**1. COMPETITION REFEREES**

1.1 A Competition Referee will be appointed by the <insert relevant LOC\*> for the <Insert competition>.

1.2 The Competition Referee will have the authority and jurisdiction to make decisions on any matters arising during the Competition Day¹ including, but not limited to:

1.2.1 altering or amending the playing schedule as necessary;

1.2.2 determining if there has been a breach of the Regulations and imposing an appropriate sanction (including disqualification of any individual, Player or Team);

1.2.3 maintaining, and being responsible for, a confidential Competition Referee Log Book (if appropriate);

1.2.4 enforcing the decision of any Medical Advisor including, but not limited to, the Competition Medic or the Competition Physiotherapist, regarding the participation of a Player and whether they are able to;

a) Start the match

or

b) Continue to play

1.2.5 adjudicating Instances of unsportsmanlike behaviour or behaviour that brings the sport into disrepute, including instances of Teams predetermining, or attempting to predetermine, the outcome of a Match and/or Competition Round;

1.2.6 determining the score should any Match not be concluded due to any unforeseen circumstance;

1.2.7 any matter not covered specifically within the Regulations.

1.3 The Competition Referee may call upon, or delegate to, additional persons to assist with the Competition or consult with other persons prior to making any decision. However, the final decision and accountability for the decision will rest with the Competition Referee.

**2. Competition Complaints Procedure**

2.1 On the Competition Day, all queries and complaints (a Complaint) should be directed to the Competition Referees in the first instance, which will be dealt with as follows:

2.1.1 Where the Complaint relates to the Competition format or management, including (but not limited to) the schedule, the opposing Team, playing surface or other playing arrangements, a protest must be made, before the start of the Match (or as soon as possible after the issue becomes apparent during the Match) to the Competition. The Complaint must then be acknowledged by the Competition Referee who will decide what action should be taken; or.

2.1.2 Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a Match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant Squad member or Team Official, must do the following:

1. Inform their opponents and the Umpires of their complaint;
2. Mark the Score Card with the words ‘Under Protest’;
3. Take the Score Card marked 'Under Protest' to the Competition Referee, straight after the Match;
4. Explain the issue in full to the Competition Referee;
5. The Competition Referee will decide what action should be taken.

2.1.3 The Competition Referee’s decision in relation to decisions taken under clauses 2.1.1 or 2.1.2 is binding apart from where parties to the complaint have the right to appeal the decision under Section 3 below.

2.2 Where a Complaint relates to the governance or administration of the Competition by the <insert relevant LOC>, such complaints will be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure of <insert relevant LOC>.

2.3 Where a Complaint relates to the behaviour of an individual Player or Team, volunteer or individual attending the Competition which could be considered as a Disciplinary Offence under England Netball’s Disciplinary Regulations, such complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures set out in England Netball’s Disciplinary Regulations and should be referred to the Disciplinary Secretary of the Appropriate Authority.

**3. Appeal of the Competition Referees Decision**

3.1 The decision of the Competition Referee in relation to a complaint submitted in accordance with sections 2.1.1 or 2.1.2 shall be final and binding on all parties save that a party has a right to appeal in the following circumstances:

3.1.1 if the decision of the Competition Referee has a potential impact on a Match result, a league table, or the outcome of the Competition Round; and

3.1.2 there has been a failure by the Competition Referee to follow or act in accordance with these Regulations and/or the Competition Referee has reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact.

These are the only grounds of appeal and any appeal must be submitted in accordance with the appeals process set out below.

3.2 An appeal should be forwarded in writing from the <insert relevant person> of the appealing Team to the <insert relevant LOC>.within seventy two (72) hours of the match.

3.3 The appeal shall be accompanied by a cheque for £100 which shall be returned if the appeal is upheld or if there are any other extenuating circumstances. The Competition Appeals Committee (CAC) will decide whether the extenuating circumstance warrant the cheque being returned.

3.4 The <insert relevant LOC>.will establish a CAC which will consist of individuals that are independent of and not connected to the Competition. One of those individuals will be appointed as the Chair.

3.5 The Chair of the CAC will send the appeal to the opposing Team and any other Team the CAC believe could be affected by the outcome of the appeal. These Teams will be permitted seventy two (72) hours, from the date the appeal notice is sent from CAC to submit any evidence or submission that they wish the CAC to consider.

3.6 All submissions and evidence must be submitted in writing. The Chair of CAC will have the discretion to determine the process, procedure and direction of the appeal.

3.7 The CAC shall meet and reach a determination within seventy two (72) hours of receiving all the evidence and submissions.

3.8 The CAC will notify all the parties that made submissions and presented evidence of its decision and any penalties and sanctions imposed within twenty four (24) hours of it reaching its determination. The CAC shall have the discretion to publish the decision through whatever means it considers appropriate.

3.9 The CAC shall have the delegated power of <insert relevant LOC>.to make all decisions and impose and enforce any penalties and sanctions (including but not limited to, reprimands, the deduction of points, fines, suspensions and expulsions from the Competition) relating to the appeal. There is no further right of appeal on this decision.

3.10 The procedures set out in this section shall be governed by the Arbitration Act 1996 (the Act) and amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of Section 6 of the Act.

3.11 The parties also waive irrevocably their right to any form of appeal, review or recourse to any court or other judicial authority, or under England Netball’s Disciplinary Procedures Manual or otherwise, insofar as such waiver may be validly made.

3.12 The seat of arbitration shall be England, the language used shall be English and the governing law of the regulations and these proceedings under Section 3 shall be English Law.

3.13 If the circumstances require a decision to be taken sooner than provided for by this section, and all parties to the appeal consent, the timetable within which an appeal is raised, submissions made and the decision taken can be shorter than seventy two (72) hours stated in this Section. In such cases the CAC shall issue a revised directions timetable which shall be binding on all parties.

\* = An LOC is the organising committee responsible for the management and delivery of the competition

Definition

¹ Competition Day is defined as the day(s) when a tournament is played as determined by the LOC