

BENCH OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION FRAMEWORK

2026 EDITION

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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

1.1. 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.

1.2. 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.

1.3. Bench Officials Code of Behaviour

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.

1.4. 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.

1.5. 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.com.au

1.6. 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.

1.7. Records

- Netball Australia and all State/Territory Member Organisations are required to keep updated records of all accredited umpires on Netball Learning including:
 - Name
 - Address
 - Mobile number
 - Email address
 - Level of accreditation and expiry date.

1.8. 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>

2.1. 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 for the Intermediate and Elite, and minimum 18 years of age for the High Performance 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	N/A
Intermediate	State League competition National Netball Championships First Nations Super Netball Reserves	70% or above	Foundation accreditation Candidate must be at least 16 years of age	An appropriate level game as approved by the Member Organisation
Elite	SSN Matches	80% or above	Intermediate Bench Official accreditation Candidate must be at least 16 years of age	Assessment on two (2) highest level matches within a state league competition and/or Super Netball Reserves
High Performance	International Test Matches Netball World Cup Commonwealth Games	90% or above	Elite Bench Official Accreditation and minimum two-years officiating on SSN matches Candidate must be at least 18 years of age	Assessment on two (2) SSN matches Assessment on SSN scoring & timing system

2.2. 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.

2.3. Assessment

- Prior to assessment a candidate should be viewed by an appropriately qualified assessor and be deemed ready for assessment.
- All candidates are required to pass a practical assessment on two (2) matches, one (1) in each Bench Official position to be awarded the relevant Bench Officials Accreditation.
- Assessment may take place on a Competition other than what has been listed in Figure 2, as approved by Netball Australia.
- The candidate must be assessed competent in all performance criteria to gain Accreditation.
- Assessors appointed to a practical assessment must not be appointed to the same match as the candidate they are assessing.

Figure 2: Bench Officials Assessment

Accreditation	Competition Level	Equipment Used	Assessment Form	Assessor
Foundation	There is no formal assessment for the Foundation accreditation.			
Intermediate	State league competition	e-Scoring Venue Scoreboard	Appendix 1	1 x Elite/High Performance Bench Official
Elite	Highest Level State competition Super Netball Reserves	e-Scoring Venue Scoreboard Sport in the Box Tissot	Appendix 2 Appendix 3/4	
High Performance	Super Netball	Sport in the Box Tissot	Appendix 3/4	1 x High Performance Bench Official

2.4. 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.

2.5. 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	<p>Attain the Intermediate Bench Official Accreditation within four years of the achievement date.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Achieve 10 points of updating activity over a four-year period.</p>
Intermediate	<p>Attain the Elite Bench Official Accreditation within four years of the achievement date.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Achieve 20 points of updating activity over a four-year period.</p>
Elite	<p>Attain the High Performance Bench Official Accreditation within four years of the achievement date.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Achieve 30 points of updating activity over a four-year period.</p>
High Performance	<p>Achieve 40 points of updating activity over a four-year period.</p>

3.1. 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.

3.2. 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
Netball Australia Safeguarding Children and Young People (mandatory requirement)	Mandatory requirement

3.3. 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
Netball Australia Safeguarding Children and Young People (mandatory requirement)	Mandatory requirement
Attend Member Organisation approved bench official workshop	5 points
Complete Netball Australia online education course (non-accredited)	5 points per course
Complete the ASC Community Officiating Essential Skills course	5 points

3.4. 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, FNT, SNR, OR SSN	20 points
Complete the Rules of Netball Theory Exam – 80% or higher	5 points
Netball Australia Safeguarding Children and Young People (mandatory requirement)	Mandatory requirement
Attend/Elite Member Organisation approved bench official workshop	5 points
Complete Netball Australia online education course (non-accredited)	5 points per course
Complete the ASC Community Officiating Essential Skills course	5 points

3.5. 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, SNR, SSN, or International Test Matches	30 points
Complete the Rules of Netball Theory Exam – 90% or higher	5 points
Netball Australia Safeguarding Children and Young People (mandatory requirement)	Mandatory requirement
Facilitate a Member Organisation based workshop	10 points (per 4 year cycle)
Complete Netball Australia online education course (non-accredited)	5 points per course
Complete the ASC Community Officiating Essential Skills course	5 points
Attend Member Organisation approved bench official workshop	5 points

3.6. Updating Process

- Bench Officials can update their accreditation online through the online Netball Learning platform.
- Applications for updating will be considered up to 48 months following the expiry date of the accreditation. Applications for consideration should be submitted to the relevant MO with a detailed explanation of why the accreditation was allowed to expire and what learning or bench officiating has taken place in that period.
- Any official whose accreditation has expired greater than 48 months, will no longer be considered to hold an accreditation and must re-enter the accreditation pathway.

3.7. 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.

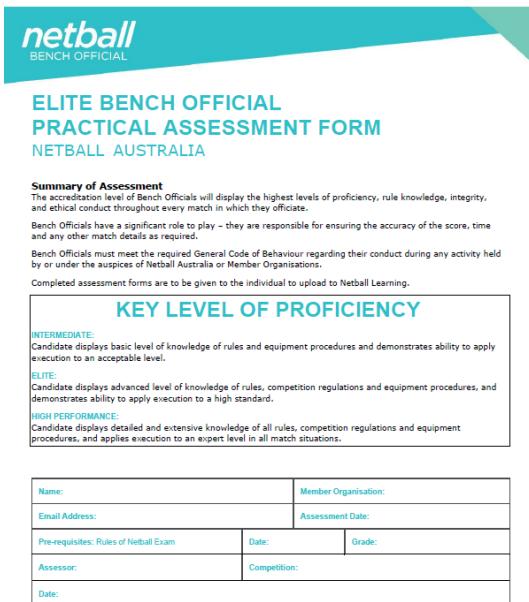
4. Bench Official Practical Assessment Forms

- 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.

4.1. Appendix 1: Intermediate Practical Assessment Form

 BENCH OFFICIAL INTERMEDIATE PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT FORM NETBALL AUSTRALIA																																															
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4.2. Appendix 2: Elite Practical Assessment Form



ELITE BENCH OFFICIAL PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT FORM
NETBALL AUSTRALIA

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.

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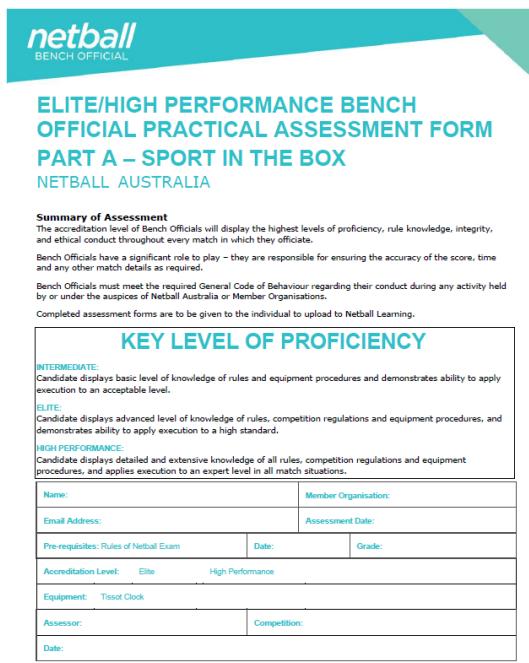
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HIGH PERFORMANCE: Candidate displays detailed and extensive knowledge of all rules, competition regulations and equipment procedures, and applies execution to an expert level in all match situations.		
Name: _____ Member Organisation: _____ Email Address: _____ Assessment Date: _____ Pre-requisites: Rules of Netball Exam Date: _____ Grade: _____ Assessor: _____ Competition: _____ Date: _____		

NETBALL AUSTRALIA
ELITE BENCH OFFICIAL ASSESSMENT SHEET

Basic Assessment Performance Criteria	Competent YES NO	Comments
Conducts an operational check of the electronic equipment prior to start of the match	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Accurately operates the electronic equipment applied to the competition for scoring and timing of the match	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Accurately records all goals scored by reading signals from the umpire in relation to each goal of a goal/no goal situation on electronic equipment or clearly and consistently records all letters, numbers, and symbols, (including dots) on official scoresheet	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Accurately records all shooting statistics at the end of each quarter	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Effectively activate the referee alerts, with the allocated equipment indicating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commencement of match • Changes • Intervals • Conclusion of match 	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Effectively communicates with all Bench Officials rostered to officiate match	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Displays professionalism, concentration, composure, integrity, and ethical conduct throughout the match	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
ASSESSOR NAME _____	SIGNATURE _____	DATE _____

4.3. Appendix 3: Elite/High Performance Practical Assessment Form – Sport in the Box



ELITE/HIGH PERFORMANCE BENCH OFFICIAL PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT FORM
PART A – SPORT IN THE BOX
NETBALL AUSTRALIA

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Name: _____ Member Organisation: _____ Email Address: _____ Assessment Date: _____ Pre-requisites: Rules of Netball Exam Date: _____ Grade: _____ Accreditation Level: Elite High Performance Equipment: Tissot Clock Assessor: _____ Competition: _____ Date: _____		

NETBALL AUSTRALIA
BENCH OFFICIAL PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT SHEET

Basic Assessment Performance Criteria	Competent YES NO	Comments
Arrives at score bench 90 minutes prior to match start & completes match setup checks on the STB laptop, setting live time, entering match data, checking all functions are operational & feeding to venue score boards.	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Accurately & quickly activates STB timer for team time outs & injury time intervals as indicated by the referee.	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Accurately & quickly captures player rolling substitutions & advises BO1 of upcoming changes.	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Accurately & quickly activates the interval break scoreboards i.e., 1/4, 1/2 & 4/4 time.	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Accurately displays visual cues & audio signals for drawn games, extra time and extended extra time, when applicable on venue score boards through STB.	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Accurately activates the audible siren to end a quarter or match.	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Calls score regularly to assist BO1 with live match verification	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Accurately manages timing of player suspensions & communicates effectively with the referee.	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Effectively communicates with other members of the score bench.	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
Maintains concentration, composure and focus throughout the match.	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
ASSESSOR NAME _____	SIGNATURE _____	DATE _____

4.4. Appendix 4: Elite/High Performance Practical Assessment Form – Tissot

 ELITE/HIGH PERFORMANCE BENCH OFFICIAL PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT FORM PART B – TISSOT CLOCK NETBALL AUSTRALIA																																
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Pre-requisites: Rules of Netball Exam <input type="checkbox"/>	Date: <input type="text"/>	Grade: <input type="text"/>																														
Accreditation Level: Elite <input type="checkbox"/>	High Performance <input type="checkbox"/>																															
Assessor: <input type="text"/>	Competitor: <input type="text"/>																															
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NETBALL AUSTRALIA BENCH OFFICIAL PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT SHEET																																
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