



Memorandum of Best Practice

Hertfordshire County Netball Association (HCNA) and Hertfordshire Officials Technical Group (OTG) would like to remind all our affiliated Netball Clubs of the **Duty of Care and Safeguarding responsibilities** they have, when supporting, nurturing and promoting Officiating with their affiliated members who are U18 years of age.

The England Netball Into Officiating Award (IOA) is open to members who are aged 13+ who must have England Netball membership through a Club NOT through an Educational Establishment (School). This Award is the first step on the Officiating pathway and covers the basic rules, use of the whistle and a basic understanding of positioning, timing and movement.

Duty of Care to Under 18 Definition

The County is becoming increasingly concerned that many young umpires, who are aged from 13 years to 16 years old, are often umpiring within leagues without any qualified supervision.

England Netball deems any learner who has undertaken the 2 online IOA course as 'in training' and as such they require qualified supervision in the form of another person who could be an umpire, assessor, tutor or mentor.

It is ultimately the responsibility of the Club to whom the young person is affiliated to fulfil their Duty of Care and Safeguarding responsibilities.

The Section below is taken from Hertfordshire's Step by Step guide following a learners completion of the IOA online courses:

Step 3: Putting into practice what you have learnt

Most learners will be able to practice with their affiliated Club during training sessions and/or within their affiliated League but ONLY if the League rules allow.

ACTION : We are currently awaiting England Netball's guidance re Insurance for U18 umpires.

The Hertfordshire County Netball Association is providing this Memorandum of Best Practice to support Clubs in their Safeguarding Duty

Clubs should:

- **Ensure they have a Safeguarding Officer**

- The Safeguarding officer or other designated Club official should be aware of which U18 Club members have completed the 2 online IOA courses
- These U18 IOA Club members should have their progress monitored
- Provide County Safeguarding Officer and County Officiating Lead with the Clubs key contact person who will have responsibility for U18 IOA learners
- Provide Club training opportunities for these learners to put into practice the skills relating to this course.
- Ensure clear communication channels and guidance are communicated to the learners Parents /Carers of IOA learners of the process for practice
- Provide U18 IOA learners with information on how to report safeguarding issues

HCNA reminds Clubs that abuse of officials by players, spectators or coaches will not be tolerated. Clubs have a responsibility for their own spectators, players and officials. **Abuse of any official is a direct breach of EN Code of Conduct that could result in sanctions against the Club concerned.** Abuse towards an U18 IOA learner might be deemed an aggravating factor.

County Safeguarding Officer
County Resolution Lead
County Officiating Lead