



WINTER CLASSIC – SRI LANKAN NETBALL SPIRIT TO THE UK COURTS

WINTER CLASSIC NETBALL TOURNAMENT 2026 TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

Tournament Date:

15 February 2026

Time: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**Venue: Hertfordshire SportsVillage,
De Havilland Campus,
Hatfield, AL10 9EU**

Organised by:

Netball Association of Sri Lankan Schools (United Kingdom)
(NASS (UK))

Governing Rules:

England Netball Rules of the Game
(except where expressly varied by these Regulations)

Applies to:

All Participating Schools, Teams, Players, Team Officials, Volunteers, and
Tournament Officials

Status:

Approved and adopted by the NASS (UK) Executive Committee
Effective from the date of adoption and applicable for the duration of the
Tournament

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Participation in the Tournament constitutes acceptance of an agreement to be
bound by these Tournament Rules & Regulations and the Winter Classic Netball
Tournament
2026 Code of Conduct



INTRODUCTORY NOTICE, SCOPE AND APPLICATION

1. Introduction

1.1 These Tournament Rules and Regulations (together, “the Rules”) govern the organisation, administration, and conduct of the Winter Classic – Sri Lankan Netball Spirit to the UK Courts Netball Tournament 2026 (“the Tournament”).

1.2 The Tournament is organised and delivered by the Netball Association of Sri Lankan Schools (United Kingdom) (“NASS (UK)”) and shall be held on 15 February 2026.

1.3 The purpose of these Rules is to ensure that the Tournament is conducted in a manner that promotes:

- Fair play and sporting integrity;
- Player welfare and safety; and
- Consistency, transparency, and procedural fairness in administration and decision-making.

2. Scope and Application

2.1 These Rules apply to, and are binding upon:

- All Participating Schools.
- All Teams and registered Players;
- Team Managers, coaches, and other Team Officials;
- Tournament Officials, volunteers, and appointed contractors;
- Any other persons involved in, or attending, the Tournament where relevant.

2.2 Compliance with these Rules is a condition of entry and participation in the Tournament.

2.3 All matches shall be played in accordance with the England Netball Rules of the Game, except where those Rules are expressly modified by these Rules. In the event of any inconsistency, these Rules shall prevail.



3. Acceptance of Rules

3.1 By registering for, attending, or participating in the Tournament, all Participating Schools, Teams, Players, and Officials are deemed to have:

- Read.
- Understood; and
- Agreed to be bound by these Rules and the Winter Classic Netball Tournament 2026 Code of Conduct.

3.2 Responsibility for ensuring awareness of, and compliance with, these Rules rests with the appointed Team Manager for each Team.

4. Authority and Interpretation

4.1 These Rules are issued under the authority of the NASS (UK) Executive Committee.

4.2 The Independent Committee shall have authority to interpret and apply these Rules where necessary for the orderly, fair, and timely conduct of the Tournament, consistent with their express terms.



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Winter Classic – Sri Lankan Netball Spirit to the UK Courts Tournament Rules & Regulations 2026

Article 1 – Definitions and Interpretation

1.1 **NASS (UK)** means the Netball Association of Sri Lankan Schools (United Kingdom).

1.2 **Executive Committee** means the elected executive body of NASS (UK), responsible for overall governance, strategic oversight, and the appointment of tournament officials and committees.

1.3 **Tournament** means “*The Winter Classic – Sri Lankan Netball Spirit to the UK Courts*” Netball Tournament 2026 organised by NASS (UK).

1.4 **Independent Committee** means the Independent Appeals and Oversight Panel appointed by the Executive Committee of NASS (UK) to:

- (a) oversee the orderly and timely conduct of the Tournament; and
- (b) determine eligibility disputes, complaints, protests, appeals, and disciplinary matters, in accordance with these Rules.

1.5 **Independent Scoring Official** means the individual appointed by NASS (UK) who is responsible solely for maintaining official match scorecards, results, and the points table, and who has no adjudicative or decision making authority.

1.6 **Participating School** means any Sri Lankan school whose Past Pupils’ Association (PPA) has registered a team to participate in the Tournament.

1.7 **Player** means any individual registered to participate in the Tournament as part of a team representing a Participating School.

1.8 **England Netball Rules** means the official Rules of the Game issued by England Netball, as amended from time to time.

1.9 **Code of Conduct** means the document titled “Winter Classic Netball Tournament 2026 Code of Conduct”, issued by NASS (UK), as amended from time to time.

1.10 Headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation.



Article 2 – Introduction

2.1 These Rules and Regulations govern The Winter Classic – Sri Lankan Netball Spirit to the UK Courts Netball Tournament ("the Tournament") organised by the Netball Association of Sri Lankan Schools (UK) ("NASS (UK)").

2.2 The purpose of these Rules is to ensure:

- a) fair play and sporting integrity;
- b) player safety and welfare; and
- c) consistency, transparency, and procedural fairness.

2.3 All participating schools, teams, players, officials, volunteers, and spectators are bound by and shall comply with these Rules as a condition of participation.

Article 3 – Tournament Objectives

3.1 To promote sportsmanship, teamwork, discipline, and fair play.

3.2 To encourage participation in organised netball within the Sri Lankan school community in the United Kingdom.

3.3 To identify, recognise, and reward outstanding netball performance.

Article 4 – Eligibility of Teams and Players

4.1 Team Registration

Each team must be officially registered with NASS (UK) by the published deadline. Registration is at the discretion of the **Executive Committee**, which may accept or reject late or incomplete entries in accordance with these Rules.

4.2 Player Eligibility

Each Player must:

- (a) be a member of the Past Pupils' Association (PPA) of the school represented.
- (b) be a registered member of **NASS (UK)** at the time of participation;
- (c) be aged eighteen (18) years or over at the time of the Tournament;
- (d) be resident in the United Kingdom at the time of team list submission; and
- (e) be registered with only one team for the Tournament.

4.3 Team List Submission

Teams must submit a final team list of no more than twelve (12) Players by 12 January 2026. The Independent Committee reserves the right to request evidence of identity, age, membership, or eligibility of any Player at any time prior to or during the Tournament.



4.4 Special Player Eligibility

A daughter of a PPA member may play for her mother's school, subject to a maximum of two (2) such Players per team.

4.5 Compliance

Failure to comply with these eligibility requirements may result in the Independent Committee imposing sanctions in accordance with Article 10, including disqualification, fines, or exclusion from future NASS (UK) tournaments.

Article 5 – Team Composition

5.1 A team shall consist of seven (7) Players on court and up to five (5) substitute Players.

5.2 Each team must appoint a Team Captain and a Team Manager.

5.3 A team must have a **minimum of five (5) Players on court** in order for a match to start or continue. If a team has fewer than five (5) eligible Players on court, the umpires shall award the match to the opposing team in accordance with England Netball rules as modified herein.

5.4 Additional registered Players may join play **after the match has started**, provided that:

- (a) the umpire has stopped play; and
- (b) the players enter the court in accordance with the umpire's instructions (e.g., at the next centre pass or stoppage).

5.5 on court shall be designated by bibs in accordance with Article 8 and these Rules.

5.6 Substitutions shall be permitted only in accordance with Article 8.

Article 6 – Governance Structure and Authority

6.1 The Executive Committee of NASS (UK) shall appoint:

- (a) the Independent Committee.
- (b) the Independent Scoring Official; and
- (c) England Netball qualified umpires to officiate matches.

6.2 The Executive Committee shall not intervene in:

- (a) match officiating or umpiring decisions; or
- (b) adjudicative determinations made by the Independent Committee, once the Tournament has commenced.

6.3 Match officiating, enforcement of match-day delays, penalties, forfeits, and the awarding of goals or points for lateness shall be the sole responsibility of the appointed umpires, in accordance with the England Netball Rules and these Regulations.



6.4 The Independent Committee shall:

- a) oversee the smooth and timely operation of the Tournament; and
- b) exercise exclusive adjudicative authority as set out in Articles 7 and 10, but shall not officiate matches or determine match results.

6.5 The Independent Scoring Official shall be responsible only for recording official scores, results, and standings as confirmed by the umpires and shall act independently of the Independent Committee when doing so.

Article 7 – Independent Committee (Appeals and Oversight Panel)

Establishment and Independence

7.1 An Independent Committee shall be established prior to the commencement of the Tournament.

7.2 The Independent Committee shall act independently of the Executive Committee and all participating teams when exercising its adjudicative functions.

Composition

7.3 The Independent Committee shall consist of not fewer than three (3) and not more than five (5) members.

7.4 Eligible members may include:

- (a) The President of NASS (UK), other Executive Committee members, and Patrons of NASS (UK), **provided they are not a participating Player and do not represent a Participating School.**
- (b) individuals external to NASS (UK) with relevant administrative, sporting, or professional experience.
- (c) representatives of Sri Lankan school associations not participating in the Tournament.
- (d) current or former netball players or officials, provided they are not participating in the Tournament and do not represent a Participating School.

7.5 The following persons shall not be eligible to serve on the Independent Committee:

- (a) any Player participating in the Tournament.
- (b) any team manager, coach, or official of a participating team.
- (c) any individual representing or affiliated with a Participating School.



Authority and Functions

7.6 The Independent Committee shall have exclusive authority to investigate and determine alleged breaches of:

- (a) these Rules and Regulations; and
- (b) The Winter Classic Netball Tournament 2026 Code of Conduct.

7.6.1 The Independent Committee shall have exclusive authority to determine:

- (a) Player eligibility disputes.
- (b) complaints, protests, and appeals;
- (c) allegations of misconduct, bias, or procedural irregularity;
- (d) post-tournament rule breaches and impose disciplinary sanctions, including the adjustment of standings or points where expressly permitted under these Rules.

Conflicts of Interest and Recusal

7.7 Any member of the Independent Committee who has had prior operational involvement in a matter, or who is the subject of a complaint or appeal, shall take no part in the investigation, deliberation, or determination of that matter.

Finality of Decisions

7.8 Decisions of the Independent Committee, made within the scope of its authority under Article 7.6, shall be final and binding on all Teams, Players, Officials, and Volunteers. Such decisions may be challenged only where required by applicable UK law or in the event of a material procedural irregularity.

Article 8 – Match Format and Competition Structure

Application of Rules

8.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with the England Netball Rules, except where expressly modified by these Rules and Regulations including permitted modifications to match duration, substitutions, player numbers, and lateness penalties.

8.2 In the event of any inconsistency between the England Netball Rules and these Rules, these Rules shall prevail.

Match Duration

8.3 **Preliminary Matches:** Preliminary Matches shall consist of **two (2) halves**, each of **five (5) minutes**, with a **one (1) minute interval** at half-time (5/1/5).



8.4 Semi-Finals and Third Place Play-Off Matches: Semi-Final and Third Place Play-Off Matches shall consist of **two (2) halves**, each of **six (6) minutes**, with a **one (1) minute interval** at half-time (6/1/6).

8.5 Final Match: The Final Match shall consist of **four (4) quarters**, each of **six (6) minutes**, with **one (1) minute intervals** between quarters. At the conclusion of full time, there shall be a **three (3) minute break** (6/1/6 – 3 min break – 6/1/6). Where scores are tied at full time, the match shall proceed in accordance with **Articles 8.7 and 8.8**.

8.6 Change of Ends: Teams shall change ends **at the conclusion of each half in two-half matches** and **at the conclusion of each quarter in the Final Match**.

Knockout Matches and Tied Scores

8.7 In knockout matches, a tied score at the end of full time shall result in two (2) periods of three (3) minutes of extra time.

8.8 If scores remain tied after extra time, sudden death shall apply, and the first team to score shall be declared the winner.

Late Arrival, Delays, and Forfeits

8.9.1 All teams must be ready to take the court at the scheduled start time with the required minimum number of Players (see Article 5).

8.9.2 If a team is not ready to take the court at the scheduled start time, the following penalties shall apply under these Tournament Rules:

- (a) the Umpires shall commence timing the delay at the scheduled start time, and for each full minute of delay the opposing team shall be awarded **one (1) goal**, up to a maximum of **four (4) goals**; and
- (b) if a team has not taken the court within **five (5) minutes** of the scheduled start time, the match shall be declared a **forfeit**, and the opposing team shall be awarded a **win and three (3) points**.

8.9.3 Notwithstanding any delay penalty under

8.9.2(a), teams must meet the minimum player requirement under Article 5 in order to commence play.

Substitutions

8.10 Substitutions and positional changes shall be permitted only:

- (a) at official intervals; or
- (b) in the event of injury or illness when play has been stopped by the umpire.



8.11 **Rolling or touch substitutions are prohibited.**

8.12 **All substitutions must be approved by the umpire prior to the resumption of play.**

Points and Group Stage Rankings

8.13 **Group Stage Points:**

- (a) Win – three (3) points;
- (b) Draw – one (1) point;
- (c) Loss – zero (0) points.

8.14 **Group stage rankings shall be determined in the following order:** (a) total points; (b) goal difference; (c) goals scored; (d) head-to-head result. In the highly unlikely event that teams remain tied after applying (a)–(d), the ranking shall be determined by a toss conducted by the team captains in the presence of the appointed umpire(s).

Article 9 – Uniform and Equipment

9.1 Team Uniforms

- (a) All Players must wear **matching team uniforms**, including tops, skirts or shorts, and bibs, in the official team colours.
- (b) Each bib must clearly display the Player's position on court (**GS, GA, WA, C, WD, GD, GK**).
- (c) Teams are responsible for ensuring uniforms are appropriate, safe, and compliant with these Rules.

9.2 Jewellery and Accessories

- (a) Jewellery, watches, hairpins, or other accessories are strictly prohibited during play for safety reasons.
- (b) Players must remove any prohibited items prior to taking the court.

9.3 Footwear

- (a) Only appropriate sports footwear designed for indoor or outdoor court use (as applicable to the venue) shall be worn on the netball courts.
- (b) Casual footwear, including but not limited to sandals, slides, flip-flops, fashion trainers, or playing barefoot, is strictly prohibited.
- (c) This footwear requirement shall be strictly enforced by the umpires and Tournament Officials.
- (d) Any Player who fails to comply with this footwear requirement may be denied entry to the court or removed from play until compliant footwear is worn.



9.4 Official Equipment

- (a) Official match balls will be provided by the **NASS (UK) through the Independent Committee.**
- (b) Teams are responsible for bringing any additional personal equipment needed for safety or medical purposes (e.g., ankle supports, knee braces), provided it does not contravene England Netball Rules or these Tournament Rules.

Article 10 – Complaints, Protests, and Appeals

10.1 General Principles

10.1.1 All complaints, protests, and appeals shall be handled fairly, transparently, consistently, and in accordance with the procedures set out in this Article, Articles 7 and 15, and the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness under UK sports law. Any breach of the **Winter Classic Netball Tournament 2026 Code of Conduct** shall be treated as a breach of these Rules and may give rise to disciplinary action under Article 15.

10.2 Method of Submission (Mandatory)

10.2.1 All complaints, protests, and appeals must be submitted using the official NASS (UK) Complaints, Protests, and Appeals Form.

10.2.2 The Form shall be available:

- (a) on the official NASS (UK) website; and
- (b) in hard copy at the Tournament venue from the Tournament Desk.

10.2.3

- (a) complaints or appeals submitted **prior to or after the Tournament** may be submitted electronically to the designated NASS (UK) email address (admin@nass-uk.com);
- (b) **all protests arising during the Tournament must be submitted in hard copy at the Tournament Desk only**, where they shall be time-stamped on receipt.

10.2.4 The official Complaints, Protests, and Appeals Form is the sole and exclusive method of submission under these Rules, and any complaint, protest, or appeal made verbally, by telephone, text message, social media, or other informal communication shall be invalid and rejected without consideration.

10.3 Complaints Prior to the Tournament

10.3.1 Complaints regarding Player eligibility, team registration, or compliance with these Rules prior to the Tournament must:

- (a) be submitted in writing using the Complaints, Protests, and Appeals Form; and



(b) be received no later than **seven (7) days** before the Tournament start date, unless otherwise permitted by the Independent Committee in exceptional circumstances.

10.3.2 Complaints must be accompanied by a refundable deposit of £100.

10.3.3 The deposit shall be:

- (a) refunded if the complaint is upheld; or
- (b) forfeited if the complaint is deemed unfounded, frivolous, or malicious.

10.3.4 All Pre-Tournament complaints shall be referred directly to the Independent Committee, whose determination shall be final and binding.

10.3.5 Complaints shall be investigated using official records held by NASS (UK), and all relevant parties shall be afforded an opportunity to provide information or submissions.

10.3.6 The Independent Committee may impose sanctions in accordance with Article 15, including fines, match exclusions, or bans from future tournaments.

10.3.7 If a school, team, or Player is found to have breached these Rules, the Independent Committee may impose sanctions including:

- (a) a fine of £200.
- (b) a ban from participating in any NASS-organised tournaments for a period of two (2) years.

10.4 Protests During the Tournament

10.4.1 A protest may be lodged only in relation to:

- (a) Player eligibility.
- (b) misapplication of these Rules; or
- (c) breaches of disciplinary or conduct provisions.

10.4.2 Protests shall **not** be accepted regarding:

- (a) discretionary decisions by umpires during play, including timing, substitutions, judgment calls, or scoring decisions;
- (b) operational or administrative matters such as court logistics, start times, or equipment management; or
- (c) procedural irregularities or delays.

10.4.3 Protests must:

- (a) be submitted using the Complaints, Protests, and Appeals Form; and
- (b) be lodged within **30 minutes** of the conclusion of the relevant match.

10.4.4 The completed form must be submitted to the Tournament Desk only.

10.4.5 Protests submitted outside the prescribed time limit, not using the official form, or relating to matters in 10.4.2 shall be invalid and rejected without consideration.

10.4.6 All valid protests shall be referred immediately to the Independent Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding.



10.5 Appeals

10.5.1 Appeals may be lodged only against:

- (a) eligibility determinations;
- (b) disciplinary sanctions; or
- (c) procedural determinations of the Independent Committee.

10.6 Post-Tournament Complaints and Rule Breaches

10.6.1 Alleged breaches identified after the conclusion of the Tournament shall be referred to the Independent Committee.

10.6.2 The Independent Committee may impose sanctions consistent with Article 15, including:

- (a) revocation of titles, trophies, or medals.
- (b) reallocation of placings or standings;
- (c) suspension or exclusion from future NASS (UK) tournaments; and
- (d) financial penalties were appropriate and proportionate.

10.7 Decisions, Records, and Communication

10.7.1 All determinations under this Article shall be recorded and communicated in writing to the relevant Team Manager or Team Captain.

10.7.2 The Independent Committee may request additional documentation, written submissions, or clarification as necessary.

10.7.3 The Independent Committee shall afford affected parties a reasonable opportunity to make written representations unless urgency renders this impracticable.

10.7.4 All decisions of the Independent Committee are final, binding, and not subject to further appeal, except where required by applicable UK law.

10.8 Timeframes for Determination

10.8.1 Where reasonably practicable, the Independent Committee shall: (a) acknowledge receipt of a complaint, protest, or appeal within 24 hours; and (b) aim to determine matters within:

- (i) 48 hours for protests arising during the Tournament; and
- (ii) seven (7) days for pre- or post-Tournament complaints or appeals.

10.8.2 If determination cannot be made within these timeframes due to complexity or exceptional circumstances, the Committee shall:

- (a) notify affected parties; and
- (b) provide an indicative revised timeframe.

10.8.3 Failure to meet target timeframes shall not, of itself, invalidate any decision, sanction, or proceeding.



10.9 Amendment of Official Records

10.9.1 NASS (UK), acting on the Independent Committee's determination, may update or correct official records, including:

- (a) Tournament results.
- (b) standings and placings.
- (c) awards and honours; and
- (d) related announcements or publications.

10.9.2 All such amendments shall be final and reflected in official NASS (UK) media and communications.

Article 11 – Medical, Safety, and Liability

11.0 Venue

11.0.1 The Tournament will be held at **Hertfordshire Sports Village, De Havilland Campus, University of Hertfordshire, AL10 9EU.**

11.0.2 All Teams, Players, Officials, Volunteers, and Spectators must comply with the rules, policies, and instructions of the venue at all times.

11.1 Medical Fitness

Teams are responsible for ensuring that all Players are medically fit to participate in the Tournament. Players should seek professional medical advice if unsure about fitness to play.

11.2 First Aid and Medical Services

11.2.1 First aid facilities will be available at the Tournament venue.

11.2.2 Teams are required to bring their own basic first aid kits, including ice packs, for use by their Players.

11.2.3 In the event of a serious injury, play may be stopped by the umpires and appropriate medical assistance will be provided in accordance with venue procedures.

11.2.4 NASS (UK) does not provide medical or personal accident insurance for Players, officials, or spectators, and does not cover any medical costs.

11.2.5 Teams and Players are responsible for arranging their own medical, health, and accident insurance coverage.

11.3 Health and Safety

11.3.1 All Participants must follow the instructions of Tournament Officials, volunteers, and venue staff regarding safety at all times.

11.3.2 Participants must report any hazards, injuries, or unsafe conditions immediately to NASS(UK) Official Tournament Desk or Officials.

11.3.3 Safety equipment, barriers, and signage provided by the venue must not be removed or obstructed.



11.4 Fire Safety and Emergency Procedures

11.4.1 All Participants must familiarise themselves with the venue's fire exits, evacuation routes, and assembly points prior to play.

11.4.2 In the event of a fire alarm or other emergency, Participants must follow the instructions of venue staff, umpires, and emergency services.

11.4.3 Failure to comply with fire safety or emergency instructions may result in removal from the Tournament or venue.

11.4 Assumption of Risk

Participation in the Tournament is undertaken voluntarily and at the Player's own risk. By participating, each Player acknowledges the inherent risks associated with netball, including the risk of injury.

11.5 Personal Property

NASS (UK), the Tournament venue, officials, and volunteers accept no liability for the loss, theft, or damage to personal property, equipment, or belongings brought to or used at the Tournament. Players and Teams are responsible for securing and safeguarding their property.

11.6 Waiver of Liability

Except to the extent prohibited by law, by participating in the Tournament, Players, Teams, and accompanying persons agree to release and hold harmless NASS (UK), the Tournament venue, officials, volunteers, and Independent Committee members from any claim, liability, or loss arising out of participation, including injury, illness, or property loss.

11.7 Compliance with Law

Nothing in this Article limits liability for death or personal injury caused by negligence, or liability arising under UK law that cannot be excluded.

Article 12 – Awards

12.1 Team Awards

The following team awards shall be presented at the conclusion of the Tournament:

- (a) **Champion** – awarded to the team finishing first in the Tournament.
- (b) **Runner-Up** – awarded to the team finishing second in the Tournament.
- (c) **Second Runner-Up** – awarded to the team finishing third in the Tournament.

12.2 Special Individual and Team Awards

In addition to the team awards in Article 12.1, the following special awards shall be presented:



- (a) **Most Valuable Player (MVP – Player of the Tournament).**
- (b) **Best Shooter.**
- (c) **Best Defender.**
- (d) **Best Centre Court Player.**
- (e) **Fair Play Team Award.**

12.3 Criteria and Eligibility

12.3.1 Special awards shall be determined by NASS (UK) based on performance, sportsmanship, and compliance with these Rules.

12.3.2 Teams or Players found to be in breach of these Rules, or subject to disciplinary sanctions under Article 10, may be deemed ineligible for awards at the discretion of NASS (UK).

12.3.3 In determining award recipients, consideration may be given to on-court conduct, respect for officials, and adherence to the spirit of fair play.

12.4 Finality of Awards

All decisions relating to awards are final and binding. No appeal or protest shall be permitted in respect of the granting, withholding, or allocation of any award.

Article 13 – Miscellaneous and Adoption

13.1 Interpretation and Application

The Independent Committee may interpret and apply these Rules where necessary for the orderly, fair, and timely conduct of the Tournament, provided such interpretation is consistent with the express provisions of these Rules.

13.2 Matters Not Covered

Any matter not expressly covered by these Rules shall be resolved by the Independent Committee in accordance with:

- (a) the principles of fairness, integrity, and proportionality; and
- (b) the spirit of the game of netball and standard competition practices.

13.3 Issuance and Acknowledgment

These Rules and Regulations, together with the Winter Classic Netball Tournament 2026 Code of Conduct, shall be issued to each participating team via the appointed Team Manager. By registering for and participating in the Tournament, all Players, Team Officials, volunteers, and Participating Schools acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agree to be bound by them.

13.4 Team Manager Responsibility

The Team Manager shall ensure that all registered Players and team officials are informed of, understand, and comply with these Rules and the Code of Conduct.



13.5 Adoption and Commencement

These Rules and Regulations are adopted by resolution of the NASS (UK) Executive Committee pursuant to its governance powers and shall take effect immediately upon adoption. Participation in the Tournament constitutes acceptance of and agreement to be bound by these Rules. The Executive Committee may, at its discretion, report the adoption of these Rules to the membership at the next Annual General Meeting.

Article 14 – Volunteer Officials, and External Service Providers

14.1 Scope

- (a) Volunteer Officials, contractors, and service providers assist NASS (UK) in the delivery of the Tournament but are not Participants.
- (b) Their responsibilities, conduct, and compliance requirements are set out below.

14.2 Volunteer Officials

- (a) Volunteers shall comply with instructions from NASS (UK) officials and venue rules.

14.3 Photographer

- (a) The Tournament photographer is an independent contractor.
- (b) NASS (UK) is not liable for any injury, loss, or damage relating to photography services;
- (c) The photographer has complied with all venue insurance and safety requirements.

14.4 Catering / Food & Drinks

- (a) External caterers provide food and drinks independently of NASS (UK). (b) Caterers must maintain appropriate public liability, employer liability, and food hygiene insurance.
- (c) NASS (UK) does not accept responsibility for foodborne illness, allergies, or other incidents arising from the consumption of food or beverages supplied by the caterers.

Article 15 – Disciplinary Sanctions

15.1 General Authority

The Independent Committee may impose disciplinary sanctions where it determines that a Player, Team Official, Participating School, or other person subject to these Rules has breached:

- (a) these Rules and Regulations; and/or
- (b) the Winter Classic Netball Tournament 2026 Code of Conduct.



15.2 Conduct Requirements

All Players, Team Officials, and supporters must:

- (a) display sportsmanship and respect towards referees, opponents, officials, and other participants.
- (b) avoid unsporting behaviour, including abusive language, violent conduct, or any action that undermines the spirit of fair play.

Team Officials are responsible for the conduct of their Players and supporters at all times.

15.3 Escalating Disciplinary Framework for On-Court Misconduct Where unsporting behaviour occurs during a match, the following progressive sanctions shall apply:

- (a) **First Offence:** Verbal warning.
- (b) **Second Offence:** Suspension from the match
- (c) **Third Offence:** Disqualification from the Tournament.

15.4 Principles Governing Sanctions

In determining an appropriate sanction, the Independent Committee shall consider:

- (a) the seriousness of the breach;
- (b) whether the breach was intentional, reckless, or negligent;
- (c) any prior misconduct;
- (d) the impact on the Tournament, other teams, officials, or the reputation of NASS (UK); and
- (e) the need for fairness, consistency, and proportionality.

15.5 Available at Sanctions

The Independent Committee may impose one or more of the following sanctions:

(a) Warnings and Reprimands

- (i) verbal or written warning.
- (ii) formal reprimand recorded for Tournament purposes.

(b) Match-Related Sanctions

- (i) forfeiture of a match.
- (ii) award of points or goals to an opposing team;
- (iii) deduction of Tournament points;
- (iv) reallocation of placings or standings.

(c) Financial Sanctions

- (i) Fine not exceeding £200.
- (ii) Forfeiture of deposits paid under Article 10.



(d) Participation Sanctions

- (i) Suspension of a Player or Team Official for one or more matches.
- (ii) exclusion of a team from the remainder of the Tournament disqualification from the Tournament.

(e) Post-Tournament Sanctions

- (i) Revocation of titles, trophies, medals, or awards.
- (ii) Suspension or exclusion from future NASS (UK) tournaments for a specified period, including up to two (2) years.

(f) Other Proportionate Measures

- (i) Requirement to issue an apology.
- (ii) Mandatory compliance directions or undertakings.
- (iii) Any other proportionate sanction consistent with these Rules and applicable UK law.

15.6 Collective and Individual Responsibility Sanctions may be applied:

- (a) to an individual Player or Team Official.
- (b) to a team; or
- (c) to a Participating School, depending on responsibility for the breach.

15.7 Decision-Making and Finality

- (a) All disciplinary decisions made by the Umpires or the Independent Committee are final within their respective jurisdiction.
- (b) Sanctions shall be communicated in writing to the relevant Team Manager or Team Captain.
- (c) Decisions are final and binding, subject only to Article 10 (Complaints, Protests, and Appeals) and applicable UK law.