



Hertfordshire Netball Association

www.hertsnetball.co.uk

Officials Technical Group

Umpire Risk Assessment and Duty of Care

Following the response from England Netball to our concerns raised during a trial of the Pre-game Checklist, the following recommendations are put forward for discussion and implementation. A copy of the HNA paper to England Netball together with their detailed response is available on request to Brian Worrell, and a copy is held by Anne Marie Riddle, Chairman OTG.

It is noted that Herts Netball Association (HNA) will take all reasonable precautions to minimise but not eliminate risk, and these recommendations form part of those precautions. Some recommendations will require a procedure to implement them.

Participants also have a responsibility for their own actions and a duty of care to others.

Statement	Recommendation
1. Safety in any sport is everyone's responsibility, including Netball.	Add the proposed statement below to league rules, tournament regulations, Herts website, and anywhere else it is relevant. 'There is a risk of injury when participating in Netball, and safety is everyone's responsibility. Herts Netball will take all reasonable precautions to minimise, but not eliminate, that risk.'
2. Players should be reminded that like all sports, there is a risk of injury in participating in Netball, and that risk is accepted by affiliating.	England Netball will be adding a statement to the affiliation card.

<p>3. Players should ask retailers whether they recommend the playing shoes for match play indoors, and/or outdoors in both wet and dry. It is a players responsibility to ensure they have the correct playing equipment.</p>	<p>HNA to put the following on their website. Players should ask retailers to recommend the correct shoes for indoor and/or outdoor use. It is a players responsibility to be correctly attired.</p>
<p>4. Leagues should ensure they are satisfied with the condition of the courts prior to the start of each season, and draw any concerns to the facility operator in writing for rectification.</p>	<p>Leagues should document their start of season facility survey and copy the facility operator and HNA, along with any actions and rectification to be taken and by whom.</p> <p>A suggested outline survey is attached.</p>
<p>5. Leagues should ensure they have available, an Accident Book (available from most stationary retailers) and Accident Report Forms (available from the England Netball website) should they be required. The facility operator must have an Accident Book by law, but these are often unavailable when needed.</p>	<p>HNA (OTG) to purchase Accident Report books for each League and to signed for by a League official.</p>
<p>6. Leagues should discuss the use of the Pre Game Checklist as amended by HNA for use on central venues. The Trial identified real process issues for central venues and changes suggested to the Checklist.</p>	<p>Use the England Netball Pre Game Checklist available on the EN website.</p>
<p>7. Leagues need their own regulations to manage a cancelled or abandoned game due to court conditions.</p>	<p>League responsibility, and it is suggested it would be covered by Abandoned Game rules.</p>
<p>8. Umpires are responsible for court conditions prior to the match and in deciding whether a match can start. Play should only commence if the umpires agree.</p>	<p>Umpires to sign the Pre Game Checklist if used by the teams.</p> <p>Leagues need to have rules to cover this, and suggested an Abandoned Game rule.</p>
<p>9. As Preliminary and Intermediate award umpires no longer have any status in England Netball, they should be encouraged to take either the C or B Award Test or stop umpiring in Herts.</p>	<p>HNA (OTG) will design an abbreviated course for these umpires, to encourage them to have a Certificate of Attendance, which will be valid for 2 years from the date of the course, to then to take the C Award. Otherwise they cannot umpire in Hertfordshire.</p>

	HNA will write to League administrators of this ruling.
10. Youth Award umpires to be only used in Junior/Youth Leagues Under 16 or lower, and must be affiliated to EN for insurance purposes.	HNA (OTG) to write to League administrators with this England Netball ruling.

<p>11. All Certificate of Attendance umpires must either take the C Award Test within 2 years of the Certificate, or attend another C of A course. Mentoring should be made available to these umpires and HNA should issue an Umpiring Record Card to keep track of progress.</p>	<p>OTG to design a monitoring process which will provide early warning to umpires and Leagues of the 2 year limit for insurance purposes, and of the necessity to have a Certificate of Attendance, or take the C Award test.</p> <p>OTG will produce an Umpires Record Card which will be part of the resources on the Certificate of Attendance course.</p>
<p>12. Leagues should rescind the rule 'No umpire, drop a player' and provide an alternative penalty and process for not providing one. This is an insurance issue.</p>	<p>Leagues to advise its teams that it is essential they have the correct level of qualified or Certificate of Attendance umpire for insurance purposes. The dropped player must be qualified, or the game is conceded and subject to League conceded game rules.</p> <p>If an umpire is injured and cannot be replaced by a qualified umpire, then the game should be abandoned, and League abandoned game rules apply.</p>

Herts Netball Association

Start of Season Facility Survey

Name of League

Facility Name

Item	Detail	Comments, actions and rectifications by who, by when
	Indoor and/or Outdoor court(s)	
Type of court surface and surrounds	Firm and not slippery when damp or wet.	
Court area and lines	Run offs and umpire area 3 feet minimum around courts. Lines properly marked	
Sunken posts and padding	Correct height Firm fixture Square to the court surface Properly laced padding	
Surface posts and bases	Correct height Firm base Square to the court surface	
Rings and nets	Rings are circular Nets properly tied	
Tennis post holes and covers	Other equipment holes properly covered	
Leaves, moss, mud and other loose surface items	Surface is clean, including umpire areas. Surface is firm and not slippery when damp or wet.	
Wire netting, walls and other equipment	Loose netting or wires Basketball rings, tennis nets, football goals or other equipment protruding into court space and surrounds.	
Facility Accident Report Book	Is there one? Where is it? Who can access it?	
Emergency phone	Availability to team/league officials.	
Other facilities	Male and female toilets Changing rooms Refreshments available	

Signed and copies held by:

League Official:Date:

Facility ManagerDate: