

## **FAQs**

### **1. Q. What are the timescales for gaining an Into Officiating (IO) award?**

A. Once you complete an online IO Award course, you must apply and pass your Practical Assessment within two years. Failure to do this will mean you will have to complete another IO Award course. Application to attend an online IO Award Course is via England Netball's ENgage system. Further information on IO award courses can be found on the England Netball's website: [www.englandnetball.co.uk](http://www.englandnetball.co.uk)

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

A. Your COL (County Officiating Lead) will be able to advise you on the practical umpiring opportunities within your County. Usually umpires gain experience within their club or at the local social leagues. 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 your course.

### **3. Q. Is it important which matches I umpire before my Practical Assessment?**

A. Yes. Learner umpires should officiate a variety of matches which are appropriate to the level of the IO Award and enter them in their Log Book.

### **4. Q. Do I have to have a mentor before applying for my Practical Assessment?**

A. No. It is not mandatory to be mentored however, it will be of benefit to work with a mentor (ideally one who is an IO Award Assessor or who knows the IO award assessment criteria), who can help you to progress to the appropriate standard. It is recommended that before applying for your IO assessment you seek the advice of a mentor or assessor to ensure you have reached the appropriate level of competency. Please contact your COL for details of mentors in your area.

### **5. Q. Where can I download the IO Award Practical Application Form**

A. An Application Form can be found on the England Netball website.

### **6. 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.

### **7. Q. When will I know the date of my IO Award Practical Assessment?**

A. The Practical Assessment is set up by your County. Detailed instructions will be sent to the Learner Umpires and Assessors in plenty of time. The Assessment will be arranged as soon as possible but if possible within one month of the receipt of the Application (unless there are extenuating circumstances). 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.

### **8. Q. What should I do if I am injured/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 ask for another Assessment date, when you expect to be fully fit and can perform to your best.

### **9. 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 IO Award Practical Assessment may reapply for another Practical Assessment. The minimum period will be determined by the assessor. The Learner umpire is required to list at least four matches of the approved standard in their Log Book. The Learner Umpire does not have to attend another IO course unless their existing course expires before they can apply for their practical re-assessment. If they do not pass the re-assessment they must attend another course.

### **10. Q. Does the Into Officiating Award have an expiry date?**

A. No. The IO Award does not have an expiry date, but it is only valid if the Umpire holds a full England Netball Membership.

**County Officiating Lead can be contacted on [tandwnetballofficiating@gmail.com](mailto:tandwnetballofficiating@gmail.com)**