

Notes for newly qualified C Award Umpires officiating in Tyne and Wear County League.

Following a successful C Award assessment you will receive via email a copy of the Assessment marks and comments submitted to England Netball to confirm your pass. **Keep a copy of your Assessment record as this is proof of your qualification.** You might also want to record the name of the 2nd Assessor as this is not included on the Assessment record and might be of use in exceptional circumstances. Also check your Engage record to ensure it shows your new qualification (probably within 2 weeks).

There are a few **rules within the T&W County League** which apply to umpires.

1. All umpires should be **neutral**. You can't umpire a team from your own Club, a team which contains a close relative, a team from a Club that you coach or a team from a Club you have played for and recently left. In the case of the latter a few years after leaving you should apply to the County Umpiring Secretary (CUS) for permission to consider this Club neutral.
2. **Three Hour Rule**. You are not permitted to take part for 3 hours on any one night. On any one night you can play a match and umpire a match **OR** umpire two matches and then play in the 8.30 match. If you play two matches on any one night then you can't umpire at all.
3. Should an **emergency** arise on the day or night of matches then permission is sometimes given for umpires to break the 3 hour rule. Similarly, if on the night an umpire fails to arrive then the 3 hour and neutral rules may be broken (the latter only with the agreement of both teams).
4. Umpires are asked to wear a **white top** when umpiring. This is to ensure they don't clash with the teams on court. Try to avoid blue or black tops when umpiring as these are the colours most teams wear and are most likely to cause a clash.
5. A fitness requirement (4.1 for C Awards) is mandatory for participation in the T&W County League. Attendance at an annual T&W Umpire Seminar is also mandatory. The fitness test can be completed at the Seminar which is usually held in mid-September just before the league starts.

Development and Progression

T&W require all newly qualified umpires to officiate at least 5 or more matches in Division 5 & 6 before they can apply to the County Officiating Lead (COL) for a review. As part of this review the umpire will be given feedback to help their progression and may then be given permission to progress to officiating Division 4 matches. If this permission is not given then a further review will be planned after 5 or so more matches. Progression to Division 3 is given once a C Award Umpire has gained significant experience or demonstrated outstanding talent and is ready to progress. This takes as long as is required. Information about further progression is on the TWCNA website.

Officiating in the T&W County League

Arranging matches to umpire rests with the Umpire. Please ensure when you commit to a match that you know the teams you are umpiring (as opposed to the team you are umpiring for) so that you can ensure you are neutral. Please do not over commit and then cancel, finding an umpire last minute is very difficult. The TWCNA Umpiring facebook page is now the main way that teams find umpires and where opportunities available are advertised. Please ensure you diary your commitments carefully, there is a points penalty in the rules for teams who do not provide an umpire, even if it's the umpire's fault!

Finally, remember that all Umpires are being observed on a regular, informal basis whilst officiating in the T&W County League. TWCNA expects umpires who choose to officiate in our league to give 100% at all times; to show fairness and respect to all players on court and to officiate in a manner appropriate to the level of the players on court. The regular complaints we receive (and observe), are about Umpires who don't make the effort to get around the court, stroll around or appear uninterested in being there, or who aren't up to date with rule changes and interpretations. We expect all Umpires to officiate each match as if they were being formally assessed!