

## **AGE LIMITS FOR THE YOUNGER UMPIRES**

The following recommendations have been made regarding the younger age limits for umpires.

1. Minimum age for England Netball Beginner Award is 12 years
2. Minimum age for C/B/A is 14 years and over.
3. Qualified umpires under 16 years should only be permitted to umpire matches involving player's U16 years of age **or younger**.
4. Umpires aged between 16 and 18 years of age can umpire any match according to the qualification required by leagues but England Netball would recommend that they did not umpire 'senior' matches but Under 18 or younger.

**"If younger umpires are to be involved in 'senior' level matches then there is a responsibility for the league to provide a mentor / umpire support who will be available when they are assigned to any matches**

In making these decisions the best interests of the individual have been considered particularly in relation to how the experience will affect both physical and mental development.

There are possible negative effects:

- Psychological intimidation
- A younger umpire is less likely to be able to demonstrate assertiveness
- The experience might prove to be a negative one leading to a loss in confidence

However there are many positive effects of setting these age limits and they include:

- Recruitment of players into umpiring at a young age
- A greater knowledge and application of the rules
- Potential reached earlier
- Umpires learn to deal with pressure earlier
- Develop a commitment to a team of young players

Therefore England Netball is issuing the following guidance to assist Counties in providing a carefully controlled and monitored environment so that the young umpire involved can develop to the best of his/her ability. It is acknowledged that youngsters mature at different rates both physically and mentally, and therefore the age limits have been set so that young umpires are allowed to develop at a rate appropriate to their age and stage of development.

## **SOME REMINDERS FOR RECRUITING YOUNG UMPIRES**

- The reason for encouraging the youngster to umpire is in his/her best interest
- Every attempt must be made to provide a support/mentor umpire to assist the youngster
- Physical and mental maturity has been considered
- Young umpires should be given positive constructive feedback on their performance.
- A youngster found not to be coping should be provided with guidance.
- The young umpire is encouraged to feel part of a team
- His/her progress is monitored during the season

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