

Team Northumbria Netball Superleague

Northumbria University remains committed to performance sport, including netball, and will continue to compete in the Premiership Tier of the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) League. The University, along with England Netball, is very keen to preserve elite netball in the North East and is working with partners to ensure a continued legacy.

Over the past couple of seasons, the Netball Superleague has become increasingly competitive and is rapidly changing through the addition of more teams and an increased need to operate commercially. With over 30,000 students, we are the largest university in the North East of England and must ensure that our sporting programme is aligned to the University's core strategy. The size and shape of our sport offer evolves every year and in an ever changing environment, we want to continue to offer all of our students value for money and the best possible experience. We have exciting plans to develop participation for students, staff and the wider community. As a result we are rebalancing our sports portfolio to engage more people in a broader programme of sport and health-related activities in line with our wider sport, health and wellbeing strategy.

We have confirmed with England Netball that we would like to work with them and the Regional Management Board to preserve the player pathway within the region. The University will support this through the provision of some facilities and support services. As a university, we are fully committed to women's sport and the development of talented young girls in the region and want to play a key role in developing the game. We just feel that the time is right for another partner to take the lead, with a new model that can drive forward the game within the region. Although there will not be a Superleague team for at least a year, I am confident that there will be another one shortly. It is the right decision for the University and the long-term benefit of netball in the North East.

The pathway sessions that are currently running will continue, as planned. We have confirmed with England Netball that we would like to work with them and the Regional Management Board to preserve the player pathway within the region, for next year and beyond. The University, England Netball and the Regional Board all want to continue to develop the pathway across all age groups in order to support the re-establishment of a North East franchise in the near future. At this moment in time, we do not know the precise format, but there is definitely a national and regional drive to continue and the University will support it through the provision of facilities and support services. As a university, we are fully committed to women's sport and the development of talented young girls in the region and want to play a key role in developing the game.

For further information please email cr.sportconsultation@northumbria.ac.uk