

NORTH LONDON NETBALL LEAGUE

UMPIRING UPDATE

September 2009

To improve the standard of umpiring in our League, the AGM agreed changes to the minimum qualifications for the 2009/10 season.

Premier Division	B Award or C Award actively working towards B Award.*
Division 1	C Award actively working towards B Award*
Division 2	C Award
Division 3	C Award
Division 4	C Award or Beginner actively working towards C Award**
Division 5	Attendance at Beginner Award course.

* By "C Award actively working towards B Award", we mean, must have attended B Award course since 2007, and have taken part in the summer mentoring programmes. We hope to set up the mentoring programme for C to B awards very shortly. Once this has been established, regular mentoring will also be a requirement of umpiring in these divisions. Testing for B Award is organised by the London and South East region. Umpires have to be assessed before they can apply for a test. The test date may be several months away.

From 2010/11, we propose that the Premier Division qualification will be "B Award or assessed for B Award test". This means that you have a season to get your umpires to assessment stage if you want them to umpire in the Premier Division from September 2010.

** By "Beginner actively working towards C Award", we mean, must have attended C Award course since 2007, have been assessed by the League as ready to be tested and have applied for testing. Testing for C Award is organised by Middlesex County. We are aware that there are a number of umpires who have been waiting for testing for some time. We hope that testing will start in October and that the current waiting list will be cleared by Christmas. We have few testers, so we must make the most of the test dates available. From September, the County will assess umpires before they can apply for a test. This is to make sure that candidates have the best possible chance of passing. We hope to rollout the mentoring programme to include C Awards from 2010.

From September, umpires with expired qualifications, i.e. Preliminary or Intermediate, cannot umpire in the League. However, due to the current backlog of tests, umpires who are on the waiting list may continue to umpire in Divisions 2 to 4 until re-tested.

We are updating the umpiring database to include the additional information necessary to monitor the changes. If you have not already done so, please complete the attached questionnaire to include **all** umpires that are affiliated to your club. If your club uses an umpire from outside the North London League, please include them too. We will publish a list of umpires who may umpire in each division so that there is no misunderstanding. It is your responsibility to ensure that your umpire is properly qualified.

You are reminded that umpires should not officiate at more than 2 matches per day, ideally with an hour's break between matches. This recommendation is to ensure that umpiring is of a consistent standard throughout the day. Umpires may only umpire a 3rd match in exceptional circumstances, **and with the prior permission of the committee.** Umpires who do not adhere to this recommendation may be removed from the list of umpires.

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