



# USA NETBALL UMPIRE LEVELS, CRITERIA & APPLICATION FORM

## USA Netball Umpire Levels and Criteria

Officiating is about making decisions, not just in relation to the rules of the game.

Want to follow a career in officiating rather than playing?

If you do, here comes another decision:

- As an umpire?
- As a Tester or Tutor (you have to be a qualified umpire to undertake any of these)
- As a Table Official (Scorer/Timekeepers)

These opportunities are available right through from school, local league, region, national competitions and international competitions.

Please contact your local area association or USA Netball for further information on getting involved.

The [Application Form](#) should be submitted if you would like to sit an exam.

For the criteria of the different levels of umpires please click on the respective level of umpiring that interests you below. Please ensure that all criteria have been met and can be verified, if necessary, before applying to sit the examination.

### LEVEL I UMPIRE

Please [click here](#) for Level I Umpiring criteria. Level 1 candidates will pay an examination fee of \$25.00 to the USA Netball Finance Director before the day of the examination. Candidates are expected to be dressed and prepared to do all phases of the examination in one day, except where an Act of God prevents this from happening. A candidate achieving the Level 1 Certification, can apply for the Level 2 certification at its' next sitting.

### LEVEL II UMPIRE

Please [click here](#) for Level II Umpiring criteria. Level 2 candidates will pay an examination fee of \$35.00 to the USA Netball Finance Director before the day of the theoretical examination. This examination will be done once per year. If a candidate passes the theoretical examination, preparations will be made for the practical examination to follow shortly. A candidate achieving Level 2 certification, will be eligible to umpire for 3 years before applying for the level 3 examination, if not, this candidate will have to do the refresher Level 2 examination to renew their certification.

### LEVEL III UMPIRE

Please [click here](#) for Level III Umpiring criteria. Level 3 candidates will pay an examination fee of \$45.00 to the USA Netball Treasurer before the day of the examination. If a candidate passes the theoretical examination, preparations will be made for the practical examination to follow shortly. This examination will be done once per year. A successful Level 3 candidate is now preparing to sit the regional examination, if not, this candidate will have to do the refresher Level 3 examination to renew their certification.

Please note that all fees paid are non-refundable under all circumstances. It is also encouraged that all umpires attend umpire seminars and do refresher examinations as often as possible to be aware of the latest updates and interpretations of the rules. Keep checking this site for any updates on umpires approach to the game, a schedule of umpire/player seminars and umpire testing.



**USA NETBALL ASSOCIATION**

**UMPIRING THEORY/PRACTICAL TEST  
REQUEST**

NAME OF CANDIDATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ASSOCIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT DETAILS: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/email

LEVEL?TYPE OF TEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed: **Level 1 (Includes Theory and Practical):**

\$25 - Members      \$40 – Non-Members

**Level 2 (Theory or Practical):**

\$35 - Members      \$50 – Non-Members

**Level 3 (Theory or Practical):**

\$45 – Members      \$60 – Non-Members

Checks to be made payable to **USA Netball** and return along with application form to:

**Finance Director  
USA Netball  
PO Box 1105  
Bowling Green Stn, NY 10274**

Please email your application to: [Technical@USANetball.com](mailto:Technical@USANetball.com)

*For USA Netball use:*

Check received (date) \_\_\_\_\_ Test scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_

Testers: \_\_\_\_\_ Tester: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Level 1 Award**

### **Pre-requisites**

- A preliminary theory paper pass mark is required for the award of Level 1 accreditation.
- Candidates for Level 1 accreditation will be required to umpire for a minimum duration of 30 minutes. A series of tournament matches may be used to test for this award.

### **Key Performance Indicators for the Level 1 Award**

The candidate should

- possess control;
- display correct use of whistle, voice and terminology;
- reasonably umpire the minor infringements;
- penalize all obvious contacts and obstruction;
- display knowledge of the advantage rule.

This is a beginner badge only, and testers should not expect a perfect display.

### **Techniques**

#### ***Dress***

- Umpires shall wear clothes distinct from those of the players and preferably white or cream in color. Suitable shoes shall be worn.

#### ***Voice***

- Firm and decisive, generally heard easily.

#### ***Manner***

- Confident and pleasant.

#### ***Whistle***

- Crisp and clear.

#### ***Terminology***

- Should be using correct terminology and complimentary hand signals.

#### ***Fitness***

- Complete level 3.1 on the Beep test
- Has good coverage of the court for the entire game

#### ***Positioning***

- Level with or just a little ahead of play, and following around the goal circle (although not always in the best possible position).
- Show knowledge of repositioning to ensure a clear view of play.
- No umpire should be on court, except to take a Toss Up.

#### ***Vision***

- Show some ability to look wide, look often and look early.

- Not always follow the flight of the ball at the expense of watching the players and their court positioning.

### **Control**

- A candidate being tested at this level must be able to demonstrate that they are in control of the game before they can umpire effectively. Therefore, strong basic techniques as detailed above need to be displayed.

### **Decisions**

Consistency is important at any level. An umpire worthy of level 1 accreditation should be able to:

- Recognize stepping in all its forms.
- Display a range of knowledge of the other minor rules such as “held ball”, “offside”, “over a third” etc.
- Conduct a Toss Up in accordance with the Rule Book, if applicable.
- Penalize all obvious Obstruction.
- Penalize all obvious Contact, including the clear examples listed in the Rule Book.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the Advantage Rule and its application, and apply this on all occasions where an Advantage Goal is scored.
- Signal each Centre Pass. If in any doubt, the candidate should check with the co-umpire and then the scorer. Appropriate instructions must be given to the scorer and the timekeeper.
- Show a sound awareness that the Throw In is being taken in the correct place and all possible infringements are penalized.
- Demonstrate good knowledge of general rules together with reasonable consistency of their application.

### **Endorsement of Level 1 Accreditation**

- Endorsement will be for a period of 4 years, following which umpires must re-sit the Theory Examination and practical test to remain current.

### **Level 2 Award**

#### **Pre-requisites**

- A pass mark above 80% in the Theory Examination is required for the award of Level 2 accreditation.
- Candidates for Level 2 accreditation will be required to umpire a good standard game for a minimum duration of 60 minutes. A series of tournament matches may be used to test for this award.

#### **Key Performance Indicators for the Level 2 Award**

##### ***Dress***

- Umpires shall wear clothes distinct from those of the players and preferably white or cream in color. Suitable shoes shall be worn.

### ***Voice***

- Firm and decisive, generally heard easily.

### ***Manner***

- Confident and pleasant.

### ***Whistle***

- Crisp and clear.

### ***Terminology***

- Use of correct terminology for penalties and consistent and appropriate signals to enhance the communication between the umpires and the players.

### ***Fitness***

- Complete level 8.1 on the Beep Test.
- Has good coverage of the court for the entire game.

### ***Positioning***

- Generally positions level with if not slightly ahead of the ball.
- Readjusts position quickly and competently when play changes direction or pace.
- Shows ability to read and understand play and positions accordingly.
- Times movement to Goal Line in relation to play and adjusts as appropriate.
- Moves along Side Line to see clearly and to be well placed to give accurate Throw In decisions or correct rulings if appealed to by co-umpire.
- Keeps off the court except to take a Toss Up.

### ***Vision***

- Shows some ability to look wide, look often and look early in order to identify and penalize most infringements taking place off the ball.
- Keeps eyes/vision sweeping the appropriate court area.
- Not follow the flight of the ball at the expense of watching the players and their court positioning.
- On the Goal Line, be in a position to see all of the players in the Goal Circle and those on the Goal Line.

### ***Quickness of Reactions***

- Show the ability to make choices between whistle decisions and the use of advantage. Distinguishes most instances where advantage application is more appropriate than a whistle.
- Show that reaction time is consistent throughout the court and the game.

### ***Control***

- Use of the correct terms which assists the players and keeps the game flowing. Incorrect terms confuse the players and the umpire.

- Efficiency in procedures and control of general infringements is expected.
- Sound rule interpretations and an element of common sense in the application of the same must be shown.
- A candidate at this level will be expected to set penalties clearly, quickly and correctly. Setting should be accompanied by clear signals indicating what the penalty is for, to which team it is being awarded and which player, if any, is being stood out of play. The candidate will need to show that both attacking and defending players have rights and responsibilities in the taking of all penalties.

### **Decisions**

- Consistency is important at any level and especially under pressure. An immediate and continued display of:
  - Where to look;
  - When to look; and
  - What to look for
- In order to obtain level 2 accreditation, the candidate is expected to show some ability to penalize infringements ahead of play and either acknowledge or penalize infringements behind play, whichever is the most appropriate action
- The Advantage Rule must be correctly applied so that play may be allowed to flow without the candidate losing control.
- Candidates must show the beginnings of understanding between applying the rule and showing they can understand the rule and showing that they can understand the rule and apply it with a degree of common sense and feeling for the situation.
- Obstruction – a candidate at this level will be expected to show a sound proficiency in the recognition and application of this infringement and rule.
- Contact - a level 2 candidate is expected to show a more comprehensive knowledge and application of this infringement and the rule than would be expected of an umpire with level 1 accreditation. It is expected that there will be an understanding of “fair contest” between two players (that is, legal or illegal body movements of two players). Candidates will demonstrate some ability to distinguish between contact and causing contact, and to communicate that difference to the players.
- Candidates will show a level of cooperation and teamwork with their co-umpires when and where applicable, particularly in borderline areas of control.
- Candidates will be unaffected by external influences (e.g., spectators).

### **Endorsement of Level 2 Accreditation**

- Endorsement will be for a period of 4 years, following which umpires must re-sit the Theory Examination and practical test to remain current.

### **Level 3 Award**

#### **Pre-requisites**

- A pass mark above 90% in the Theory Examination is required for the award of Level 3 accreditation.

- Candidates for Level 3 accreditation will undergo formal assessment on one or more games of the highest available domestic standard, for a minimum duration of one hour. A series of tournament matches may not be used to test for this award.
- The standard of the game must be approved by the USA NETBALL Technical Director in consultation with the appointed testers prior to the test taking place.

### **Key Performance Indicators for the Level 3 Award**

#### ***Dress***

- Umpires shall wear clothes distinct from those of the players and preferably white or cream in color. Suitable shoes shall be worn.

#### ***Voice***

- Firm and decisive, generally heard easily.

#### ***Manner***

- Firm, confident but pleasant.

#### ***Whistle***

- Should be loud, sharp and clear.

#### ***Terminology***

- Use of correct terminology for penalties and consistent and appropriate signals to enhance the communication between the umpires and the players.

#### ***Fitness***

- Complete level 8.5 on the Beep Test.
- Has excellent coverage of the court for the entire game.

#### ***Positioning***

- Generally positions level with if not slightly ahead of the ball.
- Readjusts position quickly and competently when play changes direction or pace; moves in relation to play.
- Shows ability to read and understand play and positions accordingly; shows a connection between timing of movement and the movement of players and the ball.
- Times movement to Goal Line in relation to play and adjusts as appropriate.
- Moves along Side Line to see clearly and to be well placed to give accurate Throw In decisions or correct rulings if appealed to by co-umpire.
- Keeps off the court except to take a Toss Up.

#### ***Vision***

- Shows the ability to look wide, look often and look early.
- Keeps eyes/vision sweeping the appropriate court area; at this level it is expected that umpires would be able to see 6 to 8 players most of the time.
- Not follow the flight of the ball at the expense of watching the players and their court positioning.

- On the Goal Line, be in a position to see all of the players in the Goal Circle and those on the Goal Line.

### ***Quickness of Reactions***

- Show the ability to make choices between whistle decisions and the use of advantage.
- Show that reaction time is consistent throughout the court and the game.
- Show a clear difference between controlled speedy reactions and panic reactions.

### ***Control***

- Uses correct terminology which helps the players by keeping the game flowing, accompanied by consistent and appropriate use of signals to enhance the communication between the umpires and the players. Signals must be sustained, meaningful reenacting of what the umpire is penalizing.
- Efficiency in procedures and control of general infringements is expected.
- Sound rule interpretations and an element of common sense in the application of the same must be shown.
- Ensures that the game proceeds at the expected speed and level of the competition.
- Makes no decision if not in a position to see clearly (being able to read the play complements positioning).
- Is not susceptible to external influences (e.g., spectators).
- Has ultimate control of all players and officials through correct procedures and protocols.
- Has excellent game control.
- Cooperates with the other umpire to give full coverage of the game.

### ***Setting Penalties***

- Skillful, economic, spontaneous and accurate setting of all penalties so that consistency is maintained for the benefit of players.
- Setting to be accompanied by clear signals indicating what the penalty is for, to which team it is being awarded and which player, if any, is being stood out of play.
- The candidate will need to show that both attacking and defending players have rights and responsibilities in the taking of all penalties.

### ***Decisions***

- Consistency is important at any level. Candidates must achieve a high success rate for all major infringements.
  - An immediate and continued display of:
    - Where to look;
    - When to look; and
    - What to look for.
  - In order to obtain level 3 accreditation, the candidate is expected to have the ability to penalize infringements ahead of play and either acknowledge or



penalize infringements behind play, whichever is the most appropriate action.

- The Advantage Rule must be correctly applied with skill at all times so that play may be allowed to flow without the candidate losing control.
- Candidates must show understanding between just applying the rule and showing they can understand the rule and showing that they can understand the rule and apply it with a degree of common sense for the situation and with precision, accuracy and consistency.
- Obstruction – a candidate at this level will be expected to be highly proficient in the recognition of obstruction and demonstrate a high degree of skill in the application of appropriate decisions, particularly “advantage”.
- Contact – it is expected that the candidate react with either a decision or an “Advantage” call to most incidents of contact which interfere with an opponent’s play. At this level, an umpire should show an in depth understanding of the difference between contact and contest and umpire accordingly.
- It is important at this level for a candidate to demonstrate a common sense understanding of all the rules and their application. Candidates must show a “feel” for the game.
- There should be a very professional approach to the game and all its aspects.

#### **Endorsement of Level 3 Accreditation**

- Endorsement will be for a period of 4 years, following which umpires must re-sit the USA NETBALL Umpire Theory Examination and practical test to remain current.

