

Welsh Netball position statement on Male Participation in Netball – August 2019

Welsh Netball (WN) is committed to the furtherance of the provision of netball in Wales from recreational netball to the elite side, with development pathways to support all aspects. As a member of the International Netball Federation (INF), WN observes the INF Position Statement on Male Participation in Netball, dated February 2018. Whilst recognising that netball in Wales is one of the instrumental vehicles for female engagement in team sport, we ensure that male participation is encouraged in all facets of the sport including playing, officiating, coaching and team management.

INF recommend that mixed netball participation is undertaken up to at least the under 11 age group, however WN has recently extended this to under 12 age group for domestic club competition. Participation in the sport above the under 12 age group is then exclusively within a single sex format. There are, however, a number of mixed netball activities throughout the country, even though latent demand for male participation is very low; but we continue to monitor it. Therefore, there is a significant difference between the leagues available to men and women. These leagues are volunteer led and do not operate under the direct control of WN.

Welsh Netball recommends that all WN affiliated junior leagues in Wales allow participating teams to be mixed or single sex¹ up to and including the under 12 age group. 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.

Welsh Netball is committed to closely monitoring netball participation demographic in Wales, including the number of male participants, and will undertake an Equality Impact Assessment to ensure any future course of action is fully informed.

¹ The INF Rules of Netball use the term “same gender” we have chosen not to use that term. Gender in the UK means how people think about themselves as opposed to their sex – their biological sex which is what is covered under the legislation in the UK.