

Competition Organiser Guide to Creating Competition Regulations in line with the Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy

Introduction

This resource is a tool to help competition organisers include appropriate regulations around eligibility.

It is not mandatory for competition organisers to use these template regulations, but they can be used in full if helpful. Competition Organisers, should however consider what categories and eligibility is right for your competition and regulations related to eligibility should always be made clear.

Points for Competition Organisers to note

- The eligibility section of any competition regulations should include all elements of eligibility, not just gender. This will include age and membership; there may be other elements of eligibility that need including too.
- Any sanctions for breach of gender eligibility regulations should be in line with any other eligibility e.g. there cannot be a different sanction for age eligibility in comparison to gender eligibility.
- Remember that the Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy does not apply to those aged 11 and under on 1 September of the membership year.

Considerations for Mixed Netball Category competition regulations

- Mixed Netball competitions must include the number of players whose affirmed gender* is not female that is required on court- this should be between zero and three and can be decided by the organisers.
- Setting the minimum to zero allows transgender women already participating in your league to compete without requiring the recruitment of additional players.
- Under EN mixed netball rules, teams may include up to 3 players whose affirmed gender is not female, and they must play within the designated court areas outlined in the rules.
- **Definition of Affirmed gender:** The Sex that a person identifies as or has transitioned/is transitioning to as opposed to that which was assigned at birth.

Template regulations for competitions aligned to female category

Eligibility

- Only individuals who meet the eligibility criteria be included on the team registration sheet as a player.
- All players and Team Officials are members of England Netball and <INSERT Region> and <INSERT County Netball Association> for the current season <INSERT SEASON e.g. 2025/26>
- The <Insert Competition Name> competition is in the female category as per the **EN Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy**.
- For information on eligibility based on gender, please visit section 7 (Female Category) of the **England Netball Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy**.
- All players must be <INSERT Age> . Players under the age of <INSERT age> must have completed age banding and submit this alongside registration. Any player under <INSERT age> is ineligible to play.
- Any player who takes to court without meeting the eligibility criteria will be defined as an ineligible player and the club will be sanctioned in line with regulation <Enter Regulation that details ineligible player sanction>
- It is the responsibility of the individual and club to ensure that all players in the team sheet are eligible to play before entering them into the competition.
- If during the playing of <Insert Competition Name> there is a complaint or concern relating to eligibility and the playing of an ineligible player, the <Insert Role (e.g. Team Manager, Captain)> must do the following;
 - Respectfully inform the <Insert Role (e.g. Team Manager, Captain)> of the opponents and the umpires of the nature of the complaint/concern
 - Mark the scoresheet with the words “under protest”
 - Send the marked scoresheet to <Insert Role (e.g. League secretary, Competition Referee)> within <Insert time frame (this may vary from Central venue to home/away competitions)> of the match
 - Attach a letter to the scoresheet to explain the eligibility concerns
 - <Insert Role (e.g. League secretary, Competition Referee)> will work to check eligibility
- In the event that an ineligible player has played in a match, <Insert sanction e.g. deduction of 3 points and the opposition will be awarded with a win for the fixture> will be applied.

Match Rules & Formats

- Throughout <Insert Competition Name> competition, all matches will be played to the World Netball Rules of Netball and England Netball’s Domestic Guidance in place at the time of the competition.

Template regulations aligned to Mixed Category

Eligibility

- Only individuals who meet the eligibility criteria be included on the team registration sheet as a player.
- All players and Team Officials are members of England Netball and <INSERT Region> and <INSERT County Netball Association> for the current season <INSERT SEASON e.g. 2025/26>
- The <Insert Competition Name> competition is in the female category as per the **EN Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy**.
- For information on eligibility based on gender, please visit section 9 (Mixed Category) of the **England Netball Gender Eligibility & Participation Policy**.
- All players must be <INSERT Age> . Players under the age of <INSERT age> must have completed age banding and submit this alongside registration. Any player under <INSERT age> is ineligible to play.
- Any player who takes to court without meeting the eligibility criteria will be defined as an ineligible player and the club will be sanctioned in line with regulation <Enter Regulation that details ineligible player sanction>
- It is the responsibility of the individual and club to ensure that all players in the team sheet are eligible to play before entering them into the competition.
- If during the playing of <Insert Competition Name> there is a complaint or concern relating to eligibility and the playing of an ineligible player, the <Insert Role (e.g. Team Manager, Captain)> must do the following;
 - Respectfully inform the <Insert Role (e.g. Team Manager, Captain)> of the opponents and the umpires of the nature of the complaint/concern
 - Mark the scoresheet with the words “under protest”
 - Send the marked scoresheet to <Insert Role (e.g. League secretary, Competition Referee)> within <Insert time frame (this may vary from Central venue to home/away competitions)> of the match
 - Attach a letter to the scoresheet to explain the eligibility concerns <Insert Role (e.g. League secretary, Competition Referee)> will work to check eligibility
- In the event that an ineligible player has played in a match, <Insert sanction e.g. deduction of 3 points and the opposition will be awarded with a win for the fixture> will be applied.

Match Rules & Format

- Throughout <Insert Competition Name> competition, all matches will be played to England Netball's Mixed Netball Rules and Domestic Guidance in place at the time of the competition.
- <Insert Competition Name> competition requires a minimum of <Insert minimum number of players, e.g. zero, one or two > whose Affirmed Gender* is not female registered within the squad.

- <Insert Competition name> can have a maximum of 3 players whose affirmed gender is not female on court at any one time. As per EN Mixed Netball rules, there can be a maximum of 1 player whose affirmed gender is not female in each designated third of the court (Goal third, centre third, defensive third)
- Affirmed gender is the gender that a person identifies as or has transitioned/is transitioning to as opposed to that which was assigned at birth.

Managing Mixed Netball positional requirements on court

- If a player, coach or team manager believes the opposition is not following the Mixed Netball requirements, they should notify the umpire after a goal has been scored and before the next centre pass.
- The umpire will hold time and consult with the team's designated lead (coach, captain or safeguarding) to confirm whether the team is compliant.
- Players must not directly question or challenge an individual's gender. This helps avoid the risk of misgendering and ensures respectful conduct.
- If the team is not compliant, they must make immediate changes before play resumes.
- Coaches and team managers are responsible for ensuring players understand and adhere to these requirements. Umpires are not responsible for checking gender compliance.

Our competition includes sections/divisions that are both female and mixed

If your competition includes both female and mixed categories, it is important to remember that promotion/relegation cannot connect to a competition that is within a different category; for example a mixed category competition can not involve promotion/relegation to a female category competition as this could leave players ineligible to play.

Competition Organisers should therefore have separate competition regulations for each competition. All other elements of the regulations may be the same. This is similar to age eligibility; separate regulations would be in place for U16 competition to an U11 competition.

Our competition is for 11 & under year old children

Eligibility

- All children aged 11 & under are eligible to play within <Insert Name> competition
- All players and Team Officials are members of England Netball and <Insert region> and <Insert County Netball Association> for the current season e.g. 2025/26

Match Rules & Formats

- Throughout <Insert Name> competition, all matches will be played to the <Insert age e.g. Fliers, Stingers> Bee Netball rules.
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We're organising a tournament

The principles of the templates regulations remain the same in terms of eligibility. However, given the single day tournament play, you may want to use the following in terms of raising complaints regarding eligibility.

- If during the playing of <Insert Competition Name> there is a complaint relating to eligibility and the playing of an ineligible player, the <Insert Role (e.g. Team Manager, Captain)> must do the following;
 - Inform the <Insert Role (e.g. Competition Referee, tournament organiser)> of the of the complaint regarding eligibility.
 - Mark the scoresheet with the words “under protest”
 - <Insert role (e.g. Competition Referee, Competition Organiser)> will work to check eligibility