



Congratulations and welcome to umpiring at the Western Football Netball League. An integral part of the game is confident, passionate and skilled umpires to keep the game safe, fair and fun. Umpiring is also a fantastic way to learn leadership skills, build on a work network and learn strong communication skills.

The WFNL Netball Umpire coordinator plays a crucial role in enhancing umpiring standards and supporting umpires and clubs throughout the competition. Working alongside Umpire mentors, this position focuses on providing leadership and resources to ensure umpires can develop their skills effectively during the season. The league is dedicated to fostering a strong developmental pathway, offering guidance and support on a weekly basis to help umpires reach their full potential.

This document outlines the guidelines and expectations for umpires within the WFNL. We encourage everyone to read and understand the content thoroughly. If you have any questions or need clarification, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we can uphold the standards of our sport and support our umpires in their important role.

### **Dress Code-**

A well-presented umpire conveys professionalism and helps maintain control of the game. The WFNL offers a variety of umpire apparel available for purchase through our online store. While it's not mandatory to wear the WFNL uniform for a single game, we expect that if you umpire three times, you will purchase a uniform top for your fourth game. Beyond that, it is compulsory for all umpires to dress appropriately to uphold the standards of our league. Thank you for your commitment to professionalism on the court! " *Division 1 & 2 Umpires are to be dressed appropriately in umpire attire: White T-Shirt or jumper. White or navy shorts or skirt* "Umpires must be dressed appropriately in umpire attire: White T-Shirt, Jumper or Vest. White or Navy shorts, skirts, tracksuit pants or leggings and correct sporting shoes"

### **Umpires must wear white/cream or navy in colour and may include:**

- *Shorts*
- *Skirt or dress*
- *Polo, tee-shirt or long-sleeve shirt*
- *Skins, leggings or tracksuit pants (3/4 length or full length only)*
- *Jumper or vest*

Each umpire is responsible for bringing their own equipment to the game. At a minimum, they will need a whistle, a rule book, and a hairband to keep track of the centre pass.

### **WFNL Umpire uniform-**





## *Umpire Development*

Clubs are responsible for providing umpires who are of a suitable standard for the teams they enter into the competition. The WFNL will support the umpires and provide information to umpires on the pathways that are available to them.

The badging program is a resource available to all umpires to assist in developing their skills, at the WFNL we expect all umpires to want to better themselves and always be open to constructive criticism through the season.

## *Umpire Mentor Guidelines-*

The WFNL encourages all umpires to take a pro-active approach to umpire development by providing support to learning umpires through assistance from Senior Umpire mentors and the Umpire coordinator.

## *The Role of Umpire Mentors-*

Providing support and guidance to new umpires enhances their learning experience and contributes to a safer, more enjoyable environment within the WFNL space. Umpire mentors play a vital role in this process, and there are key points to keep in mind regarding the level of support they can offer:

- While it is recommended for umpire mentors to hold a National Umpire Badge, it is not a strict requirement but is recommended.
- Training opportunities are available through the WFNL and the Netball Victoria Learning website, ensuring mentors have access to valuable resources.

By fostering a supportive atmosphere, we can help develop confident and skilled umpires within our league. Thank you for your dedication to mentoring the next generation of officials!

## *Umpire Mentors should-*

Here are the key points for umpire mentors to ensure effective support for learning umpires:

- **Identification:** Mentors will be provided with the WFNL umpire mentor jacket, this is to be returned at the end of every round to the NOC.
- **Introduction:** Mentors should introduce themselves to the other umpire before the game.
- **Positioning:** Mentors should ideally avoid following the mentee along the sideline but should remain close enough to communicate as needed.
- **Training Bibs:** Mentee umpires will be provided with a green shirt for under 18s and Unbadged or foundation umpires while they are learning.
- **Whistle:** Mentors should not carry a whistle; the goal is for learning umpires to officiate independently.
- **Non-Interference:** Mentors must not interrupt or overrule decisions made by the controlling umpires during the game.
- **Feedback:** Mentors should provide constructive feedback, advice, and encouragement during breaks.
- **Mindful Support:** Mentors should be aware of the other umpire's skill level and refrain from offering unsolicited advice.
- **Confidence and Capability:** Mentors should be confident in their ability to mentor; regular experience in senior grades is beneficial.

The WFNL provides an excellent environment for learning umpires to develop their skills. If a learning umpire lacks confidence in officiating—such as blowing the whistle or managing centre passes—they should communicate this with the Umpire Coordinator and extra support can be provided.





Additionally, mentee umpires wearing green shirts should not be approached by club officials, coaches, or spectators. Mentors should support them in such situations (refer to bylaw rules under rule 10.5) It's also recommended that all umpires complete the Rules of Netball Theory Exam and the Foundation Umpire Course, both available through Netball Victoria Learning, to enhance their knowledge and skills.

### ***Netball Victoria - Do's and Don'ts of being a Good Mentor on Court-***

#### **DO-**

Be encouraging

Be present for the whole game

Give constructive feedback

Stand at different points of the court at different stages of the game to assist with positioning

#### **Don't-**

Run behind the umpire the whole time

Take your whistle onto the court

Tell the learning umpire what calls to make

Make decisions for them

Overload them with too much information

Expect perfection

### ***Trainee Umpire Responsibilities-***

While the Green shirt is a tool to help trainee umpires feel more confident and safer while they are

learning to umpire, they should be committed and prepared to develop their knowledge, ***understanding and practical application of the rules by:***

- Completing the Rules of Netball Theory Exam
- Completing Foundations of Netball Course
- Attending other training events (as run by Netball Victoria in partnership with the WFNL and other Leagues/Associations)
- Actively seek feedback and advice from both Club and League Mentors regularly.

### ***Umpire Badging Pathway-***

The WFNL is committed to developing umpires and supporting them to achieve National Badges.

There is a process to follow regarding badging, the league and Umpire coordinator will assist the Mentor Panel by ensuring potential badge candidates are as prepared as possible.





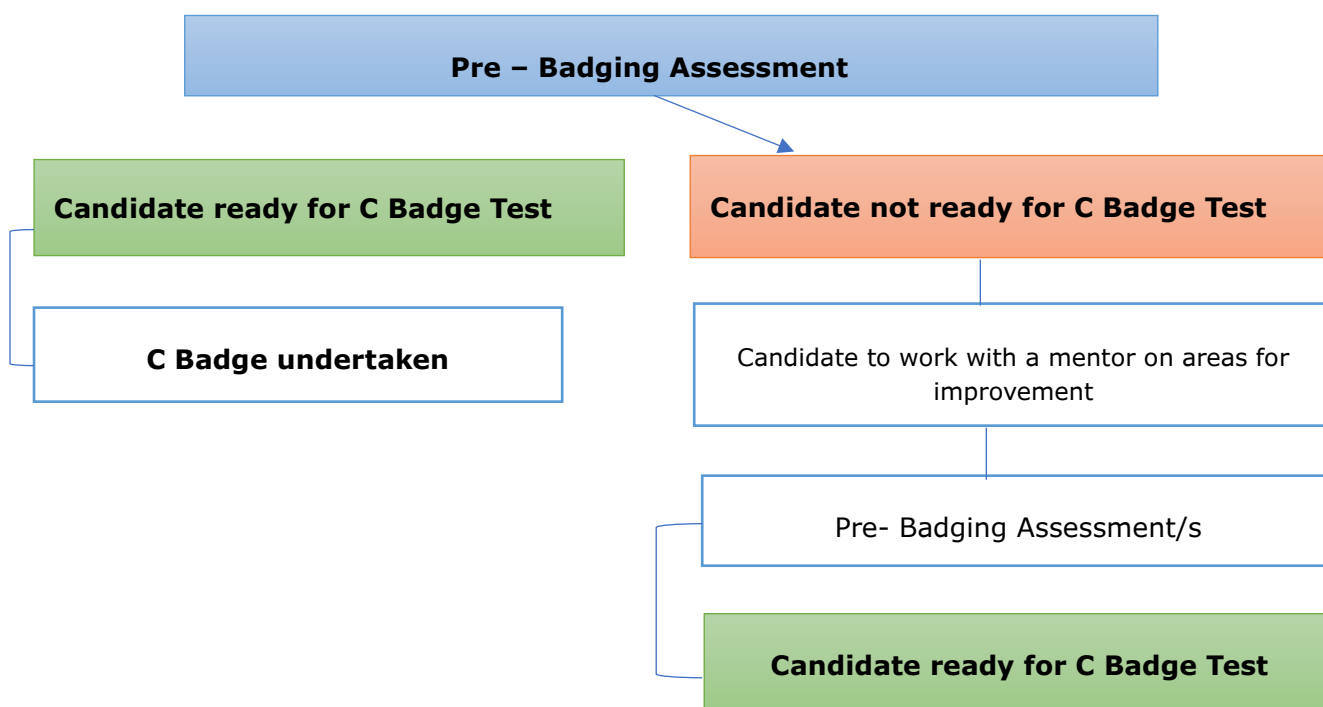
### ***National C Badge Process-***

The National C Badge can be awarded within the WFNL. A Badge assessment can be undertaken by a testing panel with a National AA, A, B Badge and a National C Badge Endorsed Tester. The WFNL tests C badge candidates on Division 3-5 matches.

The Umpire coordinator will observe learning umpires and along with the mentor panel make decisions around umpires that are ready to be tested for a National C badge.

To ensure an Umpire is ready as a league we will provide the below criteria to ensure the umpire is appropriately prepared.

1. Ensure a candidate has a mentor within the league that can assist with their development on a weekly/ fortnightly basis.
2. the candidate must have completed the Rules of Netball Theory Exam and the Foundations of Umpiring Course.
3. Can confidently umpire a division 4-7 Game on their own.
4. Undertakes a 'pre-badging assessment' with a current endorsed Netball Victoria tester to determine whether a candidate is ready for formal badge assessment.
5. Follow through with any feedback from the assessor/assessing panel
6. " *Make themselves available for a badge assessment ... and pay associated fee included in a successful/unsuccessful test.*"





## *National B Badge Process-*

To pursue a National B Badge within the WFNL, candidates must meet specific criteria and follow established pathways:

- **Testing Requirements:** A National B Badge test can only be conducted during a division 1 match, overseen by a testing panel that includes both a National AA, A Badge, and a National B Badge-endorsed tester.
- **Regular Umpiring:** Candidates should regularly umpire Division 1 matches and seek higher-level coaching and mentoring opportunities, including attending pre-assessments outside the league with National A and B endorsed testers.
- **Mentoring Restrictions:** National B Badge candidates cannot have regular mentors on their testing panel to ensure an objective assessment.
- **Pathway Guidance:** Candidates are encouraged to speak with the WFNL Umpire Coordinator to explore development pathways for the National B Badge.
- **Support Programs:** The WFNL Umpires mentor Group offers support for umpires pursuing B Badge training and mentoring.
- **Prerequisite Workshop:** Completion of the "Rules in Action" workshop, run by Netball Victoria, is a prerequisite for B Badge candidates.
- **Additional Resources:** Umpires should familiarize themselves with the Umpires Code of Behaviour and the National Umpire Development Framework.
- **Training Opportunities:** The WFNL, as a member of the Western Football Netball League Umpires Coordinator, is committed to providing training and development opportunities. Clubs and umpires are encouraged to participate in these valuable courses as scheduled.
- **Must have a Current VNA,**

By taking advantage of these resources and support systems, umpires can enhance their skills and progress in their umpiring careers.

## *- Bylaws and Conditions for club umpires-*

1. **Umpire Supply:** Each club must provide one umpire per team per club throughout the season. Umpires do not need to be badged but must have at least their foundation accreditation **MUST** be willing to receive mentoring while working towards a C badge.
2. **Availability:** All umpires supplied by clubs must be available for at least one game per week.
3. **Code of Conduct:** All club umpires must be willing to sign the NV Umpires Code of Conduct.
4. **Payment:** Club umpires will be paid by the league on a weekly basis.
5. **Availability Submission:** Umpires must submit their availability by close of business (COB) on Monday night for the upcoming week's rostering- Failure to do so may result in a club fine.
6. **Coaching Restrictions:** Club umpires are not permitted to coach the team they are umpiring. In an emergency, if a coach must umpire their own team, a substitute coach must take over, and the coach can only umpire.
7. **Training and Compliance:** Club umpires must complete a theory and induction program for umpiring and have a current Working with Children Check (WWCC).
8. **Code of Conduct:** All club umpires are held to the NV Umpire code of conduct, at any time the WFNL feels these codes have been breached we will terminate such individual from our umpiring program. In the event of this occurring the club is to provide a replacement before the next round of games.
9. **Netball Connect:** All club umpires are to be registered on Netball connect before taking the court to umpire.
10. **Deadlines:** All Club umpires are to be submitted to the NOC 14 days prior to round 1 for approval.

Individuals nominated by clubs to serve as umpires for the season will be reviewed and accepted or denied by the WFNL Netball Operations Coordinator. The WFNL retains full discretion regarding the inclusion of umpires in our program. Please note that the league's decision is final.





Please see FAQ sheet on TIME UMPIRE systems.

