



COURT MARSHAL GUIDELINES (Saturday competition)

Current version:	1
Last reviewed:	October 2026
Next review date:	September 2027
Person(s) responsible for review:	Operations Manager

Introduction

Court Marshals in junior sports are designated adult officials responsible for managing off-court safety, ensuring their own club members' compliance with codes of conduct, and protecting young players and referees from sideline abuse. They act as a neutral, visible presence to make sure junior match days remain positive, safe, and respectful

Key Roles and Responsibilities

- Monitor own Club members' spectator, parent, and coach behaviour. Remind attendees of appropriate etiquette if needed.
- Ensure all Umpires & Players (especially young, junior umpires) are shielded from unacceptable sideline behaviour and/or intimidation.
- Address own Club members' minor unsportsmanlike behaviour firmly but politely. If a situation escalates, they must call for the Competition supervisor rather than physically intervening.
- May be required to report on an incident for breaches of code of conduct.

General expectations of Marshals

- Monitor own Club members' spectator, parent, and coach behaviour. Remind attendees of appropriate etiquette if needed.
- Ensure all Umpires & Players (especially young, junior umpires) are shielded from unacceptable sideline behaviour and/or intimidation.
- Address own Club members' minor unsportsmanlike behaviour firmly but politely. If a situation escalates, they must call for the Competition supervisor rather than physically intervening.
- May be required to report on an incident for breaches of code of conduct.

Supporting Documentation:

- [Code of Conduct - Netball VIC](#)

Appendix 1

Match Day Workflow

A neutral, visible presence focused on OFF-COURT conduct and safety.

Manage minor sideline issues and refer on-court matters to the Umpire Supervisor. Use page 2 for escalation.

01

Get ready

- Must be 18+.
- Collect and wear a clearly identifiable fluorescent vest.
- Find the vest in the courtside tablet tub, or use an identifiable club vest.

02

Stay present

- Remain visible and accessible near your court.
- Monitor your Club's spectators, parents and coaches off court.
- Help protect players and umpires from sideline abuse.

03

Manage off-court issues

- Address minor off-court behaviour calmly and politely.
- Refer all on-court behaviours to the Umpire Supervisor.
- Refer serious or unresolved off-court conduct to the Competition Supervisor.

04

Close out

- Keep monitoring if the off-court behaviour stops.
- Follow the relevant supervisor's directions.
- Record factual incident details if requested.

NON-NEGOTIABLE EXPECTATIONS

VISIBLE

Wear your marshal vest throughout your shift.

SINGLE ROLE

Do not coach, play or umpire while on duty.

SUBSTANCE-FREE

No alcohol, other drugs, smoking or vaping before or during duty.

SAFE RESPONSE

Never physically intervene. Refer on-court matters to the Umpire Supervisor.

ROLE BOUNDARY: Court Marshals manage OFF-COURT behaviour only. On-court behaviour is referred to the Umpire Supervisor.

START

Observe behaviour or receive a concern. First identify WHERE the behaviour occurs.

01

Is the behaviour ON COURT?

YES
↑

ON-COURT BEHAVIOUR

REFER TO UMPIRE SUPERVISOR

- 1 Notify the Umpire Supervisor promptly.
- 2 Do not interrupt play, challenge decisions or confront participants.
- 3 If safety is at risk, also alert the Competition Supervisor.

NO
➤

02

Is OFF-COURT behaviour serious, repeated or unsafe?

YES
↑

OFF-COURT: SERIOUS / UNSAFE

Threats, intimidation, serious or repeated sideline abuse, or immediate danger.

- 1 Contact the Competition Supervisor immediately; skip informal steps.
- 2 Do not physically intervene. Call 000 if required.
- 3 Follow directions and document the facts when safe.

NO
➤

03

OFF-COURT: minor / first-time behaviour

FOLLOW
↑

OFF-COURT: MINOR

Identify yourself, ask a spectator, parent or coach to stop, and explain expected conduct.

Does the off-court behaviour stop?

YES → Continue to monitor; record if required.

NO → Refer to Club President / authorised club official.

After club involvement: is it resolved?

YES • Monitor; record if required

NO • Competition Supervisor

ROLE BOUNDARY

Do not manage conduct during play. Refer on-court concerns to the Umpire Supervisor.

IF SUPERVISOR INVOLVED

Provide factual details and complete an incident report if requested.

KEY RULE

On-court → Umpire Supervisor. Serious / unresolved off-court → Competition Supervisor. Never physically intervene.