

# GREEN BAND INITIATIVE

## FAQ



## INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

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

The Green Band initiative project by Netball ACT 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 ACT'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 ACT's commitment to child safety.

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

Phase 1 of the Green Band initiative commences in June as part of the Capital Chemist ACT Junior Championships with wristbands distributed to all affiliates. Once you receive your wristbands, you can begin implementation.

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

The Green Band initiative was successfully launched in the 2024 Parkville Netball Spring Season in Victoria, where umpires under the age of 18 wore green wristbands. 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 implementation to enhance the child safety environment within netball across the ACT.

### **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.

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

The initiative is available to all Associations, Leagues and Clubs in the ACT. Netball ACT has made available on its Umpire Resource Hub all the necessary information to successfully implement the initiative.

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

Netball ACT 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: Should the umpire be given a wristband to keep or should it be returned at the end of each day?**

This is up to the preference of your association/league and your umpires.

### **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.

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### **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 ACT ensuring the netball community, particularly spectators, is informed about this initiative?**

Netball ACT have advised all District Presidents and Umpire convenors that this will be trialled at Capital Chemist ACT Junior Championships. Ongoing messaging on social media platforms will ensure consistent reinforcement of the initiative across the netball community. The Netball ACT 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

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

Visit the Netball ACT Policies page for detailed guidelines and support materials.

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

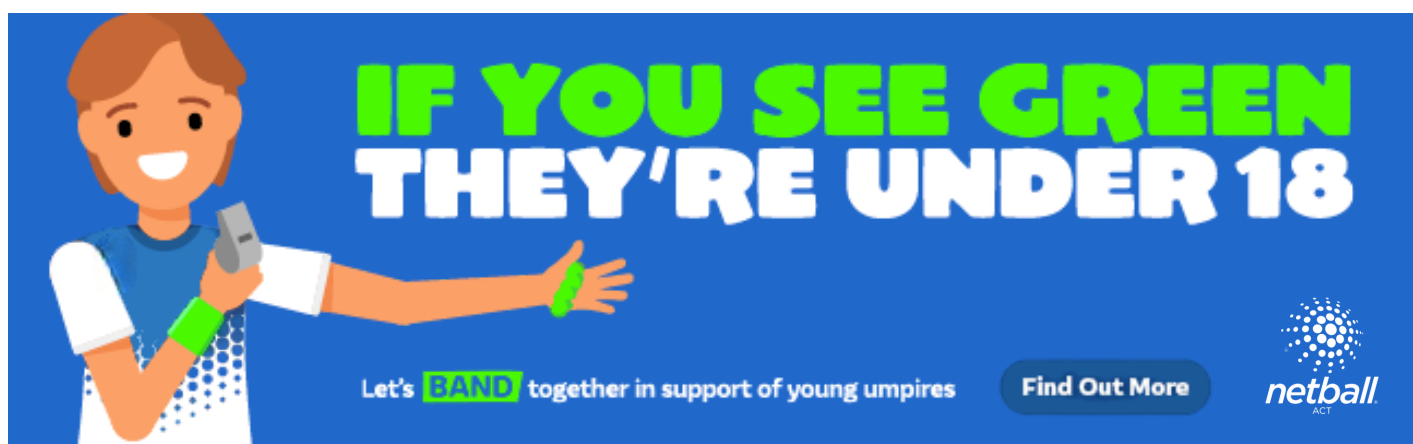
Netball ACT and its affiliates are bound by the Netball Australia Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy. You can read it on the Netball ACT website under policies.

**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. There is also a Rules of Netball App.

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

For further support or questions, please contact Netball ACT Umpire Coordinator or the Netball ACT Office.



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