The Netball Umpire
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B/A WRITTEN ASSESSMENT PRACTICE

Free sample paper

Based on the World Netball Rules of Netball, 2024 edition

Questions and model answers

TIME	SECTION 1	SECTION 2
2 hours	**12 questions · 39 marks**	**8 questions · 62 marks**

How to use this paper

1. Sit the question paper first, under timed conditions, then mark it with this version.
2. Each model point is worth the marks shown. Credit an answer that makes the same point in different words.
3. Section 1: if the Rule Name and Rule Heading are wrong, the rest of that question scores nothing.
4. Section 2: in an advantage question, the marks cover both options, so a full answer explains penalising *and* playing advantage.
5. Rule numbers are shown for information only. You don't need them in your answers.

Practice targets

Standard	Section 1	Section 2
A award standard (78%)	31 / 39	49 / 62
B award standard (67%)	27 / 39	42 / 62

Rules guides, quizzes, and the written assessment guide: thenetballumpire.com

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Section 1: model answers

12 questions · 39 marks

Twelve short situations. For each, give the infringement as its Rule Name and Rule Heading, the sanction or action, who it goes to, and exactly where it is taken. Three are No Action: write No Action in the first box only. One mark per box.

1 **Red C** receives a pass in the centre third. **Red WA** and **Red GA** are both closely marked. Four seconds later, **Red C** is still holding the ball. 4 marks

What is the infringement? (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**Playing the Ball and While in Possession**
What sanction or action would you award? (1 mark)	**Free Pass**
Who is the sanction or action awarded to? (1 mark)	**Blue team player allowed in the area**
Where is the sanction or action taken? (1 mark)	**Where Red C was standing when they held the ball for longer than three seconds**

For information only: Rule 11.4

2 **Red GK** chases a loose ball towards the transverse line at the edge of **Red**'s defending goal third. **Red GK** cannot stop in time and runs into the centre third with both feet before **Red WD** collects the ball. 4 marks

What is the infringement? (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**Offside and Requirements**
What sanction or action would you award? (1 mark)	**Free Pass**
Who is the sanction or action awarded to? (1 mark)	**Blue team player allowed in the area**
Where is the sanction or action taken? (1 mark)	**In the centre third, by the transverse line where Red GK entered the centre third**

For information only: Rule 14.1

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3 **Red GA** catches the ball and lands on their left foot. Keeping the left foot grounded, **Red GA** pivots and steps twice with the right foot to find a passing angle. **Red GA** then passes to **Red GS**. 1 mark

What is the infringement? (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**No Action**
What sanction or action would you award? (0 marks)	Leave blank
Who is the sanction or action awarded to? (0 marks)	Leave blank
Where is the sanction or action taken? (0 marks)	Leave blank

For information only: Rule 13.1b

4 **Blue WA** leaps for a pass and takes it mid-air. **Blue WA** comes down on their right foot, followed by their left. **Blue WA** then lifts the right foot to turn towards the goal circle, puts it back down, and passes. 4 marks

What is the infringement? (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**Footwork and One-Foot Landing**
What sanction or action would you award? (1 mark)	**Free Pass**
Who is the sanction or action awarded to? (1 mark)	**Red team player allowed in the area**
Where is the sanction or action taken? (1 mark)	**Where Blue WA was standing when they regrounded their landing foot (the right foot)**

For information only: Rule 13.1a

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5 **Blue WA** lofts the ball down the side of the centre third for **Blue C** to run on to. The ball drifts over **Blue C**'s head. Nobody touches it, and it bounces outside the court beyond the side line of the centre third. 4 marks

What is the infringement? (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**Out of Court and Ball Out of Court**
What sanction or action would you award? (1 mark)	**Throw-in**
Who is the sanction or action awarded to? (1 mark)	**Red team player allowed in the area**
Where is the sanction or action taken? (1 mark)	**Out of court, by the side line of the centre third, in line with where the ball went out of court**

For information only: Rule 15.1a

6 **Red WA** receives a pass in the centre third and holds the landing position while looking for a team-mate. **Blue WD** stands 0.6 m (2 ft) from **Red WA**'s landing foot with both arms raised to block the pass. 4 marks

What is the infringement? (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**Obstruction and Player in Possession of the Ball**
What sanction or action would you award? (1 mark)	**Penalty Pass against Blue WD**
Who is the sanction or action awarded to? (1 mark)	**Red team player allowed in the area**
Where is the sanction or action taken? (1 mark)	**Where Blue WD was standing when they obstructed Red WA, unless this places the non-infringing team at a disadvantage, in which case the penalty will be taken where Red WA was standing**

For information only: Rule 16.1

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7 **Blue WA** jumps from inside the court near the side line and takes the ball mid-air. **Blue WA** releases a pass to **Blue C** before landing outside the court. 1 mark

What is the infringement? (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**No Action**
What sanction or action would you award? (0 marks)	Leave blank
Who is the sanction or action awarded to? (0 marks)	Leave blank
Where is the sanction or action taken? (0 marks)	Leave blank

For information only: Rule 15.6

8 **Blue WA** sprints to receive a pass in the centre third. **Red WD** races for the same pass and bumps into **Blue WA**'s shoulder. The bump knocks **Blue WA** off their running line, and **Blue WA** cannot reach the pass. **Red C** collects the ball. 4 marks

What is the infringement? (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**Contact and Interference**
What sanction or action would you award? (1 mark)	**Penalty Pass against Red WD**
Who is the sanction or action awarded to? (1 mark)	**Blue team player allowed in the area**
Where is the sanction or action taken? (1 mark)	**Where Red WD was standing when they contacted Blue WA, unless this places the non-infringing team at a disadvantage, in which case the penalty will be taken where Blue WA was standing**

For information only: Rule 17.1a, 17.2c

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9 **Blue GD** slips in the centre third and ends up on one knee. A loose ball rolls towards them. Still kneeling, **Blue GD** gathers it into both hands. 4 marks

What is the infringement? (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**Playing the Ball and Gaining Possession**
What sanction or action would you award? (1 mark)	**Free Pass**
Who is the sanction or action awarded to? (1 mark)	**Red team player allowed in the area**
Where is the sanction or action taken? (1 mark)	**Where Blue GD gained possession of the ball while kneeling**

For information only: Rule 11.2

10 **Red WD** and **Blue WA** race side by side for a loose ball in the centre third. Their arms brush, but neither player is knocked off balance or slowed down, and **Blue WA** gathers the ball. 1 mark

What is the infringement? (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**No Action**
What sanction or action would you award? (0 marks)	Leave blank
Who is the sanction or action awarded to? (0 marks)	Leave blank
Where is the sanction or action taken? (0 marks)	Leave blank

For information only: Rule 17.3

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11 **Blue WD** catches a pass in the air and comes down on both feet at the same time, with one foot in **Blue**'s defending goal third and the other in the centre third. **Blue WD** then passes to **Blue GA**, who is standing in **Blue**'s attacking goal third. **Blue GA** takes the ball cleanly. 4 marks

What is the infringement? (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**Passing Distances and Over a Third**
What sanction or action would you award? (1 mark)	**Free Pass**
Who is the sanction or action awarded to? (1 mark)	**Red team player allowed in the area**
Where is the sanction or action taken? (1 mark)	**In Blue's attacking goal third, by the transverse line where the ball entered that third incorrectly**

For information only: Rule 12.6

12 **Red** has the centre pass. A moment before the starting whistle, **Blue WD** steps forward out of **Blue**'s defending goal third and plants a foot on the ground inside the centre third. 4 marks

What is the infringement? (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**Centre Pass and Position of Players**
What sanction or action would you award? (1 mark)	**Free Pass**
Who is the sanction or action awarded to? (1 mark)	**Red team player allowed in the area**
Where is the sanction or action taken? (1 mark)	**In the centre third, by the transverse line where Blue WD entered the centre third**

For information only: Rule 8.11

> Advantage isn't considered in Section 1. In a match the umpire might consider playing advantage here, but it isn't part of a Section 1 answer.

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Section 2: model answers

8 questions · 62 marks

Eight longer situations. Name the rule or rules infringed, give the possible decision or decisions, then set out how the umpire deals with it, step by step, through to the restart. The marks against each box show how much is needed.

1 **Red WD** has the ball in the centre third with both feet planted and is looking for options. **Red WD** jumps from both feet to pass to **Red C**. **Blue WA** moves across to cover the pass, so **Red WD** keeps hold of the ball and lands on both feet. 6 marks

Rule/s (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**Footwork and Other Foot Movements** (1 mark)
Possible decision/s (1 mark)	**Penalise Footwork** (1 mark)
Application/reasoning (4 marks)	The Footwork rule has been infringed as Red WD jumped from both feet and landed on both feet while still in possession of the ball. (1 mark) The umpire blows the whistle to penalise Footwork, 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 where Red WD landed on both feet while still holding the ball. (1 mark)

For information only: Rule 13.3c

> This comes under Other Foot Movements because Rule 13.3c specifically lists jumping from both feet and landing on both feet while still in possession of the ball. It isn't One-Foot Landing or Two-Foot Landing as you might initially expect.

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2 **Red C** passes across the centre third towards **Red WA**. **Blue WD** gets a fingertip to the ball, which then hits an advertising board standing just outside the side line. No other player touches the ball. 6 marks

Rule/s (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**Out of Court and Ball Out of Court** (1 mark)
Possible decision/s (1 mark)	**Award a Throw-in to Red** (1 mark)
Application/reasoning (4 marks)	The ball is out of court because it touched an object in contact with the ground outside the court, and Blue WD was the last player to touch it on court. (1 mark) The umpire blows the whistle and indicates a throw-in to the Red team, using the direction-of-pass hand signal. (1 mark) The throw-in is taken by a Red team player allowed in the area. (1 mark) It is taken from outside the court in line with where the ball went out, with at least one foot within 15 cm (6 in) of the side line at the point the umpire indicates. (1 mark)

For information only: Rule 15.1b, 6.11

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3 **Blue C** sprints towards the side line to receive a pass in the centre third. As the pass is thrown, **Red WD** moves to intercept it and steps sideways into **Blue C**'s path. **Red WD** is so close that **Blue C** cannot stop or change direction. The two collide, and **Blue C** stumbles but stays on their feet. The ball runs loose to **Red GD**, who catches it. 7 marks

Rule/s (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**Contact and Causing Contact — Moving Player** (1 mark)
Possible decision/s (1 mark)	**Penalise Contact** (1 mark)
Application/reasoning (5 marks)	Red WD has infringed the Contact rule by moving so close to, and so quickly into, Blue C's path that Blue C had no time or distance to stop or change direction. (1 mark) The umpire blows the whistle to penalise Contact, using the relevant hand signal. (1 mark) A penalty pass against Red WD is awarded to a Blue team player allowed in the area. (1 mark) The penalty pass is taken where Red WD was standing when they contacted Blue C, unless this places the non-infringing team at a disadvantage, in which case the penalty will be taken where Blue C was standing. (1 mark) Red WD stands out of play beside but away from the player taking the penalty pass and takes no part in play until the ball has been released. (1 mark)

For information only: Rule 17.7, 6.4

> You might think about intentional infringing or dangerous play. Red WD was moving to intercept the pass, so nothing suggests the contact was intentional. There isn't enough in the question to suggest that the contact meets the threshold for dangerous play.
>
> Advantage (explanation only, no mark): advantage is not applied because Blue has no clear and real opportunity to play the ball (Rule 7.2). The loose ball goes to Red GD.

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4 **Red WA** catches the ball near the side line in **Red**'s attacking goal third. **Blue WD** reaches across to try to tip the ball. **Blue WD** catches **Red WA**'s forearm and pulls them off balance. **Red WA** still manages an accurate pass to **Red GA**, who is unmarked inside the goal circle. 9 marks

Rule/s (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**Contact and Interference** (1 mark)
Possible decision/s (2 marks)	**Penalise Contact** (1 mark) **Or** **Play Advantage** (1 mark)
Application/reasoning (6 marks)	The Contact rule has been infringed as Blue WD caught Red WA's forearm and pulled them off balance. (1 mark) The umpire could blow the whistle to penalise Contact, using the relevant hand signal. (1 mark) A penalty pass against Blue WD is awarded to a Red team player allowed in the area. (1 mark) The penalty pass is taken where Blue WD was standing when they contacted Red WA, unless this places the non-infringing team at a disadvantage, in which case the penalty will be taken where Red WA was standing. (1 mark) **Or** The umpire may instead play advantage, as Red still has the ball. The umpire assesses the position of all the players, particularly Red GA unmarked in the goal circle, and judges whether Red has a tactical or territorial advantage from allowing play to continue. (1 mark) The umpire indicates advantage by calling 'Advantage, contact, WD' and using the advantage hand signal. (1 mark)

For information only: Rule 17.1a, 7.2, 7.3

> Why advantage is an option: the last sentence has Red WA's accurate pass reaching Red GA, unmarked inside the goal circle. That signals a clear and real opportunity for the non-infringing team, so a full answer gives the advantage option as well as penalising, and the marks count across both. The advantage-assessment mark needs the answer to say the umpire would assess where the other players are, naming Red GA. "They have the ball" on its own doesn't score.

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5 **Red GS** shoots from close to the post. As **Red GS** releases the ball, **Blue GK** knocks their shooting arm. The umpire blows the whistle for the contact, and the ball then drops through the ring. 7 marks

Rule/s (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**Contact and Interference** (1 mark)
Possible decision/s (1 mark)	**Award the goal (Advantage)** (1 mark)
Application/reasoning (5 marks)	Blue GK has infringed the Contact rule by knocking Red GS's arm as they shot. (1 mark) Although the whistle has been blown, the goal is to Red's advantage, so the umpire awards the goal instead of the penalty pass. (1 mark) The umpire signals the goal by raising one arm vertically. (1 mark) The umpire calls 'Advantage, contact, GK' to show why the goal stands. (1 mark) Play restarts with the next centre pass. (1 mark)

For information only: Rule 17.1b, 7.5, 9.5

> Rule 7.5 (Advantage and If Goal Scored) is why the goal stands. It is not the infringement, so the Rule/s mark is for Contact and Interference.
>
> The umpire had only blown the whistle and hadn't yet called the infringement, so when signalling the goal they call "Advantage, contact, GK" to show why the goal stands. Had they already called "Contact, GK", they wouldn't need to repeat it.

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6 **Blue GA** has the ball in **Blue**'s attacking goal third. **Red C** pulls up holding their ankle and asks the umpire to hold time for their injury. **Red C** needs help to leave the court, and **Red** has no substitute on the bench. 9 marks

Rule/s (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**Stoppages and Injury/Illness of a Player or Blood** (1 mark)
Possible decision/s (1 mark)	**Hold Time** (1 mark)
Application/reasoning (7 marks)	The umpire checks the reason for Red C's request and confirms it is for an injury, then blows the whistle to hold time, using the relevant hand signal. (1 mark) Red C must leave the court within 30 seconds and receive treatment off the court. The timekeepers advise the umpires when 10 seconds remain. (1 mark) The umpires may authorise others, including team officials, to help Red C off. If the primary care person or independent concussion observer advises that Red C cannot be removed safely within 30 seconds, the umpires extend the time and notify the official bench. (1 mark) Both teams may make substitutions and team changes within the time allowed for the stoppage. (1 mark) With no substitute, Red may play with a position left vacant, but one Red player must move to play as Centre so the match can continue. (1 mark) Play restarts where the ball was when play stopped, with Blue in possession. Any Blue player allowed in the area may take the ball, and the umpire restarts play with the whistle and the relevant hand signal. (1 mark) Red C may not come back on while play is in progress. Red C may return at the next break in play, when the umpire holds time so Red C can go back to Centre and the stand-in Centre returns to their previous position. (1 mark)

For information only: Rule 10.5, 10.8c, 10.13, 10.15, 10.16, 10.19, 10.20, 10.22

> The final point isn't needed for the immediate situation, but it is part of the overall procedure for an injured player leaving the court and the Centre position being filled, which is why it is included and earns a mark. In order to score full marks, give full detail of every part of the procedure.

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7 **Red** is awarded a free pass just outside the top of the goal circle in **Red**'s attacking goal third. **Blue GK** is standing beside the ball where the free pass is to be taken. **Blue GK** picks the ball up and tosses it a few metres behind them, so that **Red** cannot take the free pass quickly. 9 marks

Rule/s (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (1 mark)	**Foul Play and Unfair Play** (1 mark)
Possible decision/s (1 mark)	**Penalise Foul Play and Unfair Play (Delaying Play)** (1 mark)
Application/reasoning (7 marks)	Blue GK has infringed the Foul Play rule by deliberately delaying play. Tossing the ball away stops Red taking the free pass quickly. (1 mark) The free pass had been awarded but not taken, so the umpire penalises the delay straight away, blowing the whistle and using the relevant hand signal. (1 mark) A penalty pass against Blue GK is awarded to a Red team player allowed in the area. (1 mark) Because delaying play is unfair play, the penalty pass is advanced up to half a third from where Blue GK was standing, towards Red's goal. (1 mark) As the infringement was in the goal third, it may be advanced to inside the goal circle, where Red GS or Red GA may pass or shoot. (1 mark) Blue GK stands out of play beside but away from the player taking the penalty pass, at the new position, until the ball is released. (1 mark) The umpire restarts play with the whistle. (1 mark)

For information only: Rule 19.2, 19.1, 6.20b, 18.17a, 18.18, 6.6, 7.4a

> Delaying play is unfair play (Rule 19.2), penalised with a penalty pass which is advanced (Rule 19.1). It happens between the award and the taking of a sanction, so it is penalised at once (Rule 6.20b). Red takes this penalty pass rather than the free pass.
>
> Advantage (explanation only, no mark): advantage must not be applied to unfair play (Rule 7.4a).

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8 Inside **Red**'s attacking goal circle, **Red GA** jumps to catch a high pass. While **Red GA** is in the air, **Blue GD** deliberately shoves them hard in the back. **Red GA** lands heavily but is not injured, and **Red GS** picks up the loose ball. 9 marks

Rule/s (Rule Name and Rule Heading) (2 marks)	**Foul Play and Dangerous Play** (1 mark) **Contact and Contact Endangering Player Safety** (1 mark)
Possible decision/s (2 marks)	**Penalise Foul Play and Dangerous Play** (1 mark) **Order Blue GD off** (1 mark)
Application/reasoning (5 marks)	The Dangerous Play rule has been infringed because Blue GD shoved Red GA while Red GA was in the air, putting a safe landing at risk. The action was deliberate, so the correct action is ordering off. (1 mark) The umpire blows the whistle straight away and holds time. (1 mark) The umpire uses the hand signal for ordering off, uses the words 'ordering off', and tells Blue GD it is for dangerous play. (1 mark) Blue GD leaves the court immediately, takes no further part in the match, and sits at the umpires' bench under the supervision of the reserve umpire. The GD position is left vacant for four minutes of playing time from the restart; after that, a substitute may come on at the next break in play. (1 mark) A penalty pass is awarded to a Red team player allowed in the area, taken where the infringement occurred. No Blue player stands out of play. (1 mark)

For information only: Rule 19.11, 17.9a, 7.4a, 6.9, 18.10, 18.37, 18.38, 18.39, 18.40, 18.41

> Two rules apply, and each scores a mark. Pushing an airborne opponent so that a safe landing is at risk is Contact and Contact Endangering Player Safety (17.9a). Rule 17.9 says this is dealt with as dangerous play under Foul Play (19.11).
>
> This is an ordering off rather than a suspension because Rule 19.11 says "A player must always be ordered off for intentional or highly reckless acts of dangerous play". The act is stated as deliberate, so the only acceptable decision is an ordering off. An answer of a suspension wouldn't score the decision marks, or the application/reasoning marks that relate to an ordering off.
>
> Advantage (explanation only, no mark): advantage must not be applied to dangerous play (Rule 7.4a), even though Red GS has picked up the ball.

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Marking your paper

Section 1

- Mark box 1 first. If the Rule Name or the Rule Heading is wrong or missing, score the whole question 0.
- A penalty pass only scores if you named the team and position it is against.
- The location must be specific. “Where the infringement happened” is not enough on its own.
- No Action questions are worth 1 mark. If you answered all four boxes on a No Action question, you lose that mark; if you wrote No Action where there was an infringement, you lose all four.

Section 2

- Give one mark for each model point you made, in any order and in your own words.
- In advantage questions, the application marks cover both options. Count the points you made from each.
- **Advantage: the assessment mark needs the other players.** Only give it if you said you would assess where the other players are (who is free, whether the pass or shot is really on). “Red have the ball” on its own scores nothing.
- Check each section against the practice target marks on the cover. You need both sections to reach the standard.

Next steps

- Learn any Rule Name or Rule Heading you got wrong word for word: the crib sheet and the headings quizzes at thenetballumpire.com help.
- Rewrite your weakest Section 2 answer using the step-by-step templates in the Europe Netball written assessment guide.

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