

## Procedure for International Netball Umpire Award (INUA) Testing

### 1.0 International Netball Umpire Award (INUA)

The INUA is the highest award for umpiring Netball. It recognises a standard of elite performances and signifies the ability of an umpire to control international matches. The award is gained by a practical assessment.

#### 1.1 Current International Umpire Awardee (IUA)

An IUA is 'current' if their most recent test was grade 'Met' not more than four years previously and they are actively umpiring at the highest level in their home country and region during that period. A badge and certificate are presented to an umpire when they first gain an INUA i.e., is endorsed, and a certificate is awarded for each subsequent successful test.

*Note: It is expected that umpires will be actively umpiring at the highest level in their home country and region unless they are living or working overseas or there are exceptional circumstances which can be considered by World Netball, in consultation with their home country, with a view to having a suitable alternative program agreed to by the International Umpire Award Testing Panel (ITP) and the umpire involved.*

#### 1.2 Non-Current IUA

An IUA who has either received a grade 'Not Yet Met' from a test or has not had a test scheduled within four years shall be regarded as retired from international umpiring or, if deemed appropriate by the ITP, be listed as 'non-current' for a period not exceeding eighteen months, where they will be considered for international appointment to allow further time to receive a grade 'Met' from a test. An umpire will be regarded as retired from international umpiring should there be a grade 'Not Yet Met' from a test or no test scheduled within that eighteen-month timeframe.

### 2.0 Re-endorsement of IUA

An umpire who is either a 'current IUA' or a 'non-current IUA' may have the award renewed ('re-endorsed') by meeting the grade for an INUA test and shall be considered 'current' for four years from the date of that test. The ITPs could recommend to the Officiating Coordinator (OC) that an umpire be automatically re-endorsed as an IUA based on the outcome of the continued assessment on international ranking games. The OC will forward the recommendation, together with all supporting evidence, to the International Officiating Manager (IOM) for verification. At World Netball events e.g., Netball World Cup (NWC), Netball World Youth Cup (NWYC) and Commonwealth Games (CG), the Umpires Appointment Panel (UAP) could recommend to the IOM that an umpire be automatically re-endorsed as an IUA and the Chair shall forward all supporting evidence to the IOM.

### 3.0 Prerequisites for Testing

#### 3.1 Fitness Requirement

An umpire undertaking an INUA test must meet the fitness standard specified by World Netball, namely:

- 9.1 on the Multi-Stage Fitness Test (Beep/Bleep/20m Shuttle Run Test); or
- Level 15.1 on the Yo-Yo Intermittent Recovery Test Level 1.

#### 3.2 Initial Test/s

An umpire who does not hold an INUA, must also meet the following criteria:

- hold the highest national/regional umpiring qualification of a member country/region within their defined system;
- be actively umpiring at the highest level in their home country and region;
- be screened as 'ready for testing' (refer Section 4).

If an umpire is not listed on the current World Netball 'Fit to Umpire' register at the date of the INUA test, 10 days are allowed for registration. In this case, the result of the INUA test will be conveyed to the umpire but it will remain provisional pending fitness registration.

### **3.3 Re-endorsement Test**

An umpire seeking re-endorsement has up to ten days after being tested to be listed on the current World Netball 'Fit to Umpire' register. In addition, a 'non-current' IUA must be screened before being tested.

## **4.0 Screening**

### **4.1 Screening Process**

Screening is a process where an umpire is observed on one or more matches of a suitable standard to assess their readiness to undertake an INUA test, based on the INUA grade descriptors, and is recorded on the World Netball match assessment report form. This will involve:

- at least one member of the ITP observing the umpire (it is recommended at least two ITPs or one ITP and one ITP Cadet be used where possible);
- observation on at least 1 match.

The timing of a screening will be at the recommendation of the ITP or ITP Cadet to the Region OC who will inform the IOM.

*Note: World Netball and OC should make every effort to have suitable opportunities made available*

### **4.2 Who requires to be screened?**

An umpire who:

- does not hold an INUA; or
- is a 'non-current IUA'.

### **4.3 Advice regarding Screening**

An umpire is advised of when screening is occurring and the outcome. If the outcome from a screening is that an umpire is ready to undertake an INUA test, this remains 'live' for up to six months of the playing season relevant to the umpire.

## **5.0 Requirements for Tests**

### **5.1 International Umpires' Award Testing Panel (ITP)**

World Netball appoints a panel of qualified and experienced persons to undertake testing for the award. Although ITP members are spread over different regions, they are authorised to test worldwide in line with this procedure.

### **5.2 Who conducts the test?**

Two ITP members shall conduct a test and must undertake no other duties during the test. If two umpires are tested on the same game, two separate sets of testers will be required. The testers are required to watch the entire match, unless the standard of the match is deemed inadequate or the umpire is unable to complete the match because of illness/injury, in which case the test shall be aborted, and a new test scheduled.

### **5.3 Test game**

A test will consist of one match (minimum of 60 minutes play). The match must be a fast, competitive game of a standard that will test the umpire's skill level and indicate their ability to control international matches. As a guideline, the match standard is defined as being between two teams ranked in the top twelve in the world or the top four participating teams at the Netball World Youth Cup (NWYC), provided it meets the above requirements. This extends to include some 'approved events' (see Section 5.4). *Decision on what is a suitable standard is made by World Netball in consultation with the ITP within a respective region and based on the knowledge of the teams playing in the match.* It is the responsibility of the testers during the test to determine if the match provides a suitable standard of play.

*Note: Tests may not be taken on matches where the Rules regarding play on the court have been varied from those in the World Netball Rules of Netball. Any proposed changes should come to World Netball prior to implementation for a decision to be made, in consultation with the IOM and World Netball Rules Advisory Panel (RAP), who may approve a pilot of a rule change and/or that the match can still be used for testing purposes, with an explanation being provided for that decision.*

### **5.4 Scheduling of Tests**

- Although it is desirable that umpires are tested in their country, this is not a requirement.
- Where umpires are officiating regularly in country events of a suitable standard it is likely tests will be arranged at these events. [This could include matches played in country Superleagues, Premier Leagues or other leagues of a similar standard]. Please refer to section 5.3 on how a suitable standard is determined,
- For other umpires, World Netball will locate suitable international games (usually as part of a test series or tournament).

- A test may be scheduled at any time up to twelve months before or up to eighteen months after the expiry date of the previous test with a grade 'Met'.

## **6.0 Assessment Standards**

### **6.1 Performance Standard for Assessment**

Assessment is based on graded performance standards in eight categories. Grades range from 1 (high level of performance) to 4 (low level of performance). The categories are:

(1) Position & Timing (2) Vision (3) Game Management & Protocols (4) Contact (5) Obstruction (6) Advantage (7) Minor Infringements (8) Communication & Sanctions.

*Note: Associated competencies are to be drafted.*

### **6.2 Agreement of Testers**

When determining grades, the two testers must come to mutually agreed conclusions.

### **6.3 Grade Met Standard**

To gain an INUA, an umpire's grade total must not exceed 15, and a 3 or 4 in any category leads to a grade 'Not Yet Met'. If an umpire does not meet the level required, at least 6 months must elapse before a further test may be taken (except as outlined in Section 6.4).

### **6.4 Recommendation for Additional Test**

If an umpire does not meet the level required, but gains a grade total of 16 or 17, a further test shall be recommended which can be done within 6 months from the date of the original test. The recommendation is based on the expectation that the umpire could improve their performance to the grade 'Met'. Each test stands alone, thus feedback is given after the first test and a report provided.

## **7.0 Reporting**

### **7.1 Verbal Feedback**

At the end of a test game, the result must be conveyed to the umpire. Verbal feedback, delivered in an appropriate manner, should be constructive, honest and helpful.

### **7.2 Test Report**

Within seven days of the test, the testers must forward an electronic report to the umpire and the IOM. Both testers must agree on the content of the report. A copy of the Test Report Form is attached.

## **8.0 Costs**

If a member country is responsible for any costs, they must be involved in the scheduling arrangements of a test and approve the approach taken, taking into consideration the Requirements for Tests.

### **8.1 Costs of testers**

These will normally be met as follows:

- When the test game is part of a test series or tournament, the event organisers will be responsible for the costs of one tester and the umpire's country will meet the costs of the second tester.
- When the test is taken in the umpire's country, that country will meet the costs of both testers.

### **8.2 Umpire's costs**

- When the test game is part of a test series or tournament to which the umpire has previously been appointed, the costs will be part of the event costs.
- When the test is taken in the umpire's country, that country will meet the costs of the umpire.
- If the test is required to be taken at a venue outside their country (because no matches of a suitable standard are otherwise available) the umpire's country will be responsible for the costs involved but may apply to World Netball for funding to assist with such costs.



**INTERNATIONAL NETBALL UMPIRE AWARD (INUA)  
TEST REPORT**

**Umpire's Details**

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Mailing Address</b>	
<b>Country</b>	
<b>Region</b>	
<b>Phone Number/s</b> <i>including country &amp; area codes</i>	
<b>Email Address</b>	

**Match Details**

<b>Date</b>	
<b>Venue</b>	
<b>Teams</b>	
<b>Event</b>	

<b>Testers</b>	
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<b>Result (circle)</b>	<b>INUA Test / Re-endorsement</b> <b>GRADE</b> <b>MET / NOT YET MET</b>
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<b>TECHNIQUES</b>	
<b>Position and Timing</b>	
<b>Vision</b>	
<b>Game Management &amp; Protocols</b>	
<b>APPLICATIONS</b>	
<b>Contact</b>	
<b>Obstruction</b>	
<b>Advantage</b>	
<b>Minor Infringements</b>	
<b>Communication &amp; Sanctions</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	
<b>Areas of Strength</b>	
<b>Areas for Development</b>	

## INUA GRADE DESCRIPTORS - SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

An International Umpire Award (INUA) or its re-endorsement requires a grade total of not more than 15 and a 3 or 4 in any category leads to a grade 'Not Yet Met'

<b>Techniques</b>		
<b>Position &amp; Timing</b>	<b>1</b>	Consistently related well to play
	<b>2</b>	Mostly related well to play
	<b>3</b>	Generally related well to play; increased consistency desirable
	<b>4</b>	Varies; often not related to play
<b>Vision</b>	<b>1</b>	Consistently related well to play
	<b>2</b>	Mostly related well to play
	<b>3</b>	Generally related well to play; increased consistency desirable
	<b>4</b>	Varies; often not related to play
<b>Game Management &amp; Protocols</b>	<b>1</b>	Applies and maintains clear standards and effective tone; protocols applied correctly
	<b>2</b>	Mostly ensures good control; tone & protocols correct; only occasional errors
	<b>3</b>	Generally maintains good standards in all areas; increased consistency desirable
	<b>4</b>	Varies; players sometimes unsure of requirements
<b>Application</b>		
<b>Contact</b>	<b>1</b>	Understands interference well; applies rule to a consistently high level
	<b>2</b>	Mostly judges interference well; high level of correct decisions
	<b>3</b>	Generally ruled well; increased consistency desirable
	<b>4</b>	Varies; inconsistent applications; improvement needed
<b>Obstruction</b>	<b>1</b>	Distance and rule applied to a consistently high level
	<b>2</b>	Mostly judges distance and applies rule well; high level of correct decisions
	<b>3</b>	Generally ruled well; increased consistency desirable
	<b>4</b>	Varies; distance and application of rule need improvement
<b>Advantage</b>	<b>1</b>	Applied at a consistently high level to enhance play
	<b>2</b>	Mostly applied well; high level of correct applications
	<b>3</b>	Generally applied well; increased consistency of application desirable
	<b>4</b>	Applied inconsistently
<b>Minor Infringements</b>	<b>1</b>	Ruled to a very high level of accuracy
	<b>2</b>	Mostly ruled well; only occasional errors
	<b>3</b>	Generally ruled well; some areas need attention
	<b>4</b>	Inconsistent applications; improvement needed
<b>Communication &amp; Sanctions</b>	<b>1</b>	Communication clear and effective; all sanctions set correctly
	<b>2</b>	Communication clear; almost all sanctions set correctly
	<b>3</b>	Communication mostly clear; most sanctions set correctly
	<b>4</b>	Communication varies; some sanctions not set correctly