

Europe Netball Umpire Pathway



**EUROPE
NETBALL
OFFICIATING**

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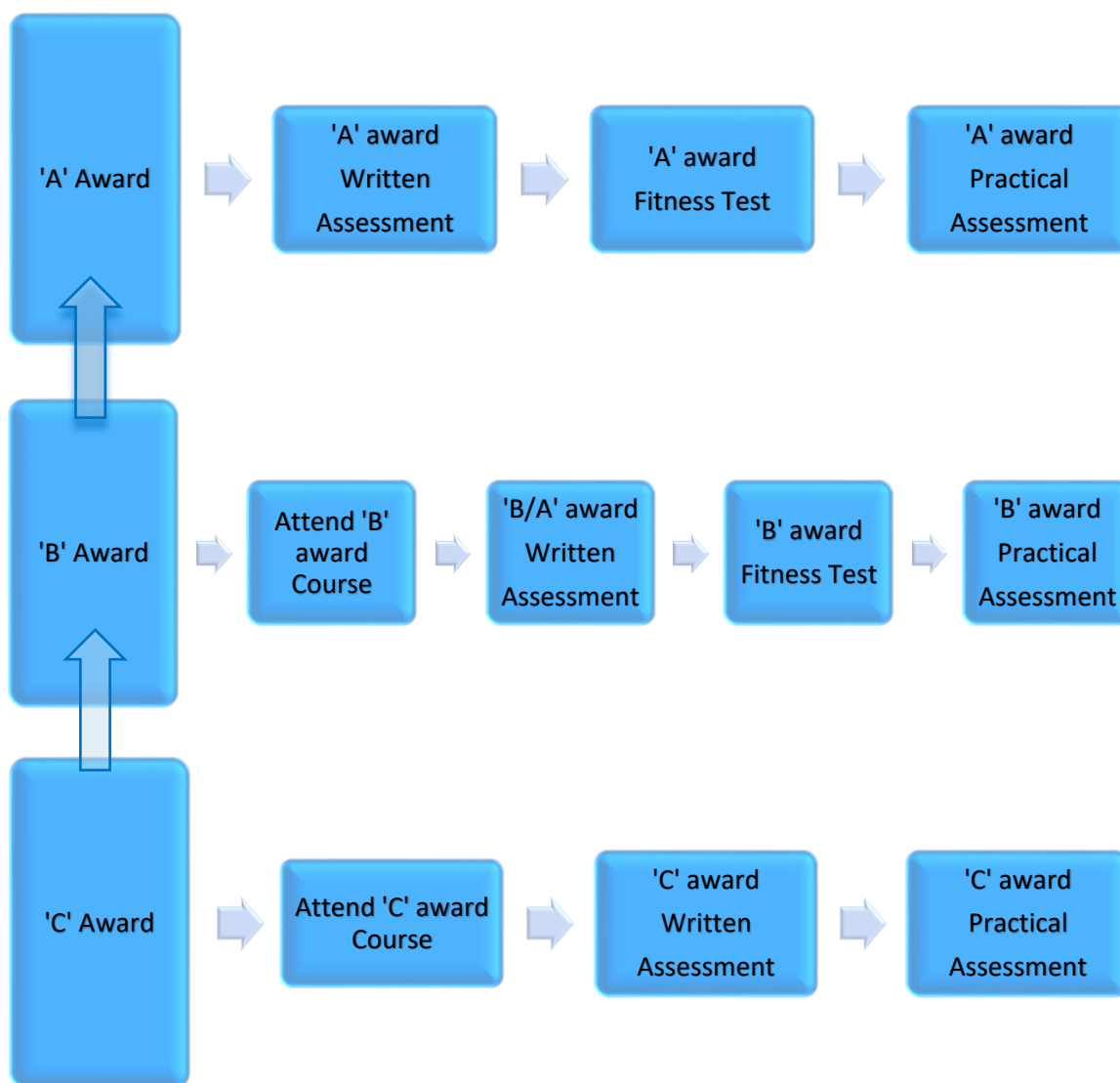
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1. Introduction

This document outlines the Europe Netball Umpire Pathway created by the Europe Netball Officiating Working Group (Europe Netball OWG) and defines the pathway to be followed by all Europe Netball Member Countries for umpire development.

1.1 The Europe Netball Umpire Pathway details the progression for umpires through the Europe Netball levels of 'C', 'B' and 'A' award, which is the highest Europe Netball award before progressing to the World Netball International award (IUA). Whilst it is not part of the Europe Netball Umpire Pathway, Europe Netball recommends that all learners attend an introductory umpiring course before attending a 'C' award course. Suggested course objectives are included in Appendix C.



Whilst not requirements of the Europe Netball Umpire Pathway, Europe Netball recommends that:

- A Fitness Test at the appropriate level is included as part of the 'B' award and 'A' award Practical Assessment
- 'B' award umpires working towards the 'A' award attend an 'A' award course before undertaking the 'A' award Written Assessment or the 'A' award Practical Assessment

1.2 Talent Identification

An assessor who, when conducting an Umpire award assessment, identifies a learner umpire as having the potential to progress along the Europe Netball Umpire Pathway within a shorter timeframe than that set out in the Administration of the Europe Netball Umpire Assessor Award, may recommend to the learner umpire's Member Country Assessment Organiser that the learner umpire has the potential to be allowed to progress more quickly along the Pathway.

1.3 Application for Dispensation

If a learner umpire considers that there are extenuating circumstances, such as injury or illness, which mean that the learner umpire cannot complete (or has not completed) the relevant Award within the specified timeframe, the learner umpire can apply through their Member Country Assessment Organiser for dispensation. The Member Country Assessment Organiser will forward the Application to Europe Netball for a decision and advise the learner umpire accordingly, on receipt of Europe Netball's decision.

A template of the Application form can be found on the Europe Netball website and a Member Country specific Application form can be found on each Member Country's website.

2. Young Umpires

- 2.1 The Europe Netball Officiating Young Umpires Guidelines included in Appendix A define the requirements with which Europe Netball Member Countries must comply to support their young umpires through each pathway level and specifies the minimum age for taking each level of umpire assessment for introductory, 'C', 'B' and 'A' umpiring awards.

3. Umpire Training Courses

- 3.1 Member Countries may apply to Europe Netball to provide tutors for their umpire training courses or they may develop their own courses and use their own qualified tutors who meet the criteria for Europe Netball tutors. The recommended course objectives are included in Appendix C. Member Country umpire course administrators must ensure that candidates meet the minimum age requirements specified in the Europe Netball Officiating Young Umpires Guidelines included in Appendix A.

3.2 Introductory umpiring course

An introductory umpiring course is recommended as the introduction to and a suitable first course before the Europe Netball Umpire Pathway. It is optional and can be developed by Member Countries.

3.3 'C', 'B' and 'A' courses

The Europe Netball Umpire Pathway requires learner umpires to attend a relevant course at 'C' and 'B' levels, before applying for a written or practical assessment. Courses are valid for two years and the written paper must be taken within two years of the course date. These courses may be face to face or delivered virtually as tutor led sessions or CPD workshops. Learner umpires must maintain a record of course dates attended, as this is a pre-requisite when applying for any written or practical assessment. Europe Netball recommends that Member Countries either develop an 'A' award course for their learner umpires to attend or hold regular (minimum of every 2 years) 'A' award conferences.

If Member Countries develop courses, then these must comply with the course objectives of 'C', 'B' and 'A' courses as defined by Europe Netball in Appendix C and must include:

- Interactive content
- Practical-based exercises (virtual or face to face) to develop umpiring skills and techniques
- Advice on taking both the written and practical assessments

3.4 Member Countries should maintain records of their learners' course attendance, so that applications for assessment can be checked.

4. Practical Assessment

4.1 Member Country Umpire assessment administrators must ensure that candidates meet the minimum age requirements for assessment at each level of umpire award as specified in the Europe Netball Officiating Young Umpires Guidelines included in Appendix A.

4.2 Learner umpires must maintain a log of the matches they umpire, which should be varied and appropriate for the award they are working towards. When applying for a practical assessment, the learner umpire must provide their match log and course attendance record to the Member Country Assessment Organiser. A Sample Umpire Match Log is available in Appendix B.

4.3 Member Countries may specify a minimum number of matches and the type of matches which a learner must umpire for each award level.

4.4 Europe Netball Member Countries are required to use the Europe Netball practical assessment criteria when assessing their umpires using appropriately qualified assessors, as defined by Europe Netball.

- 4.5 The Europe Netball criteria for practical assessment for Europe Netball 'C', 'B' and 'A' awards are based on the assessment criteria defined by World Netball. These criteria can be found in the Europe Netball Umpire Assessors Handbook on the Europe Netball website.

5. Written assessment

- 5.1 Member Country umpire written assessment administrators must ensure that candidates meet the minimum age requirements for assessment at each level of umpire award as specified in the Europe Netball Officiating Young Umpires Guidelines included in Appendix A.
- 5.2 Europe Netball is responsible for the preparation and administration of the 'C' and 'B/A' written papers. Member Countries must apply through the Europe Netball application process and pay the appropriate fee for each learner, unless Europe Netball has agreed with a Member Country that learners can pay the fee directly to Europe Netball. The written assessment application process and fees can be found on the Europe Netball website and on each Member Country's website and includes provisions which:-

(a) enable a learner to defer their application once, with a £20 administration fee payable to Europe Netball (Europe Netball will invoice the Member Country). Any subsequent request for a deferral will require the learner to complete another application and pay the fee in full; and

(b) state that if any learner chooses to retake the written assessment during the validity period of a prior successful written assessment, the result of the later written assessment will replace the result of the earlier written assessment and the result of the earlier written assessment will cease to have effect and become null and void.

6. Fitness tests

- 6.1 When applying for the Europe Netball 'B' or 'A' award practical assessment, umpires must provide evidence of a fitness test conducted within the specified time period, together with their application to their Member Country Assessment Organiser.
The fitness test is described on www.thebleeptest.com

7. Assessors

- 7.1 Europe Netball has defined the requirements for being recognised as a qualified assessor. These can be found in the Assessor Pathway on the Europe Netball website.
- 7.2 Member Countries which do not have a Europe Netball-endorsed and approved system in place must apply to Europe Netball for the provision of assessor training, either online or face-to-face in a Member Country. Guidance on how to apply can be found on the Europe Netball website.

8. Tutors

- 8.1 Europe Netball has defined the requirements for being recognised as a qualified tutor. These can be found in the Tutor Pathway on the Europe Netball website.
- 8.2 Member Countries which do not have a Europe Netball-endorsed and approved system in place must apply to Europe Netball for the provision of tutor training, either online or face-to-face in a Member Country. Guidance on how to apply can be found on the Europe Netball website.

9. Technical Officials

- 9.1 Technical Officials are the scorers and timekeepers who sit at the official bench and provide support to umpires. Europe Netball has defined the requirements for being recognised as a Technical Official within a Member Country. These can be found in the Technical Officials Pathway on the Europe Netball website.
- 9.2 Member Countries which do not have a Europe Netball-endorsed and approved system in place must apply to Europe Netball for the provision of Technical Officials training, either online or face-to-face in a Member Country. Guidance on how to apply can be found on the Europe Netball website.
- 9.3 Technical Officials who qualify within a Member Country may choose to progress to the World Netball Technical Official qualification and become eligible for international level matches.

10. Europe Netball Fees

- 10.1 Europe Netball has a fees schedule (see Europe Netball Website - fees schedule) chargeable to Member Countries when requesting Europe Netball courses, assessments, tutors and training for assessors and tutors.
- 10.2 Europe Netball charges each learner for the Europe Netball 'C' and 'B/A' written examinations.

11. Additional information

- 11.1 The following information is available on the Europe Netball website – <https://netballeurope.com>
 - Contact details for Member Countries which wish to request an assessor or tutor or an online or face-to-face course
 - Who is who in Europe Netball OWG- a list of contacts
 - Europe Netball Code of Conduct for the Officiating Workforce and Umpires
 - Europe Netball Guidelines for Safeguarding and Protecting Children

Appendices

Appendix A – Europe Netball Officiating Young Umpire Guidelines

It is now widely accepted that, as young people mature at different ages, their physical, social and emotional differences are likely to be extremely varied, even amongst young people with the same chronological age. However, we do have a duty of care as an organisation to our young umpires.

Europe Netball has defined the minimum age of 12 years for taking the Europe Netball Let's Get Started course. Some member countries have their own foundation award and do not use the Europe Netball Let's Get Started course, so they will need to determine the minimum age for taking their award.

Europe Netball has defined the criteria for the 'C' Award as follows:

- The minimum age for learner umpires to attend a 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 between the ages of 13 and 14, once they have completed their C Award course.

There are no age criteria set by Europe Netball for further progression through their Awards pathway. Member Countries, however, are advised that they should devise a development pathway based on:

- the Member Country Safeguarding guidance/policy;
- consideration of the standard and age of players in relation to the age of the umpire;
- consideration of whether a young umpire is potentially being placed in a vulnerable situation which may affect their physical, social or emotional well-being;
- consideration of the ability of the young person to access the course material and the B/A written paper;
- consideration of whether a young umpire would benefit from support from a responsible adult and establishing an agreed definition of a responsible adult.

Appendix C – Suggested Course Objectives

Introductory Umpiring course

The aim of an Introductory Umpiring course is to build confidence and provide a basic understanding of the key netball rules. Member Countries may decide how best to meet the needs of their learners and may choose to create a tutor-led course with a mixture of theory and practical content, or an accredited online course with a mixture of theory supported by video examples. Member Countries are free to decide whether an Introductory Umpiring award will contain a written assessment. Europe Netball recommends that any written assessment follows the same structure as the 'C' Award written assessment but that questions are made suitable for learners new to netball.

Note that the Introductory Umpiring course will provide learners with a general overview of the key rules of netball and their application. Subsequent courses will focus on the techniques of umpiring and improving skills.

Minimum Age: age to attend the course, age to take the practical assessment (if Member Country has practical assessment)-to be determined by the Member Country (Europe Netball's minimum age to take it's Let's Get Started course is 12)

'C' Award Course

The aim of a 'C' Award course is to prepare learners to meet the competencies for the written and practical assessments of the 'C' Award.

Minimum Age: 13 to attend the course, 14 to take the practical assessment (a young umpire may take the 'C' written assessment between the ages of 13 and 14, once they have completed their 'C' Award course)

'B' Award Course

The aim of a 'B' Award course is to prepare learners to meet the competencies for the written and practical assessments of the 'B' Award.

Minimum Age: 14 + to attend the course, 16 to take the practical assessment

'A' Award Course

The aim of a 'B' Award course is to prepare learners to meet the competencies for the written and practical assessments of the 'A' Award.

Minimum Age: 16 + to attend the course, 18 to take the practical assessment

Technical Officials Course

This course is for those who want to learn about scoring and timing a netball match at a Member Country level. World Netball have defined the requirements for Technical Officials for International level matches.

Minimum Age: 16 to attend the course

Europe Netball: Website: www.europenetball.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/EuropeNetball
X: @EuropeNetball
Instagram: @europenetball_
YouTube: www.youtube.com/@netballeurope

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