

Deaf Awareness.

England Netball has been working with the West Midlands Deaf Netball Association (with help from Birmingham League) to develop better communication between their players, umpires and other teams. To this end we have produced some Protocols for umpires and teams together with some general communication protocols. (1 enclosure included in this package)

There are a number of deaf players playing in teams within leagues around the country - there are, we believe a few deaf teams also playing in Leagues so we hope that the attached can be circulated not just to them but to all netball teams/umpires. These protocols are not set in stone but are a very good base which we are prepared to build on. We know that we have to develop a better way of communicating a Free Pass or a Penalty Pass or Penalty Shot to deaf players so anyone with any ideas on this or any other deaf awareness tips that they would like to share, please let us know.

If you know of any deaf teams/players in your area please could you let us know as this will help us develop a wider database of where people are playing and of umpires who have had experience of umpiring deaf teams/players.

National Development Training Course for B Award Umpires

– this biennial course is being held on 17/18 September at Nottingham University and applications are open to all B award umpires wishing to work towards the Netball Europe A Award. Details with booking forms will be sent to B award umpires during July and will be on a first come first served basis. Details of the B award circulation will be sent to Regional Umpiring Secretaries to ensure that we don't miss anyone who might wish to apply.

Game Conference

The England Netball Game Conference is being held on 2nd/3rd/4th September at Loughborough University and will be led by top coaches, umpires and administrator with invited keynote speakers. There will be something for everyone in this exciting, truly integrated programme. (1 enclosure included in this package)

England Netball Beginner

Questions. The 10 question papers and Sample papers have been slightly amended following one or two minor errors in the answers. If your county currently uses this Award then a pack of amended questions plus answers will be enclosed within this package. If it is not or you would like a copy (or an electronic copy) please do not hesitate in contacting Head Office.

C Award written questions are also being looked at for accuracy on answers and will be made available when ready

National Reaccreditation Course for Umpire Tutors

– this four yearly reaccreditation course is also being held over the weekend of 17/18 September at Nottingham University – running concurrently alongside the B-A course. This national training course is open to all Umpire Tutors who wish to tutor at B award level. Regional one day courses following this weekend course (dates to be confirmed) will be held so that all other qualified umpire tutors who only wish to tutor at C and Beginner level can become accredited. There will also be an opportunity for any prospective umpire tutors to attend the one day regional courses prior to taking the Umpire Tutor Award. Details will be sent to all qualified Umpire Tutors. If you have any umpires who are interested in becoming an Umpire Tutor then please could their details be sent to Head Office.

Fitness Testing - Multi stage (Beep Test)

The following umpires are required to undertake the above fitness testing to ensure participation in certain national activities during 2005/06

- A and B umpires appointed to all national tournament (finals) have to reach a minimum of level 6
- Umpires involved in the neutral allocation of Super League have to reach a minimum of level 7
- Umpires involved in the neutral allocation of NCL and ECL divisions 1-3 have to reach a minimum of level 6
- Umpires wishing to be eligible to umpire NCL division 4 (appointed by clubs) have to reach a minimum of level 6

This testing will be undertaken twice yearly and must be undertaken between 1st August – 19 September 2005 and between 16th January – 26th February 2006.

- B Award umpires applying for the A Award practical test have to reach a minimum level 6. This test would have to be completed within one month prior to the application being sent through to Head Office.
- Some Counties/Clubs already use this fitness test for their players so perhaps umpires could work with their county or club to set up appropriate sessions for this testing to be completed.

Details of the multistage fitness test i.e. paperwork/cassettes/CD are available upon request for Head Office. This information will also be forwarded in due course to all A and B umpires

TUTOR PAYMENTS Please Note:

Counties and Regions are reminded that any payment made to Umpire Tutors for courses are liable to PAYE/National Insurance etc. Because of this any courses requiring reimbursements from England Netball (via the regional budgets) must not be paid by the County or the Region. The Region will have to submit the claim directly to England Netball for them to reimburse. Updated paperwork is being finalised and will be circulated as soon as possible.

C and B Umpires are required to service the following events

Talent Camps – Sunday 3rd July 1pm-3.30pm

Gateshead Leisure Centre
EIS, Sheffield
Smithills Sports Centre, Bolton
Bath University
Exeter University
Hatfield University
Loughborough University
Wolverhampton University
Aldershot Garrison Army Barracks
Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre
Brunel University
It is hoped that A award umpires will be appointed to offer mentoring at the above venues if available

Summer Schools

Aug 1st – 4th Cobham Hall, Kent
Aug 1st – 4th Barnard Castle, Durham
Aug 8th – 11th Repton School, Derbyshire
Aug 8th – 11th Cobham hall, Kent
Aug 15th – 18th Stonar School, Wiltshire
Normally umpires required for 2-3 hours during the day for a couple of days

If you have got any C or B award umpires who you think might benefit from exposure on a nationally organised event please could you let Jan Burke Acorns, 15 Launton Close, Luton, Beds. Tel: 01582 490817 or jaybees@btinternet.com. Jan is currently working with Sheelagh Redpath to assist in the deployment and availability of umpires together with the production of schedules for tournaments etc..

KEEPING THE SCORE

Currently England Netball insists that Scorers are provided on all National Tournament Finals. This has proved a great success and has meant fewer queries for the Tournament Referees to deal with. Whilst we are not in a position, at this moment in time, to insist that all county and league matches must have Scorers, we would like to recommend that where possible the regulation that all teams must supply a Scorer to their game is introduced. Perhaps a league would just pilot one of their divisions. Let us know if any of you already have Scorers as part of your regulations or if you are prepared to trial it.

All details of the above national training courses/Game conference will be sent to County/Regional Umpiring Secretaries / Umpires and Umpire Tutors and will be available on the website