



## ZERO TOLERANCE RULE FOR VERBAL UMPIRE ABUSE

Dear Swiss Netball Member Clubs and Umpires

**Summary:** This Notice is to inform you that, with immediate effect, Swiss Netball is implementing a Zero Tolerance Rule in respect of umpire abuse to ensure a continued healthy and positive environment for our Umpires to officiate in.

**Action required:** Please share this notice to anyone within your Club (player, coach, official, spectator) who may participate in a Swiss Netball event.

Alongside players, coaches and technical officials, umpires are essential to the game we love to play. Whilst there are many reasons a person may wish to invest the time educating themselves to become an umpire, receiving verbal abuse from players, coaches and parents is not one of them. This behaviour may also contribute towards the lack of existing umpires in-country coming forward to participate in Swiss Netball events as well as causing additional umpire attrition.

As the governing body for the sport in Switzerland, it is Swiss Netball's responsibility to ensure that the Game is conducted and developed in accordance with disciplined and sporting behaviour in line with the INF Rules of Netball 2020 Edition. Therefore a new Zero Tolerance Rule as detailed below is being put in place:

The **Zero Tolerance Rule** states:

*Any person involved in a Swiss Netball event that demonstrates behaviour that is **detrimental** to an umpire may, at the discretion of the Swiss Netball Committee, be subject to one or more Swiss Netball event suspension(s). **Detrimental** behaviour is defined as 'physical and/or verbal abuse towards an umpire at any time'. *Vulgar language, physical abuse or gestures will not be tolerated.**

For any incident, on or off the court, an umpire must complete the Umpire Incident Report form within 24 hours of the match and email it to [umpiring@swissnetball.ch](mailto:umpiring@swissnetball.ch). Any umpire reported incident will be taken seriously. The complaint will be acknowledged and referred to the Swiss Netball Committee who will decide what action, if any, should be taken.

**R**ESPECT  
All participants & decisions

**E**NCOURAGE  
Everyone – we aim to promote our sport

**S**PORTSMANSHIP  
No abuse tolerated

**P**LAY  
For enjoyment

**E**DUCATE  
& be knowledgeable

**C**ONDUCT  
Yourself courteously

**T**REAT  
Everyone fairly

### RESPECT OUR UMPIRES

**Please remember Rule 5.2.1 Umpires – taken from the INF Rules of Netball 2020**

*The umpires control a match according to the Rules and decide any matter not covered by them. **Their decisions are final and are given without appeal.***

**All our umpires deserve support, encouragement and praise – just like the players!**

**Let's all work together and enjoy our game.**

Swiss Netball Committee

January 2022