



Waratah Netball Club



Umpiring Policy

1st January 2018

1. **Aim**

1.1 The aim of this policy is to:

- Ensure that players, teams and parents understand the Club requirements for umpiring.
- Develop and maintain a high standard of umpiring at Waratah Netball Club.
- Develop and build confidence with the Club's younger umpires and 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 players' technical development as well as fulfilling the obligations of the player's team commitments. There is no doubt that learning to umpire does make better players and better sportspeople.

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.

2.2 The Umpiring Convenor can be contacted via umpire@waratahnetball.asn.au

3. **Coach & Manager Responsibilities**

3.1 **Junior Umpiring.** While conducting umpiring duties, all junior umpires are to be supervised by either a suitable adult, or a suitably experienced umpire. While this may be the coach or manager, it can also be a suitable parent. It should be noted that the supervisor does not have to be a graded umpire, but must be willing to provide support to any 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.

3.2 **Senior Umpiring.** All senior players should conduct umpiring for their teams. It is the responsibility of the team's coaches and managers to ensure that this policy is enforced

4. Compulsory Sessions – Senior & Junior Teams

- 4.1 At the beginning of each winter season, Newcastle Netball Association runs a compulsory umpire training for all teams aged 15yrs and higher. It is in the interests of the teams to ensure that they are represented by least two un-badged players, as points are awarded to the team for attendance.
- 4.2 Additionally, the Umpiring Convenor will organise a Club training session for those teams from 11 – 14 yrs, as they too will receive points for attending a Club arranged umpire training session.

5. Subsidy

- 5.1 The Club will subsidise 75% of the course fees of those umpires who successfully complete the Level 1 umpires course. The Club may also subsidise up to 50% of extra umpire training, up to a total of \$100 per umpire per year (including Level 1 fees). In order to receive the subsidy, the umpires must have completed, or be in the process of achieving, a recognised badge (C, B, etc), or Blue or Red badges.

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 with sufficient 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 and/or penalty pass or shot, minor infringements i.e. stepping, 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 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 awards may be presented at the end of the season where applicable:

- **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**

9.1 This policy will be reviewed annually the Waratah Netball Club Executive Committee in consultation with the Umpiring Convener.

10. This policy is in effect 01 Jan 2018