



WALES NETBALL
PÊL-RWYD **CYMRU**

Masters
Championship
Handbook
2024/2025

MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP HANDBOOK 2024/2025

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GENERAL INFORMATION

OVERVIEW

The Masters Championships is organised by Wales Netball to offer affiliated members aged 35+ to represent a team to determine a national winner. The competition enables teams to compete against each other with the purpose to encourage participation, a healthy and active lifestyle in Wales. Masters creates an opportunity for netball to be played through an open, fair and transparent competition.

CHAMPIONSHIP RULES & POLICIES

1. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

1.1 The competition shall comprise of the following structure:

- The Masters Championships will have an 'Open' competition entry, therefore qualification is not required.
- Teams can be made up of members from more than one club, however a 'Lead Club' will need to be specified for administration purposes

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 The 'Lead Club' 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:

- 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.
- Adult Monthly Category (£10 per month): For Over 18s that only play netball during a small window of the year. Please note, your membership must be current when purchasing your next month - if paying for monthly membership (up to 3 months), you have the option to upgrade to a full adult membership. If your monthly membership lapses, the upgrade option will not be available. If choosing this option your monthly membership must last for the duration of entry and at the competition date.

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. 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.

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 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.

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 by the 'Lead Club'. 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 by the 'Lead Club' 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** 'Lead Clubs' must specify all squad players on the submitted team list. This includes their own club players, and any other players which make up the squad from different clubs (**Appendix A**).
- 1.5** 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.
- 1.6** Team entries will be limited and on a first come first serve basis, a waiting list feature will be available.

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.

- 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. AGE GROUP ELIGIBILITY

1.1 No player under the age of 35 at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the competition may compete in the Masters Championship.

1.2 The Championship is open to all clubs affiliated to Wales Netball

2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

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

2.2 Players are eligible to represent any affiliated club (i.e. the 'lead club') in the National Masters Championship

2.3 No player may play for more than one team in the National Masters Championship.

APPENDIX

Appendix A

If you are the 'Lead Club', and your team is made up of players who are not members of your club, you will need to add these players to your Organisation before you can add them to your team list. To learn how to do so, please watch the following guide: [Add an existing member to your organisation.](#)