

FAQs

1. Q. Do I have to attend a C Award Course before applying for my Assessment?

A. Yes. You must attend an online C Award course and then pass your Written Assessment within 2 years of completing your course. Having passed your Written Assessment you will then have 2 years to complete your Practical Assessment. Application to attend an online C Award Course is via England Netball's ENgage system. Further information on C award courses can be found on the England Netball's website: www.englandnetball.co.uk.

2. Q. How do I gain practical umpiring experience after the course?

A. Your County Officiating Lead (COL) can advise on the umpiring opportunities within your County. Please note that your COL is not informed of your attendance on a course so you will need to contact them once you have completed the course. Usually, experience is gained in club or within the social leagues. It is recommended that the trainee seeks help and feedback from suitably qualified individuals to help their progression – for example qualified umpires within their club or an approved county mentor. Once the trainee has reached a significant level of competence (virtually ready for their assessment) they will be allowed to umpire Division 5/6 matches within the county league, accompanied by an approved mentor. Trainee's **MUST** be virtually ready for their assessment before they will be allowed to officiate league matches. To gain permission trainees should contact the COL who will advise them of a mentor who can review them. It is envisaged that only 5 or 6 matches will be needed before the trainee should be ready for assessment. It will be the trainee's responsibility to find suitable matches and ensure a Mentor is available. Any fees for matches should be offered to the Mentor.

3.Q. How do I apply for my Written Assessment?

A. The 'C' award written assessment is completed on-line. The course fee includes the written assessment fee. England Netball will schedule the online written assessment to be taken 6 months after your virtual course. However, Learners are able to request to take the written assessment earlier or defer to a later date, providing it is within 2 years of completing the on-line course.

4.Q. If I do not pass the Written Assessment the first time, when can I retake it?

A. If you do not pass both sections of the on-line written assessment, you will be given the option of taking another paper in the same sitting. If you are unsuccessful twice, you must reapply to Europe Netball for another resit opportunity.

5. Q. Is it important which matches I umpire as evidence for my Log Book?

A. Yes. The Log Book must contain a variety of matches which are appropriate to the level of the C Award. This must include a minimum of at least 4 matches as identified by your COL. It is likely these 4 matches will be League Matches with a mentor in readiness for your practical assessment.

6. Q. Do I have to have a mentor before applying for my Practical Assessment?

A. No. It is not mandatory to be mentored before applying for a Practical Assessment. However, it will be of benefit to work with a mentor - ideally one who is a C Award Assessor or who knows the C award assessment criteria. Please contact your County Officiating Lead for details of mentors in your area.

7. Q. Where can I download the C Award Practical Application Form

A. The form is available on the England Netball website.

8. Q. Do I need to take a C Award Pre-assessment?

A. No. However, to support the Learners and the teams that are used for assessments, it is important that Learner Umpires are appropriately prepared for their Practical Assessments. Therefore, all Application Forms for a Practical Assessment should be endorsed by the Learner's COL or their Mentor.

9. Q. When will I know about my C Award Practical Assessment?

A. The Practical Assessment is set up by your County. Detailed instructions will be sent to the Learner Umpires and Assessors via email. The Assessment will be arranged as soon as possible but hopefully within four weeks of the receipt of the Application - a delay can occur between the end of one season and the start of the next season. It is

the responsibility of the Learner Umpire to ensure that, during the waiting period for an Assessment, they maintain their fitness and quality of umpiring. In Tyne and Wear County Practical Assessments are usually scheduled for Tuesday night on a Division 4 match.

10. Q. Can my Mentor be my Practical Assessor?

A. Yes. The COL will endeavour to allocate two independent assessors. However, if there are no other assessors available for the assessment and to wait for two independent assessors would cause unnecessary and extensive delay in the scheduling, the Learner Umpire's mentor may be appointed as an assessor, but not the Lead Assessor.

11. Q. Is the Learner Umpire paid by the team for umpiring when being assessed?

A. No. Counties will make this clear to the teams involved in the assessment.

12. Q. What should I do if I am injured or unwell when I receive my assessment date?

A. This is a personal decision for the Learner Umpire. However, if you do not think that you will be fully fit on the assessment date, please consider whether it would be better to request another assessment date, when you expect to be fully fit and can perform to your best.

13. Q. If I do not pass my Practical Assessment at the first attempt how long do I have to wait before I can retake the Practical Assessment?

A. Three months is the recommended period before a Learner Umpire who has not passed the C Award practical assessment may reapply. The lead assessor will advise the Learner Umpire of the required timescale before they can re-apply. The Learner Umpire is required to list at least four matches of the approved standard in the Log Book and their application would require to be re-endorsed by their COL or other County recognised person (which can include the Learner's mentor). The Learner Umpire does not have to attend another course unless the period of two years has elapsed since the Written Pass date. If this happens, the Learner Umpire must attend another course and retake the Written Assessment.

County Officiating Lead can be contacted on tandwnetballofficiating@gmail.com