Netball Umpiring Handbook 2026

Guidelines and protocols for NSNA Umpiring standards and Club development initiatives

Northern Suburbs Netball Association

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1. ABOUT NSNA UMPIRING

Welcome to the NSNA Umpiring Program for 2026.

The aim of the NSNA Umpiring Program is to help umpires achieve the highest standard of umpiring that they are capable of. Umpires at NSNA have the opportunity to gain recognition through NSNA's system of umpiring levels and through National umpiring badges that can be offered at an association level.

The NSNA Umpiring Program also aims to assist clubs to not only meet their umpiring needs, but to develop and maintain their netball knowledge and standardise umpiring practices across all clubs within the NSNA community. This also includes practical guidelines on developing umpiring mentors, knowledge of testing and assessment protocols as well as access to umpiring resources both online and face to face.

The Umpires Committee welcomes any assistance from already badged umpires. Please contact the Umpires Convenor if you would like to be involved in any aspect of the Committee's work, even if only for as little as a single time slot.

2. NSNA UMPIRES COMMITTEE 2026

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the NSNA Umpires Committee is to provide guidance and leadership in the development of umpiring at NSNA as well as to support the umpires and clubs in the NSNA competition. The NSNA Umpires Committee is a resource available to all clubs to assist them in their endeavours to develop and nurture their umpires.

2.2 Umpires Committee Mission Statement

The NSNA Umpiring Committee is committed to providing umpiring development and education to clubs and individuals within the Association. We strive to do this in a professional, inclusive, and safe environment.

2.3 Umpires Committee Membership: 2026

Umpiring Convenor:	Linda Shaw umpires@nsna.com.au
Senior Umpires Coordinator:	Stephanie Maxwell seniorumpirescoordinator@gmail.com
Junior Umpires Coordinator:	Vacant
Representative Umpires Convenor:	Stephanie Maxwell nsna.repsumpiring@gmail.com
Director of Umpiring:	Sharon Kelly nsnaumpires@gmail.com
Umpire Committee Members:	Bianca Jensen Crystal Mai Shannon Morris Margot Paterson

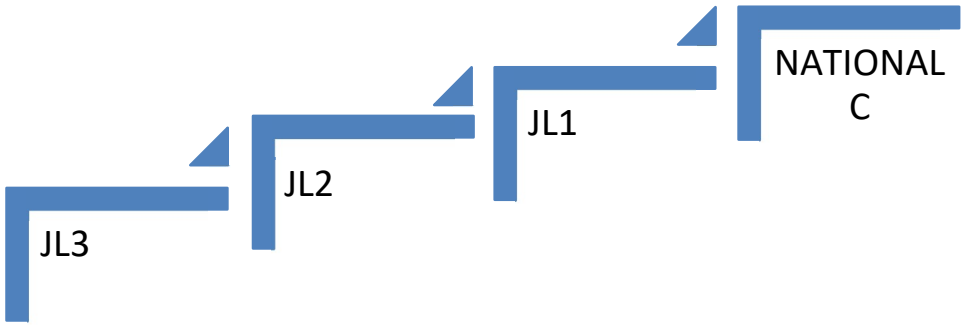
3. UMPIRING DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS AT NSNA

Umpiring is just as important as our players, coaches, and managers. Without umpiring, there are no games! Umpires are there to keep the game fair and safe for all who are involved.

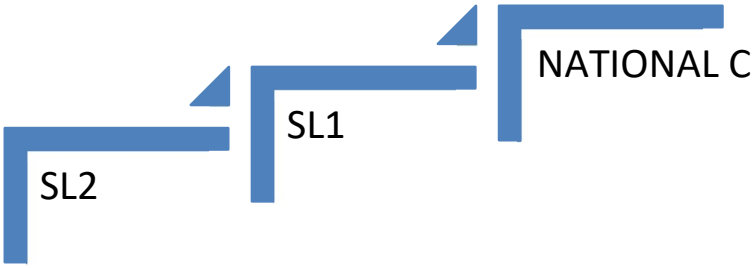
3.1 Umpiring Pathways

At NSNA, we encourage the development of umpires right from beginners to the most advanced of National badges, with pathways to development to suit all levels. The recommended pathway progression for umpires at NSNA is shown below.

The preferred pathway for a new junior umpire is:



The preferred pathway for a new senior umpire is:



If you move from Juniors to Seniors as a JL1, you will be required to be reassessed as a Senior Umpire prior to any National C assessment.

Specific KPIs and standards for each NSNA umpiring level and National badge are provided in Appendix B of this Handbook.

3.2 NetSetGo

All information about the NetSetGo program and guidelines for umpires can be found on the NSNA website. Please note that NetSetGo umpires should still attempt and pass the online exam.

All NSG umpires should be turning 16 years of age in the year they are umpiring. Please refer to the NSNA website for further information and guidelines

3.3 **Senior Umpiring Development Program** (SUDP)

The SUDP is aimed at developing umpiring skills for National badged umpires who wish to progress their umpiring skills and experience.

Expressions of interest for participation in the SUDP is via the link on the NSNA website.

Umpires for all A1 and A2 games (and other games where appropriate) will be allocated by NSNA-appointed personnel as part of the SUDP. Clubs with teams who play in A1 and A2 will be invoiced at the end of the season for all games and umpires allocated will be paid by the association.

4. LEVELLING & BADGING AT NSNA

4.1 Levelling & Badging Overview

One aspect of umpire development at NSNA is assisting umpires achieve either NSNA umpire levels or National badges. Club umpire convenors, and their teams, provide mentoring for umpires. NSNA supports the umpire convenors in this mentoring.

Assessments for NSNA levels or National badges are typically undertaken during the NSNA Winter season.

The levels that are assessed at NSNA are as follows:

- National B Badge
- National C Badge
- Senior Level 1 (SL1)
- Senior Level 2 (SL2)
- Junior Level 1 (JL1)
- Junior Level 2 (JL2)
- Junior Level 3 (JL3) (Friday evenings & pre-approved Saturday games)

4.2 Grades suitable for Umpire Assessments

The following grades are those allowed for the various umpire assessments. (*subject to change following assessment of standard of grades in 2026)

In addition, exceptions to these grades may be made once the standard of divisions of games is determined throughout the season. Any amendments will be at the discretion of the Umpiring Convenor or their delegate.

Senior Matches

- **National B**: Determined by the Director of Umpiring
- **National C**: A3, A4, B1
- **SL1**: B2, B3,
- **SL2**: C1, C2, C3, D1, Inters 1 (16-18yr old; excluding rep games)

Junior Matches

- **National C:** 15A, 14A
- **JL1:** 15B, 15C, 14B,
- **JL2:** 15D, 14C, 14D, 13A, 13B, 13C, 13D, 12A, 12B
- **JL3:** 14E, 13E, 12C ,12D, 11A, 11B, 11C, 11D, 10B

4.3 Levelling & Badging Logistics

All requests for Friday or Saturday levelling, badging or umpire coaching requests must be submitted by midnight Tuesday. This enables the Umpire Committee to organise panels, prepare documents and check exam marks and the completion of the Foundation Umpire Course.

Requests for National badging must be submitted via a separate Google doc. The form must only be submitted by club umpiring convenors. Requests from individuals will not be considered.

Candidates for National badging are required to complete a NSNA Service requirement prior to assessment. This can take the form of umpiring at representative trials or carnivals or assisting with NSNA umpiring mentoring or administration through the Winter season. This can be discussed further with the Umpire Convenor.

Before submitting an umpire for assessment, please facilitate someone from your club to look at the umpire in relation to the criteria in this booklet to ensure that umpires are as close to their standard of assessment as possible.

Umpire convenors should ensure that they keep an updated record of their umpires' levels throughout the season as well as keep records of valid exam passes.

5. CLUB UMPIRE RESPONSIBILITIES ON GAME DAY

5.1 Guidelines for allocating umpires to games

The following table provides a guide to assist club umpire convenors in allocating umpires to games that are appropriate for their ability and level. Please note that these grades/games may change during the season. Please do not hesitate to seek further clarity from the Umpire Convenor if needed.

GRADE	RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF UMPIRE
Seniors	
A1, A2	Experienced C badge – to be allocated by the Director of Umpiring.
A3, A4, B1	National C
B2, B3	Senior Level 1
C1, C2, C3	Senior Level 2
Intermediate	TBC following season start – Umpiring experience recommended
All other games	Umpiring experience recommended
Juniors	
13A, 14A, 15A	C badge or JL1 close to a C badge
13A, 13B, 14B, 15B, 15C	Junior Level 1
10A, 11A, 11B, 12A, 12B, 15D	Junior Level 2
10B, 10C, 10D, 10E, 11C, 11D, 11E, 12C, 12D, 123, 13C,13D, 13E, 13F, 13G, 13H, 14C, 14D, 14E, 14F, 14G	Junior Level 3
All other games	Umpiring experience recommended

5.2 Attendance of Club Umpire Convenor at games

Club umpire convenors should be present at the netball courts during all their games to ensure that their umpires have arrived and signed on. If the club umpire convenor is unable to be at the courts at certain times or specific days there must be a

representative from the club who can look after this function, ensuring that there is a point of contact for each Club's umpires and the NSNA umpires committee.

Please note that it is not the responsibility of NSNA, and its Umpires Committee, to provide umpires if club umpires do not attend their allocated game.

5.3 Umpire support and mentoring

All first time and new umpires should have a mentor with them. This mentor can be there purely for moral support if no other option is available. Mentors from clubs that are providing coaching to umpires should hold at least a Junior Level 1. The mentor's role is to listen and answer questions, not run up and down the court or talk to the umpire during the match. They may like to stand with the umpire during breaks to ensure that the players only approach for rule clarification.

Please ensure all umpires know that they can send someone down to the Umpires Room if they need assistance. An Umpire Committee member will then attend their game to address any matter.

6. EXAMS AND COURSES

6.1 Rules of Theory Exam

All umpires officiating at NSNA are strongly encouraged to undertake the online 'Rules of Netball Theory exam' prior to Umpiring. It is a compulsory pre-requisite prior to undertaking National Badging. Once passed, the exam is current for four (4) years, from date of completion.

- The pass mark is 70%
- Two (2) hours is allowed for exam completion.
- Exam cost is $12.50.
- It is useful to have a current rule book with you when doing the exam.
- If you do not pass, you can re-try.
- This exam is found at: learning.netball.com.au/login/index.php. You will need your Netball Learning email address.

Once you have passed the exam, download your certificate and forward to your club umpire convenor.

6.2 Foundations Umpires Course

It is also recommended that all umpires do the Foundation Umpires Course. This is a mandatory pre-requisite prior to undertaking National Badging. Once passed, it does not need to be repeated. The exam cost is $45, this course can be found at: learning.netball.com.au/login/index.php

6.3 NSNA Red Robin Course

NSNA's Red Robin Course is for all new umpires. This course is run by NSNA prior to the beginning of each winter season and lasts about three (3) hours. Please check the NSNA website for more details.

6.4 National Badge Camps

For those umpires who already have a National Badge, we strongly recommend that you attend a National Badge Camp. For Umpires who have received their National C Badge in the calendar year, we strongly recommend that you attend the Rookie Camp. Our umpires who have attended have indicated that they found it especially useful and enjoyable. These courses are run yearly by Netball NSW.

7. CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

7.1 Umpire Clothing

All umpires should be dressed appropriately in either NSNA Umpiring Uniform or Registered Club Uniform. Appropriate sporting shoes must be worn. When the weather is cold, acceptable attire is white pants, white shirt/jumper/jacket, or club tracksuit.

Registered Club Uniform includes:

- Club playing dress or alternate registered club uniform
- Club tracksuit (Friday Nights and Cold Weather)

NSNA Umpiring Uniform (Required for Level 1 and National Badge Assessments):

- White Umpiring T-shirt (plain or club branded)
- White or Black skirt (must be all black or all white)
- White or Black shorts (must be all black or all white)
- White or Black tracksuit pants (not permitted for National Badge Assessments)

The following attire is not to be worn by any Umpires:

- Bike Shorts
- Leggings
- Heavily branded black bottoms (including large logos and slogans)
- Non sport school uniform (e.g. School dress)

All umpires must wear appropriate footwear and look professional.

7.2 Umpire Equipment

All umpires need:

- Whistle: This should be a finger whistle and can be purchased from the canteen at NSNA or Sports shops. Do not use plastic whistles or squistles; they do not project a sound that can be easily heard.
    - Terrasphere Brass Finger Grip Whistle | Rebel Sport
    - Acme 477 Thunderer 58.5 Whistle | Rebel Sport
- Hair elastic: This is to assist in keeping track of centre passes.
- Netball Rulebook: This can be downloaded for free using the following link:
    - World Netball - Rules of Netball 2024.pdf you also have the option to download the Rules of Netball App for free - go to App Store and search ‘Rules of Netball’.

8. NUMBER OF GAMES UMPIRED ON EITHER FRIDAY OR SATURDAY

In line with NSNA's duty of care, there are limits on umpire participation in games as follows:

	Limit	Conditions
Friday evening	2 games	
Saturday	3 games	Max of 2 consecutive. This includes playing.

These limits seek to ensure that umpires are alert and able to sufficiently concentrate on games on which they officiate. Further, there is no issue if the third consecutive game is one in which the individual is playing, not umpiring.

Please be mindful of the number of games your players will be participating in if they are being assessed for a level or badge.

9. USING UMPIRES REGISTERED WITH ANOTHER CLUB

This is also referred to as 'Borrowing' umpires.

All Umpire Convenors should note that a club is not allowed to use an umpire who is registered with a different club unless permission has been received from the Umpire Convenor of the club with which the umpire is registered. Please seek to develop umpires from your own club first.

Please ensure that you are clear about payment up front if borrowing umpires from another club, ie, will the club be invoiced, or will the umpire receive a cash payment? Also, be mindful of how much is paid. A good guideline is our Senior Umpiring Pool are paid $25/match; these are all National badged umpires on a full (60min) match. NSNA will not take any responsibility for following up on payment of 'borrowed' umpires.

APPENDIX A: UMPIRING LOGISTICS

i) BEFORE THE GAME

Please ensure that you arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the game that you are to umpire. The following tasks need to be undertaken before the game.

1. Sign on at Umpires Control – this is just outside the administration room.
2. Once at your allocated court, introduce yourself to the other umpire and decide which ends you will umpire. Remember that the two of you need to work as a team.
3. Conduct pre-game checks as outlined in rule book.

ii) START OF THE GAME

At NSNA games are centrally timed. You are normally given a short warning that games are about to start. Once this has been done, you should:

1. Position yourself appropriately on the sideline.
2. Once the buzzer goes, if you are in control of the centre, put one hand in the air, on a slight diagonal pointing to the end you are umpiring, (to signal time on) and blow your whistle.

iii) DURING THE GAME

1. Try to see as many players as possible at any one point in time.
2. Ensure you have a system of controlling centres.
3. If you see an infringement blow your whistle, (you must learn to trust your instinct – it usually is correct), announce the infringement and then the penalty – eg, footwork, and a free pass to the other team.
4. At the end of each quarter, if you have control of the half at the time the buzzer goes, use a long blow of your whistle to signal time off.
5. Meet the other umpire in the middle of the court, check who has the next centre, and then walk off together.

iv) THE END OF THE GAME

1. When the buzzer goes, if you have control of play (ie it is in your half of the court) blow your whistle for time.
2. Meet the other umpire in the middle of the court, shake hands and then walk off together.
3. At NSNA there is no longer any need for umpires to sign the score sheet.

v) MANAGING THE GAME

Blood Rule

Under Rule 10.5, the umpires hold time for blood when noticed or when requested by an on-court player. Under the guidance of World Netball, Netball Australia has been advised that any player with blood must leave the court for this to be cleaned. As such, both the player who is bleeding and any player with blood on them would need to leave the court. The player(s) must leave the court within 30 seconds and receive treatment off the court. If another player has dry blood on them or their clothing, they may clean this off and continue play within the 30 seconds injury time. Time will not normally be given to clean up players on the court. However, in the event that several players are affected, the umpires may decide to take whatever action they deem to be appropriate.

ROLLING SUBSTITUTIONS

As NSNA is centrally timed – we do not play Rule 10.2-4 Tactical Substitutions but will play Rolling Substitutions in all games.

Rules for Rolling Substitutions

While play is in progress, any team may choose to use rolling substitutions provided the rolling substitution is performed with players on the team bench who have been named on their team sheet.

(a) The rolling substitution stands at the designated area. This will be in line with the centre circle.
(b) Before leaving the designated area, the substitute tags (with hands) the player leaving the court.
(c) Only 1 rolling substitution per team can be made at a time.
(d) Play is not to be held up for rolling substitutions. If play is delayed, the player will be penalised under Rule 19. Foul Play, Unfair Play 2. Delaying Play, which states a player or team may not intentionally waste time or delay play.
(e) Players must observe the offside rules as they enter/leave the court, in the event a player goes offside: Sanction: Free pass where the infringement occurred (offside area) unless this places the non infringing team at a disadvantage when the sanction will be given where the ball was when play stopped, or advantage applied.
(f) Players must not interfere with the umpire’s movement during the substitution, in the event a player interferes with an umpire: Sanction: Free pass where ball was when play stopped unless this places the non infringing team at a disadvantage when advantage will be applied.
(g) If a player leaves the court as a rolling substitution and there is no player at the designated area, the replacement player will be treated as a late player under the rules and can enter at a “break in play” (defined in the Rules of Netball 2024 Edition)

Note the player leaving the court must be substituted with a player into the same position - team changes can not take place during the rolling substitution (ie GK leaves the court, new player must take the GK position)

CODE OF CONDUCT

NSNA adhere strictly to the Netball NSW Code of Behaviour Policy, where NSNA "seek to provide a safe, fair and inclusive environment for everyone involved in Netball".

NSNA have a no tolerance policy where bullying is concerned, no umpire, player, coach or official should be victimised.

Should an umpire have issues on court, they are to send someone from the sideline to get a member of the Umpires committee or Executive committee to assist and deal with any issue that may arise.

All Club Umpiring Convenors should be going back to their clubs and ensuring that their club is acutely aware of the Netball NSW Code of conduct, and that at NSNA, this is strictly abided by.

A comprehensive Code of Conduct will be listed in the resource section of this manual.

APPENDIX B: REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL BADGING AND LEVELS

1) NATIONAL C BADGE TESTING

Candidates will be assessed using the Netball Australia Assessment Sheet:
C Badge - Test Sheet - 2026 - Editable PDF.pdf

Please note:

Umpires will not be considered for National C Badge testing until the following requirements have been met

1. The umpire being considered for assessment has provided evidence that they have a current pass (70% or higher) in the Rules of Netball Theory Exam and that they have completed the Foundation Umpire Course. (Failure to complete the online exam and Foundation Course prior to nomination of badging request will result in badging request being rejected automatically.)
2. 20 Points of NSNA Service has been achieved. Service can be arranged with the Senior Umpiring Co-ordinator. Points can be achieved in the following:

    a) Attendance at a Representative Carnival (20 Points)
    b) Attendance at a Representative Training Session/Selections (10 Points)
    c) 2 Hrs Friday night Umpiring Duty (10 Points)
    d) 2 Hrs Saturday morning Umpiring Duty (10 Points)

3. Request has been received by the Tuesday of the week preceding the nominated round/game.
4. All umpires attempting a National Badge must wear NSNA defined Umpire Uniform.

2) PROGRESS FROM A NATIONAL C TO NATIONAL B BADGE

Prior to being assessed for a National B badge an umpire must show the following:

1. Fitness – the level of the game will require you to run a great deal more. Good fitness assists good control of the game. Note that when there is an intercept and the ball is moved to the other end of the court, you are expected to run to the transverse line and not stroll.
2. Scanning – this is where the umpires' eyes are constantly moving to ensure a good view of play both on and off the ball.
3. Strong signals.
4. The ability to distinguish between contact and contest – in other words has one player's action interfered with another's ability to play? This is a difficult one and comes with experience as an umpire, but also with watching other higher qualified umpires on difficult games.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the injury and discipline rules and the associated timing.
6. The ability to work as a team with the other umpire – this may mean quickly glancing at the other umpire if you are not sure of something – and using their body language as a guide.

Please note that a candidate for B Badge testing must have at least an 80% pass in the Rules of Theory Exam.

Nomination of Umpires to be assessed for B Bage testing is at the discretion of the Director of Umpiring.

3) REQUIREMENTS FOR SENIOR LEVELLING

The following need to be achieved on an appropriate level game as outlined on Page 6.

1	2	ASSESSIBLE CRITERIA
NS Defined Umpire uniform	As Level 1 or Club umpire uniform	Appropriate Clothing
Y / N	Y / N	Checked Players for jewellery / nails
Y / N	Y / N	Keeps track of Centre passes
Always	Mostly	Indicates and calls Centre Pass accordingly
Always	Always	Clear and Audible
Always	Mostly	Loud Whistle
Always	Always	Signals Goal Scored
Y / N	Y / N	At ¼ Break - Checks with Co-umpire regarding next centre pass
Majority with correct terminology & some hand signals	Mostly	Sets Sanctions appropriately Correct Area, Infringers out of play, Terminology (difference in levels is the how they set, do they give the correct information, are they starting to use hand signals etc. Level 1 would see this happening the majority of the sanctions, Level 2 may still be developing on giving all the correct information
Always	Mostly	Calls the direction of Throw-ins
		TECHNIQUES
Uses appropriately	Is developing	Is attempting to use vision off the ball
Strong application	Mostly applies well	Slightly Ahead of the Ball
Strong application	Mostly applies well	Moves with play down the court to the goal line
Strong application	Mostly applies well	Moves past the post on the goal line when appropriate to play
Shows understanding	Occasionally repositions	Repositions when necessary
		RECOGNITION of obvious minor/major infringements **Usually:** Shows an intermedial level of knowledge and demonstrates ability to penalise at most times in the game context. **Sometimes:** Shows basic level of knowledge and demonstrates ability to penalise in obvious situations. **Recognised:** At some time during the match, this infringement has been seen and penalised
Usually	Sometimes	Footwork
Usually	Sometimes	Offside
Usually	Sometimes	Held Ball
Usually	Sometimes	Replay
Usually	Sometimes	Incorrect Throw-in
Usually	Sometimes	Obvious Contact
Usually	Sometimes	Obstruction of Player with the ball
Sometimes	Recognised	Obstruction of Player without the ball

4) REQUIREMENTS FOR JUIOR LEVELLING

The following need to be achieved on an appropriate level game as outlined on Page 6.

			ASSESSIBLE CRITERIA
JL1	**JL2**	**JL3**	**Game Management**
NS-defined umpire uniform	As Level 1 / club umpire uniform	As Level 1/ club umpire uniform	*Appropriate clothing*
Y / N	Y / N	Y / N	Checked players for *jewellery / nails*
Y / N	Y / N	Y / N	Keeps *track of centre passes*
Y / N	Y / N	Y / N	At ¼ break checks with co-umpire regarding *next centre pass*
Always	Mostly	Sometimes	Indicates and calls *centre pass* accordingly
Always	Mostly	Sometimes	*Clear and audible*
Always	Mostly	Mostly	*Loud whistle*
Always	Always	Mostly	Signals *goal scored*
Majority, correct terminology & some hand signals	Mostly	Sometimes	Sets *sanctions* appropriately - correct area, infringers out of play, terminology The difference in levels is the how they set, do they give the correct information, are they starting to use hand signals etc. - Level 1 would see this happening for the majority of the sanctions; - Level 2 may still be developing on giving all the correct information; - Level 3 are showing some understanding. This may be only setting a couple during the game but are developing.
Always	Mostly	Mostly	Calls the direction of *throw-ins*
Always	Some knowledge	Not required	Appropriate management of *stoppages*, e.g. injury, ball on court
			Techniques
Y / N	Not Required	Not Required	Is attempting to use *vision off the ball*
Strong application	Mostly applies well	Sometimes – is developing	Slightly *ahead of the ball*
Strong application	Mostly applies well	Sometimes– is developing	*Moves with play* down the court to the goal line
Strong application	Mostly applies well	Sometimes moves past – is developing	*Moves past the post* on the goal line when appropriate to play
Shows understanding	Occasionally repositions	Not required	*Repositions* when necessary
			Infringements – Obvious Major/Minor: Criteria for Recognition - Usually: Shows an intermediate level of knowledge and demonstrates ability to penalise at most times in the game context. - Sometimes: Shows basic level of knowledge and demonstrates ability to penalise in obvious situations. - Recognised: At some time during the match, this infringement has been seen and penalised

			ASSESSIBLE CRITERIA
JL1	**JL2**	**JL3**	**Game Management**
Usually	Sometimes	Recognised	*Footwork*
Usually	Sometimes	Recognised	*Offside*
Usually	Sometimes	Recognised	*Held ball*
Usually	Sometimes	Recognised	*Replay*
Usually	Sometimes	Not required	*Incorrect throw-in*
Usually	Sometimes	Recognised	*Obvious contact*
Usually	Sometimes	Recognised	*Obstruction of player with the ball*

APPENDIX C: USEFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

Northern Suburbs Netball Association: http://nsna.com.au/

Netball NSW: Netball NSW Home Page - Netball NSW

Netball Australia: https://netball.com.au

World Netball: https://netball.sport

World Netball Official Rule Book 2024 edition: https://netball.sport/game/the-rules-of-netball

Netball Umpiring Accreditation Updates: https://netball.com.au/umpiring-accreditation

Netball Australia Badge Test sheet: https://netball.com.au/umpiring-accreditation

National Umpires Development Framework: https://netball.com.au/umpiring-accreditation

Netball Australia – Badge Competencies: https://netball.com.au/umpiring-accreditation

Netball NSW Codes of Conduct & Policies: https://nsw.netball.com.au/policies

Netball Hand Signals: https://netball.sport/game/the-rules-of-netball

"REMEMBER: WITHOUT OFFICIALS, IT IS JUST A PRACTICE".

Jim Clarke -Officials 101