



WALES NETBALL
PÊL-RWYD **CYMRU**

League 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](#).

When should our league fixtures finish, to allow for registration and travel arrangements for U12 and U14 National Club Finals?

U12 and U14 National Club Finals are being held on May 17th & May 18th 2025 – therefore the official entry deadline is May 2nd 2025. Given this we advise that your leagues finish at least two weeks before (April 18th) ahead of the Easter break, however this is at your discretion.

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.

How will Wales Netball ensure that a club isn't trying to increase their chances of qualification for U12 and U14 National Club Finals by playing in multiple leagues?

At the beginning of the season all clubs wishing to qualify for U12 and U14 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.

We will circulate this form from Wales Netball to all junior clubs who have affiliated, however to ensure that we don't miss anyone – we would appreciate you also circulating it on our behalf, to those clubs in the top division of your Junior League.

Some clubs have multiple teams in the top division of our league. Are they all eligible to qualify?

Yes. As long as the club has made 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.

As a league we run U11, U12, U13 & U14 age categories. Are those who compete in the U11 and U13 age categories eligible to qualify for U12 and U14 National Club Championships respectively?

No. Qualification is only via the U12 and U14 age groups of junior leagues. If a club has a strong U11 or U13 team that they believe would competitively challenge teams in an older age group, then we would suggest they consider entering them into the older age group for the duration of the league, assuming this is in line with league rules. In this scenario, 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.

How will Wales Netball know who has qualified for National Finals?

As leagues are coming to a close, we will reach out to all junior leagues with qualifying spaces and ask them to verify which club/s have qualified, via the league primary contact designated in Sport:80 (n.b. please ensure this is up to date, and raise a support ticket if changes are required). This will then allow us to send an invite-only registration link to the clubs who have qualified, and to begin checking individual player eligibility.

How will Wales Netball check player eligibility of those who qualify for U12 and U14 National Club Championships, and those who enter U16 regional rounds?

As stated in the [National Club Championship Handbook](#) we will check eligibility via a) Sport:80 and b) via official team sheets submitted to you as a League.

A number of leagues now make use of a digital platform to collect team sheets (e.g. Google Forms, Microsoft Forms etc.,) which allows for more efficient data collection and analysis. If you are wanting to improve your team sheet process, we advise looking into a digital platform.

How will we ensure we have clear league standings at the end of the season to determine the qualifiers for U12s and U14s?

To avoid any unclear outcomes at the end of a regular season (e.g. two teams tied on wins), ensure to stipulate a clear points system at the beginning of the season, including what happens in the events of a points tie (Goal Average vs Goal Difference). An example of this can be found in our [National Club Championship Handbook](#) (section 9, page 4).

How will we ensure that teams are kept up to date with league standings on a regular basis?

There are many ways to keep clubs updated on their league positions throughout a season, including distributing tables via email or on a league social media platform. There are also a number of digital platforms that leagues are now using including [League Republic](#) which support them in easily managing results.

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' – 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 24th July and 8th August 2024

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

Who will be organising our U16 Regional Round competitions this year?

We will be advertising for casual 'Tournament Organisers' over the coming weeks, with the hope to have these appointed by September. We will then advise Leagues of their respective organisers and contact details.

Can you send a copy of the survey that you said you sent in April as I did not receive this and after speaking to a few other clubs they didn't either.

The survey referred to was only circulated to all Junior Clubs who had entered Regional Rounds via the Sport:80 system during the 2023/2024 Competition Season. It was not circulated directly to Leagues. All Junior Leagues were informed of the proposed changes during the consultation process, prior to them being announced, and were given opportunities to raise queries. Those Junior Leagues that we deemed as being greatly affected (i.e. reduction in qualify spaces; multiple leagues in a region; changes in regional boundaries; direct impact on known structures) were all engaged via meetings during the consultation process.

So if there are 2 leagues running in the same area will it be the top team from the age group league? What if one league is stronger than the other and the second placed team in one league is stronger than the other?

The number of qualifying spots per league are specified in the above table. As mentioned in the 'National Club Regional Round Review' presentation – which all Leagues have either been taken through or received as a pdf, two of the key considerations for us as a National Governing Body when assessing models, were: 1. Participant Centricity and 2. Netball Development across regions. The 'netball regions' across Wales vary greatly in geographical size and accessibility – and therefore to it is unrealistic for all regions to have a single junior league, and likely leagues will be at different stages in their netball development. As with all tournaments based on, and constrained by, regional qualification (e.g. the Netball World Cup) it is unlikely that the objectively 'best' 16 teams across the country will qualify for finals. This too was the case with previous 'Regional Round' model. The new model will help us to 'level up' the standard of netball across Wales, ensuring opportunities for girls irrespective of their geographical location.

As a league we were not consulted as to whether we are equipped or wish to take on this extra role.

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We apologise for not considering that this may be seen as an 'extra role'. Our intention was to 'lift up' leagues and ensure they are respected for the great work they do by being seen as the 'pinnacle' of netball in the region/area. As previously, we will be doing the eligibility checks centrally at Wales Netball, and will ensure to minimise anything additional we require from leagues. The only additional things we anticipate requiring from leagues are: 1) circulation of the online form which allows clubs to specify which league they wish to qualify via, at the beginning of the season to clubs in the top division of your league, 2) providing Wales Netball confirmation at the end of the season as to which clubs have secured the qualification places.