

Octavia Gibson has dedicated 57 years and counting to netball both on the court and as an outstanding administrator. Her impact on netball – particularly in administration has radiated throughout the Americas region and across the World.

A Bajan with a big dream to impact the world of netball with her governance and administrative skills that are second to none. Octavia's dream for our sport is to see growth and development across regions and having connections with each to share culture and display their talents on court.

She is a past president of Barbados Netball Association and Secretary of Americas Netball. The reach of her influence goes way beyond Barbados to the smaller countries in the region.

Octavia joined the Board of World Netball first as Americas Regional Director and then as WN Further Director. Octavia worked tirelessly with the members of the region especially the new members ensuring that they were fully engaged in what was happening at the world level.

As a Board Member Octavia established the WN Governance Working Group which evolved to become one of the four standing committees of the Board. She developed the Board's Governance Policy, commissioned the external review of governance and created a roadmap for the development of World Netball's governance reforms that have been implemented since then, including the introduction of independent directors to the Board. Since stepping down from the WN Board in 2019 Octavia has remained a member and passionate contributor to the World Netball Governance Committee.

Octavia also served on the Working Group that established the current draw format for the Netball World Cup that was introduced in 2019.

Octavia's passion for our sport was beyond imagination, she would work late into the night into early morning to ensure that she delivered on her promises .

Octavia professionalism, integrity and meticulous approach has also been in demand with the new leaders of the region. I know Octavia thought she could relax and get some rest now that she has officially retired from her professional life, but netball keeps calling. Her latest assignment is as the Tournament Director to the LOC of the Americas Netball World Youth Qualifier that will be held in 2024.