



## Aspiring Female Umpire Programme 2022/23

### Overview

NZC is committed to developing the depth and capability of female umpires across the cricket network, through providing and facilitating development opportunities at all levels of the sport.

Underpinned by our vision ‘a game for all New Zealanders; a game for life’, a key factor to our success is ‘normalising’ female involvement in all aspects of cricket. Ensuring we have a growing and experienced group of female umpires is part of achieving that vision.

The Aspiring Female Umpire Programme is an element of NZC and Sport NZ’s ‘Strengthen and Adapt’ partnership. It aims to provide development opportunities to female umpires and bridge the gap between community cricket appointments and domestic cricket appointments. The programme successfully commenced during the 21/22 season, with the 22/23 season an opportunity to build on this momentum.

The Aspiring Female Umpire Programme is a national initiative, led by Eugene Sanders – NZC’s Community Umpire Manager.

The [National Umpire Pathway](#) provides clear pathways for umpires across New Zealand. However, there is an opportunity to create an experience for the specific development of female umpires. The initial objective is to have a larger number of appointments to the NZC Women’s Development Panel and aspiring up and coming Major Association female umpires within the next three seasons. The long-term objective is to have more females appointed to Development, Emerging, Reserve, National and International Panels.

### How?

The Aspiring Female Umpire Programme is centred on the Hallyburton Johnstone Shield domestic season. Within this Programme, National and Reserve Umpires will be appointed to fixtures through New Zealand. This is an opportunity to develop the next tier of female umpires and provide them with an insight into what a day is like for an NZC Panel Umpire.

### What?

This programme is open to NZC Women’s Development Panel members and other female umpires nominated by their Major Association.

Umpires will be appointed to a Hallyburton Johnstone Shield as a Reserve Umpire. They will fulfil duties through the day as briefed and observe how the officially appointed umpires control the day. It is an opportunity to work closely with the appointed umpires to learn different methods, routines and processes they adopt.

The programme provides a development opportunity for aspiring umpires to see what it takes to progress to the next level of umpiring.

It must be stressed that this is an *unofficial umpire appointment*. The Reserve Umpire will not be expected to replace any on-field umpire due to illness, injury or otherwise.

## **22/23 Season Programme Additions**

### **Local Observations**

During the 22/23 season, NZC will be working with the Major Associations to ensure that the umpires on this programme are observed locally at least twice in the season. This information will be fed back to the umpire, their Regional Umpire Development Officer and the NZC Community Umpire Manager and used to improve each umpires skills.

### **Aspiring Female Umpires Support Network**

All umpires on the programme will be invited to a series of online zoom sessions and can communicate with each other and experienced mentors via a WhatsApp group.

- Online Session #1 – Introduction
  - Introductory Zoom for all successful applicants to get to know each other and understand what the programme looks like for the 22/23 season.
- Online Session #2 – Umpire Development, Skills Workshop
- Online Session #3 – Umpire Connect and preview second half of season
- Final Reflections

### **Marketing/Communications**

This season, a greater emphasis will be placed on showcasing and profiling the Umpires involved in this programme. Through video and photo content and profile pages to be shared in the network EDM, greater visibility of females in positions of leadership will help to normalise the involvement of females in all aspects of cricket.

A post-match report is required from the Reserve Umpire detailing their experience.

### **Additional Benefits/Experiences**

A development opportunity will be provided for each aspiring female umpire to receive an official NZC accreditation pass to attend a televised Super Smash match where they will sit in with the appointed TV umpire.

### **Where?**

Throughout the 2022/23 Hallyburton Johnstone Shield, several matches have been identified for Reserve Umpire appointments within the Aspiring Female Umpire Programme. These matches cover locations across all Major Associations.

Reserve Umpires will primarily be appointed to Sunday matches, so as not to impede on regular Saturday club cricket.

### **Details**

NZC and MAs will make Reserve Umpire appointments throughout the season. For umpires who wish to be considered for this programme, please contact your MA Regional Umpire Development Officer or Eugene Sanders [eugene.sanders@nzc.nz](mailto:eugene.sanders@nzc.nz)

## **2022/23 Aspiring Female Umpire Programme Overview**

- 1 August: AFUP 22/23 applications sent out to RUDO's
- 19 August: Applications Close
- 24 August: Successful applicants announced
- 31 August: 22/23 season HBJ appointments confirmed
  
- 7 September: Introductory Online Session #1
- October- December: Local Observations and HBJ Fixtures (TBC)
- November/December: Online Session #2
  
- January: Online Session #3
- January-March: Local Observations and HBJ Fixtures (TBC)
- April: Final catchup/reflections