

UMPIRE GREEN BAND INITIATIVE

Umpire Fact Sheet

Purpose of the Initiative:

- The Green Band initiative is designed to identify and protect umpires under the age of 18 officiating netball.
- It aims to address poor sideline behaviour and ensure that any complaints or issues are managed according to the Netball Australia Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy (effective 1 February 2025).

Purpose of the Green Band:

- The green bands are not an indication of umpire skill or ability.
- They serve as a visible recognition of young umpires' leadership and responsibility in officiating.
- The bands aim to celebrate the contribution of young umpires to the netball community and help others recognise their important role.

What is Poor Sideline Behaviour?

- Disputed rulings
- Negative comments
- Aggressive or foul language
- Verbal or physical threats
- Inappropriate approach towards umpires
- Encroaching on an umpire's personal space

Umpire Responsibilities:

- Umpires are only responsible for officiating the game (on the court or bench) and handling issues directly related to the players, coaches, and team officials.
- Any issues with sideline behaviour by spectators should be managed by competition management or supervisors, not the umpire.

Interaction Rules:

- Only players are allowed to approach an umpire during the match, and only to seek clarification of a rule.
- Coaches, officials, or spectators are not allowed to speak to an umpire at any time.

Role of Umpire Supervisors:

- Umpire supervisors are there to support umpires as they develop and learn.
- The Green Band initiative adds extra layers of support to address any poor behaviour during a game.
- Supervisors manage any issues involving behaviour outside of the umpire's responsibility.

Child Safety and Wellbeing:

- Netball Australia Child Safety Practices ensure that all young people in netball have the right to feel safe, included, encouraged, and supported.
- If you feel unsafe, intimidated, worried, or anxious at any point (either on the court or from the sideline), request the presence of an umpire supervisor or court supervisor. You may hold time or stop the game for this to happen. Umpiring can be challenging, but your skill and dedication is valued and greatly appreciated.

The green bands symbolise the support and acknowledgment from the broader netball community. Keep up the great work.