



Greater Manchester County Netball Association



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Dear Clubs/Schools – please circulate to your members

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and do hope you managed to have a nice Christmas period despite the restrictions.

2021 is still going to be a considerable challenge for everyone and the news that we are now in lock down again with no confirmed end date as such is challenging. I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you all to let you know that as a County we are working hard on our plans to ensure we can still commit to running our programmes albeit on a smaller scale. These plans will be confirmed and communicated fully over the coming weeks, however, I wanted to give you a little bit of information now.

Performance Academy

Performance Academy Trials were scheduled at the end of January and we have had a high level of applications but these can now not go ahead. We are still committed to running an Academy programme but it will be on a much smaller scale. I am, therefore, proposing that trials will be held in April (I want to ensure athletes are back in regular training prior to any trial) and then we will run an 8/10-week programme which will still enable us to develop the athletes and also feed some through to final Thunder Trials. I am, therefore, asking you to **get in touch only if you do not wish to transfer your application and payment to April** so I can arrange a refund. If not, I will automatically transfer your applications to the new date which will be circulated as soon as is appropriate.

Competition – Junior League

We will commit to running a Junior League again probably from April- July. This maybe outdoors to allow more teams to enter and as outdoor netball will probably return and be more secure than indoor netball, or we may be inside depending on demand and the current pandemic position. We will run qualifications for current under 13's and 15's for automatic qualification into Regional under 14's & 16's for season 21/22.

Competition – Senior Leagues

We will be working with our member Senior Leagues to offer support so they can still run during this season again on a small scale outside.

Officiating

We will use this down time to develop our Mentoring Programme. When we get clearance from EN we will look at organising any pending C Award Assessments. We will use our competition and performance trials to develop officials and offer them support and training as they have had a considerable amount of time off too!

Primary Development

We are focusing on our younger years development and will look to run some 'Bee Netball Festivals' for both clubs and schools in the summer months. We will be looking at ways of supporting both clubs and schools to develop 'Bee Netball' as it has lost its pace but is crucial to the development of our younger athletes.

Coaching

We want to support our coaches and find out what support they would like to see from the County. How can we help them to support their clubs, personally develop etc?

This is just a snap shot of some of our plans for the remainder of this season and I want to reassure you that we are keen to keep netball going despite all the challenges. More information will be circulated in the coming weeks but please in the meantime could you circulate this information to your members. Please do remember we are here to support you in any way we can and trust that we are all in this together.

If we work together the possibilities are endless!

Kind Regards,



Sam Longley
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