

Europe Netball Officiating Young Umpires Guidelines

Definitions:

- Young person/people/umpire refers to anyone under the age of 18.
- Adult is any person aged 18 or over.
- Responsible adult: An Umpire, Official, Mentor, Coach, parent, guardian, carer or other adult who holds the required Child Protection checks as mandated within the Member Country National Government Guidelines.
- Age banding is where a person's age limits the activity they are allowed to be involved in, to certain laid down age boundaries of other participants.
- Psychological Maturity is the ability to deal effectively and resiliently with experience and to perform satisfactorily in developmental tasks (biological, social, cognitive) characteristic of one's age level.
- Mixed age group is a group consisting of adults and young persons.

Introduction

It is now widely accepted that, as young people mature at different ages, their physical, social and psychological differences are likely to be extremely varied, even amongst young people with the same chronological age.

Europe Netball aims to provide netball for all, including those who wish to follow the Europe Netball Umpire Pathway.

NE recognises that in doing so, it must provide guidance to Affiliated Member Countries (full and associate members), to ensure that young people are not exposed to undue pressures, unrealistic expectations or exploitation.

Guidelines

In accordance with national and local safeguarding regulations, Europe Netball recommends the following minimum guidelines for managing young umpires' progression/development:

- A safeguarding policy must be in place in line with Member Country National Government Guidelines.
- Young people undergoing training within the Umpire pathway must be monitored and supported by a responsible adult.
- Young people umpiring at a match involving players from the same or younger age groups **may** be supervised and supported by a responsible adult.
- Young people umpiring at a match involving players from a higher age group **must** be supervised and supported by a responsible adult.
- Young people umpiring an adult or mixed age group match **must** be supervised and supported by a responsible adult.

The monitoring and support must be documented, as defined by the Member Country's officiating authority and local records retained for scrutiny.

Criteria

When determining whether a young person should be allowed to umpire outside their age group, the following criteria must be met, before any recommendation is considered.

Does the young person:

- Possess the relevant technical ability?
- Have the right level of psychological maturity?
- Have the required physical ability to cope with differing levels of speed in the match?
- The criteria above must be checked and approved by an appropriately qualified officiating authority, such as the Member Country's officiating lead. This individual has overall authority to agree or defer the young person's progression to umpire outside of their age group.

Minimum age for young umpires applying for umpiring awards

- The minimum age for Learner Umpires to attend an accredited Europe Netball 'C' award course is 13 years.
- The minimum age for taking the 'C' Award practical assessment is 14 years; however, the young umpire may take the 'C' written assessment before they are aged 14.
- The minimum age for taking the 'B' award practical assessment is 16 years, however accredited 'C' award umpires may progress along the 'B' award pathway with appropriate support and take the 'B/A' written assessment before they are aged 16.
- A 'B' level pass in the combined 'B/A' written paper is valid for 2 years from the date of the successful written assessment before the 'B' practical must be taken.
- An 'A' level pass in the combined 'B/A' paper is valid for 4 years from the date of the successful written assessment. Within 2 years the umpire must pass their 'B' award practical assessment and then pass their practical 'A' award assessment before the expiry date of the written pass.
- The minimum age for taking the 'A' award practical assessment is 18 years, however accredited 'B' award umpires may progress along the 'A' award pathway, with appropriate support.

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