Medway Junior Netball League

Umpire Protocols

As an umpire at the MJNL, you are required to follow the procedures listed below in order to obtain consistency and efficiency for the league. If you have any umpiring queries please contact Justine McAvoy, and any complaints to Kathy Moon.

* Arrive at least 10 minutes before your allocated game begins, in the case of any emergencies/problems please contact Jill at your earliest convenience.
* Wear a white top/jumper. Preferably both, but at minimum at least 1 item. If required, wearing a white top over your dress is suitable, if you deem that you do not have enough time to get changed. Take pride in what you look like when you umpire, this helps you to stand out during matches.
* Upon arrival, report to the desk to find out which game you will be umpiring and collect your score card. Please stick to the games provided as umpire allocations are done appropriately and to ensure you are getting the correct games.
* Take to the court at least 5 minutes before the game is scheduled to start. This is when you will complete nail and hair checks and find out who won the first centre pass. Also, find out if there are scorers available and ensure they stand together (where possible – parents may be used by teams that wish for their players to not score). Check that your goal line area is clear of a team bench and any bottles or bags, they should be placed in the far corner of the court surroundings and be out of your way.
* When you hear the double buzz, ensure that the teams are efficient in taking to the court. You may need to blow your whistle to remind them to ‘take the court quickly’. If your teams have already taken to the court when the double buzz is made, wait until the single buzz to start the game.
* On hearing the single buzz, begin the game by blowing your whistle. At the end of a quarter, the game finishes on your whistle. If a goal has been shot and drops through the net before you blow the whistle it counts, if you blow your whistle before the ball has dropped through the net it will not count.
* At the end of each quarter and the game, retrieve score cards from the scorers and check that both scores match. Deal with any score discrepancies immediately and without the input of the scorers/team managers. Do this by using the odds and evens to work out the next centre pass and check that the card was filled out in number order (some people might miss a number). Just be aware that it is more likely for a scorer to miss a goal than add on additional.
* At the end of the game take your score card in asap and if you’re umpiring another game collect the new card, following the same procedure.