

NETBALL FRANCE LIGUE NATIONALE 2024/2025

initial info pack

The Initial Info Pack is designed to highlight key information on the Netball France Ligue Nationale 2024/2025, not to be an exhaustive account of all information. We encourage all participants to also read the Netball France Ligue Nationale 2024/2025 Rules and Regulations, which contain a full detailed list of all league rules, including relevant contact details, paperwork, and any sanctions where they may apply.

Please note that all information is correct at the time of sending the Initial Info Pack but is subject to change. Any changes will be communicated to clubs as soon as possible. If you have any further questions or queries, please email ligues@netballfrance.com.

THE BASICS

Netball France, and the Netball France Ligues Work Group (LWG), are delighted to invite you to the Netball France Ligue Nationale 2024/2025!

As in previous seasons, the league will run as one competition, with one table across the country. There are no required dates for matches, and teams are not required to play all other teams or participate in all match events. Pre-registration for the league is no longer required, registering for a match counts as your registration to the league, and can be done at any point throughout the season. Flexibility has been retained in order to allow as much match play as possible in the current context of netball in France!

dates & fixtures

Season Opens (first day league matches can take place): Saturday 12th October 2024

Season Closes (last day league matches can take place): Sunday 29th June 2025

matches

All matches must consist of 4 x 12 minute quarters, with a 2 minute quarter time break and 5 minute half time break.

All matches will be played according to the updated 2024 World Netball Rules of Netball (updated 1st January 2024), except where specific league rules and regulations may apply. Please note that as a national governing body, we follow World Netball regulations, and piercings and nails are not permitted to be taped.

communications

Regular news updates, including scores, fixtures, and table updates, will be seen across @NetballFrance social media channels. Make sure to use the new league hashtag, #JouonsAuNetball and tag @NetballFrance in all your social media posts about the league for your chance to be shared on Netball France's socials!

TEAM ENTRIES

Any member organisation may enter an unlimited number of teams into the league, and may enter additional teams at any point throughout the season.



An entered team does not need to be associated with an existing Netball France member association. This allows groups of players to form and enter a team who:

- a) Are not yet an official association;
- b) Are split across multiple associations but who wish to enter together as a separate team;
- or
- c) Are part of a club who is not submitting a team to the league.

In the above case, such a team would need to register for Netball France insurance. Players are only insured through a member association's insurance when competing for that association, and therefore competing for another team will require separate insurance through Netball France.

Requirements for team entry to a match event:

- A Team Name (distinguishable from other teams in the same club)
- If a club has multiple teams, identifying which is their A/B/C/etc. team
- A Team Contact (Name, Email address and Phone Number)
- Proof of insurance for the team (or respective club) that covers playing netball in competition

insurance

Full Member clubs are covered by their Netball France insurance, provided by MAIF and included in their Netball France Membership. Associate and Emerging Member clubs must provide evidence of insurance for their club in order to be eligible, OR register for Netball France insurance.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

To play for a club, an athlete must be a registered member of that club.

While a player may be a member of multiple clubs, they may only be registered with one club per season for the purposes of the league. If a player wishes to change registered club during the season, for example due to a geographical move, they must apply to the LWG to register this change before playing for the new club. Exceptions may be made for Netball France Development Hub athletes, who may be allowed to compete both for their Netball Club and for a Development Hub Team.

gender

The Netball France Ligue Nationale is mixed gender, and all genders are welcome. However, host teams may choose to open their events to mixed and female teams, or female teams only. This will be clearly communicated on all event invites so teams can choose if they would like to enter a mixed event.

A team may have a maximum of 3 male players on court at any time, with a maximum of one male player in each position group (Attack – GS, GA; Mid – WA, C, WD; Defence – GD, GK).

number of players per team

There is no maximum number of players that can compete for each team throughout the season. However, each team can only field a maximum of 12 players per match. This could be a different



12 each match, although the LWG encourages clubs with significantly more than 12 players to consider entering additional teams.

playing up/down, or across different teams in the same club

The LWG recognises that participating in the league is unfortunately currently often time-consuming and costly, and as a result many clubs don't have enough consistently available players to be able to enter multiple teams with entirely separate squad lists, given their pool of available players can be very different for each event. The LWG is committed to the aim of providing more opportunities for match play and development of netball skills for all players in France, regardless of their experience. As such, for the 2024-2025 season there will no longer be any restrictions on playing up or down between teams within the same club, to allow maximum flexibility. We hope this will enable and encourage clubs to enter multiple teams, both into the league as a whole and to individual match events.

Please note, this change is designed to encourage more match opportunities for more players to enjoy the sport and develop their skills, not to permit the use of "ringers" or "stacking" teams to gain a performance advantage. We ask all clubs to respect the spirit and intention of allowing this flexibility. The LWG group reserves the right to revisit these restrictions during the season if it becomes clear that clubs are not making team selections in line with this intention.

medical certificates

All participants who are aged 16 or over must possess a French medical certificate that indicates they are healthy to participate in a netball competition, no older than 1 year as of the date of competition, to be eligible to participate in the league. It is a club's responsibility to ensure all players have the required medical certificate, and a player taking the court for a club will be considered as the club confirming they have the player's medical certificate as per the league rules & regulations. Medical certificates will not be collected by Netball France but must be made available upon request.

Athletes under the age of 16 are not required to provide a medical certificate.

age

The Netball France Ligue Nationale is an open age group league. There is no minimum age to compete, however any athlete under the age of 18 who will be competing must have filled out, with their parent/guardian and coach, an Age Band Consent Form and submitted this to ligues@netballfrance.com no later than one week prior to their first match. They are not permitted to take the court without a return email from ligues@netballfrance.com confirming their eligibility. Should an athlete under the age of 18 take the court without having followed the league rules & regulations, the match will be considered a forfeit by the respective team, regardless of the result.

FIXTURE ARRANGEMENTS

There are no required dates for matches, and teams are not required to play all other teams or participate in all match events.

Clubs may organize and host matches and match events/weekends throughout the season, to which they can invite all teams in France (open match events) or selected clubs (private match



events). Host clubs may choose to open their events to mixed and female teams, or female teams only. As previously, clubs wishing to host an event must submit an application using the online form, for the LWG to approve: <https://forms.gle/dRgsSDor11414T5PA>

The LWG will then send out and publicise match invites. Invites to all open match events will be sent to all clubs via e-mail and WhatsApp, and information posted on Netball France social media channels. Clubs may then use the links provided in the invite to submit teams to attend. Attendance will be limited to a maximum number of teams per event, depending on available court space, and time/schedule as determined by the host club. Attending teams will be determined by the LWG, taking into account but not limited to topics such as the need for qualifying matches, the number of matches a team has played, etc. Teams will be considered individual entities, therefore it is possible that one or multiple teams from the same club may be accepted to an event.

For the 2024-2025 season, in addition to the above events organized independently by clubs, the LWG will be liaising with host clubs and venues with the aim of coordinating an advance calendar of a few core match weekends, details of which will be announced throughout the season as they're confirmed. Attendance at these events is not obligatory to participate in the league, but it is hoped that more advance notice and balanced spacing of events throughout the season will enable teams to participate in more matches with a greater variety of opposition.

Teams arranging private match events between clubs must also apply (in advance) to have the result recognized by the league via the online form: <https://forms.gle/dRgsSDor11414T5PA>

MATCH & TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

Each team must provide at least one umpire from their own Netball Club or should arrange for an umpire from another Netball Club to umpire their match(es). Umpires must be non-playing in the match they are umpiring. In the event the team is unable to source an umpire for the match, the team will be required to forfeit the match.

Umpires must be non-playing in the match they are umpiring.

It is not required for umpires to be qualified or have had training, however they are highly encouraged to participate in umpire training as soon as it is available from Netball France.

Each team must provide one (ideally non-playing in the match) Technical Official (scorer/timekeeper) per match. The two technical officials will stand and work together during the match. There is currently no required training for Technical Officials.

One official Netball France scorecard must be completed, checked and signed at the end of the match by both technical officials, both team captains, and both umpires.

Please Note: Participation in the league is considered as acknowledgement and acceptance that umpires may not be qualified and that standards may vary while umpire development is ongoing. All umpire decisions are final, and any abuse or disrespect to umpires will not be tolerated. Penalties including being suspended from play may be enforced by the umpire, and the LWG may enact further penalties, including financial, post-match. Only Captains are permitted to speak to



umpires during intervals, including to seek clarification on a rule (another player may accompany them if relevant to the clarification being sought).

VENUE REQUIREMENTS

Arrangement of match venues and any costs incurred for court hire are the responsibility of the host team. Venues are required to have 2 x standard netball posts (specifications can be seen in [World Netball's Rules of Netball](#)). Courts are required to have netball lines, however these can be taped/chalked on the day.

Match hosts may choose to charge an entrance fee to their event to help them cover costs. This is separate to league match fees, and will be clearly communicated on any event invites so that clubs can choose if they wish to attend an event with a host entrance fee. However, please note that it is not permitted to charge attending teams costs for external umpires unless the host is providing umpires for all matches and this has been agreed upon by all teams. It is each team's own responsibility to provide an umpire for their matches.

LEAGUE TABLE

Due to the current nature of netball in France, it is not currently feasible to require all teams to play all other teams or to play the same number of matches, and therefore to have a traditional table based purely on total number of points/wins. However, we still want to record league results in a table that rewards the success and progress of the competing teams, and encourages as much match play as possible.

In previous seasons' tables, all wins were treated as equal and awarded the same number of points, regardless of opposition's standard. When averaged across the season, this system has the potential for the final standings to be a poor reflection of a team's overall performance if, by circumstance, they have only had the opportunity to play against particularly high or low ranked teams. Sports leagues and federations around the world (e.g. World Netball, tennis, chess, etc.) deal with this problem by averaging results and creating rankings, where good results against higher ranked opposition are rewarded more than results against lower ranked opposition.

This season we are aiming to address this inconsistency by trialling a basic form of adjusting the points awarded for a win/loss based on the approximate standard of the opposition. Whilst we acknowledge that given the current restrictions of the league, no table system will be perfect, it is hoped that this updated system will be more reflective of the results and performances of the participating teams.

how it works

In order to qualify to enter the table, a team must have played a minimum of two matches, one of which must be against an opposition >200km away from their home base ('qualifying match'). Please note that this match does not have to be an away match, only that your home bases must be that distance apart.

Until a team qualifies to enter the table by satisfying the above, all league results will be recorded and points earned towards a ranking, however teams will be listed below the table until they have qualified, at which place they will enter the table.

As in previous systems, the table will be compiled on a ranking and rating system, however the system has been updated for the 2024/2025 season.



A team's ranking is their position on the table. Rankings are determined by listing the teams in order of ratings, highest to lowest.

A team's rating is calculated by the total number of points divided by number of matches played, in order to calculate the average points per match.

For each match, points are awarded to each team as follows: Points Earned = Opposition Team Offset Points + Result Points.

team offset points

A Team's Offset Points reflect the ranking of a team, from -2 points for the lowest ranked teams to +2 points for the highest ranked teams. A team's initial Team Offset Points will be determined using the Coupe de France de Netball (CDFDN24) rankings.

CdF positions 1-3: +2

CdF positions 4-6: +1

CdF positions 7-11: 0

CdF positions 12-14: -1

CdF positions 15-17: -2

When entering a team for the first match event, clubs will be asked to specify which, if any, of their Coupe de France teams best reflects the level of that league team. If a club or team did not compete in the Coupe de France 2024, they will receive a default starting offset of zero.

A team will keep their initial offset until they qualify to enter the table. At this point, their offset will be determined by their current position on the league table based on the results of matches played, using the same scale from -2 to +2, with the number of teams at each offset adjusted based on the number of teams on the table.

result points

Result points will be as follows:

- 6 points for a win
- 3 points for a draw
- 2 points for a loss within 5 goals of the winner's score
- 1 point for a loss scoring more than 50% of the winner's score
- 0 points for a loss scoring less than 50% of the winner's score

what this looks like

Points awarded for a match will be a total of the result points and the opposition team offset. In this way, teams gain more points for a win against higher ranked teams, and less points for a win against lower ranked teams. The maximum number of points that can be awarded for a match is 8 (+6 result points for a win and +2 Team Offset Points for a high ranked opposition), and the minimum is -2 (0 for a loss and -2 Team Offset Points for a lower ranked opposition).

A team's total points across the season will then be divided by the number of matches they have played, which will give their rating. Teams will be ranked in order of their rating. The winner of the league at the end of the season will be the team with the highest rating, or average points per matches, and therefore ranked first.

To determine the position on the table where two or more teams are level on rating, positions will be determined on goal difference, then average goals scored per match, then greatest



number of matches. Should none of these differentiate between the teams, they will share the position on the table.

examples of the 2024-2025 team offset system:

Using starting offsets:

Nice Sunset (ranked 1st at CDFDN24, starting offset +2) play Valley Vipers 2 (ranked 10th at CDFDN24, starting offset 0)

If Nice Sunset win 40-15:

Nice Sunset are awarded **6 points** (6 for the win + 0 offset)

Valley Vipers 2 are awarded **2 points** (0 for the loss + 2 offset)

If Valley Vipers 2 push Nice Sunset to a close result, losing 40-37:

Nice Sunset are awarded **6 points** (6 for the win + 0 offset)

Valley Vipers 2 are awarded **4 points** (2 for the loss within 5 + 2 offset)

If Valley Vipers 2 pull off a shock result and beat Nice Sunset, 40-30:

Nice Sunset are awarded **1 point** (1 for the >50% loss + 0 offset)

Valley Vipers 2 are awarded **8 points** (6 for the win + 2 offset)

Using league table offsets:

After 2 matches, Valley Vipers 2 are in 6th position (out of 8 teams) in the league table, offset of -1. They play against Netball Toulouse B Team, who have not yet played league matches this season so are still using their starting offset. Toulouse B did not compete in the Coupe de France 2024, so have a starting offset of zero.

If Valley Vipers 2 win 40-15:

Valley Vipers 2 are awarded **6 points** (6 for the win, + 0 offset)

Toulouse B are awarded **-1 point** (0 points for the loss, - 1 offset)

If Valley Vipers 2 win 40-37:

Valley Vipers 2 are awarded **6 points** (6 for the win, + 0 offset)

Toulouse B are awarded **1 point** (2 points for the loss within 5, - 1 offset)

If Toulouse B win 40-30:

Valley Vipers 2 are awarded **1 point** (1 for the >50% loss, + 0 offset)

Toulouse B are awarded **5 points** (6 points for the win, - 1 offset)

ENTRANCE FEES

There remains no upfront fee to enter the league, instead there is a participation charge to be paid to Netball France, related to each match played. This allows players/clubs to be charged according to their involvement in the league.

League matches are charged as follows:

- €20 per team per match for Full Member Clubs, with a cap of €40 per event
- €35 per team per match for Associate Member Clubs, with a cap of €70 per event
- €50 per team per match for Emerging Member Clubs, with a cap of €100 per event
- No costs for matches against Netball France Development Hub Teams

Invoices will be sent by Netball France. It will be sent to the club, who must make one payment to Netball France, and are responsible for collecting any payments from their members as necessary. Payments must be made within one month, penalties apply.



WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

- Keep an eye out on your club email address for match invites
- Register teams to any matches that interest you
- Apply to host any matches or match weekends as you wish
- Ensure your committee & club members are aware of how the league works, the league rules, and what is required of them

We look forward to seeing as many teams as possible take to the court in the Netball France Ligue Nationale - #JouonsAuNetball!

