Didsbury Netball Club
How We Work

Didsbury Netball Club is a community club, aiming to provide sporting opportunities to all young people from age seven to eighteen. We believe that netball as a team sport, and specifically participation in a club of mixed abilities, provides young people with huge growth and learning opportunities that spread way beyond the court and the technical skills they will develop there. As well as aiming for high standards in our sport, our club is about learning to be a team player, how to work with others and appreciating the different strengths that everyone can bring to a team.

Didsbury Netball Club is a community club, run entirely by volunteers. The club website (www.didsburynetball.co.uk) lists all the club's current officers and all club policies.

Membership

- The club offers junior netball for children aged between Year 3 and Year 13.
- In all age groups there is a maximum of 24 players per year.
- In Year 5 and above, the 24 players will be split between two squads of 12.
- In Years 3 and 4, the 24 players will be given more time to develop their basic skills and confidence before being split into a maximum of three, mixed-ability teams of between 7 and 9 players each.
- Waiting lists will be maintained for each year group once the maximum of 24 players has been reached; the only way to be added to the waiting list is to complete the registration form on the club's website. Only the committee can offer places to those on the waiting list.
- In younger age groups, places will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. In older age groups, the committee may consult with coaches and take players from the waiting list out of order so as to fill positional gaps within the existing squads.

Didsbury Netball Club
How We Work

- The club consistently has waiting lists in all age groups and demand for membership is high. We ask that those players who join the club demonstrate commitment to both training and matches. If a player is not attending on a regular basis, the coach will seek reassurance of their commitment, and in some cases a player may be asked to leave the club to make space for those waiting.
- Membership registration takes place in August every year through the club website; places are always offered to existing members first, then opened up to new members if space allows.
- All members must register via the club website; no other forms of registration will be accepted.
- All members must also register with England Netball via Engage https://engage.englandnetball.co.uk. Our insurance is arranged via England Netball and it is important that players are registered to be covered.

Trial period

- Those players who are new to the club and join mid-way through the year will be offered a two-week free trial, during which time they can attend training sessions.
- At the end of the trial period, the player will be asked to commit to the club, register with England Netball and start to pay subscriptions.

Subscriptions

- Membership fees will be set each year by the committee and communicated to parents in advance of registration opening.
- All junior members must pay monthly fees, via Go Cardless. Due to bank charges, standing order payments are no longer accepted by the club. The

Didsbury Netball Club
How We Work

fees run over 12 months, even though we do not train or play during the summer months, to spread the cost.

- The club maintains a hardship fund, applied at the committee's discretion, for any families that may struggle with membership fees or other costs associated with playing netball; further information is available from the club Treasurer.

Codes of Conduct

- The club's expectations of parents' and children's conduct is set out in two separate documents on our website. This includes the conduct of parents at games, during which they should not verbally disagree with the umpires or with decisions made by the Coach or Team Manager.
- The committee will review all concerns regarding behaviour and apply sanctions where necessary.

Coaching

- Each year group is led and managed by a qualified Level 2 coach. All L2 coaches also have a valid first aid certificate, a safeguarding qualification and are DBS checked.
- The role of the coach is to plan and deliver weekly training sessions, to determine squads and maintain an overview of their teams' progress and training needs.
- Only a L2 Coach can deliver training sessions (a condition of our insurance policy) and make coaching decisions, including squad selections and movement of players between teams.
- The transfer of players between teams will usually occur once or twice a year, at the coach's discretion in consultation with the committee.

Didsbury Netball Club
How We Work

Training

- Each year group is allocated one coaching session per week, based at one of the local high schools.
- Session days, times and locations will be set by the committee each summer, prior to the beginning of the season in September, and may change each year to fit with the availability of coaches and training halls. We try to keep change to a minimum but at least one year group will have to change their training day each year.
- If a player is unable to attend their own training session due to other netball commitments (eg. county or franchise pathway), they will be accommodated at one of the other year groups' training sessions within the club's weekly schedule. Very occasionally, players who cannot train with their own year group for non-netball reasons will also be permitted to train with another year group, but this will be subject to the agreement of all coaches involved, initially on a trial basis, and at the committee's discretion.
- Parents are welcome to attend training sessions for years 3 and 4 but should not attend older year groups unless specifically agreed with the coach.

Matches and leagues

- When the Coach feels that players are ready, teams will be entered into one league.
- Most Didsbury teams will play in the Sports for All league based at either Reddish Vale High School or Newbridge School in Oldham, with weekly Sunday matches over a winter season (September to February) and summer season (February to July). Some coaches may opt to play a team in alternative leagues, dependent on ability levels.
- Some teams may be also entered into the Greater Manchester Junior Netball League and/or the Sisters N Sport cup competition. These offer a much higher level of competition and the decision to enter any team rests with their coach

and the committee (not Team Managers or volunteers). Players will be charged a pay-per-play additional fee for these matches, as it's an opportunity that will not be offered to all members of the club.

- The administration of matches will fall to volunteer Team Managers. Team Managers' vital role within the club is outlined in a separate document on the website.
- Coaches will attend some but not all matches, in order to keep an eye on teams' progress and areas for improvement. When a Coach attends a match, they rather than the TM will manage the team and rotations.
- Team Managers and coaches will manage the availability of players for both matches and training sessions through Spond and parents need to update this so that teams can be organised.
- The club is charged cancellation fees if we do not cancel games with sufficient notice, so it is important for parents to confirm availability as soon as possible.

Club approach to participation and performance

- Didsbury is a community club, which does not trial for places; everyone who wants to play netball is given the opportunity here to develop and learn.
- Participation and equal opportunity are the most important pillars of the club in the primary years. In Years 3 and 4, coaches will work with mixed ability teams. From Year 5 onwards, it will be the Coach's decision about when each particular year group is ready to move to a more traditional 'A' and 'B' team model, and the coach's decision will be final. In previous years, some squads have moved to that structure relatively early, others waiting until Year 7 or 8, depending on the needs of each squad.
- In Years 3 and 4, teams play High Five netball, meaning that usually only seven players will be needed each week and some children will only play for two quarters of each match. However, this can be a valuable way of introducing

Didsbury Netball Club
How We Work

less experienced players and Team Managers will rotate children every week to ensure that time on the court is shared as fairly as possible over the course of a season.

- In Years 5 and 6, Team Managers will make sure that squads are rotated fairly and that equal playing time is given to all players where possible over the course of a season. In practice, this means that in a squad of 12, three players will not play each week on rotation; in each individual match, playing time may not be equal but it will be over the course of a season.
- From Year 7, the same rotation will apply to availability and selection for matches. Three players (in a squad of 12) will be asked to sit out each week, fairly rotated. However, during a match, the Team Manager will use their discretion and play the strongest team possible in order to try and win each match. This may mean that some players are on court for an entire match, whilst others only play one or two quarters.
- In older age groups, Team Managers may also make use of the 'rolling substitutions' provision, which means that players can be switched part-way through a quarter. This might be an opportunity for a Team Manager to deal with an injury or try a new approach.
- In Year 5 and above, priority will be given to selecting players who attended that week's training session.

Kit

- Dress code and kit requirements are set by the committee and will be standard across all age groups.
- For training, a range of Didsbury Netball Club sportswear is available through our partner VX-3: https://vx-3.com/collections/didsbury-netball-club. Training kit is not compulsory; any sportswear and appropriate trainers are acceptable for training.

Didsbury Netball Club
How We Work

- For matches, the club's kit must be worn. Our partner, VX-3, offers a range of inclusive match-day wear, branded for DNC. Options include netball dresses, skorts or shorts and vests. Match-day kit and socks are only available through the club; we hold a small amount of stock and will periodically place orders for new kit. Rachel Birks is the contact for kit enquiries.
- Financial assistance is available for any families unable to access kit.

Safeguarding

- The club's safeguarding officer is Rachel Birks and all concerns or queries should be directed to her.
- All coaches and Team Managers will report accidents or incidents to Rachel.
- All parents and volunteers, as well as players, have responsibility for safeguarding across the club, and all will be expected to uphold the standards in our Parents' Code of Conduct and Players' Code of Conduct policies.

Tournaments

- A number of tournaments are held around the North West and beyond and they can provide valuable learning and playing opportunities for our teams.
- Because some teams will enter more tournaments than others, the club will only cover the cost of one tournament per year, per team. Additional tournaments will be charged on a pay-per-play basis.
- Tournament opportunities will shared with Team Managers; entries will be made centrally by the club.
- The following is a checklist of things to consider for Team Managers interested in a tournament:
    - Date and location
    - Age group eligibility
    - Entry fee and registration deadline

Didsbury Netball Club
How We Work

  - Tournament rules
  - Whether or not an Umpire is required
  - Player and Team Manager availability.
- The club may be able to help source an Umpire for tournaments.
- The club has a gazebo available for tournaments, and teams might like to think about other useful equipment for the day, eg. folding chairs, picnic blankets, plenty of netballs and bibs, fully stocked first aid kit with ice packs.

Who to contact

- The club is run by a committee of volunteers (https://www.didsburynetball.co.uk/people).
- General enquiries, including membership and questions about leagues should be sent to comms@didsburynetball.co.uk. More specific queries can be directed as below:

Chair:	Anna McDonald-Hughes comms@didsburynetball.co.uk
Safeguarding Officer:	Rachel Birks safeguarding@didsburynetball.co.uk
Treasurer:	Lauren Fulton accounts@didsburynetball.co.uk