



SCNA Umpire Policy

2022

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1. Umpire Policy Objective/Intent

South Canberra Netball Association (SCNA) strives to build participation in netball in the South Canberra region.

To support that goal, we want to build the capability of our umpires and encourage more members of our community to train and become umpires. We particularly want to support the development of junior umpires. And, we want to build a strong community culture that respects and values our umpires.

Netball umpiring isn't really about enforcing rules. It's an integral part of our netball community. Umpires help keep the game of netball safe, fair and fun for everyone.

We understand that our umpires need opportunity and time to develop. They also need our respect, encouragement and support.

This Umpire Policy sets out SCNA's approach to umpiring and explains the activities and initiatives we are undertaking to building our cohort of umpires. These activities are all focused on providing our umpires with the opportunity, support and safe environment they need to become more confident and excel. Our reason for setting this out in a specific policy is because we want to ensure our netball community respects and recognises the important contribution umpires make to the game of netball.

Through this Umpire Policy, SCNA aims to:

- Increase our cohort of trained umpires
- Increase the standard of our competitions
- Increase community enjoyment and safety of the game of netball
- Contribute to successful pathways for aspiring umpires

2. Umpire Accreditation and Pathways

This Umpire Policy is intended to align with the Netball Australia Umpire Accreditation System, which is an educational pathway based on Netball Australia Umpiring Courses (Foundation and Elite), ongoing professional development and practical umpiring instruction through an experienced umpire coach system.

Assessment is based on the Rules of Netball Theory Examination, practical evaluation through an established competency-based assessment system, self-reflection and, where possible, video analysis. Culmination of the accreditation system leads to practical assessment in a 4-tiered system of umpiring badges: C, B, A and the highest national award the AA (All Australia).

For more details on umpire accreditation and pathways, use the following link: [Umpiring Accreditation - Netball Australia](#)

3. Junior Umpire Program – 'Engage, Support and Grow'

We run an annual 6-week junior umpire program for new umpires to learn the rules of netball and begin their umpire journey in a supported environment. We want to encourage young people who have started their netball journey with NetSetGo, playing with their local club or school, to also look to how they can be involved in netball through umpiring. Our program is designed to *engage* our juniors, *support* their learning of the rules of netball and how to umpire, and watch them *grow* into confident and competent junior umpires.

To participate in our junior umpire program, we may charge a small fee for the course to cover the cost of a workbook. Funds permitting, we may also provide junior umpires with other resources and for those who are likely to continue umpiring, an SCNA white umpire shirt.

The junior umpire program 'Engage, Support and Grow' consists of theory sessions and practical experience through umpiring junior level netball games with umpire mentor support.

The program runs annually to coincide with the Saturday Winter netball competition.

Participants must attend a mandatory theory session presented each week from 9:15am until 10am, each Saturday morning for 6 weeks. Each week focuses on a different aspect of the rules of netball.

Participants are rostered on to umpire a game in the 10am or 11am junior timeslot following the lesson.

All participants must complete the 6-week program, as well as umpiring a minimum half a junior game per week (pending availability of games).

	9:15am	10am or 11am
Round 1	Before the game, Footwork	Umpire
Round 2	Major and minor infringements, hand signals	Umpire
Round 3	Playing the ball	Umpire
Round 4	Offside, over a third, short pass	Umpire
Round 5	Obstruction	Umpire
Round 6	Contact	Umpire

All participants are supported by umpire mentors to continue their learning.

All participants will be wearing a white training vest.

Upon the successful completion of the course all participants are presented with a SCNA Junior Umpire Program Graduation certificate and feedback to assist in their future development.

Upon successful completion of the program, junior umpires who have shown commitment and appropriate skill level may be invited to continue umpiring for the rest of the 2022 season under the guidance of an umpire mentor.

All umpires participating in the program will be paid for umpired games based on rates of payment aligned for umpires across the Canberra region.

The minimum age to undertake the junior umpire program is 12 years old, or be in year 7 at school.

4. Required Equipment for Umpires

All umpires must supply their own metal finger grip whistle. These can be purchased at the SCNA canteen or from any sports stores.

All umpires including participants in the junior umpire program are required to wear predominantly white so they are visible to participants, our umpire mentors and the general spectator community. We appreciate that it can be very cold during the Winter season. For this reason, we supply white umpire vests which can be worn over warmer clothing.



5. Our expectations of our community

In line with Netball Australia, SCNA requires our community to adhere to the highest standards of conduct and ethical behaviour in all of its activities. We want to promote and support a culture of honest and ethical behaviour both on and off the court.

SCNA requires that ALL members of our community, whether they are players, coaches, umpires, administrators, parents or guardians, officials or spectators, adhere to the Netball Australia National Codes of Behaviour, which can be accessed using the following link:

[NetballAustraliaNationalCodesofBehaviour.pdf](#).

Our umpires are on the court to keep the game fair and make sure everyone gets to play netball in a friendly, safe and fun way. We require our community to respect the decisions of the umpires, to encourage players to play according to the rules and the official decisions, and to place the safety and welfare of players above all else.

In terms of player / spectator / umpire relations, we require the following:

- It is essential that players learn to listen to the umpire for directions during the course of the match, not the coach (or parents/spectators).
- All players benefit from learning the skill of adapting their game to the umpires they have. At times it seems bad calls are made by the umpires, but being a good sport means taking the bad decisions with the good.
- Remember to use the correct protocol to address concerns about umpiring. During a break, the captain (and ONLY the Captain) may approach the umpires to discuss concerns. Concerns should be raised early in the game and not left until the end. If necessary, an umpire who is alerted to a concern can call for assistance from an umpire mentor.
- Our umpires are out there to help our teams play their best game. Without umpires, players can't play the game. Please remember to be respectful to all umpires, perhaps even thank them after each game.

6. Our expectations of our umpires

In line with Netball Australia's General Code of Behaviour, our expectation is that our umpires meet the following requirements with regard to their role as an umpire:

- Attend the court 15 minutes prior to conduct pre-game checks.
- Umpire in accordance with the Official Rules of the Game of Netball.
- Wear predominantly white.
- Treat all players, coaches, bench officials and other umpires with respect.
- Place the safety and welfare of the players above all else, including by:
 - Ensuring the court and its surrounds are compliant with the rules.

- Taking appropriate action to manage dangerous play.
- Refrain from social interactions while umpiring – stay focused on the game.
- Maintain a high standard of personal behaviour at all times.
- Be a positive role model through behaviour and personal appearance projecting a favourable image of netball and umpiring at all times.
- Refrain from conduct which could be regarded as sexual harassment, discrimination, bullying or victimisation.
- Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction with other netball participants.
- Maintain or improve your current performance level and seek continual improvement.
- Be honest and do not allow your qualifications/accreditation to be misrepresented.

7. Rules for communicating with Net Go/Junior umpires

No players, coaches, managers or spectators are to approach or communicate with any umpire umpiring a Net Go or junior game. No player, coach, manager or spectator is to direct comments or feedback towards a junior umpire before, during or after a game.

A request to clarify rules or any discussion in relation to the conduct of the game or the umpire at the junior level or below **must** be made to an umpire mentor. It is highly recommended that these discussions take place at the time of the game. Please locate an umpire mentor as soon as possible. Umpire mentors wear bright pink vests and are on duty during all Net Go and Junior games.

8. Rules for communicating with Intermediate/Senior umpires

The team captain may approach the umpire to clarify a rule or ruling. The captain may be accompanied by the player seeking to clarify the rule. Aside from the team captain and the relevant player, no other player, coach or spectator is permitted to communicate with an umpire before, during or after a game about issues arising in relation to the game. Any feedback on the conduct of an umpire must be made to the umpire mentors. It is highly recommended that these discussions take place at the time of the game.

9. Umpire Mentors

Our umpire mentors are an important element of the supportive environment we want to provide aspiring umpires, particularly to support them to extend their skill and ability. Umpire mentors are present to help umpires make the right decisions and build their confidence in making those calls.

Umpire mentors are available for clarifications.

Umpire mentors can be identified by the bright pink vests

If there are any issues with an umpire, it is recommended a representative from the team approach an umpire mentor, preferably, during the game to allow the umpire mentor to assess the situation.

Umpire mentors will:

- Ensure that junior umpires are provided with support, particularly pre-game in terms of confirming areas of control, controlling the centre pass and conduct of pre-game checks.
- Position themselves on the sidelines and communicate with junior umpires in a way that does not interfere with the junior umpire's ability to focus on the play. Communication will preferably take place when the play is in their other umpires' control.

- Intervene to prevent any attempt by coaches, players or spectators who attempt to directly communicate with junior umpires. As stated above, the role of the umpire mentor is to assess and respond to any issues with an umpire communicated by representatives from the team.

10. Winter Competition

Net Set Go

- Umpires are to be supplied by the team.

Net Go/Juniors

- SCNA supplied umpires.
- Umpires are undertaking, or have undertaken Junior Umpire training.
- Finals will be allocated by SCNA.

Intermediates/ Seniors

- Each team must supply an umpire.
- SCNA will supply reserve umpires. If a reserve umpire is not required they will provide mentoring.
- Each umpire should have successfully undertaken SCNA Junior umpiring program (or equivalent) and have completed their rules of netball theory exam and foundation umpire course available on the Netball Australia website.
- Finals will be allocated by SCNA.

11. SCNA Representative season

SCNA supplies umpires for all carnivals and ACT championship where SCNA has a team participating

Qualifications

To be eligible for selection, umpires representing SCNA at carnivals and championship will be required to have completed the Junior Umpire Program (or equivalent), have completed their rules of netball theory exam and foundation umpire course available on the Netball Australia website. Umpires for representative carnivals and championships will be selected by the SCNA Umpire Coordinator in consultation with senior SCNA umpires. Opportunities to umpire at junior championships and carnivals will be prioritised for umpires who are ready to progress in the umpire development pathways.

12. Summer Competition

SCNA will aim to allocate umpires for the summer competition using junior umpiring program graduates to provide a further development pathway.

13. Qualifications

A. Foundation Umpires Course

Go to <<https://learning.netball.com.au>> to get started.

If you are an existing learner, you can reset your password by following the reset password prompts and entering the email you use from your MyNetball account.

If you are a new learner, you can register for an account on the home screen.

If you need assistance, go to <www.support.netball.com.au> or email: learning@netball.com.au.

B. Rules of netball theory exam

The Rules of netball theory exam can be accessed through TBA. To pass, a score of 70% or above is required.

C. C Badge practical assessment

In addition to steps A and B, once you have spoken with an umpire mentor, you can work towards obtaining a national C badge. To receive a C badge, a practical umpiring assessment is undertaken. Umpire mentors are able to provide feedback about your suitability for badging.

All SCNA umpires who have successfully completed the online program and supplied their certification to SCNA Umpire coordinator will receive additional payments, as outlined in Section 11 Payments

National Umpire Accreditation Framework PDF resources are available at the following link:

<https://netball.com.au/umpiring-accreditation>

14. Payments

Payments for umpires at SCNA for Summer and Winter competitions should broadly align with rates being paid across Canberra districts. For Clubs and Schools want guidance on appropriate rates of umpire pay, please contact the SCNA Umpire Coordinator: scna.umpires@gmail.com.

SCNA will determine rates of pay for junior umpires participating in the junior umpire program.

15. Umpire Feedback

- All umpire feedback should be made to Umpire Mentors as soon as possible, preferably during the game to allow for game day mentors to assess.
- No players, coaches, managers or spectators are to approach any umpire of a Net Go or Junior game. Any concerns are to go through the mentors only.
- Only the team captain of an Intermediate/Seniors games permitted to approach the umpire to clarify a rule or ruling. The captain may be accompanied by the player seeking to clarify the rule.
- Any other questions, queries, compliments or concerns regarding umpiring at SCNA can be directed to the SCNA Umpire Coordinator: scna.umpires@gmail.com.

16. Document versioning

Reviewed	SCNA Executive	8 June 2022
Approved	SCNA President	8 June 2022
Due for review/update	SCNA Umpire Coordinator	Completion of 2022 Summer Competition

