



The Netball Europe A Umpires Award is the most prestigious Award used by England Netball.

Successful Umpires will be expected to contribute to the on-going support of England Netball's Premier League competitions whilst maintaining a continual high standard of umpiring.

Umpires considering applying for this award will need the support of a mentor and should discuss their intentions with their Regional Umpiring Secretary.

Netball Europe A Umpire Award (A Award)

Prerequisites;

- Affiliated to England Netball
- Active Netball Europe B Umpire Award for 12 months
- 17 years old and above*
- Maintain a record of matches in A Award Log Book

Please note that this pathway is not open to C Award umpires who hold an A pass for the A/B Written Assessment and they must complete the B Award pathway first

Also note that there is a Talent Identification Pathway associated with this Award with further details available from the Netball Europe Assessor's Booklet or your County/Regional Umpiring Secretary

*Learners are required to be 18 years old before they can take the A Award Pre-Practical Assessment

The A Award does not currently have a formal training course attached to it and therefore there are two entry points as seen below

Tip - It is recommended that you engage with a Mentor to help you through this stage of the Pathway. Some counties offer a mentoring scheme - contact your Regional Umpiring secretary for further information

Written Assessment – Booking

- Contact your Regional Umpiring Secretary to discuss that you wish to take your A Award Written Assessment
- Send the A/B Award Written Assessment Application form to England Netball with the required fee of £45 (either BACs or Cheque)
- Your Regional Umpiring Secretary will provide you with further details of the Invigilator, date, time and venue of your Written Assessment

Written Assessment

- The A and B Awards use the same Written Assessment but you will require a Pass at A Award level to progress at this stage
- This assessment is conducted on 3 different weekends throughout the year normally the 2nd weekend in February, May and November
- This test is conducted in a central venue and is organised regionally
- The A/B Award Written Assessment lasts for 90 minutes
- The paper will consist of two sections:
 - Section 1 will contain 12 questions on the Rules and protocols and what sanctions you would award
 - Section 2 will have 8 questions requiring longer answers which will demand a conclusion, close-procedures or a rule situation/scenario
- You will either be assessed as a Pass at A Award level or Not Yet Met Criteria

Not Yet Met Criteria

- If you score 26 marks or below in Section 1 and/or 24 marks or below in Section 2 of the Written Assessment you will be assessed to have not yet met the required criteria
- You will be required to re-join the Officiating Pathway at the Written Assessment booking stage

Pass at A Award Level

- If you score 27 marks or above in Section 1 and 25 marks or above in Section 2 you will be assessed to have passed at A Award level in the written stage of the A Award
- An A level pass on the Written Assessment is valid for 4 years from the date it was achieved
- You will now be eligible to apply for the A Award Practical Pre-Assessment
- If you do not complete the Final Practical stage of the A Award Officiating Pathway within the allocated 4 years you will be required to retake the Written Assessment

Valid A Award Pass Written Assessment

- If you are an active B Award Umpire and hold a valid A/B Written Assessment Pass at A level you may proceed directly to the A Award Practical Pre-Assessment stage of the pathway (This does not apply to those C Award Umpires who hold a valid A Pass for the Written Assessment as all umpires must hold the B Award before they progress to the A Award)

A Award Practical Pre-Assessment – Booking

(You must apply for and complete your Final Practical Assessment within 4 years if you passed the Written Assessment with an A Award Pass)

- Contact England Netball to notify them you wish to be assessed for your A Award Practical Pre-Assessment and send the A Award Practical Pre-Assessment Application form
- England Netball (or nominated lead) will provide you with further details of the Practical Pre-Assessment including details of your Assessor, time, date and venue of your match

A Award Practical Pre-Assessment

- You will have one Assessor and will be assessed on a competitive match for a minimum 4x15 minutes
- You are required to show the Assessor your Log book
- The Assessor will grade you on a number of competencies
- You will either be assessed as a Pass which will mean a score of within 1 mark of the final pass criteria (18 marks), with only 1 significant area to work on or Not Yet Met Criteria
- Your Assessor will provide you with a written report which will highlight all of the positives in your umpiring and also the areas of development
- If you are assessed to have passed you will be eligible to apply for the A Award Final Practical Assessment and the Assessor will be required to sign your A Award Final Practical application form
- If you are assessed Not Yet Met Criteria your Assessor will highlight all of the positives in your umpiring and also the areas for development that will allow you to pass the Practical Assessment in the future
- England Netball recommends that Learners wait 3 months before applying for a second attempt at the A Award Practical Pre-Assessment. This will allow the Learner adequate time to put into practice what they have been told by the Assessor
- You will be required to meet the Assessor's travel expenses and will pay this directly to the Assessor
- England Netball recommends a travel expense rate of 40p a mile

A Award Final Practical Assessment – Booking

(You must apply for your A Award Final Practical Assessment within 1 month of passing your Practical Pre-Assessment)

- Contact England Netball to notify them you wish to be assessed for your A Award Final Practical Assessment
- You will then need to send the following to England Netball (or nominated lead);
 - Your endorsed application form and Log book
 - Your application fee of £100 (either BACs or Cheque)
- England Netball (or nominated lead) will provide you with further details of the requirements to undertake a fitness test within 6 weeks prior to the date of your Final Practical Assessment
- Your Final Practical Assessment will take place no later than 6 months following the submission of your application and payment of the fee (unless there are extenuating circumstances)

Fitness Test

- You will need to participate in a Fitness Test prior to attending your Final Practical Assessment
- The test used will be the 20 metre Multistage Fitness Test (Bleep Test)
- The required level will be 7.1 and above
- The Fitness Test must be conducted within 6 weeks prior to the Final Practical Assessment
- Further details on the organisation of the test can be obtained from your Regional Umpiring Secretary

A Award Final Practical Assessment

- You will be assessed by three Assessors on a competitive match identified by England Netball for a minimum 4x15 minutes
- The Assessors will grade you on a number of competencies
- Following your Practical Assessment you will attend a post-match debrief with the Assessors. They will tell you the outcome of your assessment and provide you with your areas of strength and the areas for development
- Your Assessors will provide you with a written report which will highlight all of the positives in your umpiring and also the areas of development
- This will last up to 75 minutes
- You will either be assessed as a Pass which will mean a score of 18 marks or less or Not Yet Met Criteria
- You must achieve a minimum of grade 2 in six out of eight sections including:
 - Section 3 - Game Management and Protocols
 - Section 7 - Minor Infractions
 - Section 8 Communication and Sanctions
- A minimum of grade 3 in the remaining two sections is required

Not Yet Met Criteria

- If you do not meet the criteria for the A Award Final Practical Assessment you will need to wait up to 3 calendar months before rejoining the A Award Officiating Pathway at the Practical Pre-Assessment - Booking stage
- Your Assessors will provide you with all of the relevant information you will require to be successful in the future in a written report

Pass

- If you are assessed to have passed you will be awarded with the A Award
- England Netball will send you a Pass Card and an A Award Badge and you will be added to the England Netball Umpires List
- There is no expiry date to this award but umpires must be formally assessed every four years from the date the award was issued to remain on the active A Award Umpires List
- In addition to this, A Award Umpires must maintain the expected standards which include:
 - Being an outstanding role model to other umpires
 - Applying the rules fairly and to a consistently high standard
 - Use advantage to enhance the flow and spectacle of a match
 - Maintain consistently good positioning and timing which will include keeping slightly ahead of play on the sideline, arriving on the goal line at the same time as the ball enters the goal circle and returning back to the centre third to blow the centre pass without delaying the play
 - Commitment to on-going umpire development, this may include:
 - Attending new rules sessions
 - National Umpiring Workshops
- Umpires awarded with the A Award will be eligible (by invitation) to umpire at National League level