



Community Coaching Strategy 2026-2029

We live this game.



NETBALL
NEW ZEALAND
POITARAWHITI AOTEAROA

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Great coaches, greater experiences.

A future where all netball participants have access to quality coaching that builds confidence, connection, and enjoyment.

Introduction

Coaches are central to the netball experience. They shape how players engage with the game, influence retention and participation, and play a critical role in creating inclusive, supportive environments. As such, a well-supported, confident, and skilled coaching hapori [community] is vital to the future of netball in Aotearoa.

Quality coaching in netball is defined not only by technical expertise but by the character and connection coaches bring to their environments. At its core, great coaching embodies the 4 Cs [Positive Youth Development]:

Character - demonstrated through integrity and role modelling.

Connection - built on trust and meaningful relationships.

Confidence - instilled in both self and others and

Competence - reflected in sound technical and tactical skills.

Complementing this, Wade Gilbert's Quality Coaching Framework highlights the importance of professional knowledge [sport-specific and pedagogical expertise], interpersonal knowledge [communication, empathy, and relational skills], and intrapersonal knowledge [self-awareness, reflection, and a growth mindset]. Together, these frameworks offer a holistic view of coaching excellence. As we shape our coaching culture, we ask: What do we want coaches to be known for in our sport? What behaviours and qualities do we celebrate, develop, and expect? This shared understanding will guide how we support, recognise, and grow coaches across all levels.

This document remains highly relevant today, reflecting current needs while acknowledging and honouring the foundations laid by previous strategies. It builds on the strengths and learnings of the past, integrating them into a contemporary approach that meets the evolving needs of coaches and the wider netball community. Through this strategy, we aim to ensure continuity, relevance, and innovation - supporting coaches at all levels in a way that is both meaningful and future-focused.



Community Coaching Strategic Plan

The 2026–2029 Community Coaching Strategic Plan responds to several clear signals:

1

Changing coach and player needs

Insights from the Voice of Participant (VOP) surveys and workshop feedback highlight a need for deeper relational coaching, better communication, and more flexible, tailored development. Coaches want support that reflects contemporary learning needs, varied experience levels, and diverse pathways.

2

Coach satisfaction and capability gaps

While satisfaction with existing programmes like futureFERNs is high (94%), challenges remain around access, depth of knowledge, confidence, and sustained engagement - particularly at secondary school levels where student coach dropout is common after 2–3 years of coaching.

3

Flexible learning system

Current frameworks (e.g. CCA1/2) offer solid foundations, but opportunities exist to simplify and personalise pathways. A “pick and mix” or “coach-centred” model - integrating blended learning, peer support, and real-world application is needed to better reflect how coaches learn and grow.

4

Coach retention and impact

Developing great coaches is not only about content but also about connection. Coaches who feel supported, seen, and valued are more likely to stay in the game, support others, and deliver quality player experiences. Measuring this impact—not just completion rates, but what coaches do because of learning is a core focus of this strategy.

5

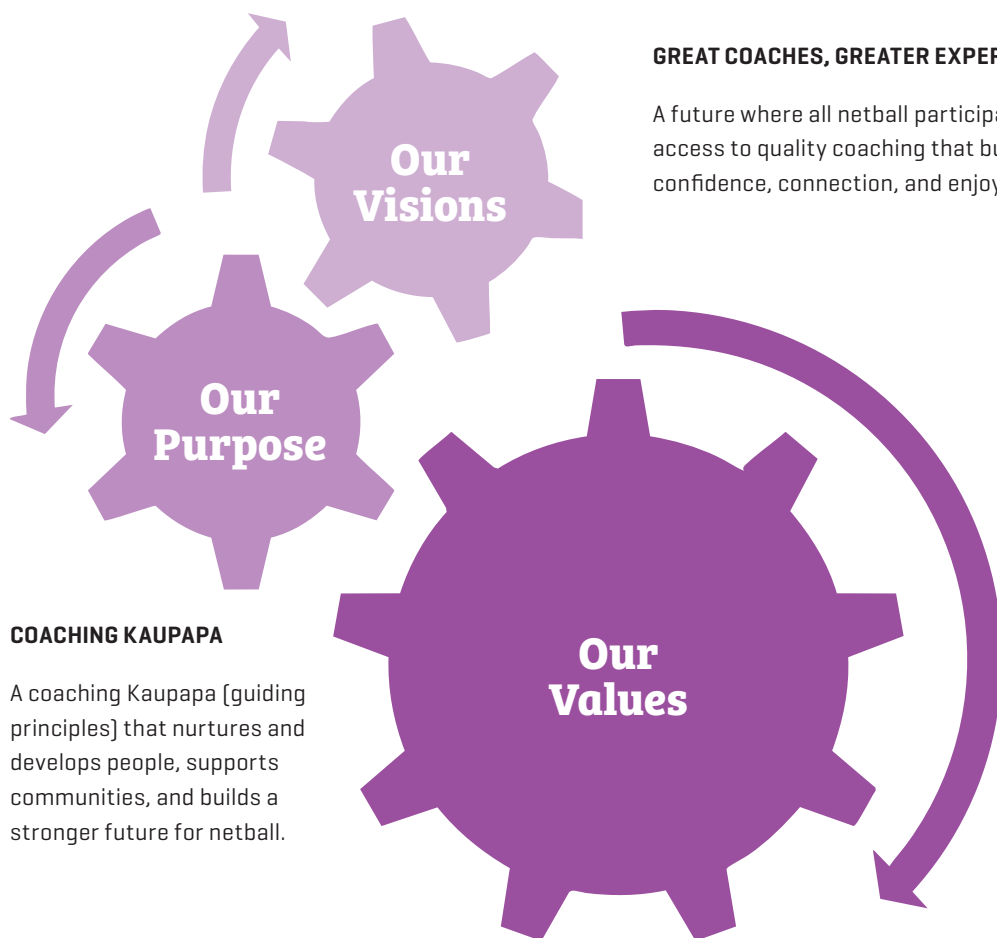
Alignment with Poipoia and broader sport system

The plan aligns with Netball NZ’s priorities and cross-sector initiatives such as Balance is Better, Good Sports, and complements parallel strategies (e.g. Umpiring Strategy to 2029). It also supports collaboration with schools, RSTs, and other codes to uplift coaching holistically across Aotearoa.

This strategic refresh is an opportunity to redefine what coaching means in the netball context—placing people and connection at the centre—and to co-design a future-ready system that empowers coaches at all levels to thrive.

What this Strategy Aims to Achieve

Our strategy aims to foster a people-first, inclusive, and empowering coaching environment that supports lifelong learning, celebrates diversity, and builds capability across all levels of netball coaching.



GREAT COACHES, GREATER EXPERIENCES

A future where all netball participants have access to quality coaching that builds confidence, connection, and enjoyment.

COACHING KAUPAPA

A coaching Kaupapa (guiding principles) that nurtures and develops people, supports communities, and builds a stronger future for netball.

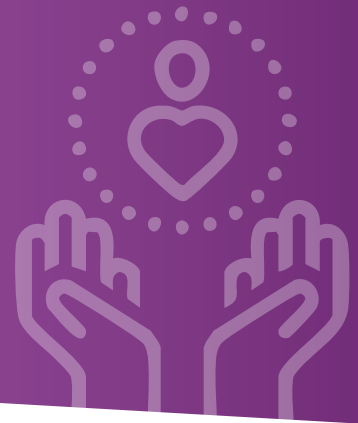
WE UPHOLD THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Whanaungatanga – Relationships underpin everything we do.

Growth Mindset – Coaches are lifelong learners.

Equity and Inclusion – Everyone has access to meaningful development.

What we are Committing to



Attract, Retain, and Celebrate Coaches

Our aim

Foster a positive coaching culture by recognising contributions, supporting wellbeing, and offering tailored development that attracts and retains coaches.

Our success measures

- Increased number of returning coaches (coached for more than 2 years) across all community levels.
- 80% or more coaches feel valued and supported.
- Monthly recognition of coaches via digital platforms (e.g. newsletters, social media)
- Establish active peer coaching networks e.g. Community of Coaches in every Zone to strengthen capability and support coach development.



What we are Committing to



Transform Learning and Development

Our aim

Provide flexible and inclusive development opportunities that bring coaches and officials together, encourage reflective practice, and foster a shared vision of effective coaching focused on building players' skills and supported by a dependable Record of Learning.

Our success measures

- Review and redesign the coaching framework to support a flexible, 'pick and mix' development approach.
- Achieve 80% accuracy in the Record of Learning, with at least 75% of coaches and Coach Developers reporting it as easy to access and effective for tracking learning and development.
- 20% of workshops or modules delivered jointly to coaches and officials.
- A strong network of Coach Developers and Trainers provide learning opportunities for coaches to meet the community needs.



What we are Committing to



Increase Access and Inclusion

Our aim

Support all communities, especially student coaches, with clear pathways and tools.

Our success measures

- Retention rates of student coaches' year-on-year.
- Positive feedback from student coaches on support and development opportunities.
- Usage rates of tools/resources designed to support coaches especially new coaches.
- Improved coach confidence and competence [measured via surveys or observations]



What we are Committing to



Enhance Capability through Innovation

Our aim

Use digital tools, peer learning, and scalable initiatives to grow coaching capability.

Our success measures

- Number of coaches accessing digital resources [e.g. sports tutor, video views]
- Positive user feedback on accessibility and usefulness of digital tools
- Improved quality of coaching as reflected in player feedback and observations [VOP]



Appendices

SOAR exercise – summary of insights

STRENGTHS	OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased engagement in workshops and modules since 2020. • Flexible, modular learning seen as a strength—coaches can “pick and mix” what suits them. • Good accessibility at entry-level coaching. • Alternative formats [e.g., observations, niche workshops] are well received. • Coaching Resources are plentiful and well regarded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use short, targeted videos for learning and key coaching moments. • Establish a buddy or peer support system. • Introduce coaching qualifications into schools, possibly with NZQA-recognised courses. • Increase accessibility to entry level coaching e.g. new to coaching programmes. • Data [Zone Quarterly data] to provide more context to help with clarity of interpretation • Completion rates of formal qualifications are lower than attendance—suggesting value in providing more tailored engagement. • Coaches often struggle to apply learning practically [impact measurement missing]. • Resource constraints limit follow-up and live support for coaches.
ASPIRATIONS	RESULTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop solution-oriented coaches who foster player problem-solving. • Shift toward soft/human skills [communication, empathy, awareness]. • Rethink the coaching framework as a wheel, not a ladder—more flexible and inclusive. • Create engaging, authentic environments where coaches feel confident and supported. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ways to measure coaching impact, not just participation. • Highlight importance of follow-up and ongoing support, not just workshop delivery. • Consider national coaching survey to track engagement and quality over time.

Useful Links

Netball Smart

[Official injury prevention programme of Netball New Zealand](#)

Balance is Better

[The Home of Youth Sport in New Zealand](#)

Good Sports

[National Parent Project | Sport New Zealand - Ihi Aotearoa](#)

Netball New Zealand

[All Netball Community Resources](#)

Coaching

[Sport New Zealand - Ihi Aotearoa](#)





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