

Umpiring

***This one's for you.** A message to every umpire and umpire coach in Aotearoa New Zealand.*

You give up your time, often voluntarily, to make the game happen. Without you, there is no game. Netball New Zealand sees that, and this strategy is our commitment to making sure umpiring feels worth it – now and for years to come.

What we're doing for you 2026–2029

- **SIMPLIFY AND DIGITALISE UMPIRE TRAINING**
We're creating short, mobile-friendly online modules you can do when it suits you – whether that's the night before a game or on your lunch break.
- **ALTERNATIVE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION MODELS**
In conjunction with Centres, we're building resources for clubs and schools so the role is something people choose, not something they're forced into. That means better trained, more motivated people alongside you on court.
- **STRENGTHEN UMPIRE COACHING SYSTEMS AND SUPPORT**
We're investing in umpire coaches and building mentorship programmes so you have someone in your corner – someone who can help you grow and who knows what the job actually feels like.
- **PRIORITISE UMPIRE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY** We're rolling out a Green Wristband programme so people know when an umpire is just starting out, and working with clubs and zones to make sidelines more respectful places. Your safety and enjoyment matter.

What's coming and when

2026–27

Online training modules launch. Green Wristband programme rolls out nationally.

2027–28

New club umpire pathways piloted. More coaches trained and connected.

2028–29

Everything scaled up. Your feedback shapes what comes next.



*A confident,
well-supported
umpire improves the
Netball experience
for everyone.”*

Questions or feedback? netballnz.co.nz