



## **Manx Netball Association**

### **LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS UPDATED JULY 2019**

#### **1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

- 1.1 The competition shall be known as the Manx Netball Association League (“MNA League”) and the name shall be preceded by the name of such sponsor as the Manx Netball Association (“MNA”) may direct from time to time.
- 1.2 For the purposes of these rules and regulations and their provisions, the league shall be deemed to comprise of as many divisions as determined as the MNA.
- 1.3 The MNA League and all rights and properties associated with it shall be owned, controlled and managed by the MNA, which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to any sub-committee or individual(s).
- 1.4 The decisions of the MNA, in respect of these Rules and Regulations and on any other matter related to the MNA League which is not provided for below, shall be considered final and binding on all parties (subject to the right of appeal which is specifically outlined in Rule 10).
- 1.5 It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches, Captains, Officials and all other participants within the MNA League to ensure that they are fully conversant with the following Competition rules, current INF rules of the game, including any Local Amendments and the MNA Codes of Conduct for Members.
- 1.6 All clubs will be held responsible for the overall conduct of their players, officials and spectators.

#### **2. QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY**

- 2.1 Clubs or teams may enter the MNA League provided they are affiliated to the MNA and have paid the full affiliation fee in these respects. With the approval of the MNA committee Clubs may enter any number of teams into the MNA League.
- 2.2 Entry to the MNA League will be determined by the MNA, at its absolute discretion, subject to its reasonable application of the Rules and Regulations, laid out herein and having due regard to the playing standard of teams which wish to participate. In the same way, such casual vacancies as may appear from time to time will be addressed by the MNA in whatever way they see fit.
- 2.3 The MNA is entitled to charge an entry fee to the MNA League.



- 2.4 By entering a team in the MNA League clubs/teams agree that:
- 2.4.1 They will abide by these rules and regulations, members codes of conduct and INF rules.
  - 2.4.2 They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the MNA League.
- 2.5 In order to qualify to participate in the MNA League players and team officials shall be members of the MNA as an affiliated Registered Participant via one of the following qualifications:
- 2.5.1 Through affiliation to a Club
  - 2.5.2 Through direct affiliation to the MNA
- 2.6 All players must have, individually, filled in their online membership form via GoMembership and lodged it with the MNA and their relevant Club paid the appropriate affiliation fee into the MNA Bank Account prior to them taking to the court.
- 2.7 Minimum age to play in the league is fourteen (14) Players aged 14 can only play if the relevant age banding permission has been granted by the MNA, prior to them playing, if they turn 14 during the Season with permission of the MNA they can join the League. (banding information must be filled in prior to them playing)
- 2.8 Pregnant players may not take part in league matches beyond the twelfth week of pregnancy. Pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage or any consequences thereof is an Insurance policy exclusion.
- 2.9 All teams must wear matching kit and not wear anything that could endanger themselves or other players as per INF Rule 5.1.1(iv) a,b,c and d unless stated otherwise in Local Amendments.

### **3. SQUAD REGISTRATION and MANAGEMENT**

- 3.1 Players can only register and play for one club participating in the MNA League. An exemption may, in some circumstances, be acquired through Clubs applying to the MNA Committee, seeking their approval, stating the reasons why a Player/Club would benefit from making a second claim. (See 3.4 also)
- 3.2 Squad registration information for each participating team must be completed fully and lodged with the MNA on GoMembership by 5pm on the day prior to the commencement of the MNA League's playing season (first league fixture). A minimum of seven players must be named for each team and each team should be clearly ranked.



- 3.3 Teams/Clubs may only use those players whose names appear on their squad affiliations list held by the MNA Competition Secretary.
- 3.4 Any player wishing to transfer from one club to another during the season, must notify the MNA Competition Secretary through GoMembership, before playing for their new club and also have approval from their current and new club secretary.
- 3.5 Prior to the start of each match the teams must complete an MNA score card stating up to twelve (12) players, the Captain is responsible for handing the completed card to the Scorer or Umpire.
- 3.6 A player may not play for a lower rated team in her club without the approval of the MNA committee sought, not less than 48 hours, in advance of the relevant match in which the player will play. Any player that plays for a lower rated team must then remain a member of that team for the rest of the season and cannot move down to a further lower rated team. For the avoidance of doubt, players may only play down one level.
- 3.7 A maximum of two players per team may play down per season in accordance with Rule 3.6 above.
- 3.8 A player aged 18 plus may play for a higher rated team twice. If she plays a third time, she must become a member of that **higher** rated team. Players can play up into any Senior team in their Club. The team she plays for on the 3rd occasion is where she will have to remain for the remainder of the season. For example, if a player's starting team is Team 5 she could play up to Team 3 then on another occasion Team 1, if she then plays up into Team 4. She must remain a Team 4 player for the rest of the season and no further movement is allowed.
- 3.9 Players aged 14-17 (must be under 18 on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019) can "play up" into any higher team than the one they are named in; they are not restricted by Rule 3.8 and may play up on more than two occasions.

#### **4. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE**

- 4.1 The MNA League will be contested between as many teams as shall be determined by the MNA.
- 4.2 Each team will play the other teams in its division at least twice.
- 4.3 Teams will be awarded league points as follows:
  - 3 points for a win
  - 2 points for a draw



- 1 point for half or more of the winners' score
- 0 points for a loss

4.4 MNA League tables will be compiled on the basis of the points awarded to each team.

Where two teams are level on points:

- Goal average (goals for divided by goals against) shall be used to determine their relative positions, i.e., the team with the higher average score over the course of the season shall take precedence.
- In the event that goal average does not differentiate between the teams, then goal difference shall be applied, i.e. precedence shall be given to the team with the greater difference between goals scored and goals conceded.
- In the event that goal difference does not differentiate between the teams, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence.
- In the event that neither goal average nor goal difference nor goals scored can differentiate between the teams, the aggregate score in the match or matches played between them over the course of the season shall be calculated and precedence given to the winning team.
- In the event that none of the above differentiates between the teams, then the MNA shall determine the means of differentiation.

**Note - Where one of the teams has its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals scored affected by conceded fixtures, then all goals scored by and against conceding team(s) in all fixtures shall be omitted from the calculations of both teams' level on points. For example, in the event that one team received 3 points for a conceded fixture, then the goals scored by and against both teams' level on points, in all games against the offending team, will not be included when its goal average, goal difference or total number of goals is calculated.**

4.5 The team which finishes top of Premier League at the end of the season will be the Premier League champions. The team which finishes bottom of Premier League will be relegated directly to Division 1, unless otherwise determined by the MNA.

4.6 The team which finishes top of Division 1 at the end of the season will be the Division 1 champions and will be promoted directly to the Premier League. The team that finishes at the bottom of Division 1 will be relegated to Division 2, unless otherwise determined by the MNA. The team which finishes at the top of Division 2 will be division champions and be promoted to Division 1.



- 4.7 Any additional Divisions added to the MNA League will follow the above format.
- 4.8 New teams who apply successfully to compete within the MNA League and who are fully paid members as specified in Rule 2 above, will enter the MNA League in the lowest Division, unless otherwise determined by the MNA.
- 5. FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS**
- 5.1 Matches will be played wherever possible on an indoor court with adequate surrounds and surface, unless otherwise agreed by the MNA.
- 5.2 Umpires will undertake pregame checks to ensure the game is safe to play. It is within their jurisdiction to not allow a game to go ahead, if not deemed safe to do so.
- 5.3 For all 'incidents' on or off the court, within 48 hours of the match, an MNA Netball Incident/complaint Report form must be completed. It can be found on the website at <https://netball.im> and should be sent to the Secretary of the MNA with a copy of the score card which will be stored for insurance purposes.
- 5.4 If an accident occurs at any match where a player, coach, official, spectator or staff member is injured, the accident reporting procedure should be followed as detailed on the accident form which can be found online at <https://netball.im> This procedure should be followed for all injuries and accidents, regardless of whether or not any medical treatment is given. Injured Players may be required to fill in an accident form for the Venue too.
- 5.5 The Umpiring Secretary will allocate two umpires for each fixture. At least one qualified umpire of C award or above will be provided for each fixture.
- 5.6 All matches must be played as the fixtures schedule published by the MNA, and take place on Sunday, unless otherwise agreed by the MNA.
- 5.7 Any team which fails to arrive within 2 minutes of the time specified on the fixtures concedes that game. At the Umpires discretion and only for exceptional circumstances affecting both teams, the Umpire may allow the match to go ahead and reduce the quarters or apply Rule 5.9.
- 5.8 No team may play a match with less than five (5) players; any team with less than five (5) players will automatically concede the game.
- 5.9 No team may postpone or rearrange a fixture. In the event of extreme or unforeseen circumstances (e.g. flash flood, heavy snowfall etc.) the MNA will inform all teams of the postponement, through the usual channels. Matches postponed in these circumstances will be played as soon as possible, as arranged by the MNA.. The responsibility for



rescheduling fixtures resides with the Competition Secretary any dispute over rescheduling will be determined by the MNA, at its absolute discretion.

5.10 In the event of a game being conceded:

- The non-offending team will be awarded three (3) league points for the match, and the team which conceded will have three (3) league points deducted from their total.
- The team which conceded may be liable to pay any costs which the non-offending team or the MNA has incurred, subject to the determination of the MNA.

5.11 If an Umpire or Venue Official takes the decision to abandon a match e.g. due to a serious injury the result of the match will be the score at the time play was suspended, however, if the game was curtailed in the first half of the match the MNA Committee may, at its discretion agree to a rematch

## **6. MATCH REGULATIONS**

6.1 All matches shall be played to the INF (2018) Rules of the Game or those currently in force except where specific Local regulations may apply. Local regulations will be available on the MNA website prior to the start of each season.

6.2 All matches shall be of four quarters of twelve (12) minutes each.

6.3 All matches shall have a half time period of two (2) minutes and one (1) minute for  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  intervals.

6.4 Any Player ordered off by an Umpire during a match will receive an automatic one match ban which for clarity will be the next League game to be played. This is not applicable to players suspended in a match unless they are subsequently ordered off.

## **7. MATCH PERSONNEL**

### **UMPIRES**

7.1 Umpires will be allocated to each fixture by the Umpiring Secretary, and their appointment will be notified to the teams and Umpires in advance on the fixtures. Umpires unable to meet their allocation should inform the Umpiring Secretary who may request they find or help find an appropriately qualified replacement.

7.2 Teams will contribute to the Umpires' and Scorers' expenses, via a payment which shall be determined by the MNA and paid prior to the commencement of the season.

7.3 In the event that an umpire fails to arrive, or is injured or taken ill during a match, the following procedure will be applied:



- If another umpire of the appropriate minimum standard is available, then she/he will umpire the match.
- At least one Umpire of C Grade or above must be on each game
- Under no circumstances should a game go ahead with one umpire.
- If no appropriately qualified umpire is available, then the teams should inform the Competitions Secretary via GoMembership who will try and reschedule the match as soon as possible.

7.4 The MNA requires Umpires to have a level of fitness in line with their qualification and they should be able to keep pace with the speed and variability of the game(s).

7.5 Matches within the Premier and First division may be used by the MNA for the purposes of C award umpire testing and assessment. Matches within any other Divisions may be used by the MNA for the purposes of beginner award testing

7.6 It is the responsibility of the Umpires to apply the Rules of the Game with impartiality, fairness and consistency.

7.6.1 The Umpires control a match according to the Rules and decided any matter not covered by them. Their decisions are final and are given without appeal.

7.6.2 Umpires in collaboration with the Scorers will chose a Player of the Match from either team, as long as the difference in the scores is 10 or less, if it is more than 10 goals then POTM must be chosen from the winning team and ensure it is recorded it on the Scorecard.

## **TECHNICAL OFFICIALS**

7.7 Technical Officials are Scorers and Timekeepers The two (2) Scorers and timekeepers shall constitute the official bench. These roles may be combined for the League.

7.8 Each team must provide a competent scorer, if and when requested to do so, they should be either an umpire, qualified table official or a person with working knowledge of scoring. Scorers will be required for all fixtures, with the relevant Club(s) being nominated for each match by the Officiating Secretary.

7.8.1 Scorers are expected to record the scores accurately and

- Record goals scored for each team as they occur
- Record any changes of players at any stoppage or break
- Keep a record of the centre pass taken by each team



- Call the centre pass if appealed to by an umpire
- Signal the direction of any centre pass to be taken immediately after a stoppage
- Notify the umpires if a wrong centre pass is indicated
- Record any warning, suspension and/or ordering off
- Record the time of each quarter

## **THE TEAM OFFICIALS**

7.9 The Team Officials are: Coach, Manager, and Primary Carer and up to three (3) other personnel, at least one (1) of whom must be a primary care person, who is qualified to diagnose and treat injury and/or illness, for example doctor or physiotherapist, (in such cases where this is unable to be adhered to, a qualified first aider should be named, as a person that shall take the court as Primary Carer). The Team officials and up to five (5) players, not on court shall constitute the Team Bench. Team Officials and bench players may coach while play is in progress provided that they remain seated or stand at their Team Bench.

7.10 Coaching is also allowed during intervals and during stoppages (INF Rule 6.2). Team Officials and bench players may not indulge in inappropriate comments or behaviour (as per the MNA code of conduct and INF rules 6.2 (ii).)

7.11 Teams will be required to utilise the MNA official score card which must be filled in before the match starts and signed at the end of the match by both Captains and both Umpires.

## **CAPTAINS**

7.12 The Captain has a right to approach the Umpires during an interval for clarification of any rule. Any Players for whom the clarification is relevant may accompany the Captain (INF rule 5.1.1(V))

7.13 The Umpire may request the Captain to speak to any on court player/s whose behaviour is giving cause for concern.

7.14 In the event the Captain is not on court or has to leave the court due to injury an on-court Captain should be advised to the Umpire.

## **8. REGISTRATION OF RESULTS - MNA LEAGUE**

8.1 For all matches the MNA Official score card must be used and completed fully including signatures from the scorers, both captains and umpires.

8.1.1 The umpires will be responsible for keeping the bottom copy of the score card(s) for the duration of the Season in case of any queries.



8.1.2. The captain must make a copy of the score card and send it to [results@netball.im](mailto:results@netball.im) by 3 pm on the day of the match, selected members of the MNA Committee will carry out random checks on the cards to ensure Clubs are following the Rules in Section 3.

## **9. MNA LEAGUE REFEREE**

9.1 The MNA League Referee, namely the MNA committee, will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising throughout the MNA League including, but not limited to:

- altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary.
- Instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour including instances of teams predetermining the outcome of a match.
- any urgent matters that impact on the delivery of the MNA League not covered by the Rules and Regulations.
- determining if teams and/or players are in breach of these Regulations and imposing an appropriate penalty (including disqualification of any individual or team).

9.2. The use of an unregistered player or a player who is under age will result in a deduction of three (3) league points, per match played in, the result of the fixture will still stand.

9.3 The use of a Young Player (aged 14) without the relevant banding information being sent to the MNA Safeguarding Officer, prior to the match, can result in a deduction of three (3) league points, the fixture result will still stand.

9.4 In the event that a team concedes a fixture (see Rule 5 above) the non-offending team will be awarded three (3) points and forty (40) goals and the conceding team will have three (3) points deducted from their total.

9.5 Conceding on more than one occasion (e.g. 2 league fixtures) may result in expulsion from the League.

9.5.1 No affiliations fees or associated costs will be refunded

9.5.2 All scores and points will be deducted from each team, in any matches, the withdrawn team has already played.

9.6 The MNA may consult with additional people to assist with the MNA League, but the final decision and accountability will lie with the MNA League Referee.

## **10. MNA LEAGUE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**



10.1 All queries and complaints relating to the League should be directed to the MNA Secretary in the first instance (the reporting form can be found on the MNA Website and on GoMembership) which will be dealt with as follows:

10.1.1 Where the complaint relates to the playing or umpiring of a match, the scoring and/or its result, the relevant team or match official, must do the following:

- Inform their opponents and the relevant match Officials they intend making a complaint and what it relates to; Playing, Umpiring, Scoring or Result.
- Mark the score card with the words "Under Protest" send the marked score card to the MNA Secretary, within 48 hours of the match.
- Fill in the Complaint Report Form within 48 hours of the match this is available on the Manx Netball Website or on request from the MNA Secretary.
- The MNA Secretary, or nominated MNA Officer, will inform the Committee there is an issue and will try and resolve it or decide what further action, if any, should be taken. The MNA Chair may nominate another Member of the Committee to act as Secretary, if there is a deemed conflict of interest, in this case the Player(s) should, in the first instance, contact the Netball Development Officer for advice.
- Rule 6.4 will be applied, automatically, by the MNA if the incident relates to a player being ordered off court during a match, however, if the matter is considered gross misconduct by the MNA then the Disciplinary procedure may be triggered.

10.1.2 The MNA Secretary will acknowledge receipt of the query or complaint and let the Complainant know, if possible, who will be dealing with the issue within 48 hours, an initial decision on the matter will be made within ten (10) days of receipt of the query or complaint. This can be extended, but, the Secretary must notify the parties concerned and include the reason why. The MNA's judgment in relation to decisions taken under clause 10.1.1 is binding. Time limits for dealing with the complaint do not apply if the matter has been referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

10.1.3 Parties to the complaint referred to in 10.1.1 shall have the right to appeal the Chairman, who shall not be involved in the initial decision-making process, within seven (7) days of receipt of the decision.



The Chairman will consult with whomever they feel appropriate in arriving at a final decision. For the avoidance of doubt, the Chair's decision on 10.1.1 shall be final and binding on all participants in the MNA League; there shall be no right of appeal under the MNA's Grievance policy or otherwise.

10.2 Where a complaint relates to the governance or administration of the MNA League by the MNA League Referee, such complaints may be dealt with under the Manx Netball Association Grievance Procedure.

10.3 Complaints relating to the behaviour of an individual or team participating, volunteering or attending the MNA League will initially fall under the Grievance procedure if it transpires the matter could be considered as a disciplinary offence under Manx Netball Association Disciplinary Regulations, such complaints will then be dealt with in accordance with the processes set out in the MNA Disciplinary Regulations.

10.4 Criminal or serious Safeguarding concerns where Members are implicated will be passed to the appropriate Legal Authorities Members may be suspended pending investigation.

## **11. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISOS**

11.1 It is the responsibility of each team to provide adequate first aid cover and supply a First Aid Kit for its players and officials.

11.2 The MNA will not be liable to any person, whether in contract, tort (including negligence) or otherwise for any direct or indirect loss or injury of any nature, howsoever caused and howsoever arising from the matters covered by these Regulations, provided that nothing in these Regulations excludes or restricts the MNA's liability for any personal loss or injury caused by the MNA's own negligence, the negligence of its employees, or for fraud.

11.3 All participants acknowledge that participating in the sport of netball involves a risk of personal injury and by taking part in the MNA League, whether as a player, team member, team official, other official or spectator, each participant does so at their own risk.

11.4 If any of these Rules and Regulations are held by any competent authority to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of the Rules and Regulations shall not be affected thereby.

11.5 These Rules and Regulations shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with Isle of Man law.

11.6 Any questions regarding these Rules and Regulations can be addressed to the MNA Secretary.



11.7 The MNA will be entitled to amend these Rules and Regulations each year in advance of the MNA League and such amendments will take effect from the first date of publication of the completed amended procedure on the MNA website and GoMembership Document Area.