Officiating Report TWCNA AGM 2020

Since our last AGM we have been working on our umpiring mentor scheme and looking at ways to implement this during league fixtures. We have undertaken umpire observations and formal mentoring opportunities.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ceri Glennie who qualified in October 2019 as a C Award umpire and thank our neighbouring county Northumberland who we have been working with to ensure tests can take place efficiently. Ceri was tested with an umpire who predominately umpires in Northumberland – Jan Weightman and she also passed her C Award. Our working relationship with Northumberland is very important, some officials umpire in both leagues and mentors also cross over between the counties so we will continue to work closely with them to ensure our umpires continue to progress.

The number of officials in our leagues are increasing and it's great to see the depth we have, of course we can never have too many umpires, so please continue to support club members to pick up a whistle and have a go in training sessions.

There have been limited courses in the North East since September 2019 due to a changeover in North East Netball Staff and obviously the recent pandemic. Courses did take place in Jan 2020 and I am pleased to say we did have a number of umpires from Tyne and Wear on these courses who can now work towards their qualification with support from their clubs and our mentors. With regards timescales for qualifications due to COVID-19 we have issued the most recent guidance from England Netball on our Facebook Page and have included the information below.

Extension of Netball Europe officiating awards / roles due to COVID-19

Netball Europe C, B and A umpiring award

Written awards B and A

Any umpire who already has a written award pass with an expiry date on or after 16th March 2020 will have their expiry date extended by 12 months (so for example, if your expiry date was originally April 30th 2020 this will now be extended to April 30th 2021).

Attended a C or B course and not already applied for written assessment

Learners have 2 years from the date that they attended a course (either C or B award) in which to take their written assessment. This is being extended by 12 months from the recommencement of competition following the end of lockdown (date to be confirmed).

Application for C, B and A practical assessment

All applications for practical assessments that have already been submitted to a country organiser will remain valid. When competition recommences following the end of lock down (date to be confirmed), organisers will be required to arrange the assessment within the following timeframes:

- *C award - 6 months (currently 3 months)*
- *B award - 8 months (currently 4 months)*
- *A award - 12 months (currently 6 months)*

These timeframes have been extended to allow the candidates sufficient time to undertake relevant match umpiring in preparation for their practical assessment and to allow organisers sufficient time for the organisation of the assessment.

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New Rules Update

As you will be aware new rules will be implemented in September 2020, it is important to stress that the majority of changes are minor tidy ups. The main changes can be accessed at the following link https://d2cx26qpfwuhvu.cloudfront.net/englandnetball/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/03111803/Main-Changes.pdf. Online workshops will be delivered by Cheryl Danson OBE – Chair of the International Rules Panel and Gary Burgess and all of our umpires will need to attend one prior to leagues recommencing. As soon as we have dates and links for these, we will promote them through our social media accounts and send them direct to umpires.

We have purchased new rules books for all of our practicing umpires and mentors and will distribute these when our netball leagues restart. In the meantime, you can access an online copy of the new rule book via https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/get-involved/officiating/rules-and-updates/ and please use the England Netball Website and Social Media channels to keep up to date with officiating news. Gary Burgess has been delivering Net-Fix sessions during lock down and these can be accessed through England Netball's Officiating Facebook Page. They have had lots of useful information and discussions included in them so are worth a watch.

Finally, we are looking for a new officiating secretary to support the development of umpires in Tyne and Wear, our current secretary Helen Emmerson is stepping down from the post so if you know of anybody who would be interested please let us know. You can email officiating@tyneandwearnetball.net and Helen will happily speak to anybody interested in the role and support them during their first few weeks in the position.