

SWAN NETBALL CLUB

MEMBERSHIP POLICY



RECRUITMENT

We consider ourselves to be a community club catering for all abilities. We aim to ensure all players get access to training to meet their needs and to get the most fun out of their training sessions. Where possible all members will be given the option to play in some form of matches, but they do not have to.

In addition we aim to create competitive squads in each age group from the most capable players, with focused individual and team development. These squads will represent the Club at the highest possible level and be competitive in appointed leagues.

Currently boys are not invited to the Club.

Places at the Club are offered on a first come first served basis, except where priority may be given to players with siblings or relations already at the Club or where they are selected into a Performance Squad.

Coaches reserve the right to invite players to the Club, where they have presented a case to the Committee that the invited player will bring value to the squad. Such extraordinary invitations must be approved by the Committee.

Enquiries are often received centrally by email to the Club or by referrals. All enquires will be filtered by age group and given to the relevant session Lead Coach for consideration.

Players shall only be recruited to a session that is appropriate for their age group. Ages are assessed in line with England Netball Affiliation guidelines from 1 September in any given year. A coach may recommend a player, plays above or below their given age group for any reason. Such players shall be referred to the Committee for approval, which must be in agreement with in the Coach in charge of the proposed session.

Players may play up in matches for age groups above their age, but will not be permitted to play for teams below their age group unless they still fall into the league criteria for that age group (i.e. the league age group crosses two year groups and the player is of the higher age group).

Once a player reaches the age of 14 they will become eligible to play for the senior teams. This is judged by birth date not year group.

Membership Levels

Players may be selected to either a Performance or Development Squad at both Junior and Senior Level.

Performance Squads:

The number of players recruited to a Performance Squad will be determined by the Lead Coach, but will be no less than 8 and no more than 15 per age group / team.

Please refer to our Selection Policy for details of entry to the Performance Squads

Development Squads:

No junior age group shall have more than 30 active affiliated members and the Lead Coach for that group, reserves the right to keep numbers below 30 if they feel appropriate, particularly in the younger age group sessions.

All senior sessions will be limited to no more than 30 affiliated members whenever possible. Senior sessions may be split by team and held on separate training days to accommodate this requirement. If sessions are split players and/or teams will train with fellow members of similar playing ability to ensure the session gives manageable opportunities for individual and team development.

Development Sessions/ Age Groups under capacity or new sessions

Where Development Sessions are not full the Club Secretary and Committee will look to market the sessions through direct marketing, social media, school or sports partnerships and any means necessary to drive the numbers to a viable level. A viable level is considered to be a number where the session breaks even. The average breakeven level is 18 paying members per session. To ensure all sessions provide development opportunities and value for money for members the Club will aim to have a minimum of 14 players *in attendance* at each session. Numbers will be monitored regularly by Lead Coaches and relevant action taken such as inviting players from the waiting list to ensure this quorum.

In the event that a session does not break even and new members cannot be recruited within the next term of sessions, the Committee will review whether that session should continue and how/if current members should be accommodated.

When launching a new session, the Club will offer two free taster sessions to promote the new group. Previous enquiries for that age group will be invited to attend and the tasters will be promoted through the mediums listed above.

Following the taster sessions, places will be offered on a first come first served basis from attendees at those sessions. Coaches also reserve the right to invite individuals who did not or could not attend a taster session to join at their discretion, providing the number of affiliated members has not reached capacity.

Development Sessions / Age groups at capacity

In the event that a session is full then a waiting list will be created for that age group. The waiting list will be managed by the Lead Coach. A copy will be held centrally for general Club reference.

If a place comes up, players are invited in order of enquiry from the waiting list. Once contacted, they are given one week to accept the offer of a place. Once accepted they will be offered two free trial sessions before they are asked to commit to a place and affiliate to the Club.

In the event that an enquiry is unable to accept a place at the time of asking they may remain on the waiting list in the same position order and may be invited again if another place comes up. If they fail to accept a position on two occasions they shall be removed from the list.

If an enquiry fails to respond to an invitation to join after follow up, once the invitation date has expired, they shall be removed from their current position on the waiting list and placed at the bottom of the list.

All enquiries on the waiting list will be contacted every three months, to be updated of the situation and to be asked if they wish remain on the list.

Affiliation

A new member may have two free trial sessions before affiliating to the Club. After these sessions they will be required to affiliate with England Netball and pay for the remaining training sessions of the current period in advance.

All members must complete the EN Affiliation form by registering on the official England Netball website, Engage. A SWAN Netball Club Medical & Consent form and Player Code of Conduct (plus Parent/supporter Code of Conduct for U18s) must also be completed in order to become affiliated to the Club. Anyone who fails to submit the appropriate forms with appropriate payment, within the first half term of joining, may be referred to the Committee and prevented from attending training or asked to relinquish their membership.

All England netball membership information will be held and managed via the ENGage website under the SWAN Netball Club banner. All medical forms and Code of Conducts will be filed by the Lead Coach.

A player must have an England Netball membership and be registered with the appropriate League before they can play matches.

The Club Secretary will submit a list of all affiliated players to the leagues at the beginning of each season where necessary. If a player joins part way through the season the Club Secretary will submit an Additional Player form to the appropriate League.

Players may be registered to a team in a league for the whole season. The Lead Coach / Captain / Team Manager will select the players for each registered team at the start of the season. The Club must observe the rules of the given league as to whether a player can play up, down or move between teams part way through a season.

Retention

Lead Coaches are required to keep an up to date register of members in their age group, together with a register of emergency contacts and any notable medical conditions, injuries or medication. This register will also be held centrally in the Club files and should be updated regularly with any changes.

Members (or parents/carers of U18s) are asked to update the Club of any changes in personal contact details or medical situation and the registers will be amended accordingly.

Members will be entitled to retain their position in the club if they are injured or ill for a long period of time, providing they have paid their affiliation. In the event they are unable to attend training sessions and matches, their training fees shall be suspended until they are able to return. New players shall not be recruited in their place if that brings the total affiliated members above the capacity of 30 for that session.

In the event that there is a waiting list on a session and a current member fails to attend more than 50% of the sessions in any given half term, without valid reason, they will be contacted by the Coach and warned that they may be asked to relinquish their place if they also fail to attend 50% of the sessions in the subsequent half term.

In the event that player then fails to attend 50% of sessions in the next half term, the Coach may refer the situation to the Committee, who may sanction that the individual relinquishes their place. Under these circumstances no refund will be made of affiliation or training fees already paid.

Coaches reserve the right to hold a place indefinitely for a player if they feel there is valid reason for a player's repeated non-attendance at training.

Payment of Fees

Players will be required to re-join with the Club each year via the ENgage website. In the event that a player fails to pay their affiliation fee before the first session, of the new playing season, they will not be allowed to attend training or play matches. If there is a waiting list on that session they may be referred to the Committee and asked to relinquish their membership.

New Players must pay their affiliation after their two free trial sessions in order to continue with the Club. The affiliation fee will be the full season fee at any date of joining, except if they are joining after April 1st and they have not been an affiliated member of England netball in the last 3 years, in which case a reduced taster rate may be applicable.

It is recommended that training fees should be paid by standing order (SO) on the 1st of each month. Alternative forms of payment may be accepted but this needs to be discussed and agreed with the Lead Coach. All payments will be monitored on a monthly basis and non-payment addressed via the following escalation process: in the event that a player fails to pay their training fees by the end of any half term period, they shall be asked to pay all arrears, and set up a standing order, by the third week of the subsequent half term or shall

be referred to the Committee and may be asked to relinquish their place, or prevented from attending a training session until payment has been made.

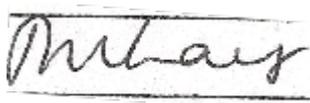
The Committee may take into account a player's financial situation and arrange a suitable payment plan to clear the debt in order that the player may continue with the Club.

In the event that a player relinquishes their membership and leaves the Club they will not be refunded any part of the annual England Netball membership fee. If they choose to leave part way through a term they may be refunded a pro-rata amount for any training fees already paid. Any player who wishes to leave the Club needs to give written notice. Email notification is suffice in these circumstances.

Providing a place is available any player who leaves the Club part way through the season, may return and resume their affiliation with the Club free of charge for the remainder of the season upon agreement from the Executive Committee They will continue to pay the appropriate training fees.

Please refer to Membership Fees for a list of current season fees

SIGNED:



DATE: **22.01.2020**

Name: **Julia Kay**

Club Secretary

SIGNED:



DATE: **22.01.2020**

Name: **Paula Evans**

Club Chairperson