



Umpiring Policy

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

Worcester City Netball League (WCNL) strive to have the very best standard of umpiring for all 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. As a league we are committed to improving standards of our umpires, support umpires and to raise consistency of umpiring across all 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, however the Committee have the right to assess the capability of that umpire should the need arise.
 - (b) Experienced IO's (Into Officiating) who have passed their C written exam, can be approved to umpire higher divisions. Approval will coincide with the expiry date of the written exam. If further approval is required, that umpire must contact the league for re-approval.
 - (c) IO's in training (who have completed their course) can, with the approval of the league, umpire divisions 5 & 6. IO's wishing to take their practical assessment can apply to the league to be approved to umpire an appropriate higher division, which will be reviewed annually by the Committee.

Anyone who umpires in a division they have not been authorised to umpire in, runs the risk of the team they are umpiring for losing points for that game. They will then also only be able to umpire based on the above guidance even if they were previously authorised to umpire in a slightly higher division. This will apply from the date this is brought to the attention of the WCNL Committee and may result in a team being left without an umpire.

3. If an umpire is feeling more confident and wants to umpire in a higher division to where they currently can, they must contact the WCNL Umpiring Secretary for a further review.
4. Umpires must ensure they have a comprehensive knowledge of the rules (WCNL local rules and EN rules) and match protocols and follow these prior to and during the duration of the match you are umpiring.
5. They must ensure they have familiarised themselves with the local rules and policies of WCNL and understand how to implement them.

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6. All umpires must familiarise themselves with the WCNL Code of conduct for Umpires.
7. Ensure they have an up-to-date rule book, whistle, time piece, pen/pencil and paper with you for each match. Umpires in the WCNL are required to time and score their own games.
8. 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 tops to assist in distinguishing them from the playing teams' kit, however, you can wear whatever colour you want as long as it is distinct in colour from the players.
9. Umpires must maintain a level of fitness appropriate to the game played to enable them to get around the court and act appropriately – it is an individual's responsibility to ensure they are fit enough to umpire at the level they have committed to umpiring at (based on their qualification).
10. No umpire may officiate more than two adult league fixtures in the same day or participate in more than 2 games – if you are a player umpire, you can umpire 1 game, play 1 game.
11. 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.
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. 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
or visit England Officiating Pages

<https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/make-the-game/officiating>

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UMPIRE SUPPORT SCHEME

WCNL are keen to encourage and support newly qualified umpires (NQU). Umpires who pass their IO qualification can be at very different levels of experience and confidence, it is essential as a league we support those umpires and place them in divisions they feel comfortable to umpire in so they can gain the necessary experience and confidence they need. It is also essential we support them in understanding the local WCNL rules which differ to EN rules.

This policy is written to support rule 5 of the WCNL – qualified umpires must be experienced enough to umpire in the division their team is placed in.

Umpire Support Scheme - Process

In order to ensure NQU's are umpiring in the correct division for their experience, WCNL Umpiring Secretary will arrange for all NQ IO umpires to be reviewed to umpire in the WCNL. It is acknowledged umpires have passed their umpiring qualification; the league review is designed to help guide NQU and place them into the correct division matched to their current levels of experience and confidence.

WCNL will also ensure all NQU have an umpiring supporter, who will be an experience qualified umpire, to guide and support the start of their umpiring journey.

Umpires who have recently passed their 'C' award have probably been umpiring for many years, whilst the scheme above to offer an umpiring supporter is essential for IO umpires, it is very much available to 'C' award umpires also – it is, however, optional in this scenario.

As soon as an umpire passes their IO qualification, they must contact the WCNL Umpiring Secretary (umpiringwcnl@gmail.com) – they are not permitted to umpire in the WCNL until the league review has taken place. As soon as is possible, the Umpiring Secretary will arrange for an assessment to take place.

Following this, the league will advise which division the umpire can umpire up to based on their current experience and they will assign them an umpiring buddy who will be their first port of call with any umpiring queries. For approval to umpire in a higher division when more experienced/confident, you must contact the WCNL Umpiring Secretary for a further review.

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