



UMPIRING PATHWAY

Umpires are an integral part of the Park Orchards Netball Club and wider MENA netball community. Without umpires, our games on the weekend could not go ahead.

Umpiring is not only about enforcing the rules of the game. Becoming an umpire is a terrific way to be involved in the sport in a different manner and feel a strong connection to the netball world. Umpires ensure the game is played in a safe and respected manner and allows you to feel the thrill of having an important role in the game. Beyond this, umpiring helps develop many personal skills such as communication, responsibility, resilience and leadership.

At PONC, we aspire to have a strong umpiring program in which all umpires are supported through the pathway in a learning-rich environment. PONC is proud to produce skilled and knowledgeable umpires. The umpiring pathway at PONC is overseen and managed by our Umpire Coordinator.

PONC's umpiring pathway is based off and runs in-line with the MENA umpire pathway. Both organisations work in conjunction to develop strong umpires. You will see that each stage of the PONC pathway aligns with the stages of the MENA program. Please see the end of this document for the MENA umpiring pathway.

To Get Started

- Submit an expression of interest via an email to the umpire coordinator.
- Include your name, date of birth and contact number.

Important note: all PONC umpires must be aged 14 or above to begin umpiring. You may submit an EOI earlier, but will not be able to commence until you reach this age.

Important note: it is highly preferred that interested umpires have experience playing the game of netball. Commencement of umpiring without this experience would require consultation with the Umpire Coordinator.

- Once your EOI is submitted, you will be placed on the waiting list until a position is available. The wait is not intended to be long and will depend on factors such as number of umpires, fixture/game times and availability of umpire trainers.

Pre-Umpiring Courses

- Once a spot is available, you will be asked to complete the following on-line courses which are prerequisites for umpiring commencement:
 - ◆ Rules of Netball Theory Exam. This is a 100-question test based on the Official Rules of Netball Book. You must achieve 70% or higher to pass
 - ◆ Foundation Umpire Course. This is an online course which goes through information about what makes a good umpire, presentation, game management and other details. There is no test or pass requirement, the course must just be completed.
- Send a copy of your course certificates to the Umpire Coordinator.

Time to Start Umpiring

MENA Umpire Classification: Beginner Umpire and Learner Umpire

- You will commence as a 'beginner umpire'.
- Initially, you will umpire lower sections, before slowly making your way up to more advanced games.
- Each game, a badged umpire will be there to train/mentor you. This partnership will continue until your mentor feels you are ready to undertake umpiring on your own, which may take several months. This process allows you to build confidence whilst learning to be an effective umpire.
- As your skills progress, you will work towards becoming a 'learner umpire'.

Umpiring Independently

MENA Umpire Classification: Pre-Training Program Umpire

- Once your umpire trainers feel you are ready (in terms of skills, knowledge, presentation and game management abilities), you will be able to umpire games independently.
- You will be placed on games to continue to develop your skills.

Training to Become a Badged Umpire

MENA Umpire Classification: C-Badge Training Program Umpire

- The next step in the pathway involves working towards your C-badge.
 - ◆ Becoming a badged umpire in netball is a form of national accreditation as prescribed by Netball Australia.
 - ◆ It is a 4-tiered system of badges: C, B, A and the highest national award the AA (All Australia).
 - ◆ Most umpires at MENA have a C-badge.

- When the MENA Umpire Coordinators believe you are ready, you will be invited to join the C Badge Training Program, where you will be mentored by specialised trainers to prepare you for your badge.
- This training occurs during afternoon games on Saturday's.
- Our Umpire Coordinator will liaise with the MENA Umpire Coordinator to track your progress.

Becoming a Badged Umpire

MENA Umpire Classification: C-Badged Umpire

- The MENA Umpire Coordinator will deem you ready to be tested for your C-badge.
- You will be observed and marked during a game by a panel of 3 umpires/trainers (it is not as scary as it sounds!).
- The panel will inform you of your result and give you feedback.

C-Badge and Beyond

MENA Umpire Classification: C-Badge Umpire, B-Grade Talent Squad, B-Badged Umpire

- As a badged umpire, you can umpire Net Set Go, MENA finals, MENA Representative Tournaments and Monday and Wednesday night netball at The Nets.
- Badged umpires should partake in ongoing development and learning, including keeping their accreditation up-to-date.
- C-badged umpires can be invited by the MENA Umpire Coordinator to join the 'Talent Squad', where they will be mentored by B- and A-badged umpires to work towards earning a B-badge.

Umpiring for PONC

As aforementioned, umpiring at PONC is facilitated by the Umpire Coordinator. They will allocate the games to the all umpires each week and SMS these to the umpires. On Net Set Go, U11, U13 and lower section U15 games, umpires will umpire for their own club. On higher U15 games and above (U17 and Open), umpires are normally pooled and may not necessarily umpire their own club.

All communication from umpires is to be given through the Umpire Coordinator. This includes information about availability and unavailability for umpiring, illness, change of personal details and other important information. Any problems you may encounter with player, coach or spectator behaviour should also always be communicated. The Umpire Coordinator will act upon this information in conjunction with MENA to support you and address the problem. The Umpire Coordinator will also communicate announcements with the umpires from MENA, including season start and end dates, long weekends, umpiring workshops, and other relevant information.

All umpires over the age of 18 must provide a copy of their Working with Children's Check and add PONC and MENA as a volunteer association.

All umpires must sign and abide by the MENA Umpire Code on Conduct guidelines.

Presentation is key as an umpire. Uniform is all white; skirt, t-shirt, jumper, waterproof jacket and socks. A good quality outdoor whistle is essential. Umpires should ensure to arrive at a minimum of 5 minutes before their allocated games and sign-in at the competition office prior.

Umpires are paid weekly on a per game basis. The rate is dependent on the level/badge of the umpire.

