

Umpires' Code of Conduct

The Key principles of responsibility and competence are in the framework of this Code of Conduct:

The best Umpires are unobtrusive, ruling correctly but judiciously, ensuring the game is enjoyed by players, spectators, and themselves.

Umpires must comply with this Code and such guidelines as may be issued from time to time by England Netball and shall:

1. Have a duty to exercise reasonable care and skill to enforce the rules of the game, to apply them fairly and to effect control of the game so as to ensure the safety of the players.
2. At all times, umpire consistently, independently (an attitude of mind characterised by integrity) and with complete impartiality, respecting and abiding by the rules, which govern the game, in the true spirit of sportsmanship.
- 3: Conform to a standard of mental and physical fitness which enables them to effectively and efficiently control the matches to which they are appointed.
- 4: Maintain a complete knowledge and up-to-date interpretation of the official rules of Netball, and be fully conversant with the rules, regulations, and scoring systems applicable to the event at they are officiating.
- 5: Be smartly dressed and shall appear on court in clothing that will project an image of health, cleanliness and functional efficiency.
- 6: Remember they are the controllers of the games, and their decisions should not be influenced by spectators, team officials or players.
- 7: Exercise self-control at all times and not commit any action likely to bring England Netball or the game into disrepute.
- 8: Not consume alcoholic drinks or smoke either immediately prior to or whilst officiating.
- 9: Not wager on, or coach during, any match or in a tournament at which they are officiating. As an Umpire.
- 10: Not offer or attempt to offer, either directly or indirectly, any consideration whatever to anyone with a view to influencing the result of any match, or to accept any such consideration.
- 11: Ensure their high standards of umpiring competence (defined in terms of the quality of their technical knowledge and understanding, practical skills, and the ability to apply these attributes in matches) are maintained by attending an appropriate course, approved by England Netball, least once in every 4 years.
- 12: Be liable to disciplinary action if they have committed any breach of the Code of Conduct or have failed to comply with guidelines issued by England Netball.
- 13: Be equitable and fair to all players, irrespective of gender, race, ethnicity, disability, culture, or religious belief.

Umpires have “Duty of Care” to the Players to:

- Exercise reasonable skill and care to enforce the rules;
- Apply the rules fairly;
- Effect control of the game, so as to ensure players are not exposed to unnecessary risk of injury
- The duty of Umpires is to exercise that degree of skill and care for the safety of the players which is appropriate in the circumstances;
- The standard of skill and care to be exercised is that which is to be expected of a reasonably competent Umpire;
- A reasonably competent Umpire is required to fully understand and enforce the rules of the game, making decisions, which show sound technical ability, combined with good professional judgement exercised according to the circumstances.

A Good Umpire is one who

- Has a sensitivity and understanding for play and the players.
- Contributes something of their personality, as well as their knowledge of the rules.
- Is involved in the game and is part of the game.
- Is not afraid to show a little positive emotion on court.
- Enjoys moments of good team work and quietly sympathises with mistakes.
- Is human enough to make the odd error and big enough to admit to it afterwards.
- Can lift the game from the doldrums of mediocrity and bring out the best in players.
- Players readily say, “good we have got that umpire again”.