

Yorkshire Netball

Regional League Playoff's 2024

Rules & Regulations

1	Overview
1.1	<p>The Yorkshire Netball Premier League and League One is the highest level of club netball in Yorkshire. The competition is organised by Yorkshire Netball to enable clubs to compete against each other to determine a regional winner and the team from Yorkshire that will go forward to EN Premier League Playoff's.</p> <p>The purpose of the Yorkshire Netball Competition is to provide the highest level of competition at a recreational level for serious, competitive netball participants.</p>
1.2	<p>The Regional League playoff's is a competition organised by Yorkshire Netball that will determine the teams who will participate in Yorkshire League One of the Regional League Competition for the 2024/25 season.</p> <p>Five (5) places are available.</p>
1.3	<p>These regulations must be followed by all teams, players, officials, spectators, and administrators involved in the management, administration, and operation of the Yorkshire Netball Playoff's.</p>
1.4	<p>It is the responsibility of all Team Officials, not Yorkshire Netball to ensure that all players and relevant parties within the team are fully conversant with these regulations.</p>
2	Competition (Regional League Playoff's) Structure
2.1	<p>Entry into the Regional League Playoff's will be through the following method.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams placed 6th to 10th position in Yorkshire League One at the end of 2023/24. • Open Entry to all Yorkshire Clubs meeting the defined eligibility criteria.
2.1.2	<p>Teams will be divided into groups, following the closing date and once the number of entries is known, the tournament playing structure will be finalised and confirmed to those entered, no later than 5 days prior to the playoff's taking place.</p> <p>As the number of entries is not yet known, it can not be confirmed the number of teams who will be placed in each group.</p>
3	Competition Organisation
3.1	<p>The competition and all rights and properties associated with it shall be owned, controlled, and managed by Yorkshire Netball.</p>
3.2	<p>Yorkshire Netball is responsible for the organisation and management of the Yorkshire Netball Playoff's as well as the Yorkshire Netball Premier and League One Leagues.</p>
4	Competition Referees
4.1	<p>The Competition Referee will be appointed by Yorkshire Netball for the Regional League Playoff's. There will usually be a maximum of three (3) Competition Referees who will have</p>

	<p>the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on all matters arising throughout the Competition including, but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary • Determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction (including disqualification of any individual team or player). • Adjudicating instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour or behaviour that brings the sport into disrepute including but not limited to instances of teams predetermining or attempting to predetermine the outcome of a match and/or the competition. • Determining the result and score should any match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance. • Determining any matter not covered specifically within the regulations
4.2	The competition referee may call upon, or delegate to, additional persons to assist with the competition or consult with other persons prior to making any decision, However the final decision and accountability for the decision will rest with the competition referee.
4.3	The competition referee will maintain and be responsible for a confidential competition referee logbook where appropriate.
5	Pre-Competition Management & Administration
5.1	Team Entry and Eligibility
5.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry to the Yorkshire Netball Regional Playoff's shall be. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • through Open Entry to all Yorkshire Clubs meeting the defined eligibility criteria. • Teams placed 6th to 10th position in Yorkshire League One at the end of 2023/24. • All Clubs/teams participating in the Competition must be an active Club on the England Netball Membership system (ENgage). All clubs must have paid full membership fees in this respect. • Yorkshire Netball is entitled to charge an entry fee to compete in the Yorkshire Netball Playoff's and this must be paid in full within the permitted timescales for a team to participate. This charge will include the costs associated with appointing the umpires. • By entering a team in the Regional Playoff's, clubs/teams agree that. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitment of participation in the Regional League Playoff's. • they will fulfil their obligations and responsibilities as set out in these regulations. • they are bound by the competition regulations and • they are bound by all the rules, policies, regulations, and by-laws of Yorkshire Netball, including the England Netball Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Regulations
5.2	Player/Team Official Eligibility
5.2.1	In order to participate in the Regional League Playoff's Players and Team Officials (as defined in 6.6 below) must be a member of England Netball as a personal adult/junior member participant, having paid the full membership fee due and received confirmation of their membership in advance of submitting the Squad Registration Sheet for the Regional League Playoff's.

	<p>Individuals may register on the England Netball Membership System via one of the following routes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through membership to a club • Through membership directly to England Netball • Through membership directly to County Netball Association
5.2.2	All players must be over 14 years old as at 11.59pm on the 31 August immediately prior to the commencement of the playing season in which the Regional League Playoff's takes place, unless they have completed an Age Banding Consent Form and submitted it with the Squad Registration Sheet.
5.2.3	<p>During all matches in the Regional League Playoff's, Team Managers must always carry proof of age for all Players and a copy of all Age Banding Consent Forms applicable to Players listed on the Squad Registration Sheet. (for players who are over 14 and under 18 years)</p> <p>Proof of age comprises of one or more of the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of birth certificate • Copy of Passport • Copy of medical card • Copy of a driver's license
5.2.4	The Regional League Playoff's is a competition for female players. Only biological female participants can be included on the squad registration sheet as a player.
5.2.5	Yorkshire Netball recommends that individuals (player, coach, umpire) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidance issued by itself.
5.2.6	The England Netball personal accident insurance excludes any loss or expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage, or any consequence thereof. If, for example a member who is pregnant is involved in an accident not related to the pregnancy, subject to the conditions of the policy, the relevant benefits would be payable. However, if any situation (such as hospitalisation) was prolonged as a direct result of pregnancy, pregnancy complications or even early childbirth, then this portion of any claim is not covered.
5.3	Registration of Squads
5.3.1	<p>Participating teams must complete a squad registration sheet fully listing each player and their membership numbers. This needs to be lodged with the competition organiser by no later than 13 June 2024. Any additions or amendments to the squad registration sheet prior to the tournament, must be lodged with the competition organiser (yncompetition@gmail.com) prior to the start of the regional league playoffs.</p> <p>Squad registration sheets will be made available on the day of the tournament for the Team Manager to sign and return to the Competition Referee during the registration period.</p> <p><u>Changes to the squad registration sheets can be made by the Team Manager during the registration period. Proof of membership and age must be provided.</u> No changes may be made to the squad registration sheet once the Team Manager has signed it during the registration period.</p>

5.3.2	<p>Teams may only use those Players whose names appear on their Squad Registration Sheet held by Yorkshire Netball. Teams may have a maximum of twelve players named on the squad registration sheet.</p> <p>Should your team be successful in obtaining a place in the Yorkshire Regional League One this squad registration sheet will carry forward to the league competition.</p> <p>You can add players to the squad registration sheet during the season (see league rules and regulations)</p>
5.3.3	<p>For Regional League Teams (from the 2023/24 season)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only players who have taken to the court (and played at least one (1) quarter in Rounds 1 – 18 during the course of the season will be eligible to compete for their registered team within the Regional League Playoff's. • Where new players join your club (and provided they have not played for any other club/team in any 2023/24 Regional League competition) then they will be eligible to compete for their registered team within the Regional League Playoff's. • Also see 5.3.7 (League rules and regulations) regarding clubs with more than one team in the Regional Competition. • Also see 5.3.2 and 5.3.4 regarding players and Squad Registration Sheets for the 2024/25 season <p>For County League Teams (from the 2023/24 season)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players must not have taken to court during the 2023/24 in any Regional League Competition. E.g. a player who has played for a club in the Northwest regional league would not be eligible to play for a team entering from West Yorkshire at the Regional League Playoff's • Clubs whose players were registered for the Yorkshire Netball Regional League Competition, in the 2023/24 season and have played more than 16 quarters (or parts thereof) are not eligible to play E.g. Swallows played in the 2023/24 competition, and are seeking to secure a place in the competition for a second team, as R Radford has played 18 quarters during the 2023/24 season they are not eligible to play at the playoff's, however J Field who has played 2 quarters during the 2023/24 season is eligible to play in the playoffs. • Also see 5.3.2 and 5.3.4 regarding players and Squad Registration Sheets for the 2024/25 season • Also see 5.3.7 (League rules and regulations) regarding clubs with more than one team in the Regional Competition.
5.3.4	<p>Once a player has been registered on a squad registration sheet, she cannot transfer to another team participating in the Regional League Playoff's.</p> <p>Squads entering the Regional qualifying tournament who are successful in obtaining a place in Yorkshire Division 1 remain with that squad for the 2024/25 season and as such must be included on the team registration sheet.</p>
5.3.5	<p>No players who play (or have played) in the England Netball Premier League are permitted to play in Yorkshire League One and the Playoff's</p>
5.3.6	<p>No player, once registered with a Superleague Team may play in the Yorkshire League One and the Playoff's to</p>

5.3.7	Overseas players or an International Sportsperson Visa are NOT permitted to play in the Yorkshire Netball Regional League Competition. Individuals who have indefinite leave to remain or are seeking asylum are permitted to play in the Yorkshire Netball Regional League Competition.
Responsibility for ensuring that players taking the court meet the eligibility criteria specified rests solely with the relevant club/team. All eligibility checking by the Competition Working Group / Competition Referee will be undertaken by reviewing submitted results cards and squad registration sheets after matches have taken place.	
5.4	Competition Venues
5.4.1	Matches will be played on an indoor court. They should have an adequate playing surface (preferably wooden sprung) and with ancillary facilities for participants including changing and showering facilities for Teams and Officials.
5.4.2	Yorkshire Netball will hire the venue from a third party and conduct a full risk assessment and take appropriate measures to mitigate any identified risk.
6	Playing & Competition
6.1	Time of arrival and Registration
6.1.1	All team managers must collect their team packs prior to their first game, from the Competition referee's area whose whereabouts will be communicated to teams in advance of the Competition. Registration will be from 9.00am.
6.1.2	All teams will be held responsible for the behaviour, demeanour and actions of their Players, Team Officials, and spectators. Please note spectators are not permitted court side either during or between games. The area for spectators will be clearly marked on the day.
6.2	Competition Scheduling
6.2.1	All matches must be played as per the fixture schedule published by Yorkshire Netball, unless otherwise agreed by the Competition Referees.
6.2.2	Yorkshire Netball will only postpone or cancel the Regional League Playoff's due to extreme and unforeseen circumstances. Examples of unforeseen circumstances include but not limited to inclement weather such as flooding, heavy rainfall, snow, storms, or other conditions that would make participation dangerous. Injuries, illness (including Covid-19) or delays incurred by teams do not qualify as unforeseen circumstances. Yorkshire Netball will not be responsible for any costs incurred by teams because of a postponement or cancellation of the Regional League Playoffs due to extreme or unforeseen circumstances.
6.2.3	No team may play a match with less than 5 players. Any team with less than 5 players on court during a match will automatically concede the game.
6.2.4	In the event of a match being conceded:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The non-offending team will be awarded five (5) league points and the team which conceded will have five (5) league points deducted from their total. • The team which conceded may be liable for any costs which the non-offending team has incurred, subject to the determination by the Yorkshire Netball Competition Organiser.
6.2.5	If a match is abandoned for any reason e.g., because of serious injury, the result of that match will be determined by the Competition Referee, having regard to the score at the time at which play was suspended.
6.3	Match rules and format
6.3.1	All matches shall be played in accordance with the World Netball Rules of the Game currently in force at the time, except where specifically states in these regulations.
6.4	Match Officials
6.4.1	Umpires who hold a current Europe Netball 'B' award or above or its equivalent or identified 'C' award and who have been identified by Yorkshire Netball, will be allocated to each match by Yorkshire Netball, or its nominee(s), and their appointment will be notified to the teams prior to the start of play.
6.5	Technical Officials
6.5.1	The technical officials are collectively, the umpires and scorers, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each team must provide a competent scorer who is either an umpire, qualified technical official or someone who has a working knowledge of scoring. Scorers will be required for all matches.
6.6	Team Officials
6.6.1	Each team may have upto five (5) Team Officials. These will include a Coach, Team Manager and at least one Primary Care Person / First Aider
6.6.2	A Primary Care Person / First Aider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Must be qualified to diagnose and treat injury or illness with first aid as a minimum qualification – evidence of this qualification must be submitted to Yorkshire Netball ○ Is permitted on court during a stoppage for injury/illness of a player or blood issues. ○ Must advise the umpires if a player is too ill/injured to be removed from the court within the 30 seconds and/or if assistance is required.
6.6.3	Team officials may be fewer than specified and may therefore undertake several duties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coach (UKCC Level 2) may be a player. ○ Primary Care person / First Aider may be a player. ○ Safeguarding Officer – to be present on the team bench where a team has a player(s) under the age of 18 years of age listed on the squad registration sheet. <p>Please note: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Primary Care Person and Coach must not be the same person. ○ The Coach and Safeguarding Officer must not be the same person.

6.6.4	The Team Officials and upto five (5) players not on court shall constitute the Team Bench.
6.6.5	The Team Bench will be situated in the half of the court that the team is defending at the start of the match, to the right of the netball posts, unless otherwise agreed with the Competition organiser.
6.7	Match Timings
6.7.1	All Matches will be – This will be confirmed following the closing date and the number of teams and groups are confirmed.
6.7.2	<p>Central timing will be used and will normally be sounded by a hooter, but matches will start and finish on the umpire’s whistle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The central timer will commence timing when the match is started by the hooter. • The central timer will signal by a hooter to the umpire whose whistle shall end each quarter/half. • Play will be stopped when instructed by the umpire who shall blow the whistle to stop play. To restart play the umpire shall signal and blow the whistle for play to be resumed. • The hooter will sound at the beginning and end of an interval. • A warning will be given before play is due to commence two (2) minutes prior to the start of each match and then thirty (30) seconds for teams to take to court before the start of each quarter/half.
6.7.3	<p>Umpires must ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before the start of each match the captains have tossed for centre pass. • Both teams are on court, in position and ready to play at the scheduled time in accordance with the playing schedule and the central timer. • No team starts a match with less than five (5) players
6.7.4	<p>Any team not on court as detailed above will concede the match.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minus five (-5) points will be awarded to the team conceding the match, and • Full match points for a win (5) will be awarded to the team on court, in position and ready to play at the correct time.
6.8	Kit and Equipment
6.8.1	Teams must carry an alternative set of playing bibs for use where a clash of colours occurs. It is the Team Managers responsibility to identify any potential clash. Where a clash of colours is identified, team captains shall arrange to toss a coin to decide who shall wear their alternative bibs.
6.8.2	Match Balls will be provided for all matches, and these should be used for all matches during the Regional League Playoff’s.
6.9	Scoring
6.9.1	<p>For all matches, teams will be awarded league points as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) points for a win • Three (3) points for a draw

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (2) points for a loss within 5 goals of the winners score – e.g., 50:46 = 2 points, 50:45 = 1 point • One (1) point for a loss with more than 50% of the winner’s score • Zero (0) points for a loss
6.9.2	<p>Regional League Playoff tables will be compiled based on the points awarded to each team. Where teams are level on points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal Average shall be used to determine their relative positions. • In the event that Goal Average does not differentiate between the teams, then Goal Difference shall be applied. • 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, Goal Difference or goals scored can differentiate between the teams, the score in the last match played between the teams shall determine the standings, with the winning team taking precedence. <p>In the event that none of the above differentiate between the teams, the Competition Referee shall determine the means of differentiation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 calculation of both team’s level on points. Except where one of the teams level on points is the conceding team, at which point they assume a goal average of zero and will be ranked the lowest ranked team of those level on points.
6.10	Registration of Results
6.10.1	<p>Following the completion of each match, the scorers from the two competing teams must ensure that both captains sign the scoresheet, in addition to the scorers. Once the official scoresheet has been signed by the captain, no dispute can be lodged unless it is marked ‘under protest.’</p> <p>The scoresheet must then be returned straight after each match to the competition desk.</p>
6.10.2	Results for all matches will be displayed throughout the competition by Yorkshire Netball.
6.11	Substitutes and Team Changes
6.11.1	During quarter/half time intervals, both teams may make substitutions / team changes.
6.11.2	Only injured or ill players may be substituted during a match owing to the shortened game time. No other changes may be made during a match by either side.
6.11.3	No extra time will be allowed for injury or illness or for any substitution made as a result of it.
6.12	Health & Safety
6.12.1	Play may be stopped if the umpire deems it necessary due to the injury or illness of a player.

6.12.2	Team Officials are required to take care in moving an injured player or ill player from the court.
6.12.3	Should the primary care person / first aider feel that the injury is critical (e.g., head, neck or back) and that the injured player should not be moved without the assistance of medical staff, then the match officials should note the time lost during treatment and report to the competition referee who will adjudicate.
6.12.4	If an accident occurs at any match where a player, coach, match or technical official or spectator is injured, the accident reporting procedure should be followed as details on http://www.englandnetball.co.uk/competitions This procedure should be followed for ALL injuries and accidents, regardless of whether medical treatment is given.
7	Competition Complaints Procedure
7.1	On the Competition Day, all queries and complaints should be directed to the Competition Referee in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows
7.1.1	Where the Complaint relates to the Competition format or management, including but not limited to the schedule, the opposing team, playing surface or other playing arrangements, a protest must be made before the start of the Match (or as soon as possible after the issue becomes apparent during the match) to the Competition Referee. The Complaint must then be acknowledged by the Competition Referee who will decide what action should be taken, or
7.1.2	Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a match, the scoring and/or results, the relevant team member or Team Official must: a) Inform their opponents and the umpires of the complaint. b) Mark the scoresheet with the words 'under protest' c) Take the scoresheet marked 'under protest' to the Competition Referee, straight after the match (within 30 minutes of the game concluding) d) Explain the issue in full to the Competition Referee e) And the Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken
7.1.3	The Competition Referees decision in relation to decisions taken under clauses 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 is binding apart from where parties to the complaint have the right to appeal the decision under section 8 below.
7.2	Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Competition by Yorkshire Netball, such complaint will be dealt with under the complaint's procedure of Yorkshire Netball.
7.3	Where a Complaint relates to the behaviours of an individual player or team, volunteer of individual attending the competition which could be considered as a disciplinary offence under England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations, such complaint will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures set out in England Netball's Disciplinary Regulations and should be referred to the Disciplinary Secretary of the appropriate authority.
8	Appeal of the Competition Referees Decision
8.1	The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with sections 7.1.1. and 7.1.2 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

8.1.1	if the decision of the Competition Referee has a potential impact on a match result, a league table, or the outcome of a competition, and
8.1.2	there has been a failure by the Competition Referee to follow or act in accordance with these regulations and/or the Competition Referee has reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact.
These are the only grounds of appeal, and any appeal must be submitted in accordance with the appeals process set out below	
8.2	An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the Team Manager of the appealing team to the Competition Organiser within seventy-two (72) hours of the match.
8.3	The appeal shall be accompanied by a cheque for £100 which shall be returned if the appeal is upheld or if there are any extenuating circumstances. The Competition Appeals Committee (CAC) will decide whether the extenuating circumstances warrant the cheque being returned.
8.4	The Competition Organiser will establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected to the competition. One of those individuals will be appointed as the chair.
8.5	The chair of the CAC will send the appeal to the opposing team and any other team the CAC believe could be affected by the outcome of the appeal. These teams will be permitted seventy-two (72) hours, from the date that appeal notice is sent from the CAC to submit any evidence or submission that they wish the CAC to consider.
8.6	All submissions and evidence must be submitted in writing. The chair of the CAC will have the secretion to determine the process, procedure, and direction of the appeal.
8.7	The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy-two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions.
8.8	The CAC will notify all the parties that made submissions and presented evidence of its decision and any penalties and sanctions imposed within twenty-four (24) hours of it reaching its determination. The CAC shall have discretion to publish the decision through whatever means it considers appropriate.
8.9	The CAC shall have the delegated power of Yorkshire Netball to make all decisions and impose and enforce any penalties and sanctions (but not limited to, reprimands, the deduction of points, fines, suspensions, and exclusion from the competition) relating to the appeal. There is no further right of appeal on the decision.
8.10	The procedures set out in this section shall be governed by the Arbitration Act 1996 (the act) and amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of section 6 of the Act.
8.11	The parties also waive irrevocably their right to any form of appeal, review or recourse to any court or other judicial authority, or under England Netball's Disciplinary Procedures Manual or otherwise, as far as such waiver may be validly made.
8.12	The seat of arbitration shall be England, the language shall be English and the governing law of the regulation and these proceedings under Section3 shall be English Law.
8.13	If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than provided for by this section, and all parties to the appeal consent, the timetable within which an appeal is raised, submissions made, and the decision taken can be shorter than seventy-two (72) hours stated in this section. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised directions timetable which shall be binding on all parties
9	Miscellaneous

9.1	Yorkshire 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 regulations, provided that nothing in these regulations excludes or restricts Yorkshire Netball's liability for any personal loss or injury caused by Yorkshire Netball's own negligence, or for fraud.
9.2	If any of these regulations are held by any competent authority to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of the regulations shall not be affected thereby.
9.3	These regulations shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English Law.
9.4	Any questions regarding these regulations can be addressed to Competition Organiser yncompetition@gmail.com
9.5	Yorkshire Netball reserves the right to amend these regulations each year in advance of the competition and such amendments will take effect from the first date of publication of the completed amended procedure.