

EAST ESSEX COUNTY NETBALL ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION *(Updated July 2020)*

1. NAME

The Association shall be called the East Essex County Netball Association (The County Association).

2. MEMBERSHIP

The County Association shall be a Member of England Netball and to the East Region Netball Association (the Region).

3. OBJECTS

The County Association is established to: -

- a) Co-operate with England Netball and the East Region to promote and encourage the game of netball.
- b) Plan and help in the growth of netball within the geographical area under its jurisdiction.
- c) Organise such events as the member's desire.
- d) Adopt the rules and regulations laid down by England Netball.
- e) Keep a watching brief on netball facilities in the County.
- f) Employ the funds of the County Association as shall be deemed to be in the best interests of the game and its members
- g) Ensure that all present and future members receive fair and equal treatment in accordance with the Sport England definition of sports equity in force from time to time.
- h) Ensure a Duty of Care to all members.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 The membership of the County Association shall consist of: -

- a) Clubs — A club must be a member of England Netball with a minimum of 7 players
- b) A Netball section of a Sports Club, with at least seven registered participants
- c) A Youth Club or Community Club, with at least seven registered participants
- d) A College or school
- e) Independently Registered Participants — A registered participant is a person who plays, coaches, umpires or organises Netball or who is in any way concerned or connected with Netball. An Independently Registered Participant must be a member of England Netball through the County Association.
- f) Honorary Officers
- g) Honorary President, Honorary Vice-Presidents, Life Members

4.2 Associate Members — The following are eligible: -

- a) A Company, Association, or Sports Club within the County with an interest in Netball (non voting)
- b) A Junior League who is a member of England Netball in the County established for players below the statutory school leaving age.

4.3 All members shall be bound by this Constitution and any other rulings of the County Association and by the current rules of the game.

5. MEMBERSHIP FEES

- a) Each registered participant as defined in 4.1a), b), c), d) or e) shall pay an annual subscription towards the expenses of the County Association together with the appropriate fees to England Netball and the Region.
- b) The scale and rate of the County Association's Subscription shall be fixed and agreed annually at the Annual General Meeting.
- c) All clubs that are members of England Netball through the County Association must ensure all players and officials are members of England Netball before they take part in any netball activity.

6. HONORARY OFFICERS

The Honorary Officers of the Association shall be:

- a) Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Officiating Lead, Performance Manager, Assistant Performance Manager, Competition Officer, Lead Umpire Mentor, Youth Representative, Coach Development Officer.
- b) The Honorary Officers must be registered participants and shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- c) All honorary officers will not remain on the Committee for more than five consecutive years holding the same office (except in exceptional circumstances to be agreed by a majority vote at the AGM).

7. CONSULTANCY POSITIONS (NON-VOTING)

- Communications Consultant
- Data Protection (GDPR)
- Umpire Organiser (For County organised events)

8. COUNTY COMMITTEE

The management of the affairs of the County Association shall be vested in the County Committee comprising of the following voting members: -

- a) The Honorary Officers
- b) A Representative from each league within the County, Basildon, Chelmsford, Chelmsford Junior, Colchester, Harlow and Southend.
- c) Five voting members shall form a quorum.
- d) The County Netball Development Officer who shall not be a voting member.
- e) No decisions outside committee meetings to be taken without obtaining agreement from a quorum of members. Any such decision must be reported to and ratified by the next committee meeting.
- f) All Honorary Officers are expected to attend all meetings.
- g) Dates of all the seasons' meetings will be issued prior to the start of the season.
- h) All members voting and non-voting are entitled to attend all meetings if they wish.
- i) The County committee may co-opt up to three members.
- j) The County Committee may form sub committees, shall determine their terms of reference and can co-opt members onto those sub committees. Such Co-opted members will not form part of the County Committee unless specifically invited under 7h above.
- k) The County Committee may fill any casual vacancy in respect of the elected honorary officers to act until the next A.G.M.
- l) If any committee member does not attend three consecutive meetings they shall be asked to resign their elected position. If there are extenuating circumstances the committee will have the right to reconsider the decision.

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

An Annual General Meeting shall be held in the first week of June each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted:

- a) Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting shall be read and confirmed any business arising from them dealt with.
- b) Presentation and adoption of the annual report
- c) Presentation and adoption of the balance sheet for the financial year ending on the last day of February.
- d) Election of Honorary Officers
- e) Election of the Auditor
- f) Alterations to the Constitution – of which due notice has been given.
- g) Any other business of which written notice has been given to the Hon Secretary, at least 14 days prior to the meeting

The administration of the Annual General Meeting shall be as follows: -

- h) The date and the agenda of the A.G.M. shall be circulated not later than 14 days before the Meeting to all Members entitled to vote.
- i) Nominations for the election of Honorary Officers must be submitted in writing 28 days before the date of the meeting and must be proposed and seconded by two members.
- j) Proposals for changes to the constitution must be submitted in writing 28 days before the date of the meeting and must be proposed and seconded by two members.
- k) A majority vote of eligible voters will decide all matters.
- l) In the event of votes being tied the Chair shall have a second and casting vote.

Persons eligible to vote at General Meetings shall be

- m) Clubs — 2 Votes per club
- n) Colleges and schools – 1 vote per England Netball membership for the organisation
- o) Independent Registered Participants

No person shall be permitted to cast more than one vote regardless of the number of organisations they represent.

Persons entitled to speak and if eligible to vote as defined in 9m, 9n and 9o.

- p) Honorary President
- q) Honorary Vice Presidents
- r) Life Members
- s) Associate Members
- t) Committee Members
- u) League Representatives. (One per league)

10. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

9.1 An Extraordinary General meeting shall be convened: -

- a) By order of the County Committee; or
- b) Upon written request to the Secretary from five or more entitled to vote at a general meeting.

9.2 Each requisition shall state the purpose for which the meeting is required and shall set out any resolution, which it is desired to propose.

9.3 The meeting shall be held within 28 days of receipt of the requisition by the Secretary and 14 days notice of the meeting and of any resolution proposed shall be given to every member entitled to vote.

11. TALENT ACADEMIES

10.1 The County Association shall be empowered to organise County and Satellite Academies in conjunction with the Essex Sports Partnership or similar body, representatives of the leagues and other interested parties.

10.2 The County Association shall have the power to appoint the coaches and assistant coaches and may agree any honorarium

12. ARBITRATION AND MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

If any dispute arises on the interpretation of this Constitution or the need arises to deal with any matter not provided for in this Constitution, reference shall be made to the Secretary who shall refer the same to the County committee whose decision shall be binding on all parties.

13. FUNDS OR OTHER PROPERTY OF THE ASSOCIATION

The County Association shall not be paid to or distributed among members of the County Association but shall be applied towards the furtherance of the County Association objectives. The County committee shall sanction payments to individuals other than petty cash expenses which will be sanctioned by the Honorary Treasurer

14. DISSOLUTION

The funds remaining will be devoted to other organisations whose objectives are similar to those of the County Association or to other purposes approved by England Netball.

15 DISCIPLINE

It will be the responsibility of the County Committee to apply disciplinary action, if deemed necessary for actions that may bring the County, or the game of Netball into disrepute. The county committee shall follow the procedures set out in the England Netball Disciplinary procedures.

16. FUND RAISING

All monies raised must be recorded and returns made to the County Treasurer.