



# SENIOR LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS 2020-2021 ("Rules and Regulations")

## **1. ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

- 1.1 The competition shall be known as the Isle of Man Netball Senior League ("Senior League") and the name shall be preceded by the name of such sponsor as Isle of Man Netball may direct from time to time.
- 1.2 For the purposes of these Rules and Regulations and their provisions, the Senior League shall be deemed to comprise of as many divisions as determined by Isle of Man Netball.
- 1.3 The Senior League and all rights and properties associated with it shall be owned, controlled and managed by Isle of Man Netball, which may delegate its powers and authority in this respect to any sub-committee or individual(s).
- 1.4 The decisions of Isle of Man Netball, in respect of these Rules and Regulations and on any other matter related to the Senior 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, primary carers ("Team Officials"), captains and umpires and all other participants within the Senior League to ensure that they are fully conversant with the Rules and Regulations, current INF rules of the game ("INF Rules"), including any amendments made to the INF Rules by Isle of Man Netball ("Local Amendments") and the Isle of Man Netball Codes of Conduct for Members ("Codes of Conduct").
- 1.6 All clubs will be held responsible for the overall conduct of their players, Team Officials umpires and spectators.

## **2. QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY**

- 2.1 Clubs or teams may enter the Senior League provided they are affiliated to Isle of Man Netball and have paid the full affiliation fee in these respects. With the approval of Isle of Man Netball, clubs may enter any number of teams into the Senior League.
- 2.2 Entry to the Senior League will be determined by Isle of Man Netball, 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 Isle of Man Netball in whatever way they see fit.

- 2.3 Isle of Man Netball is entitled to charge an entry fee to the Senior League.
- 2.4 By entering a team in the Senior League clubs/teams agree that:
  - 2.4.1 They will abide by these Rules and Regulations, the Codes of Conduct and INF Rules (including any Local Amendments).
  - 2.4.2 They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the Senior League.
- 2.5 In order to qualify to participate in the Senior League players and Team Officials shall be members of Isle of Man Netball 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 Isle of Man Netball
- 2.6 All players must have individually filled in their online membership form via GoMembership and lodged it with Isle of Man Netball and their relevant club paid the appropriate affiliation fee into the Manx Netball Association Bank Account prior to them taking to the court.
- 2.7 Minimum age to play in the Senior League is fifteen (15). Players aged 15 can only play if the relevant age banding permission has been granted by Isle of Man Netball, prior to them playing. If a player turns 15 during the season they can join the Senior League once they have age banding permission from Isle of Man Netball.
- 2.8 Players aged 15-17 who are competing in the Senior League may also compete in the competitive division of the U17 league providing they started the season in the U17 league. Players aged 15-17 may not start in the Senior League and then move down to the U17 league.
- 2.9 Pregnant players may not take part in the Senior League beyond the twelfth week of pregnancy. Pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage, or any consequences thereof is an insurance policy exclusion.
- 2.10 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 Senior League.
- 3.2 Squad registration information for each participating team must be completed fully and lodged with Isle of Man Netball on GoMembership by 5pm on the day prior to the commencement of the Senior 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 Isle of Man Netball.
- 3.4 Any player wishing to transfer from one club to another during the season, must notify Isle of Man Netball through GoMembership, before playing for their new club and also have approval from their current and new club secretaries.
- 3.5 Prior to the start of each match the teams must complete an Isle of Man Netball 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 Isle of Man Netball, 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 they play a third time, they must become a member of that **higher** rated team. Players can play up into any senior team in their Club. The team they play for on the 3rd occasion is where they will have to remain for the remainder of the season. For example, if a player's starting team is Team 5 they could play up to Team 3 then on another occasion Team 1, if they then play up into Team 4, they must remain a Team 4 player for the rest of the season and no further movement is allowed.
- 3.9 Players aged 15-17 can "play up" into any higher team than the one they are named in; they are not restricted by Rule 3.8 and there are no restrictions on the number of times they may play up during the course of a season.

### 4. STRUCTURE OF THE LEAGUE



- 4.1 The Senior League will be contested between as many teams as shall be determined by Isle of Man Netball.
  - 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 Senior League tables will be compiled based on 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.
    - If 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.
    - If goal difference does not differentiate between the teams, then the team with the greatest number of goals scored shall take precedence.
    - If 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.
    - If none of the above differentiates between the teams, then Isle of Man Netball 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 Isle of Man Netball.
  - 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 Isle of Man Netball. 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 Senior League will follow the above format.
- 4.8 New teams who apply successfully to compete within the Senior League and who are fully paid members as specified in Rule 2 above, will enter the Senior League in the lowest division, unless otherwise determined by Isle of Man Netball.
- 4.9 Isle of Man Netball reserves the right to alter the number of divisions in the Senior League, prior to the start of each season, depending on the number of teams entered or any other influencing factor. Under these circumstances the standard pattern of movement between divisions, set out in 4.6 above, may not always be followed.

## **5. FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS**

- 5.1 Matches will be played wherever possible on an indoor court with adequate surrounds and surface, unless otherwise agreed by Isle of Man Netball.
- 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 Isle of Man 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 Head of Competitions and Events 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 any medical treatment is given. Injured players may be required to fill in an accident form for the venue too.
- 5.5 Isle of Man Netball 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 Isle of Man Netball, and take place on Sunday, unless otherwise agreed by Isle of Man Netball.
- 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.

5.9.1 In the event of extreme or unforeseen circumstances (e.g. flash flood, heavy snowfall etc.) Isle of Man Netball will inform all teams of the postponement, through the usual channels.

5.9.2 Isle of Man Netball reserve the right to rearrange a fixture should one (1) or more players for either team be unavailable due to an international netball commitment. Rescheduling fixtures for this reason is at the absolute discretion of Isle of Man Netball and everything possible will be done to avoid Senior League clashes with international fixtures.

Matches postponed in either of these circumstances will be played as soon as possible, as arranged by Isle of Man Netball. The responsibility for rescheduling fixtures resides with the Head of Competitions and Events and any dispute over rescheduling will be determined by Isle of Man Netball, 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 Isle of Man Netball has incurred, subject to the determination of Isle of Man Netball.

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 Isle of Man Netball may, at its discretion agree to a rematch

## **6. MATCH REGULATIONS**

6.1 All matches shall be played to the INF Rules except where specific Local Amendments may apply. Local Amendments will be available on the Isle of Man Netball website prior to the start of each season.

6.2 All matches shall be of four quarters of ten (10) 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 Senior 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 Isle of Man Netball, and their appointment will be notified to the teams and umpires in advance on the fixtures. Umpires unable to meet their allocation should arrange a suitable replacement ensuring that at least 1 C grade umpire will cover the match.
- 7.2 Teams will contribute to the umpires' and scorers' expenses, via a payment which shall be determined by Isle of Man Netball 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 they 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 League Coordinator who will try and reschedule the match as soon as possible.
- 7.4 Isle of Man Netball 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 Isle of Man Netball for the purposes of C award umpire testing and assessment. Matches within any other divisions may be used by Isle of Man Netball for the purposes of beginner award testing
- 7.6 It is the responsibility of the umpires to apply the INF Rules (including Local Amendments) with impartiality, fairness, and consistency.
- 7.6.1 The umpires control a match according to the INF Rules (including Local Amendments) and decide 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 ("POTM") 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 Senior League.

7.8 Isle of Man Netball will name a club or clubs to cover the scoring and timekeeping responsibilities for matches. Clubs will be expected to ensure competent scorers are provided.

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
- Primary Carer
- Up to three (3) other personnel.

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 if 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 Codes of Conduct and INF Rule 6.2 (ii).)





## **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 had to leave the court due to injury, an on-court captain should be advised to the umpire.

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

- 8.1 For all matches the Isle of Man Netball official score card must be used and completed fully including a signature from the captain to indicate they are happy with the completion of the score card.
- 8.1.1 The umpires will be responsible for keeping the blue 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 Isle of Man Netball will carry out checks on the cards to ensure clubs are following the rules in Section 3.

## **9. SENIOR LEAGUE REFEREE**

- 9.1 The Senior League Referee, namely Isle of Man Netball, will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising throughout the Senior 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 Senior League not covered by the Rules and Regulations.
  - determining if teams and/or players are in breach of these Rules and Regulations and imposing an appropriate penalty (including disqualification of any individual or team).
- 9.2. The use of an unregistered player i.e. they are not a Registered Participant or a player who is underage 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 player aged 15 as at the date of the fixture (“Young Player”) without the relevant age banding information being sent to Isle of Man Netball by uploading the completed document to GoMembership 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 Senior 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 Isle of Man Netball may consult with additional people to assist with the Senior League, but the final decision and accountability will lie with the Senior League Referee.

## **10. SENIOR LEAGUE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

- 10.1 All queries and complaints relating to the Senior League should be directed to the League Coordinator in the first instance (the reporting form can be found on the Isle of Man Netball Website and on GoMembership) and 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 Personnel, must do the following:
- Inform their opponents and the relevant Match Personnel they intend making a complaint and what it relates to;
    - Playing
    - Umpiring
    - Scoring
    - Result
  - Mark the score card with the words “Under Protest” send the marked score card to the League Coordinator, within 48 hours of the match.
  - Fill in the Complaint Report Form within 48 hours of the match this is available on the Isle of Man Netball Website or on request from the League Coordinator.
  - The League Coordinator, or nominated Isle of Man Netball Officer, will inform the Head of Competitions and Events there is an issue and will propose actions required to resolve the matter. The Head of Competitions and Events will inform the IOM Netball Board of the complaint and will request advice and assistance from Board members as appropriate. If the complainant considers that there is a conflict of



interest between them or their team and the IOM Netball Officer dealing with the complaint they should, in the first instance, contact the Netball Development Officer for advice. The Isle of Man Netball Chairman may nominate another member of the Board to act on the complaint, if there is a deemed conflict of interest.

- Rule 6.4 will be applied automatically by Isle of Man Netball if the incident relates to a player being ordered off court during a match, however, if the matter is considered gross misconduct by Isle of Man Netball then the Disciplinary Procedure may be triggered.

10.1.2 The League Coordinator 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 League Coordinator must notify the parties concerned and include the reason why. Isle of Man Netball'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 of appeal to 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 Chairman's decision on 10.1.1 shall be final and binding on all participants in the Senior League; there shall be no right of appeal under Isle of Man Netball's Grievance Procedures or otherwise.

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

10.3 Complaints relating to the behaviour of an individual or team participating, volunteering or attending the Senior League will initially fall under the Grievance Procedure if it transpires the matter could be considered as a disciplinary offence under Isle of Man Netball Disciplinary Procedures, such complaints will then be dealt with in accordingly under those procedures.

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 Isle of Man Netball 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 Rule and Regulations, provided that nothing in these Rules and Regulations excludes or restricts Isle of Man Netball's liability for any personal loss or injury caused by Isle of Man Netball'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 Senior 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 Head of Competitions and Events.
- 11.7 Isle of Man Netball will be entitled to amend these Rules and Regulations each year in advance of the Senior League and such amendments will take effect from the first date of publication of the completed amended procedure on the Isle of Man Netball website and GoMembership Document Area.