



# GRIMSBY AND DISTRICT SENIOR NETBALL LEAGUE

## 1. Constitution

## 2. Name

The league shall be named Grimsby and District Senior Netball League (GDSNL) and shall be members to England Netball. All matches and tournaments shall be played according to the rules of that association.

## 3. Boundaries

League shall encompass the geographical boundaries of Lincolnshire.

## 4. Aims and Objectives

The objectives of the league shall be: -

(a) To promote netball within Grimsby and District. (b) To facilitate the arrangement of league netball and competitions as approved by the Committee. (c) To organise such financial support as the league may deem necessary and allocate such funds. (d) To facilitate the maintenance and improvement of standards of playing, coaching and umpiring. (e) To select or delegate selection of squads of players to present the league. (f) To implement policies and rules laid down by the governing body. (g) To foster and maintain links between all and any groups who are involved in playing and working for netball, including junior netball.

## 5. Membership

Membership should consist of officers and members of the league. All players and umpires must be England Netball members (with the exception of guesting rules for players)

All members will be subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining the league will be deemed to accept these regulations and codes of conduct that the league has adopted through the affiliation of England Netball. School girls who are Year 11 are able to participate in the GDSNL, in addition each team may include year 10's as per rule 20 in the Rules and Regulations. When registering players 18 and under dates of birth must be given. The England Netball Child Protection Policy Statement (see England Website) will be followed by the League.

## 6. Administration

The League shall be governed by a Committee consisting of a Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Fixtures Secretary plus any others deemed necessary to the running of the league. These officers will retire annually but will be eligible for re-election.

The chairperson will chair all meetings, be responsible for the smooth running of the league and in the event of tie, have the casting vote. In the event of the Chairpersons absence from a meeting, the acting chair will have the casting vote.

The secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes, arranging dates and venue of all meetings. The secretary is also responsible for the circulation of minutes which are to be sent best endeavours within the calendar month and all the relevant information to all club secretaries.

The treasurer shall be authorised to receive monies and make payments on behalf of the league and prepare a balance sheet showing the financial position of the league.

The fixtures secretary shall be responsible for the scheduling of all league matches and tournaments and the allocation of umpires. It is the discretion of the umpiring secretary to re-allocate games if deemed necessary.

## 7. Committee

The League will be managed through the Committee. All Committee members shall be members of England Netball. If not attached to a team/club, then the GDSNL will reimburse their affiliation fee.

Meetings of the Committee will be convened by the Secretary of the League and held no less than 4 times per year. All meetings will be minuted by the Secretary. It is an expectation that Committee members attend at least 2 meetings per year.

The quorum required for business to be agreed at Committee meetings will be 5 members.

The Committee will be responsible for adopting new policies, codes of conduct and rules that affect the organisation of the League.

The Committee will have powers to appoint sub-committees as necessary and appoint advisers to the Committee as necessary to fulfil its business.

The Committee will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the league's rules/regulations/constitution. The Committee will be responsible for taking any action of suspension of discipline following such hearings.

No new rules shall be made, neither shall any rule be amended, altered or rescinded unless with consent of two-thirds of the voting members present at the A.G.M.

## 8. Meetings

An Annual General Meeting of the league must be held during the first week of September of each year and any other meetings may be held at the instigation of the committee or upon written request of at least 10 members of the league. The Secretary should give at least 14 days' notice of any meeting.

At any Annual General Meeting of the league each member shall be entitled to one vote.

At any meeting instigated by the Committee each team shall be entitled to one vote and each officer shall have an additional vote in his/her own right.

Notice of any proposed alterations to the Constitution, nomination for the Committee and any other motion to be submitted to the AGM, together with names of the proposer and seconder (unless the motion is to be submitted on behalf of the Committee) shall be given, in writing, to the Secretary of the League at least 21 days before the date of the AGM. In the event of there being more than the required number of candidates for the Committee the election shall be decided by vote at the AGM.

No clause of the Constitution shall be amended, nor any resolution passed at a previous General Meeting be rescinded save by a resolution, of which notice shall be given on the agenda, passed by a majority of at least two thirds of those present and entitled to vote at General Meetings.

The Committee has the right to call Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) outside the AGM. Procedures for EGMs will be the same as for AGM.

The quorum for AGMs will be at least 75% of the number of England Netball Registered Teams within the Grimsby & District Senior Netball League

#### Special General Meetings

The Secretary shall convene a Special General Meeting at any time: -

(a) By order of the Committee. (b) Upon receiving a requisition from no fewer than 10 affiliated clubs, signed on their behalf by the captains and secretaries. Every requisition shall state clearly the reasons for the request.

A meeting called under (b) above shall be held within two months of the requisition. Notice of a Special General Meeting and a copy of all the resolutions to be proposed thereat shall be sent to every member at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.

#### 9. Finances

All Grimsby & District Senior Netball League monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the League.

The Treasurer will be responsible for the finance of the League. The financial year shall date from 1st September to 31st August in the following year.

An audited statement of annual accounts will be presented by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.

Any cheques drawn against the league funds should hold the signature of the Treasurer plus one other registered signatory. No two signatories from the same team, therefore there will be four registered signatories. In normal circumstances the signatories will be the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer with one further committee member at the suggestion of the Chair. In extenuating circumstances, the Treasurer will be excused from signing – such as illness or injury.

Winter League membership will be set by the England Netball which includes LNCA, EMNA fee. Summer League membership will be set annually by the Committee before its commencement.

#### 10. Awards and Trophies

All trophies which are the property of the league shall be administered and awarded by the league.

Any trophies belonging to the League that are damaged or mislaid shall be replaced to a similar monetary value by the recipient team. General wear and tear to awards will be replaced by the GDSNL.

#### 11. Discipline

GDSNL will follow England Netball Disciplinary procedures.

All complaints regarding the behaviour of members should be submitted in writing to the Chairperson.

The Committee will meet to hear complaints at their earliest convenience. The Committee has the power to take appropriate action including the termination of membership of Grimsby & District Senior Netball League.

The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against who the complaint was made within 7 days of the hearing.

There will be the right of appeal to the Committee within 10 days of the hearing following disciplinary action being announced. Further submission of new evidence shall be submitted by the appellant within 14 days to lodge evidence. The Committee will review the evidence and submit a response within 28 days of the new evidence being submitted.

Disciplinary action can be taken according to the above rules on all members regardless of the boundaries of the GDSNL.

#### 12. Dissolution

A resolution to dissolve the League can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through a majority vote of the membership.

In the event of dissolution, any assets of the League that remain will become the property of LCNA or any future organisation with similar objectives.

#### 13. Amendments to the Constitution

The constitution will only change through agreement by majority vote at an AGM or EGM.

#### 14. Conflict of Interest Policy

All committee members and officers must declare any personal or club affiliations that may influence their decision-making. In cases of potential conflict, the individual must recuse themselves from related discussions and votes. A register of interests will be maintained by the Secretary and reviewed annually.

#### 15. Data Protection and Privacy

The League will comply with UK Data Protection laws including GDPR. Personal data collected for membership, registration, and communication will be stored securely and only used for league-related purposes. Members have the right to access and request correction or deletion of their data.

## 16. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)

The League is committed to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion. Discrimination, harassment, or bullying on the basis of race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or any other protected characteristic will not be tolerated. All members are expected to uphold these values in line with England Netball's EDI policies.

## 17. Safeguarding Officer Role

The Safeguarding Officer is a designated member of the Committee responsible for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. They will act as the point of contact for safeguarding concerns, liaise with England Netball, and ensure compliance with safeguarding policies and training.

## 18. Sub-Committee Voting Procedures

Sub-committees formed by the League Committee must document their decisions and submit recommendations to the full Committee for ratification. Sub-committee members may vote internally, but final decisions require approval by the main Committee.

## 19. Virtual Meeting Provisions

Committee and General Meetings may be held virtually using secure online platforms. Voting during virtual meetings will follow the same procedures as in-person meetings, with attendance and quorum recorded electronically.

## 20. England Netball Code of Conduct Enforcement

All members of the League are bound by the England Netball Code of Conduct. Breaches will be addressed through the League's disciplinary procedures and may be escalated to England Netball where appropriate.

## 21. Declaration

The Grimsby and District Senior Netball League hereby adopts and accepts this constitution as a current operating guide regulating the actions of its members.

Name: Jackie Hewitt

Name: Vicky Smith

Position: League Chair

Position: Secretary (Outgoing)

LAST UPDATED: September 2025

### Updated Glossary of Terms

Term / Acronym	Definition
AGM	Annual General Meeting – a yearly meeting where league matters are discussed and voted on.

Term / Acronym	Definition
EGM	Extraordinary General Meeting – a special meeting called outside the AGM to address urgent matters.
EN	England Netball – the national governing body for netball in England.
GDSNL	Grimsby & District Senior Netball League – the local league governed by this constitution.
LCNA	Lincolnshire County Netball Association – County netball authority.
EMNA	East Midlands Netball Association – regional netball authority.
Safeguarding Officer	A designated committee member responsible for child and vulnerable adult protection, liaison with EN, and policy compliance.
Conflict of Interest	A situation where personal or club affiliations may influence a member's impartiality in decision-making.
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation – UK law governing the handling of personal data.
EDI	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion – principles promoting fairness and preventing discrimination.
Sub-Committee	A smaller group appointed by the main Committee to handle specific tasks or decisions, subject to ratification.
Virtual Meeting	A meeting held online using secure platforms, with electronic voting and attendance tracking.