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# Tournament Handbook

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[wsgevents.com](http://wsgevents.com)



delighted your school has chosen to participate in our international event which showcases the talent, diversity and sportsmanship of young netball players worldwide.

Over the course of four days, some of the most gifted and determined netball players in the world will compete on court in a bid to be crowned World Schools Netball Cup Champions. We believe engaging in competition provides valuable lessons for students, presenting an opportunity to work as part of a team, to lead, and to conduct themselves with grace, dignity and pride in both victory and defeat.

The World Schools Netball Cup aims to provide students with an opportunity to express themselves, meet new friends and to compete in an environment that embraces the positive aspects of competition and sport.

Date	Time	Events	Location
Wednesday 24th June	15:00	Hotel check in opens	All hotels
	As per itinerary	Tournament buses depart for campus	Off-campus hotels
	17:15	Opening Ceremony	Sir David Wallace Sports Hall (SDW)
	18:00	WSG All-Star matches begin	
	19:30	WSG All-Star matches end	
	As per itinerary	Evening meal	Hotels / Towers Dining Hall
	As per itinerary	Tournament buses depart for hotels	University Road
Thursday 25th & Friday 26th June	As per itinerary	Breakfast	All hotels
	As per itinerary	Tournament buses depart for campus	Off-campus hotels
	10:00	WSG Netball matches begin	SDW / Netball Centre
	From 12:00	Hotel teams collect lunches	Towers Dining Hall
	16:00	WSG Netball matches end	SDW / Netball Centre
	As per itinerary	Evening meal	Hotel / Towers Dining Hall
	As per itinerary	Tournament buses depart for hotels	University Road
Saturday 27th June	As per itinerary	Breakfasts & check out	All hotels
	As per itinerary	Tournament buses depart for campus	Off-campus hotels
	10:00	WSG Netball matches begin	SDW / Netball Centre
	From 12:00	Hotel teams collect lunches	Towers Dining Hall
	From 14:00	WSG Netball Finals	SDW
	16:30	WSG Netball matches end	SDW / Netball Centre
	16:45	Awards Ceremony	Sir David Wallace Sports Hall (SDW)
	17:30	Teams depart	





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## Key Contact Information

<b>Tournament Management Committee:</b>	Michael Corbett – Tournament Director Daniel Shields – Head of WSG Events Inez Spence – Customer Experience Exec.
<b>Administration:</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:journeys@wsgevents.com">journeys@wsgevents.com</a> Phone: +44 131 510 1008 / +971 43 686 510
<b>Emergency Number (mobile):</b>	+447587 568751

## Event Information

### Eligibility, Student Numbers and make up of a School Team

- Each school must enter a minimum of 10 & maximum of 14 female competitors.
- For the U13 event, only students born on or after 1 September 2012 will be eligible to compete.
- For the U15 event, only students born on or after 1 September 2010 will be eligible to compete.
- For the U17 event, only students born on or after 1 September 2008 will be eligible to compete.
- For the U19 event, only students born on or after 1 September 2006 will be eligible to compete.
- Teams should be accompanied by a minimum of two members of staff.

### Safety and Security

- Safety of all participants is of paramount importance – WSG Events and Loughborough University will do all they can to ensure participant safety at all times. Comprehensive risk assessments of accommodation, transport, sporting activities, as well as each facility used for the event will be conducted and will be available upon request to all Team Managers.
- Please note that the safety and wellbeing of all students ultimately lies with the accompanying teachers.
- Insurance of individual participants is the responsibility of each participating school and a policy must be taken out and purchased.
- Participating schools must provide their students with a standard playing kit.
- Students must remove all jewellery and keep fingernails short and the lead teacher is responsible for all belongings.
- All accompanying parents and supporters are required to acknowledge the Codes of Conduct for Parents and Supporters.



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## Supporters and Spectators

- Supporters and/or spectators are welcome to attend the Opening Ceremony at 17:00 on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June and all matches at the event. Please inform your World School Games account manager of the expected number of supporters/spectators at least two weeks before the event.
- Spectators and supporters must arrange their own transportation to/from the event.
- Parents and spectators are not permitted to stay at the official event accommodation during the event.
- In Sir David Wallace, spectators will be permitted to view matches from the courtside bleacher seating or the balcony. In the Netball Centre, due to a lack of space, spectators must view matches from the balcony. Please note, seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to players and coaches for our opening ceremony and awards presentations.

## Venues

Matches will take place across two venues – within five minutes' walk of one another – Sir David Wallace Sports Hall and the Netball Centre. Between both venues, a fan village will also be in operation in Shirley Pearce square, containing a large screen featuring the event livestream, a stage for interviews and media, refreshment vendors, event partners and outdoor seating.

World School Games staff will prepare the venues for the competition, including:

- First aid provision
- Sufficient room for all spectators
- Toilet facilities
- Refreshment areas
- Communication and official referee area

## Officials and Marshaling

Specialist Netball England officials will be responsible for the officiating and scorekeeping for each match – two umpires and two scoring officials will be allocated to each game.

## Event Results

Results will be recorded and communicated to team members and spectators as quickly as possible using the Official Tournament App.

### A. Format and Rules

The World Schools Netball Cup 2026 will follow the general rules outlined by World Netball 2024 update. A breakdown of the key tournament rules & format can be found below:





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### Match Duration

All matches in the competition are **2 x 15-minute halves** in length with a 3-minute break for half time.

### Format

- In the U13 & U15 categories, all teams will compete in a group stage before progressing to the Cup, Plate or Bowl tiers of competition determined by the group standings.
- In the U17 & U19 categories, all teams will compete in a group stage to determine the individual category winners, runners up and bronze medalists. Both categories will then merge to form a single senior category, with teams progressing to the Cup, Plate or Bowl tier determined by the group standings.

### Points/Scoring System

The following points will be awarded during pool play:

- Win                    3 points
- Draw                   1 point
- Defeat                 0 points

The total number of points accumulated at the end of pool play will determine the rankings in each pool. If at the conclusion of the pool play two or more teams have an equal number of points, their respective ranking will be decided by:

- Head-to-head result between the tied teams
- 'Goal' difference
- 'Goals' scored
- 'Goals' conceded
- In the event that teams are still tied, the teams in question will play again for an additional five minutes. If the teams are still deadlocked at the end of the extra match, play will continue until one team leads by two goals.
- In the event of a draw during a knockout match, three minutes extra time will be played. There will be a 1-minute break, and teams will change ends. Teams will toss a coin in the presence of the umpire to determine who will have the first centre pass.
- If teams are still deadlocked at the end of extra time, and additional period will be played until one team leads by two goals. The additional period will begin from the centre pass. There will be no break between periods. Teams will toss a coin in the presence of the umpire to determine who will have the first centre pass.

### Umpires

There will be two umpires allocated per match, with an additional two scoring officials. In any game, the umpires will have the authority to administer the rules of play. The umpire's decision is final. Only the Captain, accompanied by the Team Coach may approach an umpire for clarification of any rules or disputes on court. This may only be done at half time or full time.





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## Game Management

To manage a match the umpires will, in addition to the sanction for any infringement, use any of the following actions:

- Proactive advice: a player is provided with specific feedback to change their behaviour.
- Advance and/or escalate a sanction: a sanction may be advanced up to half a third (this may be to inside the goal circle if the infringement was in the goal third) and/or a free pass escalated to a penalty pass.
- Issue a warning to a player: a player is warned that suspension will follow if the player continues to infringe any of the foul play rules.
- Suspend a player: a player who is suspended takes no part in play for two minutes playing time.
- Order a player off: a player who is ordered off takes no further part in the match. A team may replace this player after four minutes playing time.

## Offside

- A player is offside when the player enters a court area not designated for that players position. This applies whether the player has contact with the ball or not.

## Over a Third

- The ball must be caught or touched by a player in each third of the court.

## Height of goal

- 10ft high

## Number of players

- The squads must be solely made up of girls.
- Seven-a-side matches.

## Out of Court

Ball is out of court when it contacts anything outside the court area (not the goalpost). The ball is returned into play by a throw-in taken from a point outside the line where the ball left the court. The player stands with foot close to (but not touching) the line, and the ball must be thrown onto the court within three seconds.

## Ball Size

- Size 5 ball for all age groups.

## Starting or Restarting the Game

- Teams will toss a coin in the presence of the umpire to determine who will have the first centre pass.
- A central hooter will be used to start and end each period of play. The umpire's whistle, however, officially starts and ends each period of play.
- Centre passes are taken alternately by the two Centres, after a goal has been scored.
- All players must start in the goal thirds except the two Centres.





- The Centre with the ball starts with either one or both feet wholly within the Centre Circle. The Centre must obey the footwork rule after the whistle has been blown.
- The opposing Centre stands anywhere within the Centre Third and is free to move.
- The Centre pass must be caught or touched by a player in or landing in or jumping from a stance in the Centre third.

### **Playing the ball**

- A player who has caught the ball shall pass it or shoot for goal within three seconds. A player may not bounce the ball to gain control.
- Once released, another player must next touch the ball.
- When a player passes the ball there must be sufficient space on the court for an opposing player to be able to deflect or intercept the ball as it moves from the hands of the passer to those of the receiver.
- A player on the ground must stand up before playing ball.
- Umpires can play advantage on a foul rather than blow the offence and re-set.

### **Footwork**

Having caught the ball, a player may land or stand on:

- One foot – while the landing foot remains grounded, the second foot may be moved anywhere any number of times, pivoting on the landing foot if desired. Once the landing foot is lifted, it must not be re-grounded until the ball is released.
- Two feet (simultaneously) – once one foot is moved, the other is considered to be the landing foot, as above. Hopping or dragging the landing foot is not allowed.

### **Scoring a Goal**

- Only GS or GA can score – they must be completely within the Goal Circle when the ball is received in order to shoot for goal.
- The umpire will raise their hand to indicate that a goal has been scored rather than blow the whistle. If a goal is not allowed, the umpire will cross their hands over to indicate 'no goal'.

### **Toss up**

- The Toss Up has been removed – where simultaneous infringements occur the team with the ball will retain possession. If the ball is loose, the team who last had possession will retain it.

### **Obstruction**

Player with ball:

- The nearer foot of the defender must be 0.9m (3ft) feet from the landing foot of the player with the ball.
- If the player's landing foot is lifted the distance is measured from the spot on the ground where the foot was lifted.
- If a player lands on both feet simultaneously and remains grounded on both feet, the distance is measured from whichever is the nearer foot of that player to the nearer foot of the defender.





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- The defender may jump to intercept or defend the ball from this 0.9m (3ft) distance but must not land within three feet otherwise obstruction occurs.

Player without ball:

The defender may be close, but not touching, providing that:

- No effort is made to intercept or defend the ball and there is no interference with the opponents throwing or shooting action.
- Arms must be in a natural position, not outstretched, and no other part of the body or legs may be used to hamper an opponent.
- Intimidation of any kind is classed as obstruction.

### **Contact**

- No player may contact an opponent, either accidentally or deliberately, in such a way that interferes with the play of that opponent or causes contact to occur.
- A standing player is not compelled to move to allow an opponent a free run, but dangerous play must be discouraged, e.g. moving into the landing space of a player already in the air or stepping late into the path of a moving player.

### **Free-pass**

- A free pass is awarded for infringement of any of the preceding rules. It may be taken by any player allowed in that area, as soon as they have taken up a stationary position. (A player may not shoot from a free pass in the shooting circle).

### **Penalty pass**

- A penalty pass (or penalty shot if in the shooting circle) is awarded for the above infringements taken from where the infringement occurred.
- The offending player must stand out of play beside the thrower until the pass or shot has been taken. Any opposing player allowed in that area may take the penalty.

### **Substitutions**

- There is no limit to the number of substitutions, which can be made by a team provided that players used do not exceed the total number listed at any team registration.
- Substitutions can be made immediately after a goal has been scored or at half time. In the event of an injury, the injured player can be substituted.
- Players can switch positions with another on court player without the need to be substituted. This request has to come from the on-court player to the umpire, by requesting 'tactical change'. This can also only take place after a goal has been scored or at halftime.





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### End of the Game

There will be a central hooter to signal the end of time, but the umpires whistle will determine the end of the game.

- Three cheers and handshakes to be encouraged.
- Team managers shall shake hands.
- It is expected that team captains and managers shake hands with the match officials.

### Trophies and Medals

Awards will be presented at the end of the final day:

- In the U13 & U15 categories, trophies will be awarded to the winning team at each age group. Medals will be presented to the first, second and third-placed schools in the cup competitions. These trophies and medals may be kept by the schools.
- In the U17 & U19 categories, trophies will be awarded to the group winners. Medals will be presented to the first, second and third-placed schools in the group.
- A trophy will also be awarded to the senior cup winners.
- In the U13, U15 & Senior competitions, a plate or bowl will be awarded to the winning team in each tier.
- All players who do not receive a gold, silver or bronze medal will receive a participation medal.

### MVP Award

- This will be awarded to the player in each category that has excelled in performance over the three days of competition. This will be decided between the umpire team and organising committee.

## Safety and Athlete Welfare

### Codes of Conduct

By attending The World Schools Netball Cup, individuals agree to abide by the Codes of Conduct as outlined below.

There are codes for players, spectators, parents, team members and team officials. Participating schools must ensure that all students, coaches, spectators and parents have read and acknowledged the relevant codes.

Should spectators, teachers, team members break these codes of conduct, there may be consequences, including but not limited to the individuals involved not being able to attend in future years.

### Safeguarding

A full safeguarding policy has been completed for the World Schools Netball Cup and a Safeguarding officer has been appointed. Please contact us if you would like to see a copy of this or would like the details of the designated Safeguarding officer.





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Due to safeguarding reasons, toilets for players/officials and parents/spectators will be segregated and clearly signposted. There will also be a segregated seating area on the bleachers for spectators in SDW.

#### **Team Officials' Code of Behaviour**

- Ensure that your behaviour at all times, whether at or away from the playing venue, does not bring the name of "School Sport" into disrepute.
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgment of officials and opposing coaches.
- Compliment participants on their efforts.
- Condemn unsporting behavior.
- Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behavior.
- Refrain from criticism of, or reaction to, the umpire's/referee's judgments and decisions.
- Maintain a standard of dress appropriate to the presentation of the team.
- Refrain from over-zealous coaching from the side-line.
- Refrain from smoking and consuming alcohol at any time while in the supervision of students.

#### **Players' Code of Behaviour**

- Be a good sport
- Play for enjoyment
- Strive for personal excellence
- Work hard for your team as well as for yourself. Treat all team-mates and opponents as you enjoy being treated yourself.
- Play by the rules
- Cooperate with team and game officials
- Control your behaviour on and off the court
- Learn to value honest effort, skilled performance and improvement
- Do not show any dissent
- Respect the accommodation and venue
- Do not disturb others after lights out
- Keep your living space tidy

#### **Parents' Code of Behaviour**

- Encourage participation of your (and all) athletes
- Display good sportsmanship for your child to copy
- Be courteous in your communication with players, team officials, game officials, sport administrators and other parents
- Encourage honest effort, skilled performance and team loyalty
- Make all other parents feel welcome on all occasions
- Do not interfere with the conduct of any events
- Respect the officials and team leaders; if they ask you to do something, please do so

#### **Spectators' Code of Behaviour**

- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour - remember children play for enjoyment
- Do not let your behaviour detract from their enjoyment



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- Let game officials conduct events without interference
  - Support skilled performances and team play with generous applause. Demonstrate respect for opposing players and their supporters
  - Respect the officials and team leaders; if they ask you to do something, please do so

### **Breach of the Codes**

#### **Team Members**

A breach of this code of behaviour, in the opinion of team officials, may result in the player being banned from the remainder of the event and may also result in the player being sent home by the first available transport. Parents and the athlete's school will be notified. Any additional expense incurred will be the responsibility of the parents. Further disciplinary action may be considered depending on the seriousness of the breach.

#### **Parents and Spectators**

A breach of this code of behaviour, in the opinion of Tournament Director, may result in the individual being banned from the remainder of the event and future events. Any additional expense incurred will be the responsibility of the individual concerned. Further action may be taken against the school depending on the nature of the breach.

#### **Changes to the Programme or Rules**

The World School Games organizing committee has the right to make changes to the programme, rules or any other aspect of The World School Games as it deems fit and or necessary for clarity or safety. Any changes will be communicated to all participating teams in writing at the same time.

### **Medical Provision**

World School Games will ensure sufficient first aid provision is in place for all days of the event including an ambulance, responder & technician. Key members of WSG staff are also first aid trained.

For any injuries requiring additional treatment, please see below:

#### **Loughborough Hospital – Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC)**

Hospital Way  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire  
LE11 5JY  
01509 568800

- For an injury such as a suspected broken bone
- For cuts, minor injuries, scalds and burns
- For any other urgent but not emergency attention.

Treatment at Loughborough UTC can be accessed by:

- Calling or going online to NHS 111



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- Referred by the in-event medical team
  - Walk in capacity

### **Leicester Royal Infirmary – Accident & Emergency (A&E)**

Infirmery Square  
Leicester  
LE1 5WW

- For life threatening emergencies
- Severe chest pain, stroke, or major trauma

Treatment at Loughborough UTC can be accessed by:

- Referred by the in-event medical team
- Walk in – A&E department

### **Closing Remarks**

We thank all athletes, coaches, spectators and officials for their efforts throughout the build up to the World Schools Netball Cup 2026.

The 2027 edition will take place in June 2027, with exact dates to be confirmed in due course. The World School Games organising committee is prioritising places for next year to those schools represented at this year's event with an exclusive window to secure your place.

Yours in Sport,

### **World School Games Organising Committee**

*Today's Champions. Tomorrow's Leaders*

### **Appendix 1: Site Map**



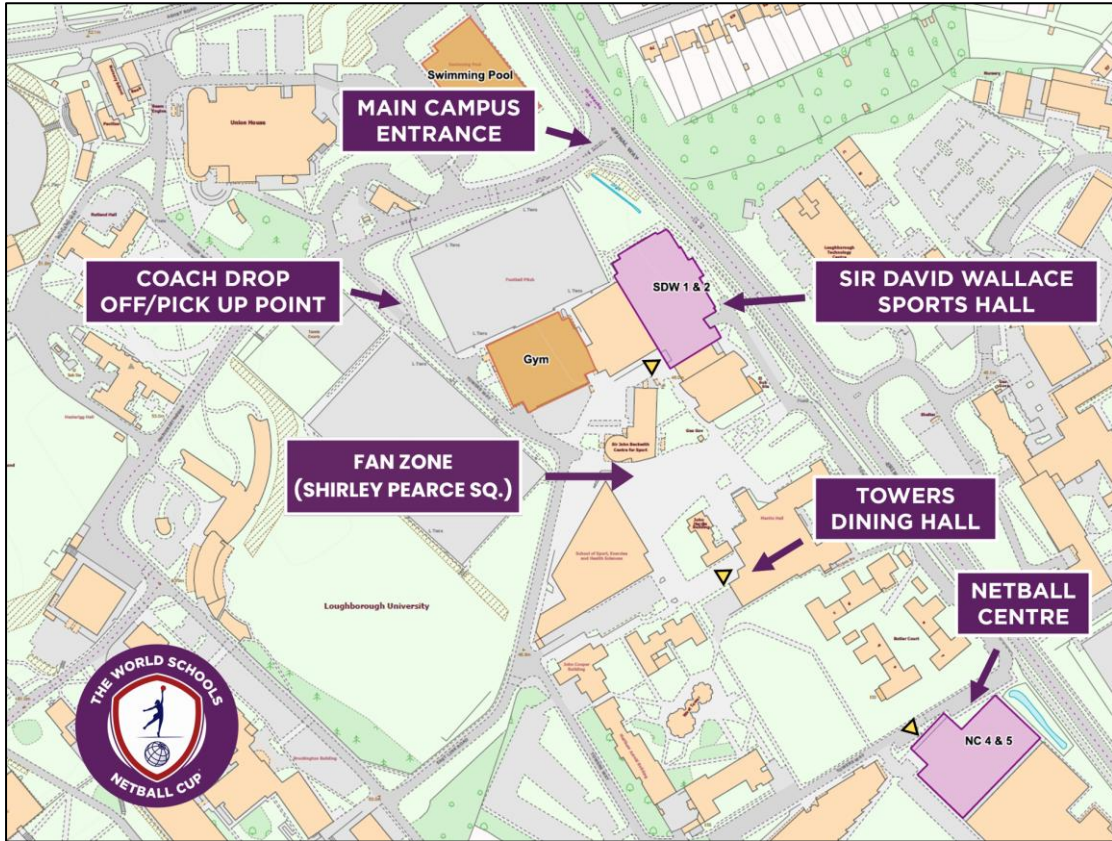
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