**For the attention of all Netball personnel**

It is with great concern that I feel I must write this notation, having heard some very derogatory comments about officiating? within our region.

It would appear that there are a couple of misconceptions which are doing the rounds regarding officiating assessors and as a region, we **cannot** allow these to continue.

Firstly, no assessor has been either put under supervision, suspended *or* withdrawn from assessing; as a region, we do not have that jurisdiction. The role of an assessor is an England Netball role and if we, as a region, had any concerns about *any* of our assessors, this would need to be dealt with by EN. Just to be clear, we have no concerns at all, with regards to any regional assessors.

Secondly, comments are also going around that if certain assessors are appointed to assess umpires for their “B” Award pre-assessment or assessment, then that candidate will have no chance of obtaining their assessment.  This is total fabrication, as all assessors work to a set of competencies which are laid down by Netball Europe and to raise such comments is totally abhorrent.

Assessors give their time and expertise through their passion for our sport and such comments bring their role into disrepute; this is both unfair and unjustified. Indeed, it could put *any* personnel repeating such remarks in breach of England Netball’s Code of Conduct - which we all sign up to through our membership and at worst, it could lead to a disciplinary case.

Sue Hunter

Regional Chair