



WALES NETBALL
PÊL-RWYD **CYMRU**

Senior National Club Championship Handbook 2024/2025

SENIOR NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP HANDBOOK

2024/2025

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GENERAL INFORMATION

OVERVIEW

The Senior National Club Championship 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, across all affiliated Senior Leagues in Wales. National Clubs creates opportunities for clubs 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 clubs across all leagues in Wales to improve.

CHAMPIONSHIP RULES & POLICIES

1. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

1.1 The competition shall comprise of the following structure:

- Senior League winners from the prior season, in leagues affiliated to Wales Netball which meet the League eligibility criteria (see League eligibility: 1).
- Invitational place to the reigning Champions of Senior National Clubs Championship
- National Final – (Wales Netball).

2. GENERAL RULES

2.1 All championship matches shall be played in accordance with the official 'Rules of Netball' as set out by the International Netball Federation (World Netball).

2.2 The Competition Umpire governs the event in accordance with the Championship Rules. In the event of a dispute their decision is final.

3. MEMBERSHIPS

3.1 Clubs should hold a current affiliated Organisation Category membership to Wales Netball.

3.2 Players should be a current affiliated member of Wales Netball within one of the following categories:

- 12 – 18 Age Category (£20 for the season): For those members playing in junior or senior clubs.
- 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.

4. INJURY/BLOOD

- 4.1** 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.
- 4.2** No player may remain on court who is bleeding from an open wound. Players who are bleeding, have an open wound or bloodstained clothing must leave the court and be substituted but we no longer require a player with dried blood on them to be substituted. Players with dried blood are now permitted to clean up quickly and continue playing. This will usually happen while the bleeding player is being substituted or other players or the ball are being checked for blood. 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.
- 4.3** Wales Netball cannot accept any responsibility for accidents or injuries to unaffiliated players or spectators, which may occur during Championships.
- 4.4** Accidents sustained by affiliated members will be covered as per terms and conditions of Members insurance (walesnetball.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Summary-of-cover-2023-2024-1.pdf)

5. PIERCINGS

- 5.1** All piercings must be removed prior to taking to court.
- 5.2** 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 may not be accepted and the player in question may 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.

6. MALE PARTICIPATION

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

PRE-COMPETITION AND ADMINISTRATION

1. SPORT:80 ENTRY

1.1 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.

1.2 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.

1.3 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 2 weeks or more ahead of the event. Team list deadlines will not be reopened for late entries or amendments.

1.4 If a clubs team list drops to below 10 players within the 2 weeks leading up 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.

2. TEAM COMPETITION DAY RESPONSIBILITY

2.1 Teams must register on time and check the fixtures and event timings for any amendments.

2.2 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.

2.3 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.

2.4 Each team is responsible for providing a non-playing person to record the score for all of their matches.

3. SCORING

- 3.1** 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.
- 3.2** 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.

4. COMPETITION POINTS

4.1 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

4.2 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).

4.3 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.

4.4 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.

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

COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

1. LEAGUE ELIGIBILITY

1.1 The Championship is open to all Leagues that meet the following criteria:

1.1.1 Hold a valid 'Organisation Category' Wales Netball affiliation during the qualifying season

1.1.2 Is a Senior League (i.e. not a junior league specifically for those under the age of 18)

1.1.3 Is a Competitive League (i.e. is not a 'Social League')

1.1.4 Is played during a traditional netball season (i.e. September to April/May)

1.2 The current Senior National Clubs Championship holders (i.e. the winners of the preceding SNC Championship) will be invited back to following SNC Championship on an invitational basis, irrespective of their League standing.

2. AGE GROUP ELIGIBILITY

2.1 No player under the age of 14 at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the competition may compete in the Senior National Clubs Championship. A team may consist of a squad of up to 12 players, only three of whom may be 14 years of age.

2.2 The Championship is open to all clubs affiliated to Wales Netball, that play in an eligible league (see League eligibility: 1).

3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

3.1 All players and officials must be individually affiliated to Wales Netball.

3.2 Players are only eligible to represent their primary clubs in national competitions. This must be denoted in their Sport:80 profile using the primary club function by October 25th* (of the current season). 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.

3.3 Prior to the National Club Championship Final entry deadline, all players (i.e., new and previous club members) are required to have taken to court in the Wales Netball affiliated league which the club are reigning champions of (i.e., the league they are 'representing' at the Championship finals) a minimum of 2 times (in the current season):

3.3.1 Only games played in the affiliated league which the club is representing count towards eligibility criteria.

3.3.2 Games played in any other affiliated league, which the club is not representing at the championship, do not count towards eligibility criteria.

- 3.3.3** 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).
- 3.3.4** This will be evidenced by official team sheets submitted to the relevant league/s, as per league/s requirements.
- 3.3.5** It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that team sheets are submitted according to league/s requirements.
- 3.3.6** In exceptional circumstances additional evidence may be considered on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of Wales Netball.
- 3.3.7** No player may play for more than one club in the National Club Championship.

4. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1** Sixty-five percent (65%, or 8 players in a squad of 12) of players must have been members of the club they are representing at the championship, in the season prior to the championship (i.e. the season in which the club won the league). During the season they must have taken to court for their club a minimum of 5 times, in the Wales Netball affiliated league which the club are reigning champions of (i.e., the league they are 'representing' at the Championship finals):
 - 4.1.1** Only games played in the affiliated league which the club is representing count towards eligibility criteria.
 - 4.1.2** Games played in any other affiliated league, which the club is not representing at the championship, do not count towards eligibility criteria.
 - 4.1.3** Games played in any league 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).
 - 4.1.4** This will be evidenced by official team sheets submitted to the relevant league, as per league requirements.
 - 4.1.5** It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that team sheets are submitted according to league requirements.
 - 4.1.6** In exceptional circumstances additional evidence may be considered on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of Wales Netball.