

**KENT NETBALL ASSOCIATION  
CONSTITUTION 2014 - 15**

**1. NAME**

The County Association shall be called the Kent Netball Association (hereinafter called Kent Netball)

**2. BOUNDARIES**

2.1 The geographical boundaries as at 1.1.1996 of Kent Netball shall include the County of Kent (the area governed by the Kent County Council and the Medway Towns Council) and the London Boroughs of Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich and Lewisham.

**3. AFFILIATION**

3.1 Kent Netball shall be affiliated to the England Netball (hereinafter called EN) and to the London and South East Region Netball Council (hereinafter called the LSERMB (LONDON & SOUTH EAST REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD)).

**4. OBJECTIVES**

Kent Netball is established to: -

- 4.1 adopt the rules and regulations laid down by EN;
- 4.2 co-operate with the EN and with the LSERMB to promote, encourage and develop the game of Netball and to act as a voting member;
- 4.3 plan and help in the growth of Netball within the geographical areas under its jurisdiction;
- 4.4 further the advancement of the physical and social education of young people through the medium of Netball and to create a link by which school children can pass from school into adult sport in conjunction with Schools, to organise and promote the playing of Netball in schools and for youth players;
- 4.5 organise and administer competitions and events for all Members;
- 4.6 keep a watching brief on Netball facilities within the County and to work to improve the facilities for the game of netball;
- 4.7 employ the funds of Kent Netball as shall be deemed to be in the best interests of the game:

**5. MEMBERSHIP**

5.1 Membership of Kent Netball shall consist of: -

5.1.1 YOUNG PERSONS GROUP

A Young Persons Group comprising of Registered Participants under 18 years of age (on 1st September in the year of membership) and up to 2 nominated leaders over 18, is eligible for membership and shall be entitled to attend, speak and vote at General Meetings.

5.1.2 SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

A school or college shall be entitled to membership through affiliation to Kent Netball and shall be entitled to attend, speak and vote at General Meetings.

5.1.3 CLUBS

A Club with at least seven Registered Participants, which is either a Netball Club, the Netball Section of a sports club, the Netball Section of a youth or community club, College or University is eligible for membership and shall be entitled to attend, speak and vote at General Meetings;

5.1.4 LEAGUES

## **CONSTITUTION**

A League whose constitution requires its member Clubs to be affiliated to the EN and County Association shall be eligible for membership and shall be entitled to attend, speak and vote at General Meetings. A League shall agree and determine its own constitution, provided it shall not conflict in any respect with the County Association Constitution;

### **5.1.5 JUNIOR LEAGUES**

Any Junior League established for players under statutory school leaving age is eligible for membership and if separately affiliated shall be entitled to attend, speak and vote at General Meetings.

### **5.1.6 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, they should be affiliated through a club or Association;

### **5.1.7 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

Any Company, Association or sports club within the County with an interest in Netball, shall be entitled to attend and speak at General Meetings but not vote.

### **5.1.8 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS**

Honorary Life Members of the Kent Netball Association shall be entitled to attend, speak and vote at General Meetings, they shall be affiliated to the EN by the County Association, Honorary Life Membership conferred by the Kent Schools Netball Association during the period 1970 and 1st July 1998 will be deemed to be Life Members of Kent Netball.

- 5.2 Application for membership by a School, College, Junior League, Young Persons Group, Club or League whose headquarters is situated within the Kent Netball Association boundaries shall be made by completing an application form obtained from the Kent Netball Association and returning it with the appropriate fee. The headquarters is considered to be the home ground or hired court on which the "home" matches are played, unless agreed by the Kent Netball Committee.
- 5.3 Application for membership by a School, College, Junior League, Young Persons Group, Club or League whose headquarters is outside the Kent Netball Association boundaries, but who are members of, and play within an Affiliated League, and with the agreement of the EN Management Committee shall be made by completing an application form obtained from the Kent Netball Association and returning it with the appropriate fee.
- 5.4 All Members shall be bound by this Constitution and any other ruling of the Kent Netball Association and by the current rules of the game.

## **6. MEMBERSHIP FEES**

- 6.1 Each Member shall pay an annual subscription towards the expenses of the Kent Netball Association, together with the appropriate fees to EN and LSERMB.
- 6.2 The scale and rate shall be fixed and agreed annually by the Kent Netball Management Committee.
- 6.3 Membership fees are due on the 1st September ANNUALLY. They shall be valid between 1st September and 31st August in the following year;
- 6.4 New Members may be accepted at any time on payment of the annual subscription;
- 6.5 In the case of each Registered Participant the annual subscription shall be paid via her/his Club;
- 6.6 Registered Participant who are registered through Clubs have the right to play netball organised within the Kent Netball Association;

## **7. PRESIDENT**

The Kent Netball Association shall be able to appoint a President of the Kent Netball Association at any General Meeting.

## **8. HONORARY OFFICERS**

The Honorary Officers of the Association shall be:-

President

## **CONSTITUTION**

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Treasurer

Secretary

### **9. KENT NETBALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

9.1 The Kent Netball Management Committee shall consist of: -

The Honorary Officers, Membership Secretary, Members with unspecified roles and the members representing the following activities:

Academies; Affiliated Leagues; Coaching; Competition; Clubs' Tournaments; Marketing; Schools and Umpiring.

9.2 The Kent Netball Management Committee shall establish technical working parties to handle the requirement of the members, where deemed necessary.

9.3 The Kent Netball Management Committee Members are expected to attend all relevant Committee Meetings. Any member absent for three consecutive meetings may forfeit her/his place on the Kent Committee.

9.4 In the event of a vacancy the Kent Netball Management Committee may appoint another eligible person to act for an appropriate period, but not beyond the next Annual General Meeting.

9.5 Five members shall form a quorum, which should include 3 Honorary Officers;

9.6 The Kent Netball Management Committee may invite any person having specialised knowledge to attend any meeting of the Kent Netball Committee in an advisory capacity without the power to vote, after consultation with the Chairman.

9.7 The Kent Netball Management Committee has the power to co-opt one further member in a non voting capacity;

9.8 Each member of the Kent Netball Management Committee shall have one vote; the Chairman shall have an additional casting vote if required

### **10. SUB COMMITTEE**

The Kent Netball Management Committee shall form the following sub-committees as appropriate: -

Academies; Affiliated Leagues; Coaching; Competition; Clubs' Tournaments; Finance; Marketing; Schools and Umpiring.

### **11. WORKING PARTIES**

The Kent Netball Management Committee may establish the working parties as deemed necessary to further the work of the KN.

### **12. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Association shall hold a General meeting in every calendar year as its Annual General Meeting, at such time and place as may be determined by the Kent Netball Management Committee.

12.1 A minimum of 36 days notice in writing of every Annual General Meeting, specifying the place, day and hour of the meeting, together with any proposed resolution, shall be despatched to those entitled to receive such notices from the Association. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of such notice, shall not invalidate any resolution passed or proceeding held at any meeting;

12.2 Business to be transacted shall be: -

12.2.1 to receive reports and accounts over the past season;

12.2.2 to elect Honorary Officers and Kent Netball Committee Members;

12.2.3 to consider any proposed resolution submitted in writing 28 days before the date of the meeting, which has been proposed and seconded by two members entitled to vote;

## **CONSTITUTION**

- 12.2.4 to appoint an auditor;
- 12.2.5 any other relevant business;
- 12.3 Nominations for the election of Honorary Officers and Kent Netball Committee Members may be proposed and seconded by two members entitled to vote at such meeting.
  - 12.3.1 Written notice of such nomination, stating the name and address of each nominee and of the proposer and seconder must reach the Secretary 28 days prior to the meeting.
  - 12.3.2 Should there be no written nominations by the notice period, nominations can be taken from the floor;
- 12.4 In the event of there being more than one candidate for any of the said Officers, an election shall be held at the Annual General Meeting.
- 12.5 At any General Meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting may be decided on a show of hands, unless before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands a poll is demanded. Unless a Poll is taken, the declaration of the result of a show of hands by the Chairman of the meeting shall be final. In the case of an equality of votes whether on a show of hands or on a poll the Chairman of the Meeting shall be entitled to a second and/or casting vote;
- 12.6 A Poll may also be demanded by the Chairman of the Meeting;
- 12.7 Persons eligible to vote at General Meetings shall be: -
  - 12.7.1 Young Persons Group 1 vote each
  - 12.7.2 Schools and Colleges 1 vote each
  - 12.7.3 Clubs 1 vote each
  - 12.7.4 Leagues 1 vote each
  - 12.7.5 Junior Leagues 1 vote each
  - 12.7.6 Registered Participants 1 vote each
  - 12.7.7 Existing Honorary Officers & Kent Netball Management Committee Members 1 vote each
  - 12.7.8 Kent Netball Life Members 1 vote each

No person shall be permitted to more than one vote each except in the case of an equality of votes when the Chairman of the meeting shall be entitled to a second or casting vote. A quorum shall consist of 15 voting Members.

### **13. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

- 13.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened by order of the Kent Management Netball Committee, or upon written request to the Secretary from 20 Members or more of those entitled to vote at a General Meeting;
- 13.2 Each requisition shall state the purpose for which a Meeting is required and shall set out any resolution which it is desired to propose.
- 13.3 The meeting shall be held within 28 days of receipt of the request by the Secretary and 14 days notice of the meeting and resolution proposed shall be given to every Member entitled to vote.
- 13.4 If the Kent Netball Management Committee has convened the Meeting the quorum shall be 15 voting members. If convened by Members the quorum shall be 50% of those who convened the meeting.

### **14. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- 14.1 Proposals to alter the constitution at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary 28 days before the AGM and shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another member entitled to vote at General Meetings.

### **15. BYELAWS**

- 15.1 The Kent Netball Management Committee shall have the power from time to time to alter, add to and revoke byelaws of the Association for the carrying out of the objects and purposes of the Association.

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **16. INDEMNITY**

- 16.1 Any Honorary Officer and any Member of the Kent Netball Management Committee and/or its sub-committees shall be indemnified by the Kent Netball Association against all costs and losses which she/he may incur or sustain in relation to the execution of the duties of her/his office, or by reason of any duty performed for or with the authority of the Kent Netball Management Committee, only up to the limit of the bank balances of the Association.

### **17. DISCIPLINARY POWERS, PROCEDURES AND APPEALS**

- 17.1 A Member or Registered Participant shall be liable to disciplinary action in accordance with this Constitution, and also the relevant Byelaws, in any following instances:
- 17.1.1 any refusal or neglect to comply with the Constitution, or with the Byelaws (or any Regulation or Standing Orders made pursuant thereto) of Kent Netball
  - 17.1.2 any failure to abide by the terms of any agreement related to Members or the provision of facilities entered into by the Association.
  - 17.1.3 if he or she has been guilty of misconduct considered by the Investigation Committee appointed in accordance with clause 18.2.1 in its discretion, to bring discredit, or be prejudicial, to the interest of Kent Netball or the game of Netball;
  - 17.1.4 where drug testing has indicated the presence of a prohibited substance, or there is evidence of the use of a prohibited technique.
- 17.2 The Kent Netball Management Committee shall, in each year, have the power to appoint:
- 17.2.1 an Investigation Committee composed of Members of Kent Netball and including at least one person who is not a member of the Kent Netball Management Committee nor normally attends Kent Netball Management Committee meetings;
  - 17.2.2 a Disciplinary Committee composed of an individual not a member of Kent Netball and Members of Kent Netball. It shall be empowered to determine such disciplinary sanctions or make such orders against a defendant as it considers appropriate. No person who has been a member of an Investigation Committee examining or inquiring into a particular complaint (or previously involved in a decision to discipline the Members or Registered Participant) may sit on a Disciplinary Committee which hears that particular complaint
  - 17.2.3 an Appeal Committee composed of those Honorary Officers of the Association who have not served on either the Investigation Committee or the Disciplinary Committee concerned with the subject of an appeal; or such other person(s), who has/have not served on either of the aforementioned committees concerned with the subject of the appeal, appointed by the Kent Netball Management Committee. The Appeal Committee may affirm, vary or rescind any disciplinary sanction or order of the Disciplinary Committee and may substitute any other sanction or order, as it considers appropriate. The decision of the Appeal Committee shall be final and binding on all parties and on all Members of Kent Netball.
- 17.3 It is the duty of Members and Registered Participants to report to Kent Netball all cases of misconduct likely to bring the game into disrepute.
- 17.4 When any facts or matters are brought to the attention of Kent Netball, indicating that a Member or Registered Participant may have become liable to disciplinary action as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the Chairman to lay the complaint before an Investigation Committee.
- 17.5 Kent Netball reserves the right to take disciplinary action in cases of misconduct by Members and Registered Participants brought to its attention by the Police Authorities.

### **18. INSURANCE**

- 18.1 Kent Netball accepts no responsibility for injury to any Member Registered Participant any loss or damage of equipment or property belonging to its Member or Registered Participants. Members and Registered Participants must arrange their own insurance at their own discretion.
- 18.2 Each Registered Participant (player, coach, umpire or administrator) registered through a Club, or Young Persons Group is covered by Civil/Products liability. Civil/Products liability cover insures members for all sums they become liable in law to pay as compensation for loss, bodily injury or death, disease or illness of any person, or loss of or damage to any property in connection with Netball

## **CONSTITUTION**

activities. It also includes any liability arising out of goods sold or supplied including food and drink.

- 18.3 Members and Registered Participants holding trophies owned by Kent Netball shall arrange to include the full value of such trophies in their own household insurance, to cover loss or damage by fire, burglary or accident. Should any trophy be lost or damaged the Club or individual holding such a trophy shall be responsible for their replacement at full value.

### **19. DISSOLUTION**

- 19.1 If at any General Meeting of Kent Netball, a resolution were passed calling for the dissolution of the Association, the Secretary shall immediately convene a Special General Meeting of the Association to be held not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.
- 19.2 If at that Special General Meeting, the resolution is carried by a least two thirds of the Full Members present at the meeting, the Kent Netball Management Committee shall thereupon, or at such date as shall have been specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the assets of the Association and discharge all debts and liabilities of the Association.
- 19.3 After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Association, the remaining assets shall not be paid or distributed amongst Full Members of the Association, but shall be given or transferred to some other voluntary organisation having objects similar to those of the Association.