



Waratah Netball Club

Umpiring Policy

Ver 3.0 - 13 May 2026

1. **Aim**

1.1. The aim of this policy is to:

- Ensure that players, teams and parents understand the Club requirements for umpiring.
- Enable the development and maintenance of a high standard of umpiring at Waratah Netball Club.
- Enable the building of confidence with the Club's younger and/or non-badged umpires.

1.2. While there is often reluctance from some players to umpire, this is usually due to a lack of self-confidence. However umpiring contributes towards player's technical development as well as fulfilling the player's team commitments. There is little doubt that learning to umpire may be beneficial to developing better players and better sportspeople. Therefore, coaches and managers should strongly encourage all players, but particular juniors, to conduct umpiring duties.

2. **Umpiring Convenor**

2.1. Waratah Netball Club will appoint an Umpiring Convenor in order to support umpire development and meet the aims of this policy. Throughout the season the Umpiring Convenor will regularly monitor Club umpires, offering support and advice where appropriate. This ensures that all umpires are supported throughout the season, and continue to develop their skills. From this, potential or future top-level umpires are identified and any extra available support offered.

3. **Junior Umpiring**

3.1. Coaches and Managers are to seek players / parents /supporters from their team who are interested in developing their skills as an umpire. The coaches and managers should provide these names to the Umpire Convenor who will assign games and mentors to develop the skills of these umpires. Each duty will have a competent umpire on one side and a learner umpire, with an umpire mentor, on the other side. This allows the learner umpire to observe the experienced umpire in action when the ball is not in the area of responsibility of the learner umpire. This support will be organised by the Umpire Convenor.

3.2. If managers / coaches decide every member of their team are to carry out umpire duties the team manager is to ensure all junior umpires are supervised by a suitable adult, or a

suitably experienced umpire. While this adult may be the coach or manager, it can also be a suitable parent. The Umpire Convenor may be able to assist, but it is up to the team coach or manager to ensure that support is provided to the junior umpire.

- 3.3. It should be noted that the supervisor does not have to be a graded umpire, but must be willing to provide support to the junior umpire. This is to ensure that someone is present to provide mentoring to the umpires if they require it, and to provide support to our umpires should there be intimidating behaviour from player or spectators.
- be encouraged to complete the umpiring accreditation exam with a pass mark of 70%. **Note:** members may seek to have their exam fees reimbursed upon successfully passing the exam.
 - have an appropriate whistle
 - have some means of keeping track of centre passes eg a hairband
 - wear an “Umpire Under Training” vest – these are available at the NNA office
 - wear their white Molycop shirt over their team uniform;
 - check all players for jewellery and nails.

4. **Senior Umpiring.**

- 4.1. Senior teams will be required to conduct umpiring duties. It is the responsibility of the team’s coaches and managers to ensure that these duties are completed as per NNA policy. Note that failure to conduct the duty may result in loss of points and/or a fine.
- 4.2. The Umpiring Convenor may offer to manage the umpiring duties for senior teams. This may entail the team paying a group umpiring levy that the Umpiring Convenor will use to pay umpires assigned to that team’s duties. Any levy remaining at the end of the season will be returned to the team. A confirmation of payment is to be provided to the team with a breakdown of the season’s costs to ensure transparent accountability. This is to be acknowledged by both the Umpiring Convenor and the team's representative via email, sms, or other form of recordable media.
- 4.3. The service in para 4.2 is not binding on teams, and any team may elect to manage their own umpiring duties. While the Umpiring Convenor will provide best endeavours, when a team elects to manage their own umpiring duties, support from the Umpiring Convenor cannot be guaranteed.

5. **Subsidy**

- 5.1. The Club will subsidise umpire training in accordance with the Club [*Subsidies for Club Officials*](#) policy

6. **Umpire Presentation**

- 6.1. Club umpires should note that they are representing Waratah Netball Club, and must therefore ensure that they are at the courts in a timely manner, and in appropriate attire (be it whites, or Club colours). Umpires should arrive at the courtside at least ten minutes before time to conduct preliminary equipment and player safety checks. These include the court area, goalpost padding, ball size, players’ fingernail length and the wearing of jewellery and adornments.

7. **Umpiring Mentoring**

7.1. When providing support to umpires mentors should:

- Encourage the umpire to look for any rules that are broken (remind the umpire that these are the same rules that they play the game by, except that now they must blow the whistle and penalise these infringements).
- Suggest and direct the umpire to where they should be positioning themselves so they can secure a good view of play to observe any infringements (e.g. where to stand on a centre pass, when and where to move along the goal line, where to stand for throw- ins and to move down the court to follow the progress of play).
- Define and explain any rules that the umpire may be unsure of (e.g. contact, obstruction - penalty pass, minor infringements i.e. footwork, offside etc. free pass).
- Encourage the umpire to use a loud and sharp whistle and use a loud voice to enable the other umpire to hear their decisions.
- At a suitable time (i.e. at the break or when the play is in the other umpire's area of responsibility) provide constructive feedback to the umpire about their performance.

7.2. When providing support to umpires mentors should not:

- Conduct any umpiring.
- Have a whistle courtside (they will not need it).
- Override the umpire, as this may lead to the umpire losing confidence.

8. **Recognition & Awards**

8.1. The following may be presented at the end of the season:

- **Umpiring Award:** The Club may present an award to an Umpire who has been active on a regular basis, and has consistently displayed a high standard of umpiring and presentation (i.e. dress, attitude)
- **Spirit of Umpiring Award:** The Club may provide a suitable end of season award to those players / umpires who have not achieved a badge or who do not meet the criteria for an Umpiring Award, but have shown excellent commitment to umpiring.

8.2. Coaches and managers will be responsible for nominating their players.

9. **Review.** This policy will be reviewed annually by the Waratah Netball Club Executive Committee in consultation with the Umpiring Convener.

10. This policy is in effect from 13 May 2026