



INTERNATIONAL
NETBALL
FEDERATION

Congress 2019

INF Service Award 2019

Citation for Sheryl Dawson MNZM Netball New Zealand

Sheryl Dawson has long been a believer that Netball makes more than just great athletes. She has often advocated that the game she loves has turned athletes into significant contributors to their communities and families. Few would argue that she is testimony to those beliefs having contributed as a highly respected administrator to the game for over 40 years.

What started out as a five-year-old bibbing up for the Te Puna Primary School team has turned into a Netball career highlighted by her roles overseeing World Championships and the international game.

Sheryl's resume is one which signifies that impact on Netball, from behind the scenes, has been immense. Her playing years included proudly pulling on the colours for Western Bay of Plenty representative teams and later South Waikato at the national tournament.

She has continuously dabbled in coaching and was also an umpire from an early age. But it is her work as an administrator – from grassroots level through to the International Netball Federation (INF) – where Sheryl has made her biggest contribution.

She filled a number of roles early on with Tokoroa Netball Association, South Waikato and Bay of Plenty Coast Union – the first real benefactors of her various skills.

Sheryl was also in charge of numerous age-group championships held in Mount Maunganui and in 1989 her administrative focus turned to the national body where she was appointed to the Netball New Zealand Board. In 1992 Sheryl was recognised with a Netball New Zealand service award.



She was part of the team which developed a successful bid for the 1999 World Championships in Christchurch – a pinnacle event for Netball which Sheryl went on to be appointed as Chief Executive.

She had been New Zealand's delegate to the International Federation of Netball Association (IFNA as it was known then) from 1990 to 1998 and a year later was appointed President – a position she held until 2003. Sheryl also played a key role in helping develop the international rules being chair of the International Rules Rewrite committee. Sheryl also spent four years serving INF as part of the International Constitution Committee. In 2003 Sheryl was awarded a prestigious Netball New Zealand Life Membership.

Sheryl took on the chief executive role with the newly formed Waikato Bay of Plenty Netball Franchise where she was at the helm during successful campaigns in The National Bank Cup and The ANZ Championship.

In 2013, her services to Netball were recognised in the New Year Honours when she was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Sheryl continues to be an excellent and valuable member of Netball New Zealand.