

## C&DNA 11 & Under Umpiring Program

### Purpose

The emphasis of this program is to give beginner players the best chance at developing their netball skills and encourage increased opportunities for game play. At beginner level, the game should be about skills, achievement and fun.

In a secondary sense, this program is intended to boost the skill development of the association overall as players coming through from 11 & Under have had more experience engaging with the rules and skills of the game.

### Program Description

For 11 & Under beginner level, each court will have **one** experienced umpire who will be on the court, engaging with players and helping them understand netball and the rules. Beginner levels of any sport is the most critical in learning the essential skills of that sport, therefore it is vital that the umpiring and coaching of these players is complementary. This aims to help players in the following ways:

- As there is only one umpire, players always know who to look at and follow one voice as umpires do not need to compete for their attention
- The umpiring is consistent for both ends of the court
- The umpire becomes more approachable and players learn the role of the umpire in an inclusive and positive environment
- Umpires will encourage equal game play for each teams, increasing opportunities for all players
- Increase player development by explaining the rules and providing re-enactment to compliment instruction from coaches
- Increase skill, ability and confidence of players as they progress into higher age groups

Please note, the umpires may adjust the rules where necessary in order to give the players the best experience.

In the 11 & UNDER upper sections, each court will have two umpires. Rule infringements will be sanctioned consistently by both umpires, and players will be given an explanation and a chance to reset play before being penalised for infringements.

### Guidelines for Umpires

The role of the umpire for 11 & Under beginner sections is vital in their development. Not only does your presence help keep them safe and enforce and explain the rules, but it also helps coaches observe what rules need to be further taught at training. It is important that this role is taken seriously and rule infringements are sanctioned consistently and correctly.

## What to do & what not to do

DO	DON'T
Smile and engage positively with players at their level	Do not be stern
Set the sanction in a relevant place and get the game moving as quickly as possible	Do not be pedantic about where a sanction is set
Explain rules concisely using accessible language, but use correct terminology when explaining the rules	Do not be overly wordy or use complicated terms or ideas
Engage with the players and give basic direction equally to both teams	Do not just stand there and be separated from the play
Take initiative in adjusting rules in order to encourage equal game play to both teams	Do not get frustrated with players
Speak loudly, slowly and clearly	Do not tell players your name, otherwise during the game they will be calling your name to get your attention
Ensure that you repeat your instructions if players are confused, the focus is on helping them understand	Do not apply the advantage rule
Stay within 2 metres of play, change sides as necessary, get on the court and engage with players	Do not physically move a player to a position

## Useful phrases & explanations

Key words that should be included in coaching and words directly from the rulebook are bolded. It is important for players to understand these words, as they will be used regularly as they progress with netball.

Held ball	- "You need to pass the ball <b>within 3 seconds</b> "
Short pass	- "WA & C, you must <b>pass</b> the ball to each so that the other team has a <b>chance to defend</b> , you cannot hand the ball to each other.
Relayed ball	- "Good try, but we need to <b>ensure the ball touches the goal ring/post or another player before you catch it again</b> " - "GK, we cannot bounce the ball in netball, you need to <b>catch it and pull it in</b> "
Footwork	- "GA, you took one too many steps" - "GS, your back foot was your <b>grounded foot</b> , so you did this *re-enactment* instead of <b>pivoting</b> like this *re-enactment*"
Offside	- "WA, remember you're not allowed in the <b>goal circle</b> , make sure your foot doesn't go <b>over the line</b> "
Breaking	- "GD, remember we need to stay behind the line until the whistle blows for the <b>centre pass</b> "
Throw ins	- "Good try at goal GS, its Blue <b>throw in</b> , GK you take the ball with your foot up to the line but not on the line" - "Remember not to step on court until you throw the ball" - "This foot at the line is your <b>grounded foot</b> , so make sure you keep your feet still before throwing"
Untouched	- "The ball must be caught or touched in the <b>centre third</b> before it moves to the <b>goal third</b> "

Obstruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “WD you are too close, you need to be *re-enactment* this far away before you put your arms up”</li> </ul>
Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “C if another player has <b>possession of the ball, you must not touch them or the ball</b>. Instead, get a metre back and put your arms up”</li> <li>- “GD, it is important that you do not <b>unfairly disadvantage</b> your player but putting your arms across them, you need to have them by your side”</li> <li>- “WD in the <b>contest</b> for the ball with the WA, you need to make sure you don’t elbow them and only go for the ball”</li> <li>- “GA, we cannot <b>unfairly interfere</b> with your opponent’s natural movement in going for the ball”</li> </ul>
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Good try, let’s take it back and have another go”</li> <li>- “We all need to move back and <b>make a lead</b> for the player with the ball”</li> </ul>

### Rule adjustments to help game play

Blow your whistle for every time you wish to correct or sanction an action. This is to get the players used to stopping when they hear the whistle. Do not give instruction (specific to a rule infringement) to players without blowing the whistle to pause play.

Held ball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Players may hold the ball for up to 5 seconds.</li> <li>- Give players a chance to pass the ball by counting down from 3, to encourage them to think about the rule around 3 seconds, not 5.</li> </ul>
Short pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Allow small passes over short distances between players</li> <li>- But do not allow them to hand the ball to each other.</li> </ul>
Replayed ball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider the skill level of players. Do not allow more than one controlled bounce of the ball, however if a player fumbles the ball numerous times this is not replayed ball.</li> <li>- Do not allow the ball to be caught again by a shooter if a shot for goal does not touch the goal ring/post or another player.</li> </ul>
Footwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure you explain and re-enact infringements, especially shuffling, to draw the player and coach’s attention to a skill that needs work in training</li> </ul>
Offside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draw the player’s attention to where they are, remind them that they must stay in their field of play</li> <li>- Do not penalise player on first infringement</li> <li>- If there are too many players in the same third, hold time and sort out who should not be there, then restart play</li> <li>- If continued infringing occurs, penalise player</li> </ul>
Breaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clearly remind players at the beginning of each match to listen to the umpire’s whistle before they move passed the transverse line.</li> <li>- If one player breaks very early and catches the ball, penalise that player</li> <li>- If all players break, do not allow play to continue, reset the centre pass to teach players not to break</li> </ul>

Throw ins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On a throw in clearly indicate where it is to be taken, remind player to step up to the line but not on the line and not enter the court until they have released the ball</li> <li>- If a player does any of the above, bring the ball back and give them another opportunity. Penalise after repeated infringements</li> </ul>
Untouched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On the first infringement, reset the centre</li> <li>- Penalise on subsequent infringements</li> </ul>
Obstruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Avoid placing player out of play. Instead, show them what distance is appropriate and let them have another try</li> </ul>
Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Avoid placing player out of play. Instead, show them what they did wrong and advise them not to do this again</li> <li>- In the event of serious contact, explain this to the player and put them out of play</li> </ul>
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is up to the umpire's discretion to hold time at any point during the game</li> </ul>

## Materials for Coaches and Umpires to Work Together

It is highly recommended that you spend time at training and during warm up discussing and reminding players of the rules of the game and the role of the umpire. This prepares them for what to expect on the court.

As well as being umpires, we are all passionate netballers and above all want the kids to succeed and have fun. If you have questions about rules or how to approach these with your team, please speak with the umpire or a supervisor on game day.

The umpire coordinator will be very active at the courts in supervising this program and would be appreciative of any constructive feedback from coaches. If parents of players or clubs / teams have feedback, they may direct it towards the umpire coordinator through the coach or club committee member on the night or through the Operations Manager via email.

## Umpiring schedule for beginner players

This table acts as a guide only. Where necessary, rules are adjusted to the standard of play. The intention is to apply/discuss rules highlighted in each time period consistently, so that as the season progresses, while players may not always follow the rules, they know what they are and understand the purpose of a sanction for doing the wrong thing. It is still important to use sanctions to prepare them for playing in higher levels as they progress.

Weeks	Rules addressed by umpires:
1 – 4	<u>Centre passes</u> -players must be behind the lines until the whistle blows - ball cannot be thrown until the whistle blows - the centre must have at least one foot wholly within the centre circle <u>Throw ins</u> - player must address the line - player must not have foot on the line <u>Held Ball</u> - players ball hold the ball for 5 seconds before release <u>Replayed Ball</u> - player must not try for goal and catch the ball again if it has not touched the ring or

	<p>another player</p> <p><u>Areas of the court (offside, untouched/over a third)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- players should not go offside and take part in play</li> </ul> <p><u>Footwork</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- players must not run more than three steps with the ball</li> </ul> <p><u>Contact</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- players may not touch the ball when another player has possession</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- players must not interfere with an opponent's body movement</li> </ul> <p><u>Obstruction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- player defending the ball must leave 0.9m distance</li> </ul>
5 – 8	<p>All of the above</p> <p><u>Throw ins</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- player must obey footwork and held ball rule</li> <li>- player defending must not obstruct</li> </ul> <p><u>Footwork</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- players must not shuffle their feet</li> <li>- players must not move more than two steps with the ball</li> </ul> <p><u>Contact</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- players must not interfere with an opponent's body movement on or off the ball</li> </ul> <p><u>Areas of play</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- players may be penalised when they go offside</li> </ul>
9 – 13	<p>All of the above</p> <p><u>Footwork</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- players must use their footwork correctly as according to the definition in the rulebook</li> </ul>