

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 wellbeing;
- 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.

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