**Tonbridge Netball League**

**Umpires Pack**

For all Umpires at TNL, Summer and Winter Seasons

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Please acknowledge receipt by providing the following information:

Name:

Current Qualification:

Date of current Qualification:

Name (if different) when you passed:

AENA region in which you passed:

Current club (if you are a member):

Affiliation number:

Email address:

(Please return to the Umpiring secretary – either be leaving in the results box, or by post to Lee Athwal, 1 Estridge Way, Tonbridge TN10 4JS)

**Welcome**

Whether you are an experienced, highly qualified umpire or a complete novice, you are very welcome to the Tonbridge Netball League. It is an often used expression, but nonetheless true, that without umpires none of us could play netball. So on behalf of all the clubs, teams and players, thank you very much for all that you do.

The purpose of this pack is to pass on some important information to anyone who umpires at TNL, either in the Summer or Winter league. If you have been umpiring here for years, then you probably know all of this, but we felt it important to put all the relevant information in one place for everyone involved.

The Tonbridge Netball League has been running for many years and is now permanently based at the Weald of Kent school, Tudeley Lane, Tonbridge, TN92JP.

There are 2 leagues: the Summer league is our ‘serious’ league and tends to run from around Easter until early July, depending on the number of teams that enter; the Winter league is our ‘friendly’ league and runs from around the second week in September until Christmas, but sometimes runs into the new year, again, depending on the number of teams that enter.

Netball is played on three nights, with matches at 7pm and 8.15pm as follows:

 Monday nights: Divisions 5 & 6

 Tuesday nights: Divisions 3 & 4

 Wednesday nights: Divisions 1 & 2

Umpiring Awards and requirements for each division

**Summer League**

 Divisions 1, 2 & 3 – C award umpire or above

 Division 4 – C award or above, or TBGC+ (see below)

 Divisions 5 & 6 – Beginner award or above or TBGC (see below)

**Winter League**

All Divisions – Umpires do not have to be qualified, but must be capable of controlling a game. Trainee umpires (i.e. those who have not yet passed their beginners award) may use this league to practise in advance of taking the test. However we do ask that you contact the League umpiring secretary and take a written test (similar to that taken for the Beginners award), to ensure that you have a good, basic knowledge of the rules before you umpire a game. Once you have passed this test you can use “Trainee” in the Qualification box on the results card.

TBGC and TBGC+ awards

When AENA changed the rules regarding Beginner umpiring awards, introducing an 8 year time limit for umpires to progress to a C award, the league agreed to allow lapsed Beginner umpires to continue umpiring in divisions 5 and 6. It was subsequently agreed that some Beginner umpires (lapsed or otherwise) may be allowed to umpire Division 4 matches at the discretion of the committee.

In order to formalise these arrangements, an Umpiring Green Card can be awarded as follows:

Lapsed Beginner umpires will be required to take a written test to make sure they are up to date with new rules. On passing this, they will be awarded with a TBGC (Tonbridge Beginners Green Card) which will ratify their right to umpire in Divisions 5 and 6. They should put the initials TBGC on the score card.

Beginner umpires (either lapsed or otherwise), who have sought and been given permission to umpire Division 4 matches will be awarded the TBGC+ (Tonbridge Beginners Green Card plus). This will certify them to umpire division 4 matches.

(If they are umpiring Div 5 and 6 then they can either put Beginner as their qualification, providing it is not lapsed, or TBGC+.)

Please note that if you umpire a game that you are not qualified for then your team (i.e. the team who asked you to umpire) will lose any points from that game. Also, if you incorrectly record your umpiring qualification, then points may be awarded to the opposition. (There will be some discretion here as these new procedures come into effect).

Please note that you must be affiliated to umpire whether qualified or not. If you are not in possession of a valid, current AENA qualification (i.e. a lapsed beginner umpiring under the green card arrangement), then your level of cover is silver, not gold, as described on the AENA website. In effect this means that you do not have personal liability cover. It is at your own risk that you decide to umpire in this situation. Trainee umpires who are working towards their first qualification continue to have gold level cover.

**League Rules**

What we would like you to do:

All players must be wearing a skirt, skort or netball dress. No kit – no play!

Please check fingernails. They should be smooth and short. A lot of umpires do the ‘can’t see your nails over your fingers test’ which is generally fine, but a very small number of people may have exceptionally long nail bases which mean that cutting the nail short enough not to show over the top of the finger may cause real discomfort. In this case the umpire may show discretion providing the nail is ‘short and smooth’.

Please check for all visible piercings. This must be removed and may not be taped over. Please particularly check for tragus and helix piercings (upper and inner ear) as we have had a number of examples of people trying to play with these.

No jewellery may be worn except one plain wedding band which must be taped.

Please also check sweat shirts/hoodies etc for any loose zips or ties. Hoods must be tucked into the back of the bib or inside the top.

Please make sure you think it is safe to play. It is up to the umpires, in consultation with the Team captains to make any decision to call off a match. This could be due to a slippery court surface, high winds etc and is at your discretion. The safety of players and umpires is always the paramount consideration.

Games should start on the hooter. If a team has 5 players then they must take to the court and start to play. If a team is not ready to play within 15 minutes then the opposing team may claim the points.

All players who take any part in the match must be listed on the teams score card.

Please do not coach either time while you are umpiring, either during play or in any of the intervals. Umpires should remain in court away from the teams during intervals.

In the event of a serious injury, please can you complete an incident form, which can be found in the garage, and place in the results box.

All subsequent league rules can be found within the Rules of Play, on-line at [www.tonbridgenetball.org](http://www.tonbridgenetball.org)