

Guidance for completing the Europe Netball B/A Written Assessment

The Europe Netball B Award has a written assessment that umpires are required to pass within 2 years of the date of the practical session of their course to proceed to the practical assessment phase of the pathway. The written assessment is organised at 3 points during the year, on the second Saturday of February, June and October. Unlike the C Award online written assessment, this assessment is conducted using an examination paper that is sat at a predetermined venue. The written assessment lasts two hours, but candidates may leave after one and a half hours if they have answered all of the questions. There is an additional fee for applying and (for candidates in England) more information on the process can be found on the B Award Learner Resource Hub on the England Netball website. Written assessments are organised by a candidate's County or Region and are invigilated by a County or Regional officiating volunteer. For more information on what process applies to you, it is advisable to get in contact with your County or Regional Officiating Lead or England Netball/the Officiating Lead in your Member Country.

As with all types of written assessment, there is some additional work required to complete it successfully. The best advice in preparing for it is to read your Rules Book, practise your exam technique by using the practice papers available on the England Netball B Award Learner Resource Hub and the sample papers on the Europe Netball website and attend any training course made available by your County, Region or by Europe Netball.

The written assessment is comprised of two Sections that test an umpire's knowledge, understanding and application of the 2024 edition of the Rules book and candidates should be aware that this does not take into account any local league or country rule adaptations.

The same written assessment paper is used by Europe Netball to assess umpires on the B and A award pathways. The percentage pass mark required for each level of award is different, with an A award pass requiring more marks than a B award pass; however, it is possible for a C award umpire on the B award pathway to achieve an A standard pass mark. A C award learner passing with a B award level pass mark will be required to apply for their practical assessment within two years of the date they sat their written assessment. Where a C Award learner passes with an A award level pass, they will have two years from the date of the sitting to apply for and pass their B award practical assessment. If successful, they will then have a further 2 years' validity on the same written assessment in which to apply for their A award practical assessment.

Europe Netball B/A Written Assessment Section 1

Section 1 contains 12 questions which are written to test a candidate's knowledge of the rules and the sanctions and actions that may apply. The candidate will be asked to identify:-

- What is the Infringement?
- What sanction/action would you award?
- Who is the sanction/action awarded to?
- Where is the sanction/action taken?

Within the 12 questions, there will be 3 questions that explain a scenario where the umpire is not required to act. These questions require the candidate to write No Action in the 'What is the Infringement?' box.

Below is an example of a typical question from Section 1 where an answer is required for each of the four parts. 1 mark is received for each correct answer given.

Red GS has possession of the ball in the goal circle and is about to shoot for goal. Just before the shot, Blue GD hits the ball and causes the Red GS to drop the ball.

What is the Infringement?	Contact and Interference (1 Mark)
What sanction/action would you award?	Penalty Pass against the Blue GD (1 Mark)
Who is the sanction/action awarded to?	Red team player allowed in the area (1 Mark)
Where is the sanction/action taken?	In goal circle where the Blue GD was standing when they contacted the ball, unless this places the non-infringing team at a disadvantage, in which case the penalty will be taken where the Red GS was standing (1 Mark)

What is the Infringement?

When answering this part of the question, the candidate is required to write down the relevant Rule Name and the relevant Rule Heading. Candidates are not required to quote Rule numbers.

Questions are written in a specific way to give the candidate sufficient hints as to which Rule Name and Rule Heading has been infringed. Questions relating to an infringement of the Obstruction rule will give sufficient information for the candidate to choose whether the Obstruction and Player in possession of the ball or the Obstruction and Player not in possession of the ball rule has been infringed. If the candidate only writes Obstruction, there is insufficient detail for the mark to be awarded, as they have not correctly referenced the Rule Heading. In a different example, there would be insufficient detail for a full mark to be awarded if a

candidate only wrote 'Short Pass, or 'Passing Distances' for a question relating to an infringement of the Short Pass rule. The correct answer would be Passing Distances **and** Short Pass.

Please note that, where a learner gives an incorrect Rule Name and/or Rule Heading, they will not be awarded any further marks for that question (even if their other answers were correct).

Below are some other common infringements/scenarios and examples of the Rule Names and Rule Headings that apply.

Common Infringement/Scenario	Requirement for full marks to be awarded
A player who catches the ball, drops it and then takes possession a second time	Playing the ball and While in Possession
A pass between two players but where there is not sufficient distance for an opposing player to deflect or intercept	Passing Distances and Short Pass
A player passing the ball from their goal third which travels untouched over the centre third and is caught by their team mate in the other goal third	Passing Distances and Over a Third
A player entering a court area not designated for that player's position	Offside and Requirements
A player in possession of the ball being 'Obstructed' by an opposition player	Obstruction and Player in possession of the ball
A player who drags or slides their landing foot	Footwork and Other foot movements
Penalising a player for hitting a ball held by an opponent	Contact and Interference
Two players positioning so close to an opponent that if the opponent were to move, contact would be inevitable	Contact and Inevitable Contact
A team which does not return to court after a stoppage, despite the umpire giving clear indication that the time for the stoppage has ended	Team and Failure to take the court
Penalising a player for intentional infringing	Foul play and Unfair play

A full list of Rule Names and Rule Headings can be found in the Appendix.

What sanction/action would you award?

Potential answers to this part of the question could be one of the following:-

- Penalty Pass
- Free Pass
- Throw In
- Possession
- Hold Time

When a candidate deems that a Penalty Pass is the appropriate action, they must always state which team and which player the Penalty Pass has been awarded against for the mark to be awarded. For example – *Penalty Pass against the Red WD*. This detail is not required for a Free Pass, where the simple statement ‘Free Pass’ will earn the candidate the mark.

Please be aware that, whilst most rules contain both the Infringement and the sanction/action (for example, Footwork and One-Foot Landing/Two-Foot Landing/Other Foot Movements), there are some rules which contain the Infringement, but then refer to another rule for the sanction/action (for example, Team and Failure to Take the Court is the Infringement, but refers to Rules 19.1 and 19.2 for the sanction, which is for delaying play). In the latter example, please check that you use the relevant Rule Name and Rule Heading for the Infringement.

Who is the sanction/action awarded to?

Candidates are advised to keep this part of the answer as simple as possible and state that the sanction or action is to be taken by either a Red Team or Blue Team player allowed in the area.

Where is the sanction/action taken?

In answering this part of the question, the candidate is required to be more specific. Simply stating ‘where the infringement occurred’ will not be sufficient for the mark to be awarded. Candidates should use the information in the question and state the court area where the infringement occurred, specifying the exact position if the sanction or action is to be taken near to a transverse line (by the transverse line, in the goal third or centre third etc.), the goal circle (inside or outside of the goal circle etc.) or the centre circle (inside or outside of the centre circle etc.). For sanctions or actions that result in a throw in, stating that the throw in is taken off court and up to the line, at the point where the ball left the court or in line with where the ball was touched or caught etc. will be sufficient for the mark to be awarded.

Where the sanction is a penalty pass for Contact or Obstruction, please include the wording in Rule 6.1 of the Rules book (using the relevant teams and player positions)-Penalty pass where the infringer was standing unless this places the non-infringing team at a disadvantage, in which case the penalty will be taken where the [obstructed/contacted] player was standing. This wording is not required where a penalty is advanced, in which case it is taken in the position set by the umpire or where the Rules book specifies where the penalty is to be taken, for example Player outside the Court or Dangerous Play.

Next, there is an example of a typical question from Section 1 where the answer is 'No Action'. No Action questions are often written with an obvious key word or phrase included to help candidates identify them. The key phrase that identifies that this is a no action question is underlined in this example.

Blue WA has the ball in the Centre Third and Red WD attempts to defend from behind and they are 0.9m (3 feet) away from their opponent.

What is the Infringement?	No Action (1 Mark)
What sanction/action would you award?	
Who is the sanction/action awarded to?	
Where is the sanction/action taken?	

If a candidate is not completely sure that the answer is 'No Action', it is better to complete all four parts, on the basis that there has been an infringement. If the candidate is wrong and the answer is 'No Action', they only lose one mark. However, if the candidate answers 'No Action' and there is an infringement, they will lose four marks.

Europe Netball B/A Written Assessment Section 2

Section 2 contains 8 questions which are written to test a candidate's knowledge of the rules and their application. The candidate will be asked to identify:-

- Rule/s (infringed)
- Possible Decision/s
- Application/Reasoning

Below is an example of a typical question from Section 2 that has not been answered. A top hint for candidates to be aware of, is that the number of marks available for each part of the question gives a strong indication as to how much detail is required in each part. In the question below, the marks available indicates that one Rule has been infringed and that there are two possible decisions that can be made. This is indicated by the *(1/2 Marks)* shown. In the 'Application/Reasoning' section for this question it shows that there are six marks – *(6 Marks)* available, which indicates the candidate is required to give six main points in their answer.

At a goal line throw in, Red GK attempts to pass to Red C, who is unmarked outside the goal circle. At the same time, Blue GS contacts the arm of Red GK. Red C catches the ball.

Rule/s	(1 Mark)
Possible Decision/s	(2 Marks)
Application/ Reasoning	(6 Marks)

The example below shows the question completed.

At a goal line throw in, Red GK attempts to pass to Red C, who is unmarked outside the goal circle. At the same time, Blue GS contacts the arm of Red GK. Red C catches the ball.

Rule/s	Contact and Interference (1 Mark)
Possible Decision/s	Penalise Contact or Play Advantage (2 Marks)
Application/ Reasoning	The Contact rule has been infringed as Blue GS contacted Red GK. (1 Mark) The umpire could blow the whistle using the relevant hand signal to penalise Contact. (1 Mark) A penalty pass is awarded to a Red team player allowed in the area. (1 Mark) The penalty pass is taken where Blue GS was standing when they contacted Red GK, unless this places the non-infringing team at a disadvantage, in which case the penalty is taken where the Red GK was standing (1 Mark) Or The umpire may consider playing advantage as the Red team have possession of the ball. The umpire would need to assess the position of all players (particularly Red C) and decide whether the advantage may be possible. (Must consider where other players are for the mark). (1 Mark) The umpire would indicate advantage by calling 'Advantage Contact GS' and signal using the relevant hand signal. (1 Mark) (6 Marks)

Rule/s

When answering this part of the question, candidates should apply the same technique relating to the Rule Names and Rule Headings as they did in Section 1. The question will provide a clear indication of what Rule Name and Rule Heading has been infringed and candidates should try to not overthink or complicate a scenario. Questions are not written to catch candidates out-they describe common infringements that may occur.

Possible Decision/s

As outlined previously, the first thing candidates should look at when tackling the 'Possible Decision/s' part of the question is the number of marks on offer - (2 Marks). Where only one mark is on offer, there will be only one potential decision. Where two marks are available, candidates will be required to provide two potential decisions. In the example given, there may be the option to play Advantage as well as penalising the infringement. Where playing Advantage is an option, this should be obvious in the question, usually regarding the position of an unmarked player or a statement around there being no or limited interference or impact from an infringement etc.

Application/Reasoning

This is the most important part of the question and gives the candidate an opportunity show they understand the application of the rule/s. Again, the number of marks on offer will give an indication of how much detail is required for full marks to be awarded. Questions at the beginning of Section 2 usually carry a lower mark requirement than those in the later stages of the paper, where scenarios may be more complex and require multiple actions. Candidates should attempt to write down all of the points required to deal with a specific infringement, from the point that the infringement or issue occurred up to when play resumes. Candidates may choose to write in sentences or may opt to number or bullet point the main actions.

The first point available is an opportunity for the candidate to write how or why the rule has been infringed. For example - *the 'Over a Third' rule has been infringed because the ball travelled untouched over two transverse lines etc.*

The second broad point available relates to how the umpire in the scenario would deal with the infringement. Candidates should include in their answer:-

- The requirement to blow the whistle
- Penalise the infringement
- Indicate a hand signal is used (if applicable)
- Award a sanction or action
- State who the sanction is against or which team the action is in favour of
- State who the penalty pass or action is taken by (this will be either a Red or Blue team player allowed in the area) and where
- Where the sanction is a penalty pass, candidates should apply the same technique relating to the Rules book wording as they did in Section 1

For example - *The umpire would blow the whistle to penalise Over a Third, using the relevant hand signal. (1 Mark) A free pass is awarded to a Blue team player allowed in the area. (1 Mark) The free pass is taken in the Red team's attacking goal third, by the transverse line where the ball first entered the goal third incorrectly. (1 Mark)*

In most circumstances, these main points will enable the candidate to provide enough information for the full marks to be awarded. Candidates should note, that for scenarios where time is held (injury/illness, blood or an emergency etc.), that this will likely be the same answer they gave in the 'Possible Decision/s' box. Where holding time is used within an answer, candidates should list all of the main points of the scenario to its conclusion with the last point typically indicating that *'The Umpire restarts play with a whistle and the relevant hand signal'*.

Where Advantage is an option, candidates must consider the position of players or the impact of an infringement in their answer. As mentioned, this will likely be indicated in the question. When writing an answer that involves playing Advantage, the candidate should include:-

- The reason why they think Advantage is possible (the non-infringing team has the ball etc) and their assessment of the situation (positioning of players or the ball etc.)
- The 'physical' application of the Advantage rule (The umpire would indicate Advantage by calling 'Advantage' (insert the infringement and the position of the infringing player) and signal using the relevant hand signal)

When answering questions in Section 2, candidates should try to imagine the scenario being played out and visualise or imagine how they would deal with it. At the back of the written assessment paper, there is a set of court diagrams for candidates to use to draw out the position of players or to rationalise any thoughts they may have.

Once candidates have taken the written assessment, it will take a few weeks for the paper to be marked by Europe Netball, with the outcome being communicated by email. This information will also be forwarded to the candidate's County and Regional Officiating Leads. The B/A written assessment is a challenging experience for all umpires on both the B and A award pathways. However, if you read the Rules Book and work on your exam technique using sample papers, you will make a success of it.

Appendix

Rule Names and Rule Headings

Rule Name		Rule Heading
Technical Specifications	And	Court and Related Areas
	And	Goalposts
	And	Ball
Time	And	Match Length
	And	Extra Time
Team	And	Members
	And	Failure to Take the Court
	And	Late Players
	And	Players
	And	Team Officials
Match Officials	And	Umpires
	And	Reserve Umpire
Technical and event officials	And	Detailed Duties
	And	Scorers
	And	Timekeepers
	And	Event Organiser
Sanctions and actions	And	Types
	And	Conditions for Free Pass
	And	Conditions for Penalty Pass
	And	Conditions for Throw-In
	And	Possession
	And	Conditions for All Sanctions and Actions
	And	Infringements During a Break in Play
Advantage	And	Principles
	And	Not to be Applied
	And	If Goal Scored
Centre Pass	And	Principles
	And	Position of Players
	And	Controlling the Centre Pass
Scoring a goal	And	Requirements
	And	Taking a Shot
Stoppages	And	Substitutions and Team Changes
	And	Procedures
	And	Injury/Illness of a Player or Blood
	And	Emergencies
Playing the Ball	And	Gaining Possession
	And	While in Possession
	And	Without having Possession
	And	Prohibited Actions
Passing Distances	And	Short Pass
	And	Over a Third

Footwork	And	One-Foot Landing
	And	Two-Foot Landing
	And	Other Foot Movements
Offside	And	Requirements
Out of Court	And	Ball Out of Court
	And	Player Outside Court
	And	Defending from Out of Court
Obstruction	And	Player in Possession of the Ball
	And	Player Not in Possession of the Ball
Contact	And	Interference
	And	Causing Contact-Player in the Air
	And	Causing Contact-Moving Player
	And	Inevitable Contact
	And	Contact Endangering Player Safety
Game Management	And	Principles
	And	Game Management Actions
	And	Proactive Advice
	And	Advance and/or Escalate a Sanction
	And	Warning
	And	Suspension
	And	Ordering Off
	And	Discipline of Team Officials and Bench Players
Foul Play	And	Unfair Play
	And	Unsporting Behaviour
	And	Dangerous Play
Simultaneous and Mutual Infringements	And	Procedure
Variations for Other Levels of Play	And	Principles
	And	Rule 1: Technical Specifications
	And	Rule 2: Time
	And	Rule 3: Team
	And	Rule 4: Match Officials
	And	Rule 5: Technical Officials

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