



## Younger Umpires Statement

England Netball - umpires aged between 16 and 18 years of age can umpire any match according to the qualification required by leagues, but England Netball would recommend that they did not umpire 'senior' matches but Under 18 or younger. With that in mind, they know there are some very capable younger umpires so are keen for leagues to operate in the best interests of individuals.

WCNL are committed to encouraging anyone to become a qualified umpire regardless of age, sex, race or religion. However, we are also committed to ensuring the welfare of younger umpires.

### Younger Umpires Policy

This policy is based on the well-being of the individual, the umpiring qualification they have obtained is not in question.

WCNL rules which apply to younger umpires include –

*Rule 5.1 - All umpires must be over the age of 18 at 31st August of the affiliation year. Any qualified umpire not over the age of 18 as at 1st September of the affiliation year must submit a request to umpire in writing to the Umpiring Secretary and this will be considered by the Committee.*

*Rule 5.1.1 - Umpires under the age of 18 who are approved must not umpire more than two games on the same evening without a break of at least one hour before undertaking a third umpiring commitment.*

Upon receipt of a written request to the WCNL for a qualified younger umpire to umpire in the WCNL, the umpire will be 'observed' by a suitably qualified member of the WCNL. This observation is not to test their umpiring skills (they already have a relevant umpiring qualification) but to observe their confidence umpiring senior games. Following this observation, they will be informed up to what level they can umpire in the WCNL (regardless of rule 5). For younger umpires who lack the necessary confidence, they will not be allowed to umpire in the WCNL and will have to gain experience from other netball opportunities such as training sessions or youth games.

Following their observation, WCNL will write to the younger umpire to confirm details of the observation. This confirmation is based on them having a welfare officer (parent or mentor) with them whilst umpiring until they are 18 years of age – the welfare officer cannot be the other umpire. The welfare office must be a dedicated person being available and present for the younger umpire at all times throughout the game. This person can change during the course of a game, however, the original welfare officer must inform the umpires if there is a change and officially hand-over the younger umpire to the new welfare officer.

All welfare officers must add their name and signature on the score sheet next to the younger umpires details so we have this recorded.

It is the responsibility for the younger umpire to ensure they do not umpire without a welfare officer, failure to comply will result in rule 18 being applied to the team they are umpiring for.