



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
- Provided online and in-person training on our safety measures to all of our umpires
- Created an online registration page (www.playnetball.com/registration) for all players and made this a mandatory condition of play, to enable track and trace should a positive case be found amongst our players
- Supply of hand sanitiser at the courts, along with a health screening checklists
- 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. **As of Monday 19th July 2021, and following guidance from England Netball, these rule modifications will no longer be in place and our leagues will revert back to the official England Netball rules (as before the pandemic).**



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All match play and competition will be played "as normal" unless we hear otherwise from England Netball.

BEFORE, DURING & AFTER YOUR GAMES:

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 changing facilities are available so please arrive ready to play
- Try to maintain some form of social distance when lining up to sign in and use the hand sanitiser provided.
- When asked by the umpire, line up on a side line for a nail check.

DURING YOUR GAME:

- 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.

AFTER YOUR GAME:

- Post-match hug circles or handshakes are not recommended. Players should try to exercise social distancing measures after the final whistle/when exiting the venue.
- 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 we are still operating with some social distancing measures, there remains an increased risk of contracting Covid-19 whilst 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.

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.