



RETURN TO NETBALL GUIDANCE

All participants in Playnetball.com leagues are strongly encouraged to read this report in its entirety ahead of their first game.

Given the ever-changing nature of the virus, participants are encouraged to look out for updates via our social media channels and on our website www.playnetball.com

INTRODUCTION

The Government has now given permission for the return of community netball. To facilitate a safe return for all our staff and players, we have followed official guidance from England Netball where appropriate and have committed to carefully managing our netball activity so that the virus does not spread as a result. This is a collective responsibility and we ask that all of our participants help us by adhering to the modifications of both the game and our company procedures.

THE RISKS

In every sport and leisure activity, there are risks of COVID-19, and team sports in particular pose slightly increased risks. COVID-19 can be transmitted in 3 ways:

- Droplet transmission when in close contact with others
- Fomite transmission by sharing of equipment like netballs and bibs
- Airborne transmission which is a risk particularly when indoors

As part of the return to netball, we need to mitigate some of the risks to both protect our players and staff, as well as ensure that netball is not responsible for an increased transmission of COVID-19 more broadly. This guidance document covers many of these mitigations.

RISK MITIGATION

Playnetball.com have put the following in place to ensure your safety and mitigate the risk of spreading Covid-19:

- Appointed a COVID-19 Officer: Cassie Price, cassie@playnetball.com. Please feel free to contact Cassie with any concerns you may have
- Completed a Risk Assessment for all Playnetball.com activity, which has been shared with our venues
- Developed and activated a Risk Mitigation Plan, available on request from Cassie
- Adapted our own [rule modifications](#) in line with England Netball's major rule modifications which will be reviewed constantly and subject to change/updates as and when new information is received (more info below)
- Provided online and in-person training on the modified rules to all of our umpires
- Created an online registration page (www.playnetball.com/registration) for all players, old and new, and made this a mandatory condition of play, to enable track and trace should a positive case be found amongst our players

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- Supply of hand sanitiser at the courts, along with a health screening checklists and reminders of the rule modifications
- Produced a COVID-19 Addendum to our normal Terms & Conditions, available to read on our website: <https://www.playnetball.com/players-corner/terms-conditions/>

RULE MODIFICATIONS:


To mitigate the risks involved in playing netball, England Netball introduced a number of rule modifications in order to get netball back on. These rule modifications have been created with two key principles in mind:

- To protect the netball family by reducing the incidences where face to face contact at less than 1m distance occurs, particularly when this is 'non-fleeting' contact (3 seconds or more)
- To maintain a game that is not too far away from the usual rules of netball

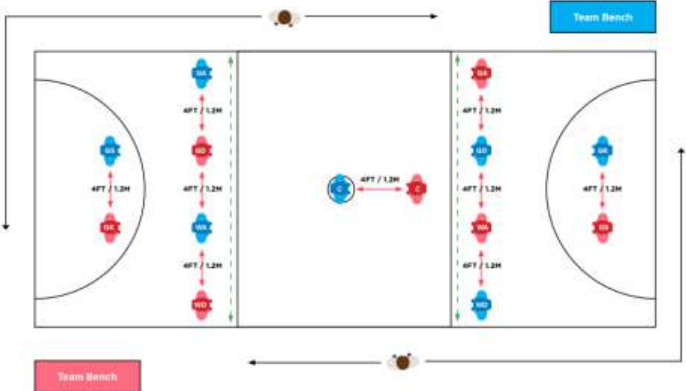
These modifications have been approved by Public Health England and the Government and represent the ONLY allowable form of the game currently. These COVID-19 rule modifications will be temporary; however, it is unknown how long they will be applied in England. Any updates will be shared with the Playnetball.com community via our social media channels, weekly emails and our website, www.playnetball.com.

Everyone involved in a Playnetball league must familiarise themselves with these rule modifications. For a more detailed description of each rule modification, please visit the [Covid-19 Rule Modifications page on our website](#).

RULE MODIFICATIONS



- 4ft spacing for the start of play
- 4ft marking – the defending distance has been increased from 3ft to 4ft.
- Removal of Toss Ups
- Removal of idle interactions
- 4ft position of penalised player



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Despite the changes, the modified games still looks and feels very much like the version we know and love. Contesting for the ball is very much permitted providing players are involved in the phase of play. Please keep an eye out on our social media channels for videos, hints and tips on playing to these new rules.

You will be reminded of rule modifications at the start of each game. Circle players must take particular care of adhering to the modifications in the circle and will be continually prompted to do so. All Playnetball.com umpires and site managers have undergone training on these modifications and will provide constant reminders from the side-lines before, during and after your games.

All match play and competition will be played to these rules until we hear otherwise from England Netball.

BEFORE, DURING & AFTER YOUR GAMES: Get In, Play Safe, Get Out!

This is a concept that we will be adopting and encouraging all participants to adhere to.



BEFORE YOUR GAME & ARRIVAL:

- All players (including fill ins) MUST be [registered with Playnetball.com](https://www.playnetball.com) BEFORE they play.
- Only attend fixtures if you do not show any symptoms of Covid-19 and/or are not living in the same household as someone with a possible infection.
- Limited toilets and no changing facilities available so please arrive ready to play, no earlier than 5 minutes before your fixture.



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- Remain socially distanced from each other while entering the venue and before your game. Specifically, you will need to line up 2 metres apart from one another when waiting to sign in. Use the hand sanitiser provided before and after signing in.
- When asked, line up on a side line for a nail check. This is also when your umpire will provide a quick briefing on the [rule modifications](#).

DURING YOUR GAME:

- Adhere to the rule modifications
- Exercise good hygiene by sanitising your own hands during ALL breaks.
- No team huddles - maintain a 2 metre distance
- Sharing of bibs should be discouraged and kept to an absolute minimum
- Sharing of water bottles and other personal items is not permitted.
- No shouting

AFTER YOUR GAME:

- Post-match hug circles or handshakes are not permitted. Players should ensure social distancing is maintained at all times after the final whistle.
- Captains are not required to sign the scorecard, they should verbally confirm with the umpires that they acknowledge the final score
- Umpires will share the scorecard digitally with Playnetball.com management and remain socially distanced from all players when noting down Player Points.

PERSONAL RISK

Whilst comprehensive measures have been put in place to reduce the risk of transmission, there is an increased risk associated with taking part in netball.

If you have underlying health conditions and are considered clinically extremely vulnerable or moderately vulnerable, there is increased risk in taking part in netball activity. If you are 60+, male, lower-socio economic status or from a Black, Asian or minority ethnic background, you are more likely to get seriously ill from coronavirus. [Read the full Personal Risk Assessment on our website.](#)

If you are unsure whether or not you are considered high risk, please contact your GP. Pressure will not be placed on players to participate or compete if they are uncomfortable with the risks associated with netball activity.

OPT IN STATEMENT:

By registering to play in a Playnetball.com league, you are agreeing to the following:

I have been made aware of the risks associated with netball activity and COVID-19 and understand this. I also understand there are some people who are of higher risk of contracting COVID-19.



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I am comfortable with the information I have been provided and opt in to participate in netball. I also confirm I understand the requirements and steps I need to take to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 through netball and agree to all these steps.