

# AYLESBURY & DISTRICT NETBALL LEAGUE

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Dear Secretaries

In our email of the 11<sup>th</sup> April, we informed you that we were awaiting guidance from England Netball to help us to determine how we would finalise the 2019/20 season. England Netball have now provided us with their support, and we have considered the options they presented.

Our first inclination was to conclude all fixtures as originally intended. However, at this stage the uncertain nature of the current health situation means we do not know when it will be safe and appropriate for netball activity to resume. We also had to take into consideration the time needed to prepare for the 2020/21 season - venue bookings, administration and registrations. In addition, our venues are not able to confirm whether we can re-book to conclude the season.

Taking all of this into consideration, the Committee have concluded that the fixtures cannot be completed by the end of June.

Instead, the 2019/20 season will be finalised using an Average Points equation to determine the final standings:

Average points - Average points gained from matches played this season.

*Divide each team's points total achieved so far by the number of matches they have played and then multiply this by the total number of matches they should play in a full season.*

We agreed to undertake this option as it provides the fairest way of finalising the League as a) all teams are treated in the same way, b) it takes into consideration that teams have played a different number of matches to others and c) it gives certainty to teams that the League is finished.

The other options that were considered and ruled-out were:

Finish the League as it stands - If all promotion and relegation positions in the league are already mathematically confirmed, then the league can be concluded as it stands.

This option was ruled out as some promotion and relegation positions have not already been mathematically confirmed. Additionally, this option does not take into consideration that some teams have played a different number of matches to others.

Head to head / play off matches - If any or all the promotion/relegation positions are not mathematically decided, head to head matches (where only 2 teams are impacted) or a mini playoff (when more than 2 teams are impacted) to decide who finishes in these undecided positions.

This is not a viable option as it requires extra matches to be played and this might not be possible due to uncertain nature of the current health situation and the unknown venue availability. It also does not take into consideration that some teams have played a different number of matches to others.

Expunge all results - Declare the league null and void. No winners and no promotions or relegations.

This was not an option as more than 70% of total matches had already been played.

Ending the season without fulfilling all matches is not ideal and there is no perfect solution. However, we have made our decision and have brought closure to final league positions by using the fairest and most logical way to determine the final standings.

Now that you have closure to the 2019/20 season, you can look forward to the 2020/21 – hopefully starting in September.

Kind regards,

ADNL Committee