



Guidance notes for umpires working towards a qualification

January 2024

Working towards Into Officiating Award (IO) after attending an online course

- It is your responsibility to contact the County Officiating Lead (COL) if you want mentor support following completion of an online IO course.
- BEFORE committing to officiate a full league fixture, build your voice and whistle confidence and rules knowledge by umpiring as much as possible at club training, school games or friendly fixtures.
- Mentoring is offered on Notts League fixtures at NUSA during both Winter and Summer Leagues. You must be over 16 years of age to officiate these fixtures.
- For **under 16s only**, mentoring and assessment may be offered at a club training session.
- Formal assessments will be conducted at NUSA for all aged over 16. Please note that you need to arrange your own game in consultation with your mentor.
- Remember you have **up to 2 years from course completion** to pass the practical assessment.
- Practical assessment application forms are available from the COL upon request from your mentor. The assessment fee is £15 payable by BACS to Nottinghamshire Netball Association. A completed logbook of matches should accompany the application.

General advice

- Consider whether you have enough time to commit to the amount of practical experience needed to meet practical assessment criteria.
- Be prepared to officiate fixtures in **EN recognised netball leagues** (NOT commercial or social leagues) which should be recorded in your logbook.
- Be prepared to arrange your own officiating schedule but be aware that you must officiate at least **your first 2 Notts league fixtures** (lowest division only) with your mentor present. This requirement may not apply to other leagues (check their rules). This requirement does not apply at club training.
- Be prepared to officiate matches which do not involve your own club / team.
- Be prepared to travel to NUSA (NG8 4HY) or different venues to gain experience.
- Take ownership of your own progression by ensuring that you **umpire regularly** to address all development points from mentors.
- Do not expect a mentor to support you on a weekly basis. Mentors will suggest a suitable amount of time between mentored sessions to allow development points to be addressed.
- Be aware that you or your club may need to contribute a fee for additional mentoring if necessary (refer to Changes to Mentor Programme November 2023).
- Familiarise yourself with league rules and policies for any / all leagues where you umpire. Notts league rules and policies can be found on www.ncna.co.uk
- If you are not a member of a club, consider joining one to suit your needs as this will support your progression as an official.
- Logbooks to record your matches can be downloaded from www.englandnetball.co.uk