

Championship Regulations

(Updated: 13 June 2019)

1. RULES OF THE GAME

All matches shall be played to the INF Rules of Netball and the INF Match Protocols currently in force at the time of the Championship, except where specific Championship Regulations apply. Refer to Appendix D.

2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR NETBALL EUROPE MEMBERS & NON-NE COUNTRIES

2.1 Please refer to Appendix A below.

3. REGISTRATION OF SQUAD MEMBERS

3.1 The maximum number of players allowed in a squad is twelve (12) and fifteen (15) for the Open Challenge Competition.

3.2 The host country will require names for the programme 21 days prior to the competition - this may be a long squad (see 3.3 below)

3.3 **The names of the 12 players (15 – Open Challenge Competition) competing in the competition must be handed in on the REGISTRATION FORM for Squad and Support Staff at the Team Manager’s meeting so eligibility can be checked. (See also 3.6.)**

3.4 No player other than the 12 (15 – Open Challenge Competition) registered on the REGISTRATION FORM for Squad and Support Staff may play throughout the competition.

3.5 60 minutes prior to each match start time all age groups must submit to the Competition Manager a list of 12 players and officials, identifying player positions and official’s respective positions on the INF Team List Form.

3.6 No alterations can be made to the players identified as starting on court or their positions within the scheduled commencement time, except in the event of injury/illness in the 60 minutes prior to the start of the match. A change in playing position/s or substitution of that player with another may be permitted if, in the opinion of an independent medical practitioner or designated Match Official, the player is deemed to be incapable of participating in or commencing that match. In such a case, the Bench Officials shall be notified immediately and the alteration registered as a team substitution or change. Please **also** note no additional player can be added to the REGISTRATION FORM for the Squad once their first match registration is submitted 60 minutes prior to their first match.

3.7 Age-group Teams – players shall be of the required age at midnight on 31st December/1st January immediately prior to the Championship. All players under the age of 18 must carry with them some form of proof of age as random checks may be carried out.

3.8 Each Participating Country should provide a qualified Physiotherapist – evidence is required (please refer to the NE Physiotherapy Guidelines on the NE website <https://netballeurope.com/policies-procedures-and-guidelines>).

4. BALLS, BIBS & PLAYING KIT

- 4.1 Whenever possible, Netball Europe will provide the match ball. When this is not possible participating countries will be notified in advance and the following will apply:
- 4.1.1 Each team must provide a size five (5) netball which complies with INF regulations, and which must be clearly marked for identification purposes.
- 4.1.2 The first named team on the playing schedule will provide the match ball.
- 4.2 All competing countries must bring two contrasting colours of kit to the event. A team cannot participate until the contrasting 2 sets of dresses have been approved. Photos of the kit must be provided 6 weeks in advance of the competition. In the event of a clash of colours of playing kit the first named team is the home team and can wear their 1st choice kit.
- 4.3 All players must wear positional bibs, and teams must have a spare set in a different colour in case of clash of colours.
- 4.3.1 In the event of a clash of bib colours, the second named team on the playing schedule will play in alternative coloured bibs.

5. TEAM SHEETS

- 5.1 Please refer to sections 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.

6. TEAM BENCH

- 6.1 The first named team shall be allocated the bench to the right side of the officials' table and the second named team shall be allocated the bench to the left side of the officials' table when facing the court.
- 6.2 All coaching and support staff on the team bench must only wear flat or wedged heel shoes.

7. COURT PROCEDURE

- 7.1 There shall be no team march on, anthems or exchange of gifts prior to the start of each game.

8. MATCH POINTS

- 8.1 Match points will be awarded as follows in the Open and U21 (Championship and Challenge Sections) and in the U17 Championship Section:
- 2 points for a win
 - 1 point for a draw
- 8.2 Match points will be awarded as follows in the U17 Challenge Section:
- 5 points for a win
 - 3 points for a draw
 - 2 points if the result is within 5 goals of the winning team's score
 - 1 point if the result is 50% or above of the winning team's score

9. TIED POINTS

- 9.1 In the event of a tie on points, goal ratio will decide the placings (goals for divided by goals against to 3 decimal points, with the highest result producing the better performance).
- 9.2 If goal ratio is identical then goal difference will be applied (the difference between goals for and goals against).
- 9.3 If goal difference is identical, the result of the last match between the two teams at this Championship will be the decider.
- 9.4 In the event of a further tie, the team with the most goals for will be declared the winner.

- 9.5 In all cases, the result of all calculations should be double checked and then ratified by an appointed individual from the Appeals Panel before the final placings are announced.

10. APPEALS PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 10.1 Prior to every Netball Europe Championship, an Appeals Panel shall be appointed by the NE Management Board and shall comprise three (3) members, two of whom will be from the NE Management Board and one from the host country. One of the nominated NE Management Board members shall chair the Appeals Panel.
- 10.2 Once the entries have been accepted into the competition the Appeals Panel is responsible for dealing with any requests from a participating country that contravene the NE Match Regulations. Their decision is final and binding; there is no further process of appeal.
- 10.3 All Panel members should be present for the whole of the competition.
- 10.4 If a member of the Appeals Panel needs to leave during the Championship due to extenuating circumstances, the NE organising committee shall nominate a replacement member who shall act in his/her absence.
- 10.5 Each member of the Appeals Panel will be required to complete and sign the 'Appeals Panel – Confidentiality' form.
- 10.6 The Appeals Panel shall deal with any appeal/protest/dispute which may arise during the Netball Europe Championship for which it is appointed.
- 10.7 The Appeals Panel shall consider all aspects of the appeal/protest/dispute and shall be entitled to request the attendance of any Officials or Players to a meeting to enable it to come to a fair and reasonable decision.
- 10.8 The Appeals Panel shall have the right to alter or amend the playing schedule if necessary. The Appeals Panels may make decisions on any matter arising during a Netball Europe event and is authorised to adjudicate on any matter not covered by the Championship Regulations.
- 10.9 The Appeals Panel shall have the right to disqualify any team that does not comply with any of the Championship Regulations.
- 10.10 The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final and binding.
- 10.11 All appeals/protests/disputes discussed by the Appeals Panel are strictly confidential and will not be discussed outside the Appeals Panel meeting.

11. APPEALS/PROTESTS/DISPUTES PROCEDURE

- 11.1 Appeals/protests/disputes/ shall be submitted to the Appeals Panel and must be:
- 11.1.1 Submitted in writing, on the 'Protest/Dispute' form with a duplicate being forwarded to the opposing team.
 - 11.1.2 Signed by the Team Manager or the most senior official of the member country present at the event.
 - 11.1.3 Submitted within 30 minutes of the end of the game, or of the occurrence of the incident on which the appeal/protest/dispute is based.
 - 11.1.4 Accompanied by a £25 fee which shall be forfeited if the appeal/protest/dispute is found to be frivolous.
- Failure to comply with any of the above clauses could invalidate the appeal/protest/ dispute.
- 11.2 The Chair of the Appeals Panel shall complete the official "Decision of the Appeals Panel" form in duplicate, both of which shall be signed by each member of the Appeals Panel.
- 11.3 The Chair of the Appeals Panel shall deliver the written decision to the Team Manager/ Official who submitted the appeal/protest/dispute within one hour of it being taken. A copy of the decision shall also be given to the other party involved, if applicable.



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- 11.4 The Chair of the Appeals Panel shall submit a copy of the decision to the NETG representative who will file this in the Appeals Panel Log Book held by the NE Secretary.
- 11.5 The Chair of the Appeals Panel will either return the £25 to the Team Manager/Official submitting the protest/dispute, or forward the fee to the NE Treasurer for banking dependent upon the Panel's decision.

12. BENCH OFFICIALS

- 12.1 Wherever possible, scorers and timekeepers certified as competent by their country prior to the start of the Championships will be provided by the host country. Should any host country experience difficulty in finding enough scorers and timekeepers, help should then be sought from a neighbouring country.

13. UMPIRES

- 13.1 Umpires need to be fully conversant with these Championship Regulations and Umpire specific regulations.
- 13.2 Umpires will be appointed by the Umpire Appointments Panel.
- 13.3 Please refer to Appendix B for the policies relating to appointed umpires: dress, match appointments and clarifications of rules.

14. SOCIAL MEDIA

- 14.1 All participating countries must abide by the INF Social Media Policy (approved by the INF Board December 2018).
- 14.2 Appendix C provides some broad guidance for players and support staff in competition.

15. LIABILITY

- 15.1 Netball Europe and the host country accept no liability whatsoever in respect of personal loss or injury which players, officials or spectators may sustain.

Appendix A

Playing Qualifications for NE Members

1. NATIONAL TEAMS

- 1.1. Eligibility to Compete in a Netball Europe competition is restricted to players who are under the jurisdiction of member National Associations who are fully paid up Members of Netball Europe and INF.
- 1.2. In any Netball Europe competition, the member National Association shall guarantee the eligibility of a player competing.
- 1.3. A player who is a citizen of one country but resident in another may choose which country to represent in International Matches but may play for one country's team only in any calendar year.

2. AGE-GROUP TEAMS

- 2.1 Specific age group teams shall comply with the rules as set out above and players shall be of the required age at midnight on 31st December/1st January immediately prior to the date of the match or championship.

2.2

U17 Championship Section	Over 13 and under 17 years of age
U17 Challenge Section	Over 13 and under 17 years of age
U21 Championship Section	Under 21 years of age
U21 Challenge Section	Under 21 years of age
Open Championship Section	In accordance with INF Regulations and no age banding
Open Challenge Section	In accordance with INF Regulations and no age banding

- 2.3 It is anticipated that there will be two sections in the U17, U21 and Open events to provide competition at an appropriate level for all our members and associate members. This will depend on the number of teams entering.
- 2.4 Other than the Under 17 age group it is hoped that the four UK members will enter the Championship Section and that our other members will, if appropriate, enter the Challenge Section.
- 2.5 The Under 17 age group sections will involve a one team being promoted and one country being demoted each year.

3. INELIGIBILITY

The following players or teams are ineligible to take part in Netball Europe competitions:

- Whose National Association is currently suspended by the INF or by Netball Europe.
- Who have competed in an event in a country which is not recognised or sanctioned by that INF member country in the country it is held.
- Who have played, coached or umpired with established non-member players or teams, unless this is part of a development, training or educational scheme approved in advance by the NE Management Board.
- Who contravene the Doping Regulations.
- Who have committed any act or made any statement either verbally or in writing, or have been responsible for any other conduct which in the opinion of the Management Board, and in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedures, is considered to be insulting or improper or likely to bring the sport and/or Netball Europe into disrepute.

Appendix B

1. **NE POLICY FOR UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS AT NE EVENTS**

- The Umpires appointed **MUST** be of an appropriate ability level to officiate the game.
- This requirement overrides the concept of neutral appointments (see next bullet).
- Thereafter, for umpires of appropriate and similar ability, the following criteria will apply in this sequence:
 - a) Neutral umpires
 - b) Umpire ability ranking (as decided by the UAPs)
 - c) Umpire availability (e.g. due to illness or injury)

2. **NE POLICY FOR UMPIRE DRESS CODE AT NE EVENTS**

- The INF IUA umpire dress code is the benchmark.
- Umpire kit must not show any form of country identification. For the avoidance of doubt, kit must not display a country logo or any other means of identification.
- Umpire attire shall at all times be appropriate, decorous and unobtrusive for an international spectator event.
- Umpire attire shall not reveal any items of underwear.
- A white polo shirt is the preferred top for male umpires.
- A white scooped V-neck top with capped sleeves is the preferred top for female umpires.
- Umpires to also bring with them a black top in case of colour clash.

Appendix C

Social Media Policy

Currently Facebook and Twitter are two of the most popular online social networking services; both are for-profit organisations.

Facebook: On Facebook's website, users can create their own page, add a user profile, add other users as friends, exchange messages, post status updates and photos, share short video clips, use various apps, and receive notifications when others update their profiles.

Twitter: Enables users to send and read short 140-character messages called "tweets". Registered users can read and post tweets, but those who are unregistered can only read them. Users access Twitter through the website interface, SMS or mobile device app. Note that the majority of Twitter users are youngsters and therefore your tweets should be appropriate for any age group.

General Guidance and Advice

These two sites allow informal engagement with a wide group of individuals. However due to the public nature and access of the sites, users should keep the following Do's and Don'ts in mind:

DO

- Use work email addresses and not private ones.
- Be aware that messages will be in the public domain and read by young fans, sponsors and other people associated with Netball Europe.
- Post handy info, event dates, fixture changes or anything else you feel will be of use to the netball public in your area.
- Be interactive with your social media, pose questions and provide answers. This is an informal place for people to talk netball; it should be a relaxed environment where people can talk freely.
- Contact Netball Europe if you see disparaging comments about any of the above or if you require any guidance on the issues addressed in this document.
- Ensure you have read the latest information that INF publishes about safeguarding (<http://www.netball.org/netball/safeguarding>) and social networking guidance and apply those principles when using social media.

DON'T

- Post offensive, unnecessarily provocative or defamatory comments.
- Post negative comments about the organisation, its staff, officials, volunteers or sponsors.
- Use swear words or words which may cause offence to readers. Remember Tweeters are personally responsible for what they communicate on social media.
- Post comments about sensitive NE business related topics.



Appendix D

Court and Court Surrounds

Any NE member hosting an NE or INF competition should provide a court, court surround and playing enclosure which fully conforms to the INF technical specifications: Rule 3.1 INF Rules of Netball.

For ranking matches:

- a) If any member cannot meet all of the technical specifications for the court, court surround and playing enclosure, they must apply to INF for authorisation to use the venue.
- b) The Chairman of the Appeals Panel, the UAPs and all participating countries are informed of any authorisations made.

For non-ranking matches:

- a) If any member cannot meet all of the technical specifications for the court, court surround and playing enclosure, they must apply to NE for authorisation to use the venue.
- b) The Chairman of the Appeals Panel, the UAPs and all participating countries are informed of any authorisations made.

Note: The distance between the edge of the court surround and the goal lines and side lines should be 3.05m (10 ft).