



BENCH OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION FRAMEWORK

2023

1. INTRODUCTION

Bench Officials have an important role to play – they are responsible for ensuring the correct score is recorded, the correct time is played, and other match details are recorded accurately.

The Netball Australia Bench Officials Accreditation Framework has been designed to assist the development of new Bench Officials through a series of four accreditation levels that relate to the techniques required at the different levels of competition.

Member Organisations are required to utilise these procedures and protocols when hosting Netball Australia National Championships, the Australian Netball Championships and Suncorp Super Netball.

- Other related policies and documents:
- Netball Australia Discipline & Grievance Policy
- Netball Australia Member Protection Policy
- Netball Australia Bench Officials selection, assessment and performance management guidelines.
- Netball Australia Integrity Framework

a) Licensing/Franchise Arrangements

Member Organisations of Netball Australia are licensed to deliver the Bench Officials Accreditation Framework in accordance with the Netball Australia License Agreement.

b) Insurance

The Netball Australia Risk Protection Program provides Public Liability (\$20,000,000) and Professional Indemnity (\$20,000,000) insurance. Any State/Territory Member Organisation that is not part of the National Risk Protection Program will be required to provide the same level of public liability and Professional Indemnity insurance.

All Bench Officials must be registered members of their local State/Territory Netball Association prior to Accreditation being granted, to ensure adequate insurance cover. This membership must be maintained annually, whilst the Bench Official is still actively fulfilling Bench Official duties.

c) Bench Officials Code of Behavior

In addition to Netball Australia's General Code of Behaviour, Bench Officials must meet the following requirements with regard to their conduct during any activity held by or under the auspices of Netball Australia, Member Organisations or Affiliates in their role as a Technical Official.

1. Officiate in accordance with the Official Rules of the Game and Event/Competition Guidelines.
2. Treat all players, coaches, umpires, and other match officials with respect.

3. Act with integrity and objectivity and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
4. Be consistent and impartial when making decisions.
5. Maintain a high standard of personal behaviour at all times.
6. Be a positive role model through behaviour and personal appearance projecting a favourable image of netball and officiating at all times.
7. Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction.
8. Maintain or improve your current performance level and seek continual improvement.

d) Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Netball Australia may grant RPL for a Bench Official from other countries where this is assessed as equivalent to a relevant Bench Official accreditation level.

Applications for RPL should be directed to the Workforce Manager, Netball Australia, through the respective MO, and must include details of all Bench Official education and practical experience.

Netball Australia may require the applicant to undertake a practical assessment to establish the level of RPL granted.

e) Member Protection Policy

Netball Australia is committed to treating all people with respect, dignity and fairness. These values along with the basic right of all netball members to participate in an environment that is enjoyable, safe and healthy, has resulted in the development and implementation of the Netball Australia Member Protection Policy.

The Member Protection Policy applies to Member Organisations, Affiliates and Members (including athletes, coaches, umpires, technical officials, volunteers and support personnel). Any breach of the policy including the Code of Behaviour may result in disciplinary action, including de-registration as an Accredited Bench Official. The Member Protection Policy and related support documents can be accessed via the Netball Australia website: netball.asn.au.

f) Dispute Resolution

All complaints must be submitted in writing to Netball Australia. Appeals regarding a breach in process must be received within 14 days of the incident.

Complaints will be considered by a Dispute Resolution Panel consisting of three members, appointed by Netball Australia as required. The dispute will be considered, and notification provided within 30 days of receipt of the complaint.

If the dispute is related to the outcome of an assessment task, the participant may be permitted to be re-assessed.

A new Assessor must undertake this re-assessment, at a time suitable to both parties. This process must be completed within 6 months of the appeal being lodged by the participant.

No further appeals will be considered.

g) Records

Netball Australia and all State/Territory Member Organisations are required to keep an updated list of the Bench Official's name, address, phone, email address, level of accreditation in Netball Learning. These records are to be maintained for accreditation and updating purposes. Your personal information is also collected to communicate with you in relation to information and offers from Netball Australia and MO and to provide Netball Australia MO products and services.

h) Community Engagement

Netball Australia has identified a need to make the game of netball more accessible to the diverse needs of Australia's population.

Increasing access to netball has many advantages in increasing the number of people who:

- Benefit from participation
- Become volunteers and leaders
- Are part of the talent pool for elite sport.

With sport being such a valuable opportunity not only to socialise, but to improve health and wellbeing, removing barriers is vital for increasing participation of all Australians.

2. ACCREDITATION FRAMEWORK QUALITY ASSURANCE

Netball Australia will use the following strategies to assess the Netball Australia Bench Officials Accreditation Framework:

Member Organisation	Netball Australia	World Netball
<p>Netball Australia will meet as required with each Member Organisation to discuss the Bench Officials Accreditation Framework and gain feedback relating to current processes and procedures.</p> <p>Netball Australia expects each Member Organisation to employ a Bench Officials Coordinator (or equivalent) to manage the implementation of the Bench Officials Accreditation Framework within each Member Organisation.</p> <p>Member Organisations may appoint Bench Official Committees to provide technical advice in the area of Bench Official development within the Member Organisation.</p>	<p>As deemed appropriate, Netball Australia will consult with identified external stakeholders to help inform the strategic direction in relation to bench officials' development.</p> <p>Netball Australia will liaise with other areas within netball including umpiring, team managers and event operations as required.</p> <p>Netball Australia will, in its discretion, assemble working groups to support the development of national bench official projects or initiatives. Working groups will be determined based on the skill set required to complete the project/initiative.</p> <p>Netball Australia will analyse data on numbers of participants completing the Bench Officials Education Course and progressing to higher levels of accreditation will be analysed on a regular basis.</p> <p>The Bench Officials Education Course will undergo a thorough review every four years, and input will be sought from Member Organisation personnel and other identified key stakeholders. Appropriate amendments will be made, and the course will be submitted to the ASC for renewed registration.</p>	<p>Netball Australia will assemble a suitable group of stakeholders to provide recommendations to the Netball Australia Board regarding the International Netball Federation Bench Officials procedures.</p>

a) Netball Australia Bench Officials Accreditation System

The Netball Australia Bench Officials Accreditation Framework has been designed to assist the development of new Bench Officials through a series of four accreditation levels that relate to the techniques required at the different levels of competition.

Assessment is based on an appropriate pass mark of the Rules of Netball Theory Examination, completion of the Bench Officials online course and practical evaluation.

Netball Australia Bench Officials must be a minimum of 16 years of age at the time of Accreditation.

Accreditation is valid for four (4) years.

Figure 1: National Bench Officials Accreditation Framework

Accreditation Level	Competition Level	Pre-Requisites		
		Theory exam	Other	Assessment
Foundation	Community	Not required	Bench Officials Course	No
Intermediate	Highest Level State competition National Netball Championships (upon recommendation by Member Organisation) & Australian Netball Championships	70% or above	Foundation accreditation	Yes – on an appropriate level game as approved by the Member Organisation
Elite	SSN Matches Australian Netball Championships	80% or above	Intermediate Bench Official accreditation Two-year minimum officiating on state league level matches across all scoring & timing systems	Assessment on two highest level matches within a state league competition and/or Australian Netball Championship matches Assessment using SSN scoring and timing systems
High Performance	International test matches Netball World Cup Commonwealth Games	90% or above	Elite Bench Official Accreditation held for 2 years or more Two-year minimum officiating on SSN matches across all scoring & timing systems	Assessment on two (2) SSN matches Assessment on SSN scoring & timing system

b) Online Bench Officials Education Course

The Online Bench Officials Education Course is a pre-requisite for all Bench Official accreditations.

At the conclusion of the Online Bench Officials Education Course, participants will be able to:

- Apply the competition rules and regulations that relate to Bench Officiating at Community, State, National or International game level.
- Perform all Bench Official duties in a professional and ethical manner.
- Use timing and scoring equipment and Umpire Alert Systems.

The Online Bench Officials Education Course is a free online course that is accessible all year.

Participants must successfully complete all modules of the Course to be awarded a pass mark.

There is no minimum age for a candidate to enrol in the Bench Officials Education Course.

A certificate is generated for all candidates who successfully pass the Course.

c) Foundation Bench Officials Accreditation Assessment

There is no formal assessment required for Foundation Bench Official accreditation.

d) Intermediate Bench Official Accreditation Assessment

All candidates are required to pass a practical assessment on two (2) matches at an appropriate level as determined by the Member Organisation to be awarded their Intermediate Bench Officials Accreditation.

Candidates must hold the required pre-requisites prior to being assessed for their Intermediate Bench Officials Accreditation.

Candidates must be assessed using the Bench Official Practical Assessment Form (Appendix 2).

Candidates must be assessed using appropriate technology as approved by Netball Australia.

The candidate must be assessed competent in all performance criteria to gain Accreditation.

There is no minimum number of matches a candidate must have completed prior being assessed for an Intermediate Level Bench Official Accreditation. However, prior to assessment a candidate should be viewed by an appropriately qualified assessor and be deemed ready for assessment.

Assessment will be conducted by one (1) x currently accredited Elite or High-Performance Bench Official.

e) Elite Bench Official Accreditation Assessment

Candidates must hold the required pre-requisites prior to being assessed for their Elite Bench Officials Accreditation.

All candidates are required to pass a practical assessment on two (2) matches at State League (top division) (1 x BO1 and BO2) to be awarded their Elite Bench Officials Accreditation.

Assessment may be undertaken at National Championships or Australian Netball Championships as approved by Netball Australia.

Candidates must be assessed using appropriate technology as approved by Netball Australia

The candidate must be assessed competent in all performance criteria to gain Accreditation.

There is no minimum number of matches a candidate must have completed prior being assessed for an Elite Bench Official Accreditation. However, prior to assessment a candidate should be viewed by an appropriately qualified assessor and be deemed ready for assessment.

Assessment will be conducted by one (1) x currently accredited Elite or High-Performance Bench Official.

f) High Performance Bench Official Accreditation Assessment

All candidates are required to pass a practical assessment on two (2) matches at SSN BO3 & SSN BO4 to be awarded their High-Performance Bench Officials Accreditation.

Candidates must hold the required pre-requisites prior to being assessed for their High-Performance Bench Officials Accreditation.

Assessment must be undertaken at SSN level.

Candidates must be assessed using the Bench Official Practical Assessment Form (Appendix 2).

Candidates must be assessed using the Tissot Clock and Sport in the Box systems.

The candidate must be assessed competent in all performance criteria to gain Accreditation.

The candidate must have completed two years on the SSN bench prior being assessed for a High-Performance Bench Official Accreditation. However, prior to assessment a candidate should be viewed by an appropriately qualified assessor and be deemed ready for assessment.

Assessment will be conducted by one (1) x currently accredited High Performance Bench Official.

g) Assessor Qualifications

Bench Officials Assessors must:

- Hold a current Netball Australia Elite Bench Officials Accreditation or be approved by Netball Australia; and
- Have at least (2) years' experience at an Elite or High-Performance level.

All Assessors will be selected at the discretion of the Member Organisation to ensure quality control.

Netball Australia shall have the right to:

- Approve Assessors not covered by the above criteria after evaluation of such person's relevant experience and knowledge of the sport and having regard to the prevailing circumstances.
- Nominate a suitably qualified Bench Managers to conduct random checks to assess the quality of delivery of the course being conducted.

h) Assessor Training

- Assessors are encouraged to attend a generic Presenter & Assessor Training Course available through State/Territory Sport Education Centres

3. UPDATING REQUIREMENTS

Netball Australia recommends that all Bench Officials who attain their accreditation continue to upgrade their knowledge, skills and competencies.

The updating program aims to raise the overall quality of bench officials within netball by ensuring they are provided with ongoing education and development opportunities covering areas such as:

- Keeping abreast of the latest information on developments within netball.
- Rules knowledge and current interpretations.
- Having access to the most up-to-date procedures and protocols related to bench officiating.

Netball Australia requires a bench official to reach the specified number of points of updating activity to remain accredited at the relevant accreditation level.

Accreditation	Update Requirements
Foundation	Attain the Intermediate Bench Official Accreditation within four years of the achievement date. OR Achieve 10 points of updating activity over a four-year period.
Intermediate	Attain the Elite Bench Official Accreditation within four years of the achievement date. OR Achieve 20 points of updating activity over a four-year period.
Elite	Attain the Elite Bench Official Accreditation within four years of the achievement date. OR Achieve 30 points of updating activity over a four-year period.
High Performance	Achieve 40 points of updating activity over a four-year period.

a) Updating Activities

50% of the required updating points should be completed through practical bench officiating.

Practical bench officiating can be undertaken at any level and may occur on a regular basis (weekly, fortnightly) or in specific situations such as camps, carnivals etc.

Successful completion of the Rules of Netball Exam is a mandatory component of reaccreditation. The official must achieve the appropriate mark required for the accreditation level.

b) Netball Australia Foundation Bench Official Update Criteria

Netball Australia Foundation Bench Official Accreditation is valid for four (4) years. The period starts when a Netball Australia certificate of accreditation is issued.

Points to be completed: 10 (Minimum practical component: 5 hours) 1 point = 1 hour

Updating Requirements	
Event	Points
Practical bench officiating	5 points
Complete the Rules of Netball Theory Exam – 70% or higher	5 points
Attain Netball Australia Intermediate Bench Official Accreditation	Meet total requirements

c) Netball Australia Intermediate Bench Official Update Criteria

Netball Australia Intermediate Bench Official Accreditation is valid for four (4) years. The period starts when a Netball Australia certificate of accreditation is issued.

Points to be completed: 20 (Minimum practical component: 10 hours) 1 point = 1 hour

Updating Requirements	
Event	Points
Practical bench officiating	10 points
Complete the Rules of Netball Theory Exam – 70% or higher	5 points
Attend Member Organisation approved bench official workshop	5 points
Complete Netball Australia online education course (non-accredited)	5 points per course
Complete the Netball Australia online Foundation Umpire Course	5 points
Complete the ASC Introductory Officiating General Principles online course	5 points
Attain Netball Australia Elite Bench Official Accreditation	Meets total requirements

d) Netball Australia Elite Bench Official Update Criteria

Netball Australia State Bench Official Accreditation is valid for four (4) years. The period starts when a Netball Australia certificate of accreditation is issued.

Points to be completed: 30 (Minimum practical component: 20 hours) 1 point = 1 hour

Updating Requirements	
Event	Points
Practical bench officiating, which may include appointment as a Bench Manager for Highest level state competition, NNC, ANC OR SSN	20 points
Complete the Rules of Netball Theory Exam – 80% or higher	5 points
Attend/Elite Member Organisation approved bench official workshop	5 points
Complete Netball Australia online education course (non-accredited)	5 points per course
Complete the Netball Australia online Foundation Umpire Course	5 points
Complete the ASC Introductory Officiating General Principles online course	5 points
Attain Netball Australia High-Performance Bench Official Accreditation	Meets total requirements

e) Netball Australia High Performance Bench Official Update Criteria

Netball Australia High Performance Bench Official Accreditation is valid for four (4) years. The period starts when a Netball Australia certificate of accreditation is issued.

Points to be completed: 40 (Minimum practical component: 10 hours) 1 point = 1 hour

Updating Requirements	
Event	Points
Practical bench officiating, which may include appointment as a Bench Manager for highest level state competition, ANC OR SSN	30 points
Complete the Rules of Netball Theory Exam – 90% or higher	5 points
Facilitate a Member Organisation based workshop	5 points
Complete Netball Australia online education course (non-accredited)	5 points per course

Complete the Netball Australia online Foundation Umpire Course	5 points
Complete the ASC Introductory Officiating General Principles online course	5 points
Attend Member Organisation approved bench official workshop	5 points

f) Updating Process

Bench Officials can update their accreditation online through the online Netball Learning platform

Member Organisation Exchange Programs

The purpose of the Member Organisation Exchange Program is to provide opportunities for Bench Officials, not a part of a Suncorp Super Netball state, to bench officiate with training support in another Member Organisation.

Member Organisation Exchanges are arranged at the discretion of each Member Organisation.

All associated costs (travel, accommodation, meal allowance) are to be paid by the organising Member Organisation.

h) Bench Official Practical Assessment Form

Summary of Assessment

The accreditation level of Bench Officials will display the highest levels of proficiency, rule knowledge, integrity, and ethical conduct throughout every match in which they officiate.

Bench Officials have a significant role to play – they are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the score, time and any other match details as required.

Bench Officials must meet the required General Code of Behaviour regarding their conduct during any activity held by or under the auspices of Netball Australia or Member Organisations.

Key Level of Proficiency

Intermediate

Candidate displays basic level of knowledge of rules and equipment procedures and demonstrates ability to apply execution to an acceptable level.

Elite

Candidate displays advanced level of knowledge of rules, competition regulations and equipment procedures, and demonstrates ability to apply execution to a high standard.

High Performance

Candidate displays detailed and extensive knowledge of all rules, competition regulations and equipment procedures, and applies execution to an expert level in all match situations

Name:		Member Organisation:	
Email Address:		Date:	
Pre-requisites: Rules of Netball Exam:		Date:	
Accreditation Level:	Intermediate	Elite	High Performance
Equipment:	Tissot Clock	Sport in the Box	Tech Platform
Assessor: Date:		Competition	
BASIC Assessment Performance Criteria	Competent YES/ NO	Comments	
Conducts an operational check of the electronic equipment prior to start of the match			
Accurately operates the electronic equipment applied to the competition for scoring and timing of the match			
Accurately records all goals scored by reading signals from the umpire in relation to scoring of a goal/no goal situation on electronic equipment or clearly and consistently records all letters, numbers, and symbols, (including dots) on official scoresheet			
Accurately records all shooting statistics at the end of each quarter			
Effectively activate the umpire alerts, with the allocated equipment indicating: Commencement of match Stoppages Intervals Conclusion of match			
Effectively communicates with all Bench Officials rostered to officiate match			
Displays professionalism, concentration, composure,			

integrity, and ethical conduct throughout the match		
ASSESSOR NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE