

County Officiating Lead's Report

Congratulations to all our successful learners (details below) and thanks to assessors, clubs, the County Academies, mentors and teams for their role in assessments, both for Essex Met and for the Region. Thanks to my colleagues on the Executive Committee for their support, in particular for funding our mentoring scheme, the Into Officiating Workshops and the 2024 Rules and Contact and Game Management seminars, so that we could offer these to our members at no cost. Thanks also to Redbridge for allowing umpires to use the former café in the Pavilion.

Assessments

Successful learners (June 2024-May 2025) were:-

Into Officiating Award: Bryce Archer, Ava Arnell, Macie Blackwell-Hampton, Nana Brown, Nera Butcher, Ella Gelkoff, Jenna Given, Amelie Hodgson, Lucy Hunt, Jessica Hurley, Sophie Long, Ava Margetts, Sophie Rennison, Seanna Rai, Caitlin Roberts, Kayleigh Schollhammer, Isabelle Shaw, Lucy Summers and J'nae Zamore

C Award: Danielle Bills, Renee Hurley, Jade Oni and Tolu Seidu

B Award: Vicky Ford and Alice Longshaw

Following the recent assessor courses, all three trainee assessors have now been accredited as C Award assessors.

Courses

All England Netball courses continue to be delivered online, with only the B Award course having a practical session as part of the course. This has meant that learners have had to gain their practical experience elsewhere, eg at training sessions. We provided two Into Officiating Workshops again this season. They provide practical experience for learners working towards the Into Officiating Award and have been very successful in developing learners' confidence and enabling them to pass their IO Award.

More courses have been made available by England Netball, although I am aware of continuing high levels of demand/lack of availability. In conjunction with my fellow County Officiating Leads, I continue to press for more courses. I am also aware that, once released, the courses can get booked up very quickly, so I have encouraged use of the Expression of Interest form on the England Netball website, whereby England Netball contact the learner when a relevant course is available. England Netball have recently changed the methodology for the Expression of Interest form so hopefully, we will see a better take-up of course places for our learners.

Mentoring

We continue to offer mentoring for learners working towards their Into Officiating, C and B Awards and the Region continues to offer mentoring for learners working towards their A Award.

2024 Rules updates

England Netball provided online seminars for the 2024 Rules update and for Game Management and Contact. Following requests received from members, I scheduled face-to-face seminars for both the 2024 Rules update and Game Management and Contact:

attendance in person or online was made a condition for eligibility to umpire in our Leagues for 2024/2025. Generally, the implementation of the 2024 Rules seemed to go well.

As always, I am available to provide assistance and information to help our umpires qualify and progress. Information is available on our website and on the England Netball website, but if you have a query, please ask.

Jane Kelloe

County Officiating Lead