

OXFORDSHIRE
NETBALL

**INFORMATION,
PROCEDURES AND
GUIDELINES OF
OXFORDSHIRE NETBALL
DEVELOPMENT
AND LEAGUES**

Issued – October 2007

GENERAL INFORMATION

OXFORDSHIRE NETBALL

Oxfordshire Netball is coordinated by Oxfordshire Netball Development Board. Its aim is “to advance the game of netball within the county of Oxfordshire. Its emphasis is ‘ to organise and progress the development of the game of netball in Oxfordshire, for players of all ages, cultures and abilities, through liaison with England Netball, Netball South, Oxfordshire Sports Partnership and with other sporting bodies and local authorities within the county to accomplish this, with particular reference to the provision of facilities, coaching & umpiring courses and assessments’

Exciting plans are underway to apply for grants for the building of 6 all weather flood-lit courts at the OXSRAD ground off Marsh Lane, Marston.

The Board has elected officers:-

Chair	Facilities Officer
Vice Chair	Umpiring Secretary
Secretary	Coaching Secretary
Treasurer	

Additionally: the Chair or representative from:-

Oxfordshire Schools Netball Association

Oxfordshire League

Allcomers League

Junior League

and from any other leagues or bodies ratified by the board

**Also : the County Disabilities Officer
the Oxfordshire Netball Development Officer**

Contact for ONDB : Secretary Kate Blackshaw ondbsecretary@googlemail.com

The AGM for both the ONDB and the Oxfordshire Netball League are held on the same evening in June. Clubs must be represented, or pay a £50 fine

A website (www.oxonnetball.co.uk) has been created in order to communicate with all clubs and members, information about coaching, umpiring, affiliations, club details together with up to date results and league tables. Clubs are able to put notices onto the website by contacting the Secretary of the Development Board.

The follow applies to all leagues and members in Oxfordshire

AFFILIATION: We hope that all clubs will be affiliating online this season, and for the 2007-2008 affiliation, this service is available from the 1st August 2007.

All clubs should have user name and password in order to log-in to the England Netball Membership area-

<http://om.Englandnetball.co.uk/script/login.asp?member=true> (remember to click on the club login section) or follow the links from www.Englandnetball.co.uk. If you need help with this or your user name/password then you should contact England netball affiliations department: affiliations@Englandnetball.co.uk or telephone 01462 442344.

Once logged on, you can then click on submit affiliations to add new players or re-affiliate existing ones. 2007/08 fees are as follows:

Over 18's – EN £20.50, SR £2, Oxfordshire £9 = £31.50

Under 18's – EN £13, SR £2, Oxfordshire £7 = £22.00

All players MUST be affiliated via Oxfordshire in order to play in the Oxfordshire Leagues.

When all the affiliation details have been updated on the system, you are then ready to proceed to the payment calculator. As indicated at this point, you will then be asked to pay the amount in full to England Netball. England Netball will then pass the fees onto South Region and Oxfordshire on a monthly basis.

Initially you will be able to add, amend and delete participants from your club. However, on subsequent submissions, you will only be able to add and amend details – as membership is non-transferable.

The fee for second affiliations (for a member outside of Oxfordshire to join a second club to play within Oxfordshire) is £9, anyone who fulfils this criteria should be added to the system of the club within Oxfordshire and will then be required to tick the box to pay the fees.

The benefits of EN affiliation are provided on their website. Visit www.oxonnetball.co.uk to view the benefits of affiliation locally.

UMPIRING: All umpires must adhere to the England Netball Code of Conduct for Umpires. This can be found on England Netball Website.

The leagues in Oxfordshire allows 'Oxfordshire approved' and C or above umpires to umpire games in the league. 'Oxfordshire approved umpires' must have been assessed by the Oxfordshire Netball Development Umpiring Secretary and they will be told which divisions they can umpire. Once they have been umpiring for 6 to 8 months, it would be expected that they should be ready to take their C award. In order to take both 'Oxfordshire approved' and C awards they need to have attended a course and taken a written paper. Details are available from the County Umpiring Secretary or from the Oxfordshire Website (www.oxonnetball.co.uk). The Development Board will endeavour to ensure the umpiring in Oxfordshire is of the highest standard possible.

PLAYERS: Oxfordshire Netball has introduced a **PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT** and all leagues in Oxfordshire have adopted this policy. All clubs playing in any league within Oxfordshire must ensure all its members follow these:-

1. Know the rules of the game and play them.
2. Play fairly, be competitive but not aggressive.
3. During play, do not question a decision made by the Umpires, either by gesture, look, verbally or by commenting to another player. A player at quarter or full time may ask why a particular decision was made but may not dispute that decision.
4. Ensure you are in the correct position indicated by the Umpire when penalties are set (Rule 18).
5. Keep yourself control at all times.
6. Do not use obscene language at any time.
7. Accept victory modestly and defeat graciously.
8. Persistent foul play or intimidating behaviour on the court of play will be dealt with in one or more of the following ways:
 - i) a warning will be issued by the umpire
 - ii) the player will be suspended from play, by the umpire, for an appropriate period of time
 - iii) the player will be sent off by the umpire
 - iv) the player will be suspended by the League Committee for one or more matches
 - v) the player may be suspended indefinitely by the League Committee (this may also be reported to County and Regional Associations)
9. Thank Umpires for officiating your match.

OXFORDSHIRE NETBALL LEAGUE

Oxfordshire Netball League (ONL) runs both a Winter and Summer League plus one Tournament during the month of May each season. Seasons run from September to March for the winter and May to July for the summer. In the winter league, teams are divided into a number of divisions and play each team in their division both at home and away. Divisions are made up of 9-10 clubs (where possible). The summer league teams only play each other once, either at home or away. Clubs are charged on a per team basis for both winter and summer leagues. League entry fees are decided by the committee and reviewed annually.

The league is run by a committee, elected at the AGM each year. Its role is to ensure that clubs are run by the rules set by both EN and the league. It also has the responsibility to ensure that all players and umpires in the league are affiliated to EN. Fixture grids are provided for each club to use in order to arrange their matches and score cards are issued for completion after each match. More details are given further into this guide.

The Committee is made up of the following:

Chairperson
Vice – Chair/ Trophies Secretary
Secretary
Treasurer
Minutes Secretary
Results Secretary

No team may be represented twice on the committee except for the position of Chairperson.

Rules are set by the committee and agreed at the beginning of each season by the clubs represented at the start of season meeting. Some of these rules are expanded in this guide.

The League will record all results on a weekly basis on the Oxfordshire Netball website. If any club has a query regarding a result they should contact the Results Secretary as soon as possible.

ONL PROCEDURES

FIXTURES. For both winter and summer Leagues, fixtures must be confirmed in writing to the league by the agreed date. After this date no match may be rearranged except for the following reasons:

- a. In the case of bad weather and it must be agreed by both umpires that conditions are such that it would be dangerous for players to play the game.
- b. Cancellation of the courts by a third party, i.e. a club plays at a school and they tell the home side that the court is unavailable for whatever reason.

No matches may be rearranged for having no umpire or not enough players. The team unable to field a team or provide an umpire must concede the match.

In the event of a rearranged match, BOTH TEAMS must notify the Results Secretary of this and the date set for the rearranged match within 48 hours of the cancellation.

In the event of a conceded match, BOTH TEAMS must complete a card showing who the game was between and the fixture date, captains must sign their own card and indicate whether home or away team conceded, by writing the word 'conceded' over the area the players would have signed.

MATCHES: Matches must be played at the agreed time and place. Teams have a leeway of 15 minutes in which no goals/points can be claimed. After 15 minutes have lapsed, if 5 of the opposition and their umpire are present the game must start. If the umpire has not arrived play cannot start. The team ready to play must be on court ready to play, together with their umpire and the timer must be started but they need only wait a further 15 minutes before claiming the match and 15 goals. If the late team arrives during these 15 minutes, they may start playing immediately but will have conceded a goal for each minute of that quarter they have missed and only the remaining minutes of that quarter shall be played. The umpires' decision is final on the number of goals conceded, as they will be responsible for the timing.

If a match is **abandoned due to bad weather**, it must be by the consent of the two team captains and umpires. In the event of a split decision, the casting vote is with the away umpire. In the event of an abandoned match, both captains and both umpires must report this to the Results Secretary. If all agree to the match being rearranged this may be done and the date confirmed to the Results Secretary. In the event of teams not agreeing to the match being rearranged, all parties must send a report to the League Secretary and the League sub-committee will make the decision.

Before the commencement of each match both teams must **print and sign on the home team card**. The away team card has no player signings. If a player is playing up or down this must be indicated by an arrow showing which way. Each player must write her own name and sign; another player may not do this for her. The umpires must ensure that all players have completed the card before the game starts.

Rulings on players playing up or down: any team in a club may borrow ONE NAMED PLAYER, PER MATCH, from the team immediately above SEVEN times during the season and it must be a DIFFERENT PLAYER each time. No other named players may play down a team(s). Players may play up a team(s) four times during the season. Non-compliance with this rule will AT LEAST mean forfeiting the match.

At the end of the match, the result must be entered on the **result cards** by the team's umpire. The cards are checked by the opposing umpire and signed by both. They must also print their name Both captains must check each card and then sign. See appendix 1 for examples of cards completed correctly and incorrectly

Cards must be posted to the Results Secretary WITHIN 10 days of a match. Teams will be penalised for each late result by the deduction of 2 points. Results will be updated on a weekly basis on the website (www.oxonnetball.co.uk). If a team's result has not been received, points will show a 2-point deduction. Teams should monitor this closely so that that if a card has been sent and not received, they need to contact the Results Secretary as

soon as possible to avoid these deductions. We do accept that cards can get lost in the post, but only on the odd occasion not a frequent occurrence.

COMPLAINTS: As indicated in the Code of Conduct all players are responsible for knowing the rules of the game. The league will not tolerate **any unacceptable behaviour**, on or off court, before, during and after a match: this includes arguing with the umpire and any swearing, derogative or rude language. Players will be given a warning, play may be advanced and, if the behaviour continues, the offending player(s) will be sent off court. Any such behaviour and resulting action should be recorded on the results card by the umpires and followed up by a report to the League Secretary.

All **complaints** must be sent in writing to the League Secretary in order for them to be discussed at the next League Committee. Verbal complaints will not be considered until received in writing. The League Committee will then follow the procedure below before deciding on action to be taken:

1. Acknowledge receipt of complaint within 7 days.
2. Write to all parties involved to ask for their account of what happened. Accounts should be received from both teams and both umpires, one being the original complaint. Teams must send their accounts within two weeks of receiving a letter from the committee. Delay in responding could result in points being deducted from the team's score. Committee will ensure before deducting these points that the individuals concerned received the letters.
3. All accounts will be presented to a sub committee made up of at least 4 independent committee members. They will review all responses and make their decision of any action to be taken.
4. A letter will be written to all parties letting them know the outcome of the decision taken by the sub-committee.
5. An appeal can be made in writing within 7 days of the outcome letter being sent. A meeting will be arranged with the individual parties involved in the complaint and the sub-committee for the appeal to be heard. However the final decision does lay with the League Committee. The action taken in the result of the letter of complaint could result in a fine, suspension and/or point deduction

SCORERS: For the 2007/08 season all teams in Premium and Division 1 must provide a scorer for each game. Both scorers must sit together. At the end of each quarter the umpires and scorers agree the score and the first centre pass of the next quarter. Scorers may change during the match.

The remaining divisions will need to provide scorers from the 2008/09 season.

