

# Domestic Rules Guidance

August 2013 (For Immediate Effect)



The Rules of the Game played in England are set by the International Netball Federation (INF).

England Netball (EN) has produced this Guidance to supplement the INF Rules of Netball with some practical application of the Rules, which takes account of legal duties not to discriminate, the duty of care and our objective to establish a safe, fair and inspiring sporting environment that contributes to a high quality participant experience at all times.

This Guidance is provided for everyone involved in Netball including players, coaches and officials. Umpires and Officials must apply the Rules and this guidance is intended to help them apply the rules, in a way which takes account of what may at times seem like conflicting imperatives. They are designed from a common sense and inclusive stand point, and are underwritten by the aim to include as many people in playing netball as possible. This means that consideration may need to be borne in mind which may not be the same for all players, but which are necessary to ensure due regard is given to people's particular needs, for example, those with particular medical conditions or with cultural needs.

This Guidance note will be available through the England Netball website or on request. Should any queries or complaints about the interpretation of the Rules arise, reference will be made to the INF rules and these Domestic Guidelines.

Where in this document it refers to ensuring that there is appropriate insurance coverage in place, those individuals that are an affiliated member to England Netball either via a netball club or County Netball Association will have the appropriate insurance coverages through the England Netball insurance scheme

## GLOVES

No form of glove should **normally** be worn when playing Netball.

However, EN recognises its responsibility for duty of care to all players playing Netball, particularly outside and within schools and junior competition.

In extreme weather or climatic conditions, or with a medical condition, gloves may be worn.

If for medical reasons gloves are required, then on production of an appropriate medical certificate/letter, a local league, County, Region or England Netball should allow gloves to be worn.

The player should ensure that the material worn does not endanger other player's safety and the player must ensure that they have appropriate personal liability insurance. Gloves should be plain, soft leather or micro fibre (E.g. Neoprene) which are manufactured without seams (or with internally sewn seams) and have no abrasive materials including but not limited to zippers, Velcro, metallic or plastic fasteners.

Umpires are reminded that they still need to be satisfied that any gloves worn do not present an obvious hazard to other players including Rule 1.4.5 which states "Fingernails shall be short and smooth."

## HEAD COVERINGS

The priority must be to encourage increased participation in Netball while being sensitive to climate, religious practices, cultural differences and health and wellbeing issues and with due regard to the safety of all participants.

A player may wear a hat / head covering and together with the coach/teacher/parent etc. they should ensure that the material used for the head covering is soft and without embellishments, which might constitute a danger to any other player on the court, and with potential flowing / flapping edges held securely around the neck or tucked into shirt collar. It should be as neat and secure as possible.

Headbands that meet the requirements as above should be allowed.

**Peaked 'baseball or tennis type' caps do not meet the requirements as above and must not be allowed.**

## JEWELLERY & ADORNMENTS

As per the INF Rules 1.4.3 and 1.4.4,

1.4.3 No item of jewellery, except a wedding ring and/or medical alert bracelet, shall be worn. If either or both are worn, each shall be taped.

1.4.4 No adornment that may endanger player safety shall be worn.

Officials should conduct their pre-match check as per INF Rule 3.1.2.

It is the individuals responsibility to ensure that they comply with the INF Rules as above and in doing so ensure that their jewellery / adornment is suitably covered with padding/taping as necessary to prevent injury to others.

It is recommended that hair should be appropriately tied back whilst participating in Netball and any hair accessory that is used should not pose any risk to any individual.

For clarification: Studs and body piercings, watches, bangles, bracelets and any other adornment are not allowed (except as provided for under INF rule 1.4.3 and 1.4.4 above)

## MEDICAL AIDS

Players wearing medical aids to protect injury or surgery and who are prepared to take the risk of playing, may take the court provided the medical aid is covered adequately thus presenting no obvious hazard to other players. Such players are advised to ensure that they have appropriate personal liability insurance coverage.

Any Medical Aid must be approved by a qualified medical practitioner especially when returning to Netball from injury and have an appropriate medical certificate/letter. The Medical Aid must be of 'flexible' form and not inhibit movement for the individual.

The wearing of ankle braces do not apply to these Medical Aid guidelines therefore can be worn.

## PREGNANCY

England Netball recommends that individuals (player, coach, umpire) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and not participate beyond the 12th week of pregnancy. Neither England Netball, nor the club will be held liable for any pregnant individual participating in recognised and authorised activity should the expectant mother suffer a miscarriage, permanent damage to herself and/or unborn child as a result of participating.

The England Netball Personal Accident cover will not provide any benefit for injury, loss or expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage or any consequence thereof.

To give two examples:

1. The pregnant player, coach or umpire participates, falls and breaks an arm. Benefit would be paid for the broken arm.
2. The pregnant player, coach or umpire, falls and suffers pregnancy complications which result in hospital treatment. No benefit would be paid.

## UNIFORM

The priority must be to encourage increased participation in Netball, while being sensitive to religious practices, cultural differences, health and well-being issues i.e. climatic weather conditions with due regard to the safety of all participants.

The INF rule on uniform i.e. Rule 1.4.2 states 'Registered playing uniforms, which shall include playing position initials, shall be worn at all times ...'

There is no intention to debar players from wearing tracksuits or other suitable clothing that reflect a club's uniform and colours.

Umpires should act responsibly and sensitively in checking that the players' uniform reflects both the INF rules and England Netball domestic guidelines.

Umpires should therefore use common sense when applying the rules in the local leagues.

## EYEWEAR

If a player / coach / official has to wear glasses for medical reasons then she / he is fully insured from an EN point of view. But, if the glasses become damaged due to a Netball accident then these are not insured.

Sunglasses should not **normally** be worn when participating in Netball activities. However, sunglasses may be worn for **genuine medical reasons** when participating in recognised and authorised EN activities. If sunglasses are required for genuine medical reasons, then an appropriate medical certificate must be supplied to England Netball (or the appropriate league, county or region)

## MATCH BALL

The INF Rules of Netball do not state which team is responsible for supplying the match ball.

Where no official match balls are provided the following guidance shall apply:

- The home team is responsible for providing the match ball and the away team shall supply a reserve match ball.
- Where matches are played at a central venue and the balls have not been provided by the event organiser, then teams will toss to see which ball will be used throughout the game. The home team will toss the coin and the away team will call heads or tails. The team winning the toss will use their ball.
- Where the teams are participating in a central venue tournament, then the first named team on the schedule is deemed to be the home team.
- The toss for the match ball is additional to the toss for the Centre Pass.

In all of the above mentioned incidences the umpire will undertake a check as per Rule 1.3 and unless there is an incident during the game which makes the 'match' ball unplayable, the same match ball will be used for the duration of the match.

If you have any queries or questions please contact:

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