



## MKINL 2023/24 Officiating Age Limitations Procedure

The following recommendations have been made by England Netball regarding the younger age limits for Officiating:

1. Minimum age for England Netball's Into Officiating is anyone over the age 13 years old.
2. Minimum age for C/B/A is 14 years and over.
3. Qualified Officiators under 16 years should only be permitted to Officiate matches involving players under 16 years of age **or younger**.
4. Officiators aged between 16 and 18 years of age can Officiate any match according to the qualification required by leagues, but England Netball would recommend that they did not Officiate 'senior' matches but rather under 18 years or younger.

***If younger Officiators are to be involved in 'senior' level matches, then there is a responsibility for the league and/or their club to provide a mentor/Officiating support who will be available when they are assigned to any matches.***

In making these decisions the best interests of the individual have been considered particularly in relation to how the experience will affect both physical and mental development.

There are possible negative effects:

- Psychological intimidation
- A younger Officiator is less likely to be able to demonstrate assertiveness
- The experience might prove to be a negative one leading to a loss in confidence

However, there are many positive effects of setting these age limits and they include:

- Recruitment of players into Officiating at a young age
- A greater knowledge and application of the rules
- Potential reached earlier
- Officiators learn to deal with pressure earlier
- Develop a commitment to a team of young players

Therefore, England Netball is issuing the following guidance to assist Counties in providing a carefully controlled and monitored environment so that the young Officiators involved can develop to the best of his/her ability.

It is acknowledged that youngsters mature at different rates both physically and mentally, and therefore the age limits have been set so that young Officiators are allowed to develop at a rate appropriate to their age and stage of development.



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### **SOME REMINDERS FOR RECRUITING YOUNG OFFICIATORS**

- The reason for encouraging the youngster to Officiate is in his/her best interest
- Every attempt must be made to provide a support/mentor Officiators to assist the youngster
- Physical and mental maturity has been considered
- Young Officiator should be given positive constructive feedback on their performance.
- A youngster found not to be coping, should be provided with guidance.
- The young Officiator is encouraged to feel part of a team
- His/her progress is monitored during the season

### **In Summary:**

1. Minimum age for Officiating in the MKINL is 16 years old (proof of age to be provided).
2. Between 16 and 18 years old, young Officiators may only Officiate with a mentor present and with the permission of the MKINL Officiating Officer who may elect to assess this Officiator before authorisation is given (which may take place during the MKINL Summer League).
3. MKINL must be provided with details of every match the young Officiator is asked to officiate.
4. MKINL reserves the right to refuse/withdraw authorisation of a young Officiator if there is any doubt in their ability to cope in the manner listed above.

For any more questions please contact the MKINL Officiating Officer [mkinlofficiating@outlook.com](mailto:mkinlofficiating@outlook.com)