

## GREEN BAND INITIATIVE

### FAQ - Initiative overview

#### **Q: What is the Green Band initiative?**

The Green Band initiative is a statewide project by Netball NSW to promote respect and safeguard umpires under the age of 18. Umpires under the age of 18 will be required to wear a green wristband while officiating netball games, making it clear to players, coaches, and spectators that they are young umpires. This initiative is part of Netball NSW's ongoing commitment to child safety and creating a safe and supportive environment for all participants.

#### **Q: Why are green wristbands used?**

The green wristbands function as a visible reminder to players, coaches, and spectators that the umpire is under the age of 18. This helps promote empathy, understanding and respect while officiating, and reinforces Netball NSW's commitment to child safety.

#### **Q: When does the initiative start?**

Phase 1 of the Green Band initiative commences in June 2025 at Senior State Titles, with wristbands distributed to all under 18 year old umpires.

#### **Q: What evidence is there that the initiative will be effective?**

The Green Band initiative was successfully launched in Victoria in 2024. The initiative received overwhelmingly positive feedback, highlighting the importance of identifying young umpires and fostering respect from players, coaches, and spectators. This success underscores the importance of statewide implementation to enhance the child safety environment across the sport.

#### **Q: Why is the Green Band initiative necessary?**

The Green Band initiative is a direct response to the increasing occurrence of poor spectator behaviour across the state, both in netball and other sports. With growing instances of abuse and disrespect towards junior umpires, this initiative aims to foster a safer and more supportive environment, reinforcing a zero-tolerance policy for abusive behaviour.

**Q: Will the initiative be expanded to associations, leagues, and clubs?**

The initiative will continue its trial at Junior State Titles and then Netball NSW will consider expanding the Green Band initiative statewide. Netball NSW is demonstrating a strong commitment to child safety and a positive sporting environment. This initiative promotes consistent protection and respect for young umpires across the state and sets a new standard for the netball community, fostering a safer and more welcoming space for everyone.

**Q: Does wearing a green wristband reflect an umpire's skill level?**

No, the green wristband is purely an indicator of age and does not reflect the umpire's ability or experience.

**Q: How will Netball NSW track the success of the Green Band initiative?**

Netball NSW will be collecting feedback from affiliates, young umpires, and the netball community to assess the effectiveness of the initiative. This feedback will help in making any necessary adjustments and ensuring the ongoing safety and respect of young umpires in the future.

**Q: Who is required to wear the green wristbands?**

All umpires under the age of 18 who are officiating netball games are required to wear a green wristband.

**Q: Who is responsible for ensuring the wristbands are worn?**

Umpire Supervisors, Court Supervisors, and Competition Managers are responsible for ensuring that all umpires under 18 are wearing a green wristband and that it is visible during matches.

**Q: What does poor sideline behaviour look like?**

Poor sideline behaviour can be demonstrated as any of the following: Disputed rulings, negative comments, aggressive or foul language, verbal, or physical threats, approaching umpires inappropriately or creeping in on an umpire's personal space.

**Q: What should happen if poor sideline behaviour occurs?**

If poor behaviour is observed, Umpire Supervisors or Competition Managers should address and manage the concern. Any complaints or concerns must be reported following Netball Australia's Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy.

**Q: Can umpires penalise poor behaviour of spectators or people on the sideline?**

No. Umpires are only responsible for officiating the game (on the court or bench) and handling issues related to the players, coaches, and team officials. Any issues with sideline behaviour by spectators should be handled by competition management or supervisors, not the umpire.

**Q: What if an umpire feels unsafe or intimidated?**

Umpires should request the presence of an Umpire Supervisor or Court Supervisor if they feel unsafe, anxious, or uncomfortable. The Green Band initiative ensures that proper support is available to address such situations.

**Q: What happens if a spectator or coach exhibits inappropriate behaviour towards a young umpire?**

Inappropriate behaviour towards a young umpire should be reported to the Umpire Supervisor, Court Supervisor, or Competition Manager. All complaints will be addressed under the appropriate child safety policies, and any incidents will be treated seriously.

**Q: How is Netball NSW ensuring the netball community, particularly spectators, is informed about this initiative?**

Netball NSW have educated all team managers at State Titles and ongoing messaging on social media platforms will ensure consistent reinforcement of the initiative across the netball community. The Netball NSW website will also contain information to help raise awareness and share the details of the initiative.

**Q: Will this initiative create the perception that umpires over 18 are less protected?**

Netball NSW's broader strategy emphasises zero tolerance for poor behaviour towards all umpires, regardless of age.

**Q: Where can I find more information and resources on child safeguarding?**

Visit the Netball NSW Beyond the Court Resource Hub for detailed guidelines and support materials.

**Q: Where can I read the Netball Australia Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy?**

Netball NSW and its affiliates are bound by the Netball Australia Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy. You can read it on the Netball NSW website under policies.

**Q: Where can I find out more information about the rules of netball?**

Visit the World Netball website. You can purchase a copy of the rule book or take the Rules of Netball exam on Netball Learning

**Q: Who can I contact for further support or questions?**

For further support or questions, please contact Netball NSW Communities Team on (02) 9951 5000 or email: [community@netballnsw.com](mailto:community@netballnsw.com)