



## Umpiring Policy

### **Umpires are an important part of netball; without them the game simply cannot take place**

Worcestershire City Netball League strive to have the very best standard of umpiring for our matches, and to do so we wholeheartedly wish to support all umpires whatever their standard.

WCNL recognises netball has changed markedly over recent years and with the increased speed, athleticism, and skill levels of the players, has come an increased level of physical contest, presenting challenges for umpires and other officials.

An umpire's role is to facilitate a flowing, enjoyable game for all participants, including players, coaches, administrators, spectators, and other officials. The approach umpires take into each game plays a large part in the success of the game for all. As a league we are committed to improving standards of our umpires and to raise consistency of umpiring throughout all the WCNL divisions.

### Requirements to umpire in the WCNL

1. All umpires who wish to umpire within WCNL are required to be affiliated to England Netball.
2. All umpires must be suitably qualified as stipulated by WCNL rules for the division they are umpiring in:
  - (a) *Experienced Qualified Umpires (C award or above) can umpire any division.*
  - (b) *Experienced los who have been umpiring competitive netball (not fun league or alike) for at least two years can umpire up to and including division three.*
  - (c) *Newly Qualified Umpires who have umpired in the WCNL for 2 years or less are only permitted to umpire games in Division 5 or 6. All newly qualified umpires must be approved prior to umpiring in the WCNL. All newly qualified umpires must email the Umpiring Secretary to arrange approval. Any newly qualified umpire who does not adhere to this and umpires any game in WCNL without approval, will not be considered an authorised umpire and rule 8 will be applied.*
  - (d) *Umpires in Training (with limited to no practical experience of umpiring) must contact the WCNL umpiring secretary for approval before umpiring in the WCNL.*
  - (e) *If umpires wish to umpire in higher divisions, other than designated for their experience level in*
4. *Rules 5(a) to 5(d), they must contact the Umpire Secretary for approval.*
3. Umpires must ensure they have a comprehensive knowledge of the rules and match protocols and follow these prior to and during the duration of the match you are umpiring.
4. They must ensure they have familiarised themselves with the local rules and policies of WCNL and understand how to implement them.
5. All umpires must familiarised themselves with the WCNL Code of conduct for Umpires.
6. Ensure they have an up-to-date rule book, whistle, time piece, pen/pencil and paper with you for each match.

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7. All umpires must wear suitable, appropriate clothing and footwear to enable them to keep up with the speed of the game. It is recommended umpires wear white to assist in distinguishing them from the playing teams' kit.
8. Umpires must maintain a level of fitness appropriate to the game played to enable them to get around the court and act appropriately.
9. No umpire may officiate more than two adult league fixtures in the same day, this includes playing netball.
10. Umpires should work with their other umpire to ensure the match is enjoyable for all. Each umpire must ensure their decision making is fair, balanced and unbiased. Umpires should support each other, making sure to liaise at quarter times to confirm scores and to discuss any issues.
11. From September 2024 it is a requirement of WCNL all umpires must attend at least one umpiring forum per year (netball affiliation/membership year runs from 1 September to 31 August).
12. All umpires in the WCNL must score games themselves and call out the score after each goal is scored. Independent scorers are not accepted other than in the Regional Division where independent scorers must be agreed between both teams and umpires and available for both umpires. This rule applies except in exceptional circumstances and only with prior approval from the WCNL Committee.
13. Both umpires are responsible jointly for the timekeeping of the match. You must ensure all games start and finish within the allotted time to enable the next game to commence on time. This can be difficult with some venues where previous activities run over, however, it is umpires responsibility to get teams prepared and ready to go as soon as the venue is available. If only one umpire is available due their other umpire already umpiring the game beforehand, the available umpire should check both teams and ensure they are ready to play as soon as the court becomes available.
14. Should an umpire have cause to use game management any cautions, warning or sending off should be recorded on the score sheet with an update on the circumstances, including the name of the player to the umpiring secretary.

If you have any further queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact  
Maxine Rawlins WCNL Umpiring Secretary – [umpiringwcnl@gmail.com](mailto:umpiringwcnl@gmail.com)  
or visit England Officiating Pages  
<https://www.Englandnetball.co.uk/make-the-game/officiating>

We hope you enjoy umpiring,  
thank you for making it possible for teams to play