Garden City Junior Netball Winter League Rules 2026-27

1. Organisation of the League

1.1. All matches will be played at a central venue.

1.2. All matches will be played according to the fixture list unless there are extenuating circumstances, and these must be discussed with the league organisers in the first instance.

1.3. Any team who are unable to fulfil a fixture will have a 1-point deduction and they must notify the opposition through the Cancellations WhatsApp group and also the League Secretary at least 24hrs prior to the match.

1.4. All teams must be ready to play at their allocated time and be at the allocated court. There will be a 1point deduction for teams who are late to take to the court.

1.5. Each club must send a representative to the GCJNL AGM. A club's non-attendance will result in a 5-point deduction applied to each of their teams participating in the league the following season.

1.6. All age categories will have 3 divisions. Each club may enter up to 2 teams per age category.

2. Matches

2.1. Duration of matches will be decided by the organisers at the beginning of each season.

2.2. All matches to start at the time stated on the fixtures.

2.3. All matches will be centrally timed.

2.4. The team bench area for the duration of the match is to the right side of the circle that their team is defending in the first quarter. Coaches and substitutes must stay at that point and not move up and down the court.

3. Players

3.1. All players must be a member of the club for which they play. All players must have England Netball Membership.

3.2. Player Participation must be in line with the latest GCJNL Inclusion Policy.

3.3. A player may transfer to another club once per season. The transfer window will be from the beginning of the season until 31st October and 1st to 31st January. A transfer form will be available on the GCJNL website, which must be completed and uploaded before the transfer is finalised. A maximum of 2 players to be transferred in per team.

3.4. Team Registration: Forms must be received by the Friday prior to the team's first match. If the form is not received, the match will be conceded, and the points will be awarded to the opposition. The team who conceded will receive a point deduction in line with Rule 1.3.

> 3.4.1 All teams must register their players at the start of the season, where a club has more than one team it must register the names of each player in

each team and denote the higher team before the first match of the season. Each team must have a minimum of five players registered to it at the start of the season. Failure to do so will result in a 1-point deduction.

3.5. Any players who join a club during the season must be added to the team's registration prior to playing in the league. If a team plays an unregistered player, the match will be deemed a friendly, and the game will be conceded with the points awarded to the opposition.

3.6. There is no limit to the number of Year 4 players that may be registered to a Year 5 team. However, only a maximum of two Year 4 players may be included in any Game Day squad. If more than two such players take part, the match will be deemed a friendly, and the game will be conceded with the points awarded to the opposition.

3.7. Where a club has more than one team in an age group, players may be promoted to play in a higher team, but they must not play more than 12 quarters for the higher team. If they play 12 quarters, then on the 13th quarter they must then register for the higher team. A player may play for a lower team but must immediately register for the lower team and may not return to the higher team for the remainder of the season. Non-compliance will result in a 1-point deduction.

3.7.1. Where a team has been promoted to play up an age group, they can only Play Up into a team in their own division or higher (e.g. a Year 8 team playing in Year 9 Div 1 cannot Play Up a player into Year 9 Div 2). Failure to do so will result in a 1-point deduction.

3.8. A person may only play as a guest player for two games in one season for any other club, i.e. twice for one team or once for one team and once for another team. A team using a guest player must ensure that they are eligible to play i.e. has not already played as a guest player for another team. Failure to do so will result in a 1-point deduction.

4. Kit and Equipment

4.1. All teams must wear the same playing uniform and playing bibs.

4.2. Players will not be allowed on court if suitable footwear is not being worn.

4.3. All clubs must have first aid available for their team, but a central first aid kit will be held on the organisers table.

4.4. Earrings and all other body jewellery must not be taped, they must be removed before the start of play.

4.5. Fitbits are not to be worn.

4.6. Fingernails must cut short and must conform to the England netball rules.

4.7. Players may not play wearing hoodies.

5. Umpires

5.1. Each team must provide an EN Affiliated umpire for their match.

5.2. Where a team fails to provide an umpire, the offending team will concede the game, with the points awarded to the opposition. If the game is abandoned, the team who conceded will receive a point deduction in line with Rule 1.3 and will pay the opposition's umpire expenses.

5.3. An umpire under the age of 16 can only umpire up to their own age. For example, a 14 y/o umpire in Y10 can only umpire Y9 and below. A 15 y/o umpire in Y10 can umpire Y10 and below.

5.4. A Working Towards C Umpire can umpire any age group but must be registered to the GCJNL prior to the match and must give at least 24 hours' notice if they require a scorer.

5.5. Into Officiating Umpires:

> 5.5.1. All IOA's must have experience and confidence to perform to the level allocated. It is the club's responsibility to ensure they are capable.
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> 5.5.2. IOA's who attended an online course cannot umpire until they have attended a practical workshop and been observed by the tutors.
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> 5.5.3. IOA's who have recently attended a practical workshop can only register to umpire with GCJNL once their Club Umpire Coordinator approves. They should perform six matches with GCJNL for their own club before volunteering for other clubs.
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> 5.5.4 IOAs and umpires under the age of 18 should be identified by wearing a yellow band provided by the GCJNL.
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> 5.5.5 IOA umpires under the age of 18 must have an appropriate adult with them on the sidelines. This can be a coach, team manager, umpire or parent.

5.6. For Year 9 Prem, Year 9 Div 1 and Year 10 Divisions; a C or above, Working towards C or IOA Assessed Umpire is preferred.

5.7. An umpire can only umpire two consecutive matches, regardless of the umpire's qualification or the level of the matches they are umpiring. (For example, an umpire can umpire in Rounds 1 and 2, have a break during Round 3, and umpire Rounds 4 and 5).

5.8. All umpires must sign in at the League Desk at the start of each round, stating which court they are umpiring on, which club they belong to (not who they are umpiring for) and their age if they are U18.

5.9. If an umpire requires a scorer from a club, then that club needs to inform the opposition to ensure they provide a scorer too. Ideally a match has two scorers, one from each team.

6. Scorers

6.1. Where scorers are provided, they will stand at the designated place.

6.2. They will work and stand together.

6.3. Scorers must not coach nor encourage the team during the match.

6.4. The scorers will call the score after each goal, who this will be will be agreed by both scorers at the beginning of the match.

6.5. Both scorers will record each goal.

6.6. The use of scorers must be a mutual decision between both umpires - if one umpire wants to score, the other must score as well.

6.7. Where a team's match is being used for an IOA Assessment, teams must provide an unpaid scorer.

6.8. All scorers should be confident in how to score correctly. League matches should not be used to teach volunteers how to score.

7. Score Cards

7.1. Scorecards will be available from the League Desk on Sundays.

7.2. Where an umpire issues a warning during a match, it should be marked on the scorecard, stating the player's team and position, the quarter it was issued during, and the name of the umpire it was issued by. The scorecard should be handed to the league desk to be reviewed by the League Umpiring Reps. 7.2.1. In all other cases, the league does not collect scorecards.

> 7.2.2. It is recommended that teams keep their scorecards (or photos of them) until the end of the season in case of any queries.

7.3. Please see the document about the Garden City Junior Netball League Scoring System. There is an online system used for score submission and viewing the results tables.

7.4. All scores must be submitted to the fixtures secretary by 9pm on the day after the match. If they are submitted late, one point will be deducted. If no score is received, two points will be deducted.

7.4.1. Any teams who have not submitted their scores by 9pm the next day (Monday) will see the match with the missing score conceded, with the points awarded to the opposition. The two point deduction will still stand for these games.

7.5. A player of the match for each team will be identified by the opposing team, the name of the player must be written clearly on the front of the scorecard.

8. Points

8.1. Points will be awarded as follows: 5 points for a win: 3 points for a draw: 1 point if scoring more than half the goals.

8.2. If a team concedes a match, a 1-point deduction will be made. If the team can play the match as a friendly (by playing players up/down or using guests to field a

complete team without limitations defined within the rules), no deductions will be made.

8.3 GCJNL does not count goal difference. Where teams have equal points at the end of the season, they will finish in joint place. Once there is a 20-goal difference in the scores, the winning team must play out of position to ensure both teams have an enjoyable experience.

10. Trophies and Medals

10.1. Trophies and medals will be awarded to the winners and runners up in their respective division.

10.2. The league will only provide 10 medals to the winning teams. Any additional medals must be purchased by the club.

11. Photographs

11.1. No photographs should be taken within the courts or by spectators on the court surround. Team Photos and POM Photos can be taken in the area outside of the Sports Hall.

12. Spectators

12.1. All spectators will be asked to stand on the outside of the court area, only team officials, players and organisers will be in the court area during match play.

13. Organisers

13.1. There will be an identified person available during all match play times to deal with any issues that may arise.

The Garden City Junior Netball League (GCJNL) is committed to providing safe, fair, and inclusive opportunities for young players to enjoy netball. While our rules are guided by England Netball regulations, some adaptations are made to reflect the needs of a local junior league. In all cases, the League Committee will provide clarification where required.

April 2026