



**MALLING & MAIDSTONE
NETBALL LEAGUE**

**CONSTITUTION
JUNE 2018**

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NAME

The League shall be known as the MALLING & MAIDSTONE NETBALL LEAGUE (referred to hereafter as The League) and will be affiliated to England Netball (EN).

1. OBJECTIVES

- a) To play by the rules laid down by the England Netball (EN).
- b) To promote and develop the game of netball and The League within the local community.
- c) To organise and administer competitions and events for all members of The League.
- d) To manage the accounts and uphold league principles.
- e) To ensure the duty of care to all members of The League.

2. AFFILIATION

All players and non-playing umpires shall be affiliated to EN and Kent Netball (KN).

3. MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership shall consist of players, coaches, umpires or anyone who organises netball or who is in any way concerned or has a connection with netball regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs.
- b) This membership is to ensure that all present and future members receive fair and equal opportunity.
- c) All members will be subject of the regulations of the Constitution and by joining The League will be deemed to accept these regulations and codes of practice that The League has adopted.

4. FEES

- a) All players shall pay an annual subscription to The League. This fee will cover social membership of the Aylesford Bulls Rugby & Football Club (ABRFC) and will entitle that person to use the facilities of the clubhouse.
- b) The annual subscription shall be set by The League Committee and agreed annually and adopted at The League's AGM.

5. OFFICERS

- a) The League will be managed through The Committee consisting of:
 - Chairperson
 - Vice Chair

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- Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Umpiring Secretary
 - Youth Netball Liaison Officer
 - Divisional Rep Co-Ordinator
 - Divisional Reps
 - Social Media and Website Co-Ordinator
 - Safeguarding Officer
 - Liaison Officer to ABRFC
- b) In the event of not all posts being filled these can be co-opted at a later stage. Posts that must be filled are: Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Safeguarding Officer and Divisional Rep Co-Ordinator.
- c) These Officers shall be members of The League as specified at (3a) and shall be elected annually at The League's AGM.
- d) In the event of an Officer resigning during the season or failing to meet a commitment, The League Committee shall appoint a replacement where necessary and they shall have voting rights.
- e) At no time shall more than three Officers be registered members of the same club within The League.
- f) The League Committee shall have the right to co-opt further officers as the need arises. Co-opted officers shall have no voting rights.
- g) It is expected that officers attend all meetings. Any Officer absent for three consecutive meetings may forfeit his/her place on The Committee.
- h) No Officer who is also a member of a team/club shall be in attendance or vote on a matter directly concerning his/her team/club.

6. THE LEAGUE COMMITTEE

- a) The League shall be managed by The League Committee comprising of the Officers of The League elected at the AGM for the period of one calendar year. The duties of The League Committee are to manage the affairs of The League as it sees fit on behalf of its members.
- b) It is the duty of the Officers and members of The League to enforce the rules without interpretation to avoid inconsistency.
- c) The League Committee has the responsibility for arranging matches for The League.
- d) i. The League Committee has the power to discipline members in accordance with its disciplinary procedures and will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of any members who infringe The League Rules/Regulations/Constitution; and

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- ii. The Committee will be responsible for taking any action of suspension or discipline following such hearings.
- e) A quorum at any committee meeting shall consist of 5 Officers. Should a Committee Officer(s) need to leave the meeting for reasons set out in (5g) the remaining officers will be able to vote.
- f) The League Committee shall meet a minimum of 8 times a year.
- g) If it is considered by The League Committee that an officer is not carrying out their full designated duties they may be asked to resign their elected position.
- h) Minutes shall be kept of all meetings of The League Committee and a copy circulated to each Officer.
- i) All decisions of The League Committee shall be binding, and where necessary the person(s) concerned will be notified in writing.
- j) The League Committee will be responsible for adopting new policies, codes of practice and rules that affect the organisation of The League.
- k) The League Committee shall have the right to form sub-committees and appoint advisors to The Committee as deemed necessary to fulfil its business. These co-opted members will have no voting rights.

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a) The League's Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held during the month of June of each year.
- b) At least 21 days' notice shall be given to all Officers of The League and teams/clubs, together with an Agenda and notification of any proposed changes to the Constitution and/or Rules.
- c) Any items on the AGM Agenda that require a vote of acceptance shall be considered accepted if a majority of the attendees at the meeting vote in favour of the item. Only one vote per team. Officers of The League shall also have a vote and the Chairperson shall have the casting vote.
- d) All members of The League shall be eligible to attend the AGM.
- e) Each team must be individually represented at the AGM. Failure to send a representative to the AGM may result in that team's application not being considered by The League Committee for acceptance and placement in The League.
- f) The business of the AGM shall include:
 - Minutes of the previous meeting
 - Treasurer's report
 - Confirmation of league fees for the next year
 - Proposed amendments to the Constitution and/or Rules
 - Election of Officers
 - League results

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- Any other relevant business
- g) Nominations of Officers shall be submitted to The League Secretary no later than 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
 - i. Nominees shall be proposed and seconded by members of The League.
 - ii. In the event of insufficient nominees The Committee shall reserve the right to appoint at a later date.

8. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND/OR RULES

- a) Changes to the Constitution and/or Rules may be made at the AGM and/or at a Special/Extraordinary General Meeting.
- b) Notification of any proposed changes must be made to The League Secretary, no later than 21 days prior to the date of the AGM, who must notify all Members as specified at (7b).
- c) Amendments to the Constitution agreed at the AGM will come into force immediately.
- d) Rule amendments agreed at the AGM will come into force at the commencement of the Winter League.
- e) Summer League – This is a competitive and fun league and will be played in accordance with the rules set out on the website.
- f) Summer League – The playing format of the Summer League e.g. versatility, handicap, etc. will be dependent on the number of teams entering. The Committee will make this decision.

9. ENTRANCE TO THE LEAGUE

All teams wishing to enter The League are required to submit their application and a representative from said team shall attend the AGM. Any applications received after this date shall only be permitted to enter The League at the discretion of The Committee.

10. FORMATION OF LEAGUE DIVISIONS

- a) The League will limit the number of Multi Team Clubs to not exceed 49% of the total number of teams in The League. A Multi Team Club is defined as one which comprises those teams whose players are linked by their registration, whether 1st or 2nd claim, to a club affiliated to England Netball via one club affiliation.
- b) The total number of teams from a Multi Team Club shall not exceed 10% of the total number of teams entered in The League. Any Multi Team Club currently playing in The League that exceeds 10% can continue in that way until natural wastage occurs.

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11. SPECIAL/EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- a) A Special General Meeting may be called by either:
 - ❑ The League Committee, through The League Secretary; or
 - ❑ A written request to The League Secretary from two-thirds of the teams.
- b) At least 14 days' notice, together with an agenda shall be sent to all Officers of The League and teams in The League.
- c) Any items on the agenda that require a vote of acceptance shall be considered accepted if a majority of the attendees at the meeting vote in favour of the item. Only one person per team can vote.

12. LOCAL RULES

- a) The rules are available on The League website.
- b) These playing rules are binding and registration to The League shall be regarded as acceptance of the MMNL rules.
- c) Matches and Tournaments of The League shall be played at Aylesford Bulls Rugby Football Club grounds, or other such suitable and comparable facility as agreed by The League Committee.

13. TROPHIES

- a) All trophies remain the property of The League.
- b) All trophies must be returned by the team's holding them 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Failure to do so will render that team responsible for having the trophy(s) cleaned, engraved and available for the annual presentation. A trophy cannot be won outright by any club.
- c) Any team or individual in possession of a League trophy shall be responsible for replacement in the event of loss or damage by fire, burglary or accident.
- d) Trophies must be returned annually, by the end of the season to a nominated member of The League Committee and the replacement of trophies through normal wear and tear to be reviewed annually by The League Committee.

14. WORKING POLICIES & STATEMENTS

All documentation which forms the part of the day to day running of The League can be located on the MMNL website. These policies and agreements will be reviewed and updated where necessary on an annual basis and will be delivered in accordance with guidelines set down by England Netball.

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15. SAFEGUARDING

The League recognises the need to have systems in place that will ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults can play netball in a safe and fun environment. The League will adopt and follow the procedures laid out by England Netball in the “Safeguarding & Protecting Young Children in Netball Policy” (A copy of which is available from England Netball) to ensure that The League are not putting its members in an ‘at-risk’ position.

Any adult who is involved in the coaching (including on a 1-2-1 basis) of players in a junior team or club will be required to undertake a DBS check and attend an EN-approved, certificated “Safeguarding & Protecting Children” workshop.

All under 18 players are required to complete and submit an Under 18 Player Consent Form, which may be downloaded from The League's website, before taking to the court.

16. MEDIA POLICY

The use of Social Media technology to bring the game into disrepute or make an inappropriate comment about a fellow player, coach, official, volunteer or the governing body will incur a penalty ranging from a warning, loss of points and a fine to suspension and expulsion from the competition, determined by the seriousness of the offence. This applies to both individual members and clubs.

17. INDEMNITY & INSURANCE

- a) The League accepts no responsibility and is under no obligation in respect of any personal loss or injury. The League may indemnify The Committee and its officers acting properly in the course of running The League against any liability incurred in the proper running of The League (but only to the extent of its assets).
- b) The England Netball Insurance Scheme provided with affiliation ensures members (referred to in insurance documents as “registered participants”) are covered for Liability and Personal Accident Insurance at the level of cover applicable to their category of membership. However, if members feel they require any additional insurance cover, they must make their own arrangements at their own cost and discretion.

18. DISSOLUTION

- a) If at any General Meeting of The League, a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of The League, the Secretary shall immediately convene a Special General Meeting of The League to be held not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.
- b) If at that Special General Meeting, the resolution is carried by at least two-thirds of the Members present at the meeting, the General Committee shall thereupon, or at such date as shall have been specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the assets of The League and discharge all debts and liabilities of The League.

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- c) i. In the event of dissolution, after discharging all debts and liabilities of The League, the remaining assets/funds shall not be paid or distributed amongst the Members of The League and
 - ii. The remaining assets shall be realised and any funds thus remaining be donated to a charitable purpose approved by the members of The League.

APPENDIX A

19. FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a) All League monies will be banked in an account held in the name of The League.
- b) The League will have one single current bank account plus one single deposit account.
- c) The League Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of The League.
- d) Any transfers drawn against League Funds should have the approval two out of three nominated officers. These nominated officers will be agreed at the first meeting after the AGM.
- e) Transactions exceeding £250.00 must be counter-approved by a nominated officer.
- f) If it becomes necessary for The League to enter into any financial agreement with outside bodies for the benefit of The League it shall be brought before an EGM. After all the facts have been laid before the meeting the members of The League shall vote as to whether the financial implications are a viable proposition and can be carried forward for the benefit of The League
- g) An Independent Auditor shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting to inspect and audit The League Accounts annually.
- h) The Financial Year for The League shall be 01 May to 30 April.

20. DECLARATION

The League hereby adopts and accepts this Constitution as a current operating guide regulating the actions of members.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
League Chairperson

Signed: _____ Date: _____
League Secretary