

Croydon Netball League umpire forum questions

Players stepping in during play

No player can step in towards an opponent (or member of their own team) and reduce the distance to less than 4ft face to face. Umpire should advise the player that this is unacceptable under rule modifications for health and safety reasons.

Examples include GA/GS in the goal circle and mid court players stepping forward to pass around the defender marking them.

Where a player has been penalised for obstruction, e.g. GK in the goal circle, the GA/GS must stand in the position indicated by the umpire and this may mean that they step forward to where the infringement occurred. The other defender (GD) must then move back to ensure 4ft is maintained if they wish to mark the shot from the appropriate 4ft distance.

When a GS is taking a shot and being marked by a defender in the goal circle, the GA can only slide in under the arms of the defender and be face to face with the GS if there is 4 ft between them. If the distance is not 4ft then the umpire must hold time and ask the GA to remove herself quickly as this is not acceptable under the rule modifications. Play will then continue with GS in possession of the ball and the umpire blows the whistle and uses the restart hand signal. If this action is undertaken subsequently within the game, then the umpire may penalise the GA for persistent breaking of the rules and issue a caution and penalty pass to the opposing team for safety reasons.

Persistent face marking or breaking of the 4ft rule

The umpires, other players and the coaches should all be working together supportively to ensure rule modifications are adhered to and that everyone's safety is prioritised. Players who continue to face mark or continue to stand in idle interactions of less than 4 ft or who continue to defend within the new 4 ft measurement, despite quiet words and reminders being given, will be dealt with under the Game Management rules of the game. Because of COVID requirements, umpires may move more quickly through the Game Management ladder and sanctions will be applied to protect the safety of all players.

Bib sharing

The teams have been advised in advance through the England Netball rule modifications and by the League that bib sharing is not permitted. The umpires will ask the teams during the pre-match briefing what alternatives the teams have. The responsibility lies with the teams to manage the bibs during the match. Should the umpires notice that bib sharing is taking place, they can advise the teams of this observation and ask for it not to happen. The umpires can also approach a League committee member to speak to the team involved. If this is not immediately possible or if the umpires do not notice until the end of the game, or after having been advised by an observer, then the umpires should then report the actions to the League committee for them to deal with as appropriate. An alternative bibs colour can be used as long as the umpire is notified of this prior to the match starting.

Wipeable bibs are permitted – shop bought or home made laminates.

At this time, a disinfectant spray for material has not been authorised but the government medical advisors for use with sports bibs so this is not an acceptable option.

Excessive Shouting

The umpire will determine what is excessive. For example, a player shouting “LEFT LEFT LEFT” the umpire would need to use a quiet word to advise the player of excessive shouting and that it must stop for the safety of those around them.

Umpire Briefing not attended by a late player.

The player can still play in the match. The Umpire briefing will be laminated and put on the fencing at the entry/exit points to the court. All late players will need to read and understand what is required when playing in a match.

Nominated person is needed to clean Match ball and posts.

Each team is required to provide a scorer as set out in the CNL rules. If there is no other additional player, the scorer may be required to clean the match ball and the post as necessary.

If an Umpire notices anything happening not within the Modified Rules, off the court. For example, during team talks- not socially distanced, or bib swapping. They can remind the teams to stay within the Modified Rules for the safety of others. If this should continue then it must be reported to a member of the CNL committee.

November 2020.