

NETBALL QUEENSLAND UMPIRE ADVISORY PANEL - ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with great pleasure that we announce the reformation of Netball Queensland's Umpire Advisory Panel ('UAP'). The purpose of this panel is to provide advice to Netball Queensland personnel to bridge gaps in umpire and umpire coach development within Queensland. The reformation of this panel comes after Netball Queensland Performance Umpires sought assistance from Netball Queensland to define the pathway for Queensland umpires to provide structured development opportunities cohesively both regionally and in metropolitan areas.

The UAP will act as an advisory panel to Netball Queensland with respect to umpiring matters. Without removing Netball Queensland's responsibility for umpire development, the members of the UAP believe that the outreach, network and knowledge of its panel members will be an effective resource to assist Netball Queensland to target the needs of umpires and umpire coaches across Queensland.

The UAP recognises the importance of broad representation. In 2023/2024, we aim to have panel positions filled via election, ensuring a mix of grassroots, regional, metropolitan, emerging and high performance representatives. It is for this reason, alongside this announcement, we publish the UAP Charter for transparency and accountability. In its infancy, and first 12 months of operation, the UAP seeks to do some groundwork by creating an umpire and umpire coach pathway.

The UAP is currently a volunteer-based committee that will seek to fulfil its responsibilities as closely as possible to those outlined in the Charter. One of our first action items is to develop an umpire performance pathway to be published by Netball Queensland by the end of 2022. With this publication will come many goals for development, including a high performance umpire selection that aligns with the pathways and processes for elite player selection at the close of 2022. The UAP has also met with Netball Queensland to ensure the facilitation of regional umpire representation at the Queensland State Titles to be held in September 2022.

The 2022 UAP Committee Members are:

Abbey Bassingthwaighte

Abbey is a National B Badge umpire and as someone who is actively involved in umpiring at numerous levels of netball, is excited to be a part of the UAP. Abbey's current involvement in netball ranges from grassroots umpiring and umpire coaching at Downey Park Netball Association, to officiating at the Greater Brisbane Netball League, State Titles and Ruby Series. Having recently progressed through Queensland's competitions, Abbey has a good understanding of how current systems can be modified to provide greater clarity to umpires and umpire coaches through a pathway, and can also draw on the experiences and ideas of her connections in the wider netball community.

Cara Wennerbom

Cara is a National A Badge umpire and began umpiring at age 11. Cara has had many amazing umpiring opportunities spanning over two decades, including attending National Championships, State League and Hart Sapphire/Ruby Series, Australian Netball League, AIS Umpire Development Camp, SSN pre-season matches and reserve umpire duties, and Commonwealth Games training matches. Cara is an active umpire coach from association level through to the Hart Ruby Series. Off the court, Cara is a mum of two and spends Saturdays at her local association, Metropolitan District Netball Association, with her daughter's club netball, and Sundays on the soccer fields watching her son play. Professionally, Cara is a Chartered Accountant and also a current Director of Netball Queensland Limited. Cara knows the importance of an effective development pathway and looks forward to contributing to the UAP.

Caroline Stevens

As a National A Badge umpire, Caroline's on-court experience includes reserving the Commonwealth Bank Trophy, the highest level national league at that time, and officiating State League and National Championships. Since retiring from court, Caroline very generously supports umpires as a Netball Queensland Performance Umpire Coach and Umpire Co-ordinator at Western Districts Netball Association ('WDNA'), in addition to her high performance role as an international level bench official. Caroline's experience has allowed her to successfully run umpire high performance and

development programs at WDNA, an association of 2500 members, developing valuable resources and presenting courses to clubs from the grassroots level up. Caroline believes that the UAP is an important mechanism to allow experienced umpires and umpire coaches to advise on targeted and efficient umpire resourcing both regionally and in metropolitan areas.

Dianne Cocker - UAP Secretary

Di is an All Australia (AA) umpire, Netball Queensland Life Member, and Queensland Catholic Netball Association Life Member. With over 25 years umpiring experience, Di brings a wealth of knowledge of umpire pathways having progressed through Netball Queensland's pathway into Netball Australia's High Performance pathway as both an umpire and umpire coach. After retiring from court in 2016, Di took up high performance umpire coaching roles for Netball Queensland, Netball South Australia and Netball Australia, including, Netball Australia Emerging Talent Assistant Umpire Coach for the Australian Netball League and U17/19 National Championships, and Netball Australia High Performance Assistant Coach for the 2020 SSN series. Di has a passion for umpire education and has been a Netball Australia presenter for over 15 years. In 2017, Di was the first Australian umpire coach invited to deliver a 3-day umpiring workshop in Brunei sponsored by the Australian High Commission and Brunei Ministry of Education, and supported by Netball Australia. Di looks forward to bringing her expertise in high performance development to the UAP. Queensland is most fortunate to have an AA umpire as an umpire coach and member of the UAP.

Jamie Maher

Jamie's netball journey started at the age of 4 in rural New South Wales, watching his sister play "midgets" in the local Farrer Football Netball League for Mangoplah Cookardinia United. Jamie would always take the opportunity at each break to shoot some goals and being at the courts led to filling in for the team one day due to a shortage of players - the rest is history. A player until the age of 12, when boys were no longer allowed to play, Jamie continued to play socially after high school before taking to the whistle for the first time to position himself back in a competition environment. Shortly after, Jamie was awarded his National C Badge then National B Badge before moving to Melbourne where his skills developed in the Victorian Netball League. He was successfully tested for his National A Badge in 2018. Since moving to Queensland this year, Jamie has officiated the Hart Sapphire Series, and generously offered his time to support and develop the Ruby and Hart Sapphire Series umpires in his first season here. Jamie is passionate about giving back to netball as he is grateful for the opportunities the sport afforded him and believes that the UAP will be a mechanism through which he can further contribute to umpire development in Queensland.

Jessica Lakeman - UAP Chair

Jessica began umpiring in 2011 at Downey Park Netball Association ('DPNA'). As a National C Badge umpire, Jessica began officiating State Age Championships and was talent identified by Netball Queensland umpire selectors for the performance program that saw her developed and selected to officiate State League from the age of 14. Jessica's high performance journey really began in 2015 when she was successfully tested for her National A Badge at age 16. Jessica has since been selected to officiate Hart Sapphire/Ruby Series, National Championships, Australian Netball League, Commonwealth Games training matches, SSN reserve, and the 2022 Australian Netball Championships. Jessica was the Umpire Convenor for DPNA in 2019 and 2020 and is an umpire coach at the Greater Brisbane Netball League and Ruby Series. Jessica understands the effectiveness of targeted resources and a clear pathway for umpires, and the accessibility that living in a metropolitan area allowed for her development. This awareness has driven Jessica to be involved with the UAP and work with Netball Queensland to bridge known gaps in umpire and umpire coach development.

The UAP will be working alongside:

Roselee Jencke OAM - Netball Queensland Head of Elite Netball

Rose has returned to Netball Queensland to work in the emerging pathways area as the Head of Elite Netball after working most recently at Rowville Sports Academy as the Director of Netball. Rose has dedicated over 40 years to our sport, as an athlete and coach. Rose's selection and appearances as an Australian Diamond exceeded 40 games, before coaching the Queensland Firebirds to countless victories. Rose is now moving in a new direction and utilizing her experience to help grow and develop

coach, athlete and official's pathways in Queensland. Rose's passion is developing high performance environments which allow people to grow, improve and be their best.

Claire Kleinschmidt - Netball Queensland Officials Development Coordinator

Claire began her role as Officials Development Coordinator at Netball Queensland in mid-2022 and is responsible for the accreditation and development of umpires across Queensland, from grassroots to high performance. Claire's umpiring journey began at age 12 at Underwood Park and since then she has officiated just about every Netball Queensland competition. Claire holds a current National A Badge and has been selected for the Hart Sapphire/Ruby Series, SSN reserve duties, National Championships and 2022 Australian Netball Championships. In addition to her on-court duties, Claire also coaches umpires at the Greater Brisbane Netball League and Ruby Series. Claire is excited about the reformation of the UAP as she believes it will give umpires a platform on which to be heard and share on issues that are important and relevant to them. The future success of umpiring in Queensland is reliant on positive collaboration and communication, and Claire looks forward to working with the UAP in her new role.

The UAP looks forward to working with Netball Queensland and its stakeholders to develop an umpire pathway that is transparent and effective. We encourage feedback, and we hope for understanding and support of this initiative.

We welcome all members of our netball community to email coachandofficials@netballq.org.au with any queries or suggestions for consideration by the UAP.