible to qualify?

Yes. As long as the club has made two separate indications via the online form at the beginning of the season (see FAQ above), for example 'Club Wales A' and 'Club Wales B', which league they wish to qualify via, they will both be eligible to qualify.

What if I have an U12 or U14 team that play in an age group higher than their own?

Teams can only qualify for U12 and U14 National Club Championship finals via an U12 or U14 Junior league. Therefore, in the event that an U12 team, for example, was playing up in an U13 League they would be forsaking their opportunity to qualify.

In the event, however, that an U13 team was playing up in an U14 League, as long as all other eligibility criteria have been met (including age-group eligibility - see [National Club Championship Handbook](#)) they would be eligible to qualify for National Club Championship finals.

If I gain a qualifying position through my league standing, how will I be able to enter National Club Championship finals?

Wales Netball will be in contact with your league administration, who will confirm to Wales Netball the qualifying clubs. Wales Netball will then contact the clubs designated main contact in Sport:80 (their 'Super Admin') informing them of their qualification place, and sending out an invite-only registration link. Please ensure that Club contact details in Sport:80 are up to date, and raise a support ticket if a club 'Super Admin' needs changing.

Will the player eligibility criteria remain the same for U16 regional rounds & national finals?

Yes. The eligibility criteria for U16 regional rounds and national finals will remain the same as today. Eligibility criteria are set out in the National Handbook; the 2023/2024 National

Handbook can be found here. We check player eligibility via auditing Sport:80 data and team-sheets submitted to the Leagues.

Will the player eligibility criteria remain the same for the U12 and U14 national finals?

No. The eligibility criteria will change to reflect the changes in the qualifying structure. This criteria will be set-out in the 2024/2025 National Handbook which will be published at the beginning of the regular netball season. The main principles will remain the same:

Players must be affiliated to Wales Netball

Primary club affiliation will need to be indicated in a player's Sport:80 profile by October 31st, 'cup-tying' that player to that club

Players will be required to have played a designated number (TBC) of games for their primary club in their qualifying league, prior to the National Club Championship entry deadline

We check player eligibility via auditing Sport:80 data and team-sheets submitted to the Leagues.

I have more questions, who do I contact?

If you have any questions that aren't answered above, or won't be answered in the 'National Handbook', and your league administration is unable to help you – please submit your questions via the link below. We will endeavour to publish a further FAQ with answers to these questions in due course.

[Contact Form Link](#)

Answers to additional questions submitted via 'Contact Form link' between 26th July and 8th August 2024

Where multiple of the same/similar questions have been asked, they have been amalgamated into one response

Why can't National Club Championships be an 'Open Club' entry process?

In the past we have used 'Open Club' entry processes for tournaments which attract lower number of entries (e.g. U19 National Clubs Championships; Masters Tournaments etc.). Even in the scenario where we receive lower number of entries – we have to apply a 'first-come, first-serve' rule, as running tournaments with unlimited amount of entry positions becomes unfeasible as more entries results in more time needed, more officials needed, larger venues etc. U12, U14 and U16 National Club Championships are very popular competitions, and therefore running an 'Open Club' process for National Finals is not feasible due to time, resource and venue constraints.

You said clubs who entered Regional Round Competitions received a survey in April, which included a ‘free text’ option asking for “*thoughts on how we currently structure Regional Rounds*”. We don’t believe we received this. Please give us more details.

A survey entitled “Wales Netball: Junior Club Regional Round Form” hosted on Google Forms was circulated to all Junior Clubs who had entered Regional Rounds via the Sport:80 system during the 2023/2024 Competition Season. The form received responses from 28 clubs between 26th April 2024 and 1st May 2024. Eight questions were asked, gathering data on: Age groups – and whether they play in Junior and/or senior leagues; motivations for entering Regional Rounds; perception of entry fees. A free text option was also included to gather additional thoughts on the structure of regional rounds, which received 20 responses.

Are you going to find venues for us for completion of our leagues as we will have to finish it earlier?

Our research showed that the majority of Junior Leagues across Wales operate very different structures from each other – that suit the needs of their individual netball community, and where they are on their journey. We have tried to account for the differing of League finishing dates by setting the U12 and U14 National Club Championship Finals as our last National Competition of the 2024/2025 season, and very late in the playing season – May 17th and May 18th respectively. If these dates prove to still be too early, we can look into altering them for future seasons.

As a club we encourage strength in depth and have equal teams for an all inclusive approach. We then select those who have shown consistency, improvement etc. during the season - this gives them something to work towards as individuals. The approach that you are taking is detrimental to club policy and individual changes of players during the season leading up to competition.

We understand that the new approach will not be ideal for the varying different ways operated by every junior club across Wales. However we have based it on the premise that the vast majority of leagues and clubs operate a tiered approach to encourage fair and quality competition – with higher ability players playing in higher divisions; and where clubs have more than one team, teams being split by ability. The majority of leagues also facilitate individual players who progress significantly within a season, to progress through teams in their club, and be reclassified in higher teams. Finally, as is currently the case – our National Handbook will enable a percentage of flexibility for any qualifying team, as we recognise that ‘life happens’

and teams are rarely made up of the same 12 players at the beginning and the end of each season.

Our girls at u14 and some u12 play senior league not juniors. We have always been allowed to enter the regional tournament with those girls. Is there no exception or results also taken from senior leagues of that age?

Our research showed that the vast majority of U12 and U14 club teams played in a Junior League (some, alongside playing a senior league too), however this wasn't the case for U16s. As such, U16 Regional Rounds are remaining to allow for this. For U12 and U14 club teams the only route to qualifying will be via Junior League standing, and all players will need to have played a specified number of games (TBC) in that junior league.

What happens if there are league days you cannot play (Friday evening for example) on that specific day but can offer an alternative day/date for the fixture to be fulfilled. Will that be ok?

This will be down to individual league rules, which vary across the country. Many junior leagues now have 'League Handbooks' which should clarify questions such as this, however if your league does not have a handbook – we advise you ask a member of the League Committee to clarify the Leagues stance on this question.

What about clubs that do not participate in leagues? Current format allows them to enter via Qualifying tournaments?

This is not the case. All players wanting to enter a Regional Round competition during the 2023/2024 season were required to affiliate to, and play in teams, that play in a Wales Netball affiliated League (see the Page 7, 3.3.4 of the 2023/2024 [National Handbook](#)). Eligibility audits were conducted by Wales Netball staff to verify this. This requirement was implemented to enable us to better uphold and govern a fair competition. Allowing clubs and individuals to enter who do not participate in Wales Netball affiliated leagues would not allow us to verify that eligibility requirements have been met.

Can you confirm that all teams qualifying will be all competing on a level playing field same game time, same number of games etc?

We allow our Leagues across Wales autonomy to run structures and processes that suit their individual needs, and this is not something we will be changing. We are able to advise leagues ahead of time the game format of the NCC finals, however leagues have the autonomy to set their own playing times.

Our Senior National Club Championship also runs the same qualifying process as we are moving to for the U12 and U14 National Club Championship, and we do not specify parameters for that. In addition, historically not all Regional Round Competitions have run the same format – this has depended upon several factors, including number of teams entered, venue availability etc. We will however, continue to specify age-group, player and team eligibility criteria – which we as a National Governing Body will continue to verify, to guard against potential foul-play.