**INTER CORPS LEAGUE RULES**

*The League Committee reserve the right to amend any League Rule or to incorporate a new rule if it is found to be necessary.*

**GENERAL**

1. In an effort to increase the profile of Netball within the Army it is proposed to introduce an Inter Corps Netball league. The Army’s Inter Corps Netball League will be held annually from Jan to Aug and will be made up of one league. The team that wins the league will be deemed the winner of the trophy and will hold the trophy for one season.

**ENTRIES**

2. The Inter Corps League is open to all Corps within The Army and all are encouraged to submit teams. Whilst it is understood that there can be a gulf in ability between certain Corps the fact that each team plays each other will allow those larger Corps to field teams that contain some of their development players when they play those smaller Corps. The Chairman of Army Netball will encourage the larger Corps to help balance the playing field when playing the smaller Corps. Whilst everyone will want to win the league in order to ensure that it remains viable the larger Corps need to be pragmatic in their approach.

Bedford & District Netball League Rules

**GOVERNANCE**

3. At all times teams will be governed by England Netball Official Netball Rules.

**TEAMS/PLAYERS**

4. The League shall be confined to members of the Army and each Corps must ensure that all players are members of their Corps.

5. Each Corps will be allowed to submit one team into the competition which will run from Jan – Aug annually.

6.  Players may only play for their own Corps and cannot play as a guest for another Corps. Any player who transfers Corps during a Season will be permitted to play for their new Corps but the Army Netball Secretary should be informed.

7.  At least one representative from each Corps should be present at the Annual General Meeting to arrange all fixtures for the forthcoming season.

**ILLEGAL PLAYERS**

8. Where a team has used an illegal player, regardless of the result, the offending team will not receive any points for that match and will be deemed to have lost the match by 35 goals and the team they were playing will be awarded six points.

**FEES**

9. There will be no fees charged for entry to this competition in order to encourage Corps to enter teams. The League Committee reserve the right to amend fees at the beginning of a season.

**TROPHIES/MEDALS**

10. A trophy will be awarded to the winning team during the Annual Inter Corps Competition. Both the Winners and Runners Up will also receive medals.

**MANAGEMENT OF LEAGUE TABLE AND FIXTURES**

11. The Army Netball Secretary is to generate the fixture schedule for each season. The fixtures draw will be made annually in Oct each year and distributed to all Corps Secretaries. On completion of matches results are to be forwarded to the Army Netball Assistant Secretary who will maintain the league table which will be available to view on the Army Netball website.

**MATCHES**

12. Matches shall be played according to the Rules of England Netball, which is 4 x 15 minutes with intervals of 3 minutes at the end of the first and third quarters with a maximum of 5 minutes at half time.

13. It is the responsibility of the home to team to arrange a suitable date, time and location for a match and inform the away team. All matches will be added to the official fixtures list and be eligible for duty status and Motor Mileage Allowance in accordance with the current Travel at Public Expense for Army Sport DIN.

**NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

14. Result cards will be provided and the both teams will be responsible for completing and returning to the Army Netball Association Assistant secretary within 1 week of the match. If a result is not received within the allotted time, from one or other team, NO POINTS OR GOALS will be awarded to the offending team.

15. If no card is received from either team the game will be considered null and void, other than in exceptional circumstances at the League Committee's discretion.

**POSTPONEMENT OF MATCHES**

16. Matches may only be postponed for Ice, Snow or Fog. A team unable to play a match for any other reason will forfeit the points. The Army Netball Assistant Secretary must be notified of these postponed matches. Where possible postponed matches should be played within 3 playing weeks of the original fixture. This period may include the playing of the match on a Saturday/Sunday, but only when both teams are in agreement.

17. The Home Team is responsible for the re-arrangement of the postponed match and must give at least two additional dates within the 3 playing weeks of the original fixture. The two dates offered must not include any dates on which the other team already has a fixture. Where this proves impossible, because either team is already playing two matches in each of the 3 playing weeks, the matter should be referred to the Army Secretary.

18. Where it has been necessary to rearrange a game due to bad weather or another reason approved by the committee, once the date for the rearranged game has been agreed both teams must confirm this with the Army Netball Assistant Secretary. If either team is then unable to fulfil the commitment they will be regarded as having conceded the game and the relevant points and goals will be awarded to the other team.

**ABANDONED MATCHES**

19. Matches may only be abandoned in exceptional circumstances. The decision to abandon will rest with the match umpires. If a match is abandoned before half time the match will be rearranged, without reference to the Army Netball Secretary provided that the Army Netball Assistant Secretary is informed by the home team within 48 hours. Should the losing team not wish to rearrange the match the result will stand at the time of abandonment.

20. If the match is abandoned after half time the score will stand at the time of abandonment unless an appeal is made within 48 hours for a replay and this is upheld by the League committee. When such an appeal is received the Army Netball Assistant Secretary will notify the opposing team that an appeal has been lodged.

**LATE ARRIVALS**

21. In the event of one team being incomplete because of the late arrival of players, the complete team shall wait a maximum of 10 minutes from the original starting time and may then claim 6 points if the offending team is unready or unwilling to play as an incomplete team.

22. In the event of the umpire arriving late and the match unable to commence at the correct start time, the match may, with the agreement of both teams, be played at the later time when the umpire arrives. If this is not possible then the match should be rearrange and the Army Netball Assistant Secretary is to be informed.

**FACILITIES FOR PLAY/BOOKING OF COURTS**

23. All matches are to be arranged by the home team and it is their responsibility to book the playing facilities and officials.

**POINTS AWARDED**

24. **Points will be awarded as shown below:**

a.  Six points for a win, four points for a draw, three points for a team being within five goals of winning team’s total, two points for reaching 50% or over winning team’s total, one point for a loss and NO POINTS for conceding a match.

b. Teams conceding matches will be deemed to have lost that game by 35 goals and be awarded no points. Six points and 35 goals will be awarded to the non-offending team.

c. All teams must ensure they fulfil their fixture commitments. Teams may only concede 3 matches, during any one season. Any further conceded matches will result in the team being withdrawn from the League for that season.

*The HOME team is responsible for contacting the Army Netball Assistant Secretary and informing them of the cancellation of the match.*

**UMPIRES**

25. This competition is the ideal opportunity for the Army to develop its current crop of umpires and also introduce new umpires to competitive fixtures. To that end each Corps is to provide and umpire for each fixture they participate in. Only qualified officials should be used, where teams arrive and only one qualified official is available the game may go ahead with the approval of both teams. If no officials are available then the game should be re-arranged, but if both teams decide to play using club players as officials then the result will stand as both teams agreed to play. When officials have not turned up for a game then the Army Netball Secretary should be notified.

24. Where a Corps is unable to provide an umpire they are to contact the Assistant Netball Secretary at least 3 weeks ahead of the fixture and Army netball will endeavour to assist.

**SCORERS**

26. Each team will supply a scorer for all their league matches. Scorers can change at half time only in the event of illness. **Scores must adhere to the following rules:**

1. Scorers must not be involved with their team bench during the match.
2. Scorers must neither coach nor encourage their team during the match.
3. Both Scorers will stand and work together at a place designated by the Umpires.
4. Before the start of play, each team will provide their Scorer with their official results card, on which will be recorded the names of the players for that match.
5. Both Scorers will record each goal scored as they occur.
6. Scorers will notify the team Captains of the final score and sign the official results card at the end of the match.
7. In the event of a team not supplying a scorer, 2 points will be deducted from their league total.

**DRESS**

27**. ALL TEAMS MUST WEAR "PLACE BIBS"** clearly marked front and back (note England Netball Official Netball Rules - Page 9, Rule 1.4.2.).

28. If a team arrives at a match without a whole set of bibs, this must be noted on the Result Card by the two umpires. Should this occur a second time, 1 point will be deducted from that team's total league points.

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

29. **All teams are to adhere to the following rules:**

a. No item of jewellery except wedding rings or medical alert bracelets shall be worn. If either or both are worn each shall be taped to the satisfaction of the umpires. No ear/nose or body piercing can be worn at any time whilst playing. The umpire will not permit the player to participate in the game until these items are removed. Taping will not be permitted.

b. No form of glove may be worm when playing netball. If, for medical reasons, gloves are required, the player involved must produce an appropriate medical certificate for the League Committee who will then determine whether to allow gloves to be worn. If permission is granted the player is advised to take out relevant personal insurance. Gloves must be plain, soft leather type, seamless or with internal seams and umpires must be satisfied that they do not present an obvious hazard to other players.

c. Fitbits are not to be worn.

d. Fingernails shall be cut short. (England Netball Page 10 Rule l.4.5.).

Guidance on acrylic nails – the rule clearly states that finger nails shall be short and smooth. If fingernails conform to this rule the player may participate whether their nails are square or round. If a player is wearing acrylic nails which do not conform to this rule, then they cannot participate. If the acrylic nails do conform to the rule and the player subsequently suffers damage to their nail(s) then they must understand that their participation is at their own risk and they would not be covered by England Netball insurance.

e**.** Pregnant Players: Pregnant players must not take part in match play beyond the 12th week of pregnancy

**APPEALS COMMITTEE**

30. The League Committee may appoint an Appeals Committee to adjudicate on any appeal received against a decision taken by the League Committee. Any such appeal must be received in writing by the League Secretary within 28 days of notification of the League decision.