

# MAINLAND UMPIRE SQUAD POLICY



## PURPOSE:

To continuously produce umpires who show the potential and/or are capable of being selected for, and performing well, at Netball NZ national events; and to feed into Talent Identification Programs and Netball NZ Squads.

Providing relevant and high-quality umpire development is crucial for enhancing performance, building depth, and creating clear, meaningful pathways. This program is designed to support growth, offering opportunities to progress within the New Zealand Umpire Pathway.

## OBJECTIVES:

- Provide a quality pathway for umpires towards appointment to identified Zone and/or NNZ Domestic Events.
- Provide involvement with the Performance Netball environment.
- Provide opportunity for talented umpires, from throughout Mainland, to work alongside peers, and to be challenged and supported in their development.
- Undertake an individualised approach within a group development structure.

## SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Identification will occur at several events across Mainland which include, but are not limited to, local tournaments, club competitions, King's Birthday tournaments (U16/18), and other events, including performances/rankings at national events.
- The number and quality of umpires selected will align with the long-term development needs of the performance space within Mainland. Selections will be quality based. This will be for but not limited to Netball NZ U18 Champs or any Netball Mainland umpire programs, and projecting to NNZ Open and NZSS Champs.
- The program is designed to enhance development to provide opportunity to advance within the New Zealand Umpire Pathway.
- Umpires named in NNZ Squads will be included in the Mainland Squad
- Umpires who are selected to join the Performance Pathway must:
  - be open to learning, being challenged and extended.
  - be a team player, who takes responsibility for their own development.
  - show potential and commitment to progress on the umpire pathway at least, in the first instance, to NNZ Under 18 Champs
  - display positive role modelling and professionalism both on and off the court.
  - maintain and further increase a level of fitness for at least the appropriate level, but preferably higher than the requirement.
- Entry level is preferably NZC Practical qualification.
- Taken into consideration may be appointments at a NNZ Age Group event in the previous year.
- Umpires with NZ Theory qualification may be considered if showing the potential to umpire at the next level (e.g.: NZC Award, SISS, NZ Under 18 Champs) in the current or following year.
- A minimum of 14.5 Yo-Yo at the first NNZ testing requirement in the calendar year. Umpires aspiring to

NZ Open Champs are required to achieve a minimum 15.1 Yo-Yo test at the first NNZ testing requirement in the calendar year. Umpires are asked to work consistently towards fitness level improvement. Failure to achieve requisite fitness levels may see an umpire removed from the squad.

Umpires are required to meet each of the NNZ annual fitness testing deadlines of 15 March, 01 June, 01 September and to refer to the NNZ Community Umpiring Guidelines (NNZ Website) for pre-champs fitness requirements and deadlines. Any exception, due to illness, injury or other significant reason must be advised the Mainland Umpire Lead.

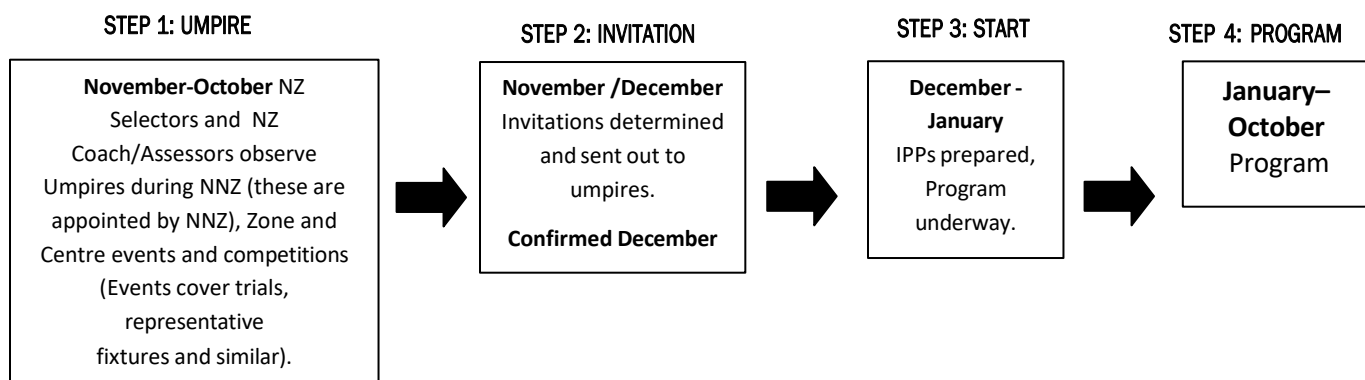
- To gain positive outcomes training is a year-round process.
- Squad umpires will be asked to provide their training program and compliance to the Mainland Umpire Lead and Selectors at specified dates during the year.
- It is envisaged that umpires selected would be eligible to remain in this squad, dependent on performance and development, across Zone and National stages, or until such time as they are selected into the NNZ pathway.
- Squad selection (appointment or reappointment) will be undertaken annually and is at the discretion of the Mainland Selectors, via any required liaison with the Mainland Umpire Lead.
- Selection into this squad is viewed as prestigious, with a correspondingly high level of accountability expected.
- The selectors shall be under no obligation to provide reasons for its selection. Any umpire not selected for tournament/umpire programs will be advised the areas for future development.

*The selection process/composition of the Squad will be determined by the Mainland Selectors appointed to this role by the Mainland Umpire Lead.*

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES:

- Umpires performing consistently well at Regional and NNZ Domestic Events.
- Potential to develop towards selection into NNZ Watchlist and/or National Umpire Squads and to perform creditably on the Zone and National stage in the year of selection (e.g.: Regional events, SISS, NZ U18 Champs, NNZ appointed events).
- Umpires that consistently demonstrate:
  - competent understanding of umpire techniques
  - show effective Game Management techniques.
  - ability to engage positively, and take initiative, with umpire coach.
  - ability to self-reflect within a game, as well as post-match.
  - identify and apply Techniques and Rules Knowledge in a way that will support increased decision-making accuracy.

## The Process



## **PROGRAM CONTENT**

One of the first activities to be completed by Performance Squad umpires is an IPP, which will identify priorities for individual development in the coming year. As part of this process umpires, with their coach, will determine the priority areas of support. This will be completed with your squad appointed coach, by the end of December (to cover off-season training program).

### **UMPIRE COMMITMENT:**

- Compliance to, and with, an IPP is a necessary requirement. There will be minimal tolerance for non-compliance (without justification) and, if this were the case, umpires may not be able to be retained in the squad.
- Achieve at least 14.5 at the first Fitness Testing (Yo-Yo) of the season – 15 March, or at least 15.1 for umpires looking towards possible selection for the NNZ Open Champs. Injury or illness exemption requires a medical certificate. It is expected this level will be at least maintained, but preferably improved at 01 June and 01 September Fitness Testing (Yo-Yo) dates. It is important to be well-prepared for each of these Yo-Yo dates. Improving levels of fitness supports stronger umpiring capability.
- Participate and contribute to the development opportunities including, but not limited to – online meetings, workshops, pre-champs preparation, Tactix and National Netball League requirements (trainings and practice games), National Development Camps, NNZ trials or visiting teams.
- Good communication – initiating clear communication/arrangements with coach and timely responses to deadlines. Being pro-active with communication.
- Self-responsibility is an important factor, as is demonstrating developing self-reflection capabilities.
- Invited umpires would already have demonstrated a high level of commitment to their development and previous opportunities offered by their Centre or Zone.
- In extenuating circumstances umpires may apply to the Selection Panel in writing, requesting release from the squad for a specific length of time.

### **MAINLAND COMMITMENT:**

- The Selection Panel will appoint Lead Coaches to Mainland Squad Umpires.
- Umpires will be supported throughout the year by their allocated NM Umpire Lead Coach.
- Development support will be individualised and be specific to each umpire's requirements as identified in their IPP. These will be developed in conjunction with the Umpire's Lead Coach.
- Feedback and measures against their IPP will be sought from squad members at the conclusion of each year (by 31 October – to allow for completion of NZSS) - this will be with the umpire's Lead Coach, or a member of the Selection Panel or Umpire Lead if required.

### **COSTS:**

The Mainland Umpire Squad is a part of Mainland's Performance Program and accordingly there are associated costs to cover workshops, guest facilitators and specialised programs. This may mean some financial contribution is required from squad members. Mainland will endeavor to keep these costs to a reasonable level. Additionally, Netball Centres may be willing to support, on application.