

# **National Handbook 2019/2020**

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## CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

### GENERAL RULES

1. All Championship matches shall be played in accordance with the Official Rules of the International Netball Federation, except the National Primary Schools which will be played in accordance with Dragon Netball rules.
2. The Tournament Referee governs the event in accordance with the Championship Rules and in the event of a dispute their decision is final.
3. All clubs/schools/colleges, players, coaches, umpires, team managers and team officials shall be current affiliated members of Welsh Netball.

### PRE-COMPETITION AND ADMINISTRATION

#### TEAM ENTRY AND ELIGIBILITY

4. Entry forms for all competitions **must** be completed in full including affiliation numbers for players, coaches and managers and returned to Welsh Netball by the closing date with the required entry fee. Late entries may **not** be accepted.
5. Players must play in their age group. Only under exceptional circumstances will permission be granted by Welsh Netball for a player to play up an age group. An Age Group Application Form must be submitted to apply for permission to play out of an age group. Forms can be downloaded from the Welsh Netball website. **Please also refer to Rule 5 for Inter Area Championships and Rule 10 for the National Clubs Championships.**
6. Each team must have a minimum of a Coach, Team Manager and Scorer. The roles of Coach and Team Manger must not be doubled up with other roles.
7. Teams must register on time and check the fixtures and event timings for any amendments.
8. Captains shall toss for first centre pass or choice of ends at least 5 minutes prior to their match.
9. Each team is responsible for providing a non-playing person to record the score for each of their matches.
10. Teams should be courtside at least 5 minutes before their match is due to start. All players must be on court for the start of the match. Any team not on the court for the scheduled start

of a match will forfeit the game, with the opposition being awarded the points and a number of goals. The number of goals awarded will be based on the average number of goals scored in the competition and decided by the Tournament Referee. Persistent lateness may result in disqualification from the competition.

11. 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 rescheduled if the result impacts on the overall outcome of the tournament.

12. No player who is bleeding from an open wound will be allowed to enter or remain on court and may only re-enter when:

- The wound has been cleaned and covered
- Affected clothing has been removed
- A goal has been scored or during an interval, when the umpire indicates the player may return to the game

13. Welsh Netball cannot accept any responsibility for accidents or injuries to players or spectators which may occur during Championships.

14. All piercings are required to be removed unless they are single ended dermal piercings that require medical removal. These should be suitably covered with a padded dressing and securely taped. A medical exemption letter from a Doctor must also be provided to the Competition Organiser prior to the competition taking place.

15. Eligibility for age group competitions are:

- For U12 to U19 age group competitions players must be under the specified age at midnight on 31st August immediately prior to the competition.

16. Each team may name up to a maximum of 12 squad player. It is recommended that there is a minimum of 10 players. Only player who have been named on the team sheet may take court. Any additional amendments to the squad sheets need to be registered with Welsh Netball Prior to the competition day.

## SCORING

17. At half time the two Scorers should confirm the score with each other and the next Centre Pass with the two Umpires. At full time the Scorers MUST confirm the result with each other before submitting the score sheets.

18. A hooter or similar may be used as an indication to umpires at the start or end of a period of a match but the match itself is controlled by the umpire's whistle.

19. Match points will be awarded as follows for all age groups except Primary School competitions:

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

20. Match points for Primary School competitions:

5 points for win

3 points for a draw

2 points for more than 50% of the winning team's final score

1 point for each game played

21. 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).

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. Welsh Netball has the right to adapt and alter the rules of Championships in situ according to the circumstances.

## UMPIRING

25. Teams are responsible for sourcing and funding one approved umpire for each team entered in a competition (except for National Primary School Finals). Welsh Netball will plan the rota for umpiring and every effort will be made to have independent umpires for each match. Welsh Netball will provide a list of approved umpires based on experience, qualification and level of fitness.

26. Umpires will not score at National Championships.

## **NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS (U12, U14, U16 & U19)**

### **OVERVIEW**

The National U12, U14 and U16 Club final is organised by Welsh Netball this 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. Is can be used to gage the players development through areas and clubs.

### **COMPETITION STRUCTURE**

1.The competition shall comprise of the following rounds;

- Local Rounds (Dependent on Area/Leagues)
- Regional Rounds (Welsh Netball/Area Associations/Leagues)
- National Finals (Welsh Netball)

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

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

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR CLUB COMPETITIONS ARE:**

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.
2. The Championship is open to all players affiliated to and playing in U12, U14, U16 and U19 teams in Wales.
3. All players and officials must be individually affiliated to Welsh Netball

4. No player under the age of 10 at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the competition may compete in the U12 Championship (except under Rule 2.2 of the General Championship Rules).

5. No player under the age of 12 at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the competition may compete in the U14 Championship (except under Rule 2.2 of the General Championship Rules).

6. No player under the age of 14 at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the competition may compete in the U16 Championship (except under Rule 2.2 of the General Championship Rules).

7. No player under the age of 16 at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the competition may compete in the U19 Championship (except under Rule 2.2 of the General Championship Rules).

#### MALE PARTICIPATION

8. U12 Championship Welsh Netball regulations for NC is that participating teams may be mixed or single 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.

9. U14 Championship Welsh Netball regulations for NC is that participating teams must be single sex only (Female Only)

10. U16 Championship Welsh Netball regulations for NC is that participating teams must be single sex only (Female Only)

#### PRE-COMPETITION AND ADMINISTRATION

##### TEAM ENTRY AND ELIGIBILITY

9. Entry forms for all competitions **must** be completed in full including affiliation numbers for players, coaches and managers and returned to Welsh Netball by the closing date with the required entry fee. Late entries may **not** be accepted.



10. Prior to the Championship each team must register with Welsh Netball a maximum of 12 players (with a recommended minimum of 10) to play in the Championship. No additions to the team list will be accepted once the Championship is under way.

11. **No player may play for more than one club.** Players must play for their affiliated club as defined on their WN affiliation. Players are required to have taken the court for their affiliated club at least 3 times prior to the Championship. Once a player has represented a club in any of the National Club Championships (including qualifying rounds) they can only play for that club in any National Club Championship.

12. **No player may play for more than one age group** in the National Club Championships (including qualifying rounds and Senior National Clubs).

#### UMPIRING

13. Teams are responsible for providing a qualified umpire. For U12 and U14 National Club Championships the minimum qualification for all umpires is competent C Award and ideally with experience umpiring these age groups. For U16 and U19 National Club Championships umpires must be appointed from Welsh Netball's Approved List of Umpires. In exceptional circumstances an umpire not on the Approved List may be appointed with permission from the UAP.

**Please also refer to General Championship Rules**

## INTER AREA CHAMPIONSHIPS

### OVERVIEW

The National Inter Area final is organised by Welsh Netball this enables area teams 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 Inter area competitions 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. It can be used to gauge the players development through areas and potential to be seen and join new teams in Wales.

### COMPETITION STRUCTURE

1. The competition shall comprise of the following rounds;

- District Round Dependant on area top 20 players go through to play for county
- County training (selections of 12 players per team go through to nationals)
- A&B National Finals (Welsh Netball)

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.

### PRE-COMPETITION AND ADMINISTRATION

#### TEAM ENTRY AND ELIGIBILITY

3. Entry forms for all competitions **must** be completed in full including affiliation numbers for players, coaches and managers and returned to Welsh Netball by the closing date with the required entry fee. Late entries may **not** be accepted.

4. Prior to the Championship each team must register with Welsh Netball a maximum of 12 players (with a recommended minimum of 10) to play in the Championship. No additions to the team list will be accepted once the Championship is under way.

5. **No player may play for more than one age group** in the Inter Area Championships.

6. Each Championship will be played as a Round Robin competition whenever possible, however Welsh Netball reserves the right to change the format at any time. Length of matches will be determined in accordance with the venue hire etc.

7. When there is an A and B competition players cannot move between teams once the competition has started.

8. For the Senior Inter Area Championship players must be a minimum of 17 years of age midnight on 31st August immediately prior to the competition.

**Please also refer to General Championship Rules particularly rules 5 & 15 for eligibility.**

#### UMPIRING

9. Each Area is responsible for engaging the services of an umpire qualified to a minimum C Award level. Umpires must be appointed from Welsh Netball's Approved List of Umpires. In exceptional circumstances an umpire not on the Approved List may be appointed with permission from the UAP.

## **NATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **OVERVIEW**

The National Schools Netball Competition is organised by Welsh Netball this 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.

### **COMPETITION STRUCTURE**

1. The competition shall comprise of the following rounds;

- County Rounds (Local Authorities)
- Regional (Welsh Netball)
- National Finals (Welsh Netball)

2. In some regions it may be necessary to hold a level below county rounds whereby the areas will hold a competition to determine which teams progress to the county round. Individual County Netball Associations will be responsible in deciding whether this is necessary.

### **PRE-COMPETITION AND ADMINISTRATION**

#### **TEAM ENTRY AND ELIGIBILITY**

3. Entry forms for all competitions must be completed in full including affiliation numbers for players, coaches and managers and returned to Welsh Netball by the closing date with the required entry fee. Late entries may not be accepted.

4. The National Primary Schools competition is open to all primary schools affiliated to Welsh Netball.

5. All players must be in Years 5 or 6.

6. Regional rounds of the competition will take place in the 8 Areas of Wales as defined by Welsh Netball. The two qualifying teams from each Area will be invited to the National Finals.

7. The Championship finals will be played according to Dragon Netball Rules with the exception of the 'Rotation Rule'. There will be no rotation at the National Finals. Matches will be played with a size 4 ball, the posts will be at the lowest setting (8'6" or 9'), the footwork rule will be relaxed, and the held ball rule will be set at 5 seconds.

For additional information regarding Primary school National competitions please contact [tori.roberts-burt@welshnetball.com](mailto:tori.roberts-burt@welshnetball.com) and request the Primary schools Handbook.

## **THE ANN SMART TROPHY**

### OVERVIEW

The National Schools Netball Competition is organised by Welsh Netball this 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.

### COMPETITION STRUCTURE

1. The competition shall comprise of the following rounds;
  - Regional (Welsh Netball)
  - National Finals (Welsh Netball)

### PRE-COMPETITION AND ADMINISTRATION

#### TEAM ENTRY AND ELIGIBILITY

2. The Ann Smart Trophy competition is open to teams of players aged Under 16 years from individual schools affiliated to Welsh Netball.
3. All players playing in the National Finals must be individually affiliated to Welsh Netball.
4. Qualifying rounds of the Ann Smart Trophy shall be organised and run by each Area, with the winning school representing their Area at the National Finals.
5. All players must be under 16 years of age at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the National Finals and must be on the school or college register. No player under the age of 14 at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the competition may compete in the Ann Smart Trophy (except under Rule 5 of the General Championship Rules).
6. At the National Finals the competition will normally be played as a Round Robin but Welsh Netball reserves the right to change the format at any time. Length of matches will be determined in accordance with the venue hire etc.

7. Players are not allowed to play in both the Ann Smart Trophy and the President's Cup competitions if they are held on the same day.

#### UMPIRING

8. Teams are responsible for providing an umpire qualified to a minimum C Award. Umpires must be appointed from Welsh Netball's Approved List of Umpires. In exceptional circumstances an umpire not on the Approved list may be appointed with permission from the UAP.

**Please also refer to General Championship Rules**

## THE PRESIDENT'S CUP

### OVERVIEW

The National Schools Netball Competition is organised by Welsh Netball this 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.

### COMPETITION STRUCTURE

1. The competition shall comprise of the following rounds;

- National Finals (Welsh Netball)

### PRE-COMPETITION AND ADMINISTRATION

#### TEAM ENTRY AND ELIGIBILITY

2. The President's Cup is open to teams of players aged under 19 years from individual schools and colleges affiliated to Welsh Netball.

3. All players playing in the National Finals must be individually affiliated to Welsh Netball.

4. Qualifying rounds of the President's Cup shall be organised and run by each Area, with the winning school or college representing their Area at the National Finals.

5. All players must be under 19 years of age at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the championship and must be on the school or college register. No player under the age of 15 at midnight 31st August immediately prior to the competition may compete in the President's Cup except under Rule 5 of the General Championship Rules. (Refer also to Rule 6)

6. 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.

7. Eligibility to represent the consortium team is to be established by Area committees.

8. A team may consist of a squad of up to 12 players, only three of whom may be under 16 years of age.



9. At the National Finals the competition will normally be played as a Round Robin, but Welsh Netball reserves the right to change the format. Length of matches will be determined in accordance with the venue hire etc.

10. Players are not allowed to play in both the Ann Smart Trophy and the President's Cup competitions if they are held on the same day.

#### UMPIRING

11. Teams are responsible for providing an umpire qualified to a minimum C Award level. Umpires must be appointed from Welsh Netball's Approved List of Umpires. In exceptional circumstances an umpire not on the Approved list may be appointed with permission from the UAP.

**Please also refer to General Championship Rules**

## CONTACT DETAILS

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For individual entry forms to all our National Competitions please visit our website.