FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Our aim is for all members to enjoy their involvement under equal and impartial conditions and the use of a commonsense approach when responding to all questions is desired.
Umpires should treat all players and coaches courteously and without officiousness.
Members should show their appreciation of the effort umpires and other officials undertake to ensure fair competition.

Adornments	
Official Rule 1.4.4: No adornment that may endanger player safety shall be worn. Umpires must check for adornments before players take the court and apply this rule to protect all players.	Players and coaches must act responsibly and should be fully aware of the following: • Hair beads must be covered and not be free flowing • Large hair clips cannot be worn • Hair rollers must soft and completely covered • Hard head bands that fit snugly can be worn • Soft brimmed caps/hats can be worn
Ball Size	
Official Rule 1.3: The ball shall be a Netball, and shall measure between 690-710mm in circumference and weigh between 400-450gms. The ball may be of leather, rubber or similar material.	Clubs are responsible for providing their teams with the correct sized Netball. • A size 4 ball is used for players aged 7 yrs, 8 yrs and 9 yrs INCLUDING 9 grade. • A size 5 ball is used for all players aged 10 yrs and upward. • Netball can be any colour.
Blood Policy	
Official Rule 7.21: An umpire is required to hold time when a player who is bleeding is noticed and no on Court player has called time."	• If an Umpire notices a bleeding player on court they MUST stop the game to allow the blood to be cleaned up and covered. • Umpires should ask each team before the game starts who is their Primary Care Person as this is the only person permitted on Court during a stoppage for blood or injury. • Quite often the bleeding player can be attended to quickly from the sideline without being noticed by the umpire and without any interference with the flow of the game. • Such a stoppage called by the umpire is not attributed to any team.
Captain's Role	
Official Rule 3.5.1: the Captains shall toss for choice of goal end or first Centre Pass and notify the Umpires and the Scorers of the result. *Official Rule 3.5.2: The Captains have the right to approach an Umpire during an interval or after the game for clarification of any rule.*	If the Captains do not advise the Umpires then the Umpires should ask who are the Team Captains. Umpires once they know who has the first Centre Pass then decide by tossing a coin as to who takes the Northern Half of the Court.

Frequently Asked Questions

COURT and surrounds	
Official Rule 7.3: All lines are part of the Court and shall be 50mm wide, preferably white and clearly visible. ***It should be noted that the internal lines are common to both areas.***	• Umpires should be aware of both of these statements to ensure they penalise offside and out of court correctly. • Also as the court area is for players, umpires need a 1m space around the external lines, especially the sidelines. Umpires should ensure that spectators are moved back from the sidelines to give them the space they require.
Emergency	
Official Rule 7.3: An umpire may stop play for any extraordinary circumstances, which may be deemed an emergency. This may include: *(a) the equipment; or* *(b) the Court; or* *(c) the weather.*	Umpire shall blow the whistle and hold time. When it is safe to resume play, the umpire should blow the whistle and signal the re-commencement of the game.
Fingernails	
Official Rule 1.4.5: Fingernails shall be short and smooth.	• Umpires must undertake a VISUAL ONLY inspection of nails prior to players entering the court. • Umpires do not touch a player's hands. • If nails appear rough or jagged, they must be filed. • If nails are considered too long, they must be cut. • Acrylic nails must be short and smooth, exactly the same as normal nails. • There is no mention of "round" in the rule. • Players must accept the Umpire's decision and abide by it. There should be no disagreement.
Glasses	
Refer to: BHSNA Playing Regulations Policy and Procedures accepted 12.11.2011 – Para 3.6: Players who wish to wear glasses, of any type, do so at their own risk. It is recommended that suitable strap be worn to ensure glasses remain secure.	Umpires, if questioned should be aware that there is no Official Rule regarding glasses in particular and that BHSNA has covered the issue in their Playing Regulations and refer players to that policy.
Gloves	
Refer to: BHSNA Playing Regulations Policy and procedures accepted 12.11.2011 – Para 3.5: No player is permitted to play whilst wearing gloves. Exceptions would be based on a Doctor's letter providing Medical reasons and approved by the BHSNA Registrar. An authorised copy must be produced prior to commencement of player each week. Wedding rings and long nails are not considered valid medical reasons.	• Umpires are permitted to view the approval letter prior to the commencement of the game. Approval letter should be kept with the teams' photos identifications. • If no such approval letter is available then the player cannot take the court. There are NO exceptions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Injury / Illness During Game

Official Rule 7.1:

(i) Play may be stopped for injury or illness, after a call for time by an on Court player. The decision to stop play and when to stop play shall be at the discretion of the Umpire.

(ii) To stop play the Umpire shall blow the whistle to signal the Timekeepers to hold time.

(iii) The first stoppage for each team in each quarter or half (refer Rule 2.1 and 2.2) shall be up to two (2) minutes from when time is held to decide whether an injured or ill player is fit to continue. This decision shall be left to the Primary Care personnel. No other Team Official from the Bench is permitted on Court.

(iv) For each subsequent stoppage for each team, the injured or ill player must leave the Court and has thirty (30) seconds to do so. The injury or illness must be treated Courtside and not on the Court. The injured or ill player may be substituted or the position may be left vacant.

(v) To (viii) also applies.

- It is extremely important for umpires to remain vigilant during the game to ensure their duty of care for all players is constant.
- Check prior to commencement of the game as to who is undertaking the role of the Primary Care Person.
- Remember, an ON COURT PLAYER must call for a stoppage.
- In the younger age groups players may not be aware that they are supposed to call for TIME, therefore commonsense must apply.
- THE PLAYER'S WELL BEING is the most important issue to be considered, no matter their age.

Injured Player Returning from Absence

Refer Playing Regulations Policy and procedures, accepted 12.11.2011 – Para 3.8: Any player who has been absent due to serious illness or an operation must produce a Doctor's Certificate or clearance to be given to the player's coach before returning to play.

This issue has no implications for Umpires but is relevant for both Players and Coaches. Clubs must adhere to this regulation.

Jewellery

Official Rule 1.4.34: No item of jewellery, except a wedding ring and/or medical alert bracelet, shall be worn. If either or both are worn, each shall be taped.

Most important rule.

The following items are NOT ACCEPTABLE:

- Taped earrings
- Facial studs
- Belly rings
- Taped engagement rings
- Wrist bands

Umpires must apply this rule for the protection of all players i.e. both the player wearing the jewellery and their opponent. None of the above is acceptable regardless of the age of the player.

Frequently Asked Questions

Late Arrival to the Game	
Official Rule 5.1: No player arriving after play has started may replace a player who has filled the position of the late arrival, however, the late arrival may be used as a substitute in accordance with Rule 6. *Official Rule 5.2: If a player has not filled the position of the late arrival, the late arrival may not enter the game while play is in progress but, after notifying the Umpire may take the Court:* *(i) Immediately after a goal has been scored. In this case, the player must play in the playing position left vacant.* *(ii) At a stoppage for injury or illness.* *(iii) Immediately following an interval.*	Umpires need to learn and apply this rule correctly and consistently. Players and coaches should also learn and understand the implications of late players arriving at the game who expect to enter the game immediately.
Plaster Casts / Finger Splints	
BHSNA Playing Regulations Policy and Procedures, accepted 12.11.2011. Para 3.4 – No player is permitted to play whilst wearing a plaster cast or hard finger splints.	Umpires apply this under their "duty of care" area to protect all players. Treat players and coaches courteously when advising the player that they cannot enter the game as they are in breach of BHSNA playing regulations.
Player's Uniform	
Official Rule 1.4.2: Registered playing uniforms, which shall include playing position initials, shall be worn at all times. Playing position initials shall be worn above the waist both front and back and shall be 150mm high. *BHSNA Playing Regulations Policy and Procedures, accepted 12.11.2011. Para 3.9 – No player can compete unless wearing their complete approved club uniform, i.e. skirt and shirt, dress or bodysuit; patches; sports briefs and socks.*	• Most clubs do not register the colour of the players' socks or briefs. • Umpires are therefore not aware of each club's registered uniform colours as this information is not published anywhere. • Umpires therefore cannot deny a player entry to the court if their socks or brief colour is different from the rest of the team. • Umpires have no right to ask players to display their briefs. • If during the course of the game, an Umpire notices skimpy briefs they should blow their whistle, stop the game and politely ask the player to address the situation by wearing sports briefs. This should be done unobtrusively to save embarrassment to the player.

Frequently Asked Questions

Player's Wellbeing	
Players should:	• Hydrate before, during and after the game. • Warm up and stretch before the game. • Warm down after the game. • Wear a properly fitted sports bra. • Wear sunscreen. • Treat their opponents, their coach and their officials with respect for without them you would not be playing. • Have fun.
Pregnancy	
BHSNA Playing Regulations Policy and Procedures, accepted 12.11.2011 – Para 3.7: BHSNA has adopted the pregnancy policy from Netball NSW. Please refer to Netball NSW web site for a copy of the Policy."	For Match Officials they should apply the rules governing the sport equally and fairly to all participants. Location of the policy is: http://www.netballnsw Policies & forms – Netball NSW MPP – pregnancy Policy.
Scorers	
Official Rule 3.2.1: There shall be two Scorers for each game working together. Scorer 1 shall be the Official Scorer for the game. *Official Rule 3.2.3: The Scorers shall call the Centre Pass if appealed to by an Umpired.*	At BHSNA Scorers should stand together midway along the Side Line in case the Umpires need to check the Centre Pass.
Scoring a Goal	
Official Rule 15: A goal is scored when the ball is thrown or batted over and completely through the ring by Goal Shooter or Goal Attack from any point within the Goal Circle including the lines bounding the Goal Circle.	• The game begins and ends on the Umpire's whistle which is blown as soon as the signal depicting time has elapsed is heard. • It is important to note that if the ball is NOT COMPLETELY THROUGH THE RING when the Umpire's whistle is blown for time, the GOAL DOES NOT COUNT. • In Nettaball games, goals are scored when the ball is thrown or batted over and completely through either the 2.4m (8ft) ring or the 3.05m (10ft) ring. Each goal scored only scores one (1) point on the score sheet. • If a Penalty has been awarded to the attacking team in the goal circle prior to ending the game then that PENALTY SHOT MUST BE TAKEN. Once the shot is taken there is no further whistle to be blown and the game ends.

Frequently Asked Questions

Team Officials i.e. Coach, manager, Captain and Primary Care Person

Official Rule 3.4.2: Team Officials and bench players may coach while play is in progress provided that they remain seated or stand at their Team Bench. Coaching is also allowed during intervals and during Stoppages. Team Officials and bench players may not indulge in inappropriate comments or behaviour.	• The Penalty for any Team Official displaying inappropriate behaviour is a FREE PASS to the opposing team where the ball was when play was stopped. The Umpire may, in addition to any penalty awarded, warn a player and/or Team official whose comments and/or behaviour are considered inappropriate in any way. • BHSNA Executive and Umpiring Committee fully support umpires who are required to penalise for inappropriate behaviour from the sideline.

Umpire's duties Prior to the Start of the Game

<u>Official Rule 3.1.2</u>: Before the start of play: *(i) Umpires shall check that the Court, its surrounds, Goalposts and the ball conform to the Rules.* *(ii) Off the Court, the Umpires shall inspect players for:* *(a) Uniforms* *(b) Jewellery* *© Adornments* *(d) Correct length of fingernails.* *<u>Official Rule 3.1.4:</u> After the Captains have notified the Umpires of the result of the toss for goal end the Umpires shall toss for goal end. The Umpire winning the toss shall control that half of the Court designated the northern half.* *<u>Official Rules 3.1.5</u> – Umpires shall wear clothes that are preferably white or cream in colour. Suitable sports footwear shall be worn.*	• All Umpires shall arrive at the Court with enough time to undertake the pre-game checks required. • Umpires should introduce themselves to each other, the Team Captains and the Scorers. • All umpires should undertake a warm-up prior to the commencement of the game.

Umpire's Uniform

Official Rule 3.1.5: Umpires shall wear clothes that are preferably white or cream in colour. Suitable sports footwear shall be worn.	Umpires take a smile to your game and enjoy the experience. National badge holders especially if umpiring at any Netball NSW organised competition should do the following: 1. Wear white knickers and white socks and sports footwear should be predominately white. 2. Use a white headband if required. 3. Wear a minimum of jewellery. 4. Use a discrete method to keep Centre passes and not a large colourful scrunchy. 5. For State, State Age and NID competitions wear a watch with a second hand. 6. Ensure hair is tied back from face and eyes and is neat. 7. Bring their rule book, spare whistle and any other extras required to each game.

Frequently Asked Questions

Umpire's Wellbeing

Umpires should:	• Hydrate before, during and after the game. • Warm up and stretch before the game. • Warm down after the game. • Wear a properly fitted sports bra. • Wear sunscreen. • Be happy and courteous when answering a Captain's questions if they seek clarification of a rule. • Treat all players and officials with courtesy, for without them, you would have nothing to do. • Have fun.

Warning, Suspension and Ordering Off.

Official Rules 20, 20.1, 20.2 and 20.3. *Rule 20: for rough or dangerous play, persistent and/. or deliberate breaking of the Rules, misconduct or any other conduct which is considered inappropriate, the Umpire may, in addition to any penalty awarded:* *(i) Warn a player and/or team official; or* *(ii) (ii) suspend a player (stand off the Court) for a specified time, or* *(iii) (iii) Order a player to leave the Court and take no further part in the game; or* *(iv) In extreme circumstances, stop the game and require the exclusion from the area of any Team Official whose inappropriate comments and/or behaviour continues after a warning.*	Umpires are fully supported by the BHSNA Executive and Umpiring Committee when they are required to take such action.