



Leeming Netball Club

UMPIRING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

*AUTHENTIC*PROGRESSIVE*UNIFIED*PASSIONATE*DISTINCTION*

Vision:

To be the Club of choice recognized for connecting, embracing and uniting our community through netball

Purpose:

A Club united by netball offering opportunities, choices and pathways to enhance wellbeing

DECEMBER 1, 2025

LAST REVIEWED

Leeming Netball Club 2025

1. Purpose

Umpiring is an integral component of netball and is essential to the progress and success of the sport. As independent arbiters, umpires are ideally positioned to apply the rules to the best of their ability without fear or favour, and to make decisions in the interests of the game and its tenets of equal opportunity and sporting conduct. Skilled umpiring enhances the standard of the game by complementing and encouraging skilled play, for the enjoyment of participants and spectators alike.

Leeming Netball Club (LNC) is committed to providing appropriately trained and skilled umpires to officiate games played by LNC players. This involves ensuring the ongoing development, continual improvement and personal support of umpires for our club.

2. Policy Application

This policy applies to behaviour and practices occurring during the course of LNC business, activities, competitions and events.

3. Definitions

LNC means Leeming Netball Club representing committee and its fee paid members and life members

FNA means Fremantle Netball Association

Netball WA means the Association referred to in Rule 1 of the Netball WA Constitution

Individual Member means an individual member of the Club and as otherwise defined in Rule 11 of the [LNC Constitution](#).

Life Member means an individual upon whom life membership of the Club has been conferred under Rule 7 of the LNC Constitution.

Financial Hardship means that a person or organisation is experiencing difficulty in meeting their financial obligations. They have the intention but not the financial capacity to pay debts owed to the Club.

Senior Player means a registered club player over 18 years of age as defined in Rule 4 of the LNC Constitution. Senior players will play in the senior divisions (18s and Under, Seniors).

Junior Player means a registered club player under the age of 18 years of age as defined in Rule 4 of the LNC Constitution. Junior players generally play in junior divisions (NetSetGo - 16s and Under), however as they progress in age/skills they may play in Senior divisions.

Round One means the end of the first 5 games of the FNA season.

4. LNC Responsibilities

LNC will:

- Take all reasonable steps necessary to ensure that everyone in the club knows:
 - what the policy is
 - the requirements for compliance
- Include a copy of the policy on the LNC website
- Notify participants, coaches and officials in all LNC activities and / or events that they will be required to comply with this policy
- Review and update this policy every 12 months.

5. Club Policy Rules

LNC encourages club members to register their interest in umpiring as part of the registration process, or directly to the club Umpiring Coordinator.

Where there has been no previous experience, umpires will need to enrol and attend an umpire training program through the Fremantle Netball Association (FNA) development program.

Junior umpiring the minimum age is 14 (or the year to turn 14 years old). The Junior Umpiring Development Program (JUDP) enrolment is towards the end of the season and commences in October/November with 3 phases (3rd phase commencing weeks 2-7 at the start of the following season).

An adult umpiring development program (AUDP) is also offered throughout the season to level up skills for those over 18 years.

6. Rostering

The Club's Umpire Coordinator is responsible for the rostering of all umpires to junior games throughout the season. The Umpire Coordinator will roster distribute information about the games allocated to senior teams but will not roster umpires to these games.

Each season a WhatsApp umpire group will be created for communication and rostering. Umpires will be sent via email an availability form. It is essential that the forms are filled to the best of their knowledge including any holidays, exams, playing/coaching times and other commitments.

Umpires will be rostered based on their availability, ability, experience and qualifications.

Junior Umpires will be rostered on games that suit their competency and where a mentor is available they will assist with the development of the umpire to higher grades/games.

In order to maintain standards, only umpires approved by the Umpire Coordinator will be permitted to umpire.

The Umpire Coordinator is to be advised of any requests for alterations to the umpire roster as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for a replacement. These changes are to be approved by the Umpire Coordinator.

Umpires are allocated games after release of fixtures and at the discretion of the Umpire Coordinator. Umpires will be informed if rosters are completed on a weekly, fortnightly, monthly or per round basis at the beginning of the season.

Game allocation will take the following factors into account to determine the appropriate umpire:

- Availability of umpires,
- Number of LNC games played in each timeslot,
- Allowing appropriate rest time between umpiring commitments,
- Difficulty and demand of games,
- Skill level of umpires, and
- Total number of games umpired in a day.

At times, LNC Committee may actively source an umpire to meet the needs of a game from outside of the club umpires if they determine the needs of the game would be best served by an umpire with a specific skill set, attitude or approach to umpiring.

7. Minimum Requirements to Umpire

LNC has minimum requirements for umpires who officiate games at FNA to preserve the quality of umpiring within the club and the quality and safety of games for players.

Minimum requirements for umpires to officiate a game under LNC are as follows:

- Registration as an 'Offical' in PlayHQ
- Completion of Netball Australia's online Foundations of Umpiring Module
- Pass score (70% or greater) of Netball Australia's online Rules of Netball Theory Exam
- Attend at least one course throughout the season to upskill and refresh.
- As of 2026 new umpires or players expressing interest to umpire will need to have completed all 3 phases of the Junior Umpiring Development Program or if over 18yrs have developed a better understanding and skill set through the Adult Umpiring Development Program via the FNA courses available.

In line with FNA's requirements, any umpire to officiate a game of Net Set 8U & 9U level will be either a National C Badge holder or higher qualification, or over the age of 18 years.

Umpires will be supported throughout the season by the Umpiring Coordinator. Badging qualifications are liaised with FNA's umpiring squad and academy mentors and will need sufficient time to be rostered and organised on higher division games (15U, 16U & 18U games only).

Umpiring development and continual improvement is supported by the club as outlined by the Leeming Netball Club Umpire Development Pathway via FNA.

8. Game Day Requirements

1. Wear appropriate clothing – see Uniform Requirements below
2. Be prepared – hair tied back, have a good whistle and something to keep track of the centre passes (hair tie).
3. Arrive at the court 10 minutes prior to the schedule start time of the game.
4. Introduce yourself to the other umpire – and agree which side you will umpire.
5. Check the court and equipment – and ensure that the goal post protectors are in place.
6. Check the players' uniforms, jewellery, fingernails and adornments.
7. Ask for the captain from both teams to come forward and conduct a toss to decide which team is going to have the first centre pass and in which directions the teams will stand at the start of the game.
8. Advise the scorer which team is having the first centre pass.
9. Ensure that the scorer and timer stand together on the sideline near the centre of the court.
10. Check the timer and scorer know how to complete their roles, and that they are standing positioned together near the centre of the court sideline.

9. Uniform Requirements

To officiate a game, all umpires must be dressed in an appropriate uniform as per FNA guidelines. Appropriate clothing for umpiring includes:

- A white LNC Umpires shirt, or
- A plain white appropriate t-shirt, and
- A white skirt, or
- All black appropriate shorts, or
- All black appropriate track pants, and
- Comfortable running shoes.

All clothing should not contain any large branding logos aside from Club uniform pieces with Club logos and sponsors, and no clothing will have offensive language visual on it.

10. Payments

In recognising the important contribution that umpires make to LNC, umpires with the exception of senior players completing their umpiring commitment, receive payment for games they umpire on behalf of the Club.

Payment to umpires is based on the grade that they are umpiring.

Payments will be made via bank transfer approved by the Club Treasurer and processed after each round (every 5 weeks) plus finals into their nominated account.

Umpires must meet Minimum Requirements (see above) to be eligible for payment.

The Club reviews pay rates per game annually in line with FNA's recommendation and the Club's fees, at the discretion of the Committee.

11. Affiliation

Any non-playing umpires are required to be affiliated with Fremantle Netball Association. It is the responsibility of the umpire to pay the affiliation fees.

12. Umpiring Resources

The Club will advise umpires of upcoming upskilling workshops and development opportunities offered by either Netball Australia online or FNA through the Umpire WhatsApp group. This includes practical training opportunities such as School Holiday Umpiring Programs, JUDP and AUDP, as well as theoretical upskilling workshops FNA run annually.

Below is the list of resources available to access that umpires are required to participate in. A number of these are compulsory for all umpires to successfully complete prior to allocation of games; others are optional.

Resource	Description	Link	Coordinator	Costs <i>As of 2022</i>
Rules of Netball Theory Exam	An online test required to be retaken to maintain scores demonstrating knowledge of the rule book	https://learning.netball.com.au/local/accreditation/actions/course_purchase.php?course_id=618&program_id=94	Netball Australia	\$12.50
Foundations of Umpiring Course	An online course fantastic for beginners to get an understanding of how to apply rules on a court	https://learning.netball.com.au/local/accreditation/actions/course_purchase.php?course_id=515&program_id=95	Netball Australia	\$45
School Holiday Umpiring Program	A part theoretical and part practical course run for beginner umpires to learn the basics of umpiring across one full day	Will appear on website closer to event time https://fremantlenetball.com.au/umpiring-education/	Fremantle Netball Association	\$70



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Junior Umpiring Development Program	A 3-staged course filled with practical umpiring experience and mentoring on practice games and Saturday games after season commencement	Will appear on website closer to event time https://fremantlenetball.com.au/umpiring-education/	Fremantle Netball Association	\$30 <i>entry stage 1, invite stage 2 & 3</i>
FNA Umpiring Academy	An invite-only program to continue mentoring and practical development of umpires	Will be contacted by Fremantle Netball Association Umpiring Development Officer	Fremantle Netball Association	\$0 <i>by invite</i>
Mentoring	Leeming Netball Club mentors can be assigned to allocated umpiring to provide feedback and support.	Contact Leeming Netball Club Umpiring Coordinator	Leeming Netball Club	\$0
Performance Review	An allocated individual will assess a game and provide feedback with notes for improvement.	Contact Leeming Netball Club Umpiring Coordinator	Leeming Netball Club	\$0
National C Badge Practical Assessment Sheet	Information on the requirements for achieving the C badge competency; can be used as a self-reflective tool	https://netball.com.au/sites/default/files/2022-08/C-Badge-Testing-Sheet%202022.pdf	Netball Australia	n/a
National B Badge Practical Assessment Sheet	Information on the requirements for achieving the B badge competency; can be used as a self-reflective tool	https://netball.com.au/sites/default/files/2022-08/B-Badge-Testing-Sheet%202022.pdf	Netball Australia	n/a
Badge Competencies	Information on the requirements for achieving a badge; can be used as a self-reflective tool	https://netball.com.au/sites/default/files/2022-05/National-Umpire-Development-Framework-Update-May-2022.pdf	Netball Australia	n/a

LNC supports the learning and continual development of umpires. The Club may partially reimburse costs of some umpiring development courses and workshops at the discretion of the Committee. Umpires should discuss which courses would benefit them most and what they intend to participate in with the Umpiring Coordinator. There is a minimum requirement to attend at least one workshop per season.

13. Umpire Development Pathway

LNC has an Umpire Development Pathway Plan via FNA's JUDP and ADUP available on the Club's website outlining how to access umpiring learning assistance and resources at a learning umpire's disposal. A Learning to Umpire Action Plan is followed at the Club to ensure a minimum standard of umpiring competency is met by all umpires prior to game allocation. The Learning to Umpire Action Plan is as below.

1. Registration in PlayHQ as an official.
2. Enrolment in Junior Umpiring Development Program trials with successful continuation of all 3 phases of the program with Fremantle Netball Association allocated games and mentoring (phase 3 is weeks 2-7 of the season).
3. Completion of online [Foundations Module](#)
4. Read the [Official Rules of Netball](#)
5. Completion of online [Rules of Netball Theory Exam](#)
6. Allocated to Leeming Netball Club games by club Umpiring Coordinator after completion of the JUDP.
7. Progression to more challenging grades/divisions and with an available mentor.
8. *Optional* – Testing conducted for gaining National C Badge in coordination with Fremantle Netball Association if not obtained during the JUDP.
9. Continual learning at Fremantle Netball Club workshops run each year and online continued learning utilising modules available via Netball Australia
and
Continual period assessment and feedback to maintain skills and progression within club as arranged by club Umpiring Coordinator.
10. Fremantle Netball Club Support for further training and higher badging.g

14. Senior Player Umpiring Commitment

As a part of registration with LNC, all members registered as Senior Players are required to fulfil an umpiring commitment during the season. All players will receive information from the Club Umpire Coordinator after team allocation, prior to the beginning of the season. The umpiring commitment will be allocated in the opposing timeslot to the time in which the players own game is being held, and will be for a lower Senior division than which they play.

It is the responsibility of the player to ensure every game has an appropriate, competent, registered umpire to officiate it. The player must notify the Club Umpire Coordinator of who will be umpiring the game each week and if an umpire does not arrive to the game the penalty cost will be passed along to the team from FNA.

Umpires Code of Conduct

All umpires must abide by the LNC Umpire Code of Conduct, which is in align with Fremantle Netball Association's Code of Behaviour. The FNA Code of Behaviour is available on the FNA website, <https://fremantlenetball.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2016-Umpire-Code-of-Behaviour.pdf>.

It is necessary that all club umpires have a common code of behaviour that must be adhered to in all umpiring duties. Leeming Netball Club umpires must act in accordance to the umpires code of conduct of Fremantle Netball Association and Netball Australia in addition to that outlined below.

ALL UMPIRES MUST SIGN THIS CONTRACT

1. Umpire games in accordance to the up-to-date Official Rules of the Game
2. Treat all players, match officials, spectators and other umpires with respect
3. Remain impartial and restrain from allowing personal judgements to influence umpiring decisions
4. Be a positive role model by demonstrating behaviour that projects a favourable image of netball and umpiring
5. Always seek continual improvement in your umpiring performance
6. Be courteous and open to discussion and interaction with team captains and other umpires
7. Present yourself professionally in Fremantle Netball Association (<https://fremantlenetball.com.au/resources/>) approved umpiring attire and arrive appropriately early to umpiring engagements

I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE UMPIRES CODE OF CONDUCT

UMPIRES SIGNATURE:		DATE: / /
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: (if umpire under 18yrs only)		DATE: / /

The above are in accordance with the Fremantle Netball Association and Netball Australia Code of Behaviour.