



Umpire Recruitment Toolkit

*Association guide to recruiting
softball umpires.*



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Welcome to SNSW Umpires Recruitment Tool Kit

Every week hundreds of umpires take to the diamond to umpire softball games at all levels across NSW. These people give freely of their time to provide a service to our great sport.

For many of these umpires, their service extends beyond their own games and involves the training, development and recruitment of new umpires.

Within your own Association or Club, there are people who have an interest in umpiring; untapped potential but with a desire to learn more and potentially even become an accredited umpire.

But how do we recognise these people?

Softball Umpires come in all shapes and sizes, there is no one best model. New umpires at your Association might be players, coaches, parents, siblings, grandparents, teachers and local people passing by.

Associations and Clubs have the greatest opportunity to attract new umpires to softball due to the frequent contact throughout the softball season. Softball Australia and Softball NSW have bold recruitment targets, and with the help of Associations and Clubs we are on the right track to achieving our targets.

This toolkit has been developed to assist you in recruiting umpires for your Association and the sport of softball in general. It is hoped that it will provide you with useful and practical information so that you can build your umpiring program and put in place a framework to attract and retain umpires.

For those that already have their own framework in place, it is hoped that you might be able to integrate elements of this toolkit into your existing framework.

The Softball NSW Umpires Association is here to assist you, and it is hoped that this toolkit will provide you with the springboard to launch your recruitment efforts.

We all have goals and our association is here to ensure that both the individual, association, state achieve these!

Happy Umpiring!

Scott Rindfleish
Director of Umpiring NSW





The Softball NSW Umpires Association

The Softball NSW Umpires Association is the peak body responsible for the delivery of softball umpiring services in NSW.

Since 1965, the SNSWUA has been committed to the management, recruitment, development and engagement of umpires across NSW in delivering on our eight key organisational objectives:

1. To promote and develop softball umpiring within NSW;
2. To co-operate with and assist Softball NSW;
3. To function in conformity with the SNSW Rules;
4. To adopt the rules of the game of Softball as issued by the WBSC Playing Rules Commission and accepted and interpreted by Softball Australia after adoption by SNSW;
5. To assist affiliated Associations and regions of SNSW to secure umpires;
6. To maintain uniform interpretations of the Rules of Softball and their implementation;
7. To manage softball umpiring and umpires in the state of NSW in accordance with SNSW Rules;
8. To assist SNSW and SAL in any matters relating to umpires.



OUR HOUSE

The essence of Softball umpiring in NSW

The Softball NSW Umpires Association has built a house.

Our house captures who we are, where we fit and our ambitions.

We invite you, the SNSWUA family, to help us bring our house to life. Together, we can lead the way in all facets of umpiring.

The foundations of our house are rock solid and incorporate present, past and future members of our family.

Our house is the essence of softball umpiring in NSW.



Key Result Area 1 – Leadership and Management

Our family will lead the way in the effective management of softball umpiring.

Key Result Area 2 - Service to Softball

Our family will deliver umpiring services with excellence to all levels of the sport.

Key Result Area 3 - Recruit Umpires

To ensure the survival of our family we will work alongside local Associations to engage and promote the benefits of umpiring to a wider audience, encouraging them to join our family.

Key Result Area 4 - Develop Umpires

Our family is multi-skilled. We will provide further opportunities to our family to encourage their growth and advancement both on and off the diamond.

Key Result Area 5 – Retain Umpires

Our family will work as one to ensure that all are actively engaged.



Why become an Umpire?

There are many reasons people decide to become an umpire. Some are helping their Club while others aim to extend their playing career or seek social and community involvement.

Becoming an accredited umpire highlights a recognised level of competence and effort. It also means that you are part of the Softball NSW Umpiring Family and have access to a wealth of experienced umpires, resources and opportunities to further your knowledge.

When deciding to become an accredited umpire of softball, it is important to be aware of the role of the umpire because it's not just about calling balls and strikes.

An umpire must be decisive, objective, consistent and courageous. An umpire must hustle and anticipate what will happen during a play. An umpire must be a disciplinarian and must also be understanding about players' frustrations and be willing to accept pointed criticism.

As an accredited umpire you should:

- Maintain a good level of fitness level;
- Understand the basic skills involved in playing softball;
- Be familiar with the basic rules of softball and the terminology used;
- Be prepared to invest in your own career;
- Familiarise yourself with the member policies and guideline related to umpires;
- Be professional not just in the way you conduct yourself on the diamond but also off the diamond.



More than 600 accredited softball umpires throughout Australia spend their weekends officiating at local Clubs and Associations. They dedicate their time to umpiring and at the same time improve their fitness and knowledge, enhance their leadership and management skills in high-pressure situations and also have fun whilst making many new friends.

A good umpire is able to demonstrate knowledge of the rules, quick decision-making, an ability to explain decisions and a willingness to keep the game moving at a steady pace.

Most umpires start at local association level and umpire from junior through to senior competitions. As umpires gain skills and confidence, they often seek optional ongoing accreditation, which can lead to umpiring state, national and international games.



What makes a successful umpire?

When trying to describe the role of the umpire, three key words come to mind: game manager, arbiter and communicator.

First and foremost, umpires are **game managers**. The plate umpire or crew chief is the manager and the base umpires are the assistant managers. It is the umpire's job to take charge and effectively manage the game, but at the same time not fall into the trap of being a dictator.

As an **arbiter**, it is the umpire's role to apply the rules and make valued judgements; this is what they are empowered to do. This role can see umpires open to criticism. However, through the use of effective **communication**, umpires are able to project themselves as knowledgeable, fair and impartial, thus alleviating any potential conflict.

It is also important to remember that communication not only involves verbalising and signalling but also includes your complete demeanour.

There are seven traits that successful umpires typically possess:

- **Attitude:** reflected in the way you present and interact with others;
- **Objectivity:** start each play/pitch with a clear mind. Don't get bogged down in previous calls;
- **Being human:** everyone makes mistakes (even umpires), the key is how you handle yourself when you do make one;
- **Hustle and decisiveness:** be in the right position to make a call and when you do be confident in your delivery and make the signal obvious;
- **Steady concentration:** find your "rhythm" it will assist in maintaining concentration;
- **Good judgement:** this requires one part rule knowledge, one part knowledge of human nature and one part anticipation;
- **Consistency:** draws on concentration, judgement, being human, objectivity and attitude.

The relentless pursuit of perfection can be applied to five skills areas if an individual is determined to achieve distinction as an umpire:

- **Rules knowledge:** intimate knowledge and understanding of the rules and their accurate and clear implementation;
- **Timing:** requires continuous refinement;
- **Mechanics:** be crisp in all of your actions and don't forget to hustle;
- **Game Management:** it's your game to run;
- **Appearance:** dress impeccably as an umpire: it speaks volumes about how you accept your professional duties.



U is for UMPIRE

A simple guide to Recruitment

Here are some simple steps when you start to think about when it comes to recruiting umpires at your association.

1. Have a plan

- Ensure your plan outlines your objectives;
- Know how many new members you want to recruit;
- Outline how you will recruit e.g. flyers, emails;
- Outline any costs involved in your recruitment drive;
- Identify how you will measure success.

2. Prepare your communications

- Know your target audience and prepare appropriate communication;
- Delegate the upload of information onto websites to your website administrator;
- Ensure your message is clear;
- Make sure communications are available to everyone.

3. Advertise

- Advertise umpiring – information sessions, clinics to be held, rules sessions;
- Use a variety of mediums to gain the widest audience possible – flyers, word of mouth, emails to Clubs, walking the diamonds on a Saturday talking to spectators.

4. Hold Information Sessions

- Hold information sessions during the days you are at softball as a starting point;
- Arrange further information sessions if needed – maybe a more detailed session in the evening.

5. Hold Clinics

- Clinics need to be at convenient times e.g. weekends and nights;
- Seek help from other Associations (including SNSWUA) and senior umpires if required.

6. Ongoing Training and Development

- The key to success is regular training and development;
- Set up mentoring and coaching sessions during your regular competition;
- Advertise SNSWUA activities for further development e.g. Umpire Academy, Basic Clinics, Rule Sessions;
- Develop succession and development plans for the future to keep numbers strong.





Umpiring is...FUN!

It is important to remember that with any recruitment initiative that you setup at your association that you remember to make it fun. You will find that umpiring attracts all walks of life; no one is too old or too young, too tall or too small.

As long as your umpires are enjoying themselves, they will always come back.

Here are some things that you could do at your association to ensure that you keep umpiring fun.

1. Run an all association umpiring clinic

- These clinics allow you to impart a general knowledge and understanding of umpiring and introduce the basic concepts to your members.
- These should run for now longer than 2 hours.
- The sessions provide an overview for umpiring and a good way to advertise your umpiring program.

2. Give your Umpire Training Program a name

- It always feels important to belong to a group that has a meaning or purpose
- You want your umpires to be known
- You want to have a 'brand' – stand out from the crowd
- Some examples include: Blues 'n' Training, My Blues, Training Blues, Junior Blues – Remember your name needs to be inclusive for your target audience

3. Recognise your umpires and encourage their development

- Recognise the achievements of your umpires. Remember they like you volunteer their time to umpire each week, many who achieve significant milestones throughout their careers.
- A number of associations have an 'Umpire of the Year' and a 'Junior Umpire of the Year'
- Look to implement a recognition program whether that be for 'call of the week' or an inaugural program.

4. Be Social – Hold an event

- Holding a social gathering is a great opportunity for your umpires to get to know each other off the diamond.
- Hold a Christmas Lunch or Dinner and ask everyone to bring a plate
- Hold an end of season party at the end of the Softball day
- Arrange a fundraising event e.g. Bunnings BBQ where you can all get together and raise money for a cause 'Umpires'. This is also a great opportunity to use funds raised to purchase training equipment for your umpires





Government Initiatives

Coloured Vest Program (CVP):

Government Department: NSW Office of Communities, Sport and Recreation

The CVP can help to reduce incidents involving beginner officials. Simply having beginner officials wear a coloured vest identifying them as 'In-training' will help build greater understanding among players, parents, spectators and coaches.

The CVP involves:

- Beginner officials wearing a brightly coloured yellow vest with the slogan 'in-training';
- beginner officials being mentored by a Club member, to assist with their training and management of any harassment incidents;
- Club committees promoting CVP to members and visitors, so they understand what the yellow vest means.

Implementing the CVP at your Club/Association is FREE and easy:

- Identify the beginner officials and mentors you'd like to take part;
- Register your interest online at www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/cvp;
- You will receive a CVP pack in the mail;
- Tell Club members and visitors about CVP;
- Have the beginner officials wear vests while officiating.

What the CVP pack will include:

- 5 CVP yellow vests (various sizes);
- 5 CVP lanyards;
- 40 CVP cards to hand out to coaches, spectators and others at games;
- Information folder – with posters and handouts for your CVP coordinator, mentors and beginner officials.





Government Initiatives

Play by the Rules (PBTR)

Play by the Rules provides information and online learning for community sport and recreation on how to:

- Prevent and deal with discrimination, harassment and child abuse, and
- Develop inclusive and welcoming environments for participation.

Sporting Organisations and Clubs can use the resources on www.playbytherules.net.au to promote inclusive, safe and fair participation in sport and recreation.

It is a requirement of Softball NSW and the Softball NSW Umpires Association for all officials to complete the online course. The online training course will only take a couple of minutes to complete and once successfully completed you will be given a certificate which you can forward to the SNSWUA.



The certificates will be valid for **2 years**.

PBTR online training:

<https://www.playbytherules.net.au/online-courses/child-protection-online-course>

<https://www.playbytherules.net.au/online-courses/harassment-and-discrimination-online-course>



Communication is the KEY

Many people and organisations underestimate the value and importance of communication. How you communicate with new, existing or prospective members is at the core of the success of your plan, strategy or project.

There are numerous communication tools that your Club/Association could employ in the recruitment process, these include, but are not limited to:

- Flyers
- Website
- Social Media: in particular Facebook

Flyers

The age-old method of using flyers to recruit members is quick, easy and relatively cost-effective. Flyers can be posted up on walls or handed out in places such as:

- At the canteen;
- Club registration days; and
- By committee members walking the diamonds during the season.

One of the benefits of handing out flyers is the personal, one-on-one communication that is able to take place, thus starting to develop the critical relationship in the early stages of a person's decision-making process.

But the first step is to create an easy to read, eye catching flyer. But what are the key elements that should be included on a flyer?

- Your Club/Association logo;
- Pictures depicting umpires in action or relating to umpiring i.e. mask, indicator;
- Slogan: it doesn't have to be catchy or rhyme, it can be as simple as "Don't just play the game – control it! Become an umpire today!";
- Information: the information required will depend on what you are promoting. Key points to remember are: who, what, where, when, why, how much;
- Contact details: phone, email, mobile, website – these are a must.

Keep in mind you don't have to be a designer to put together an eye-catching flyer. This toolkit contains an easy-to-use template that will get you on the way to creating your own flyer.



Communication is the KEY

Website

Clubs and Associations need to ensure that they do not underestimate the value of having an online presence, where information is available at the click of a button. A website is essential for not only keeping current members up-to-date with the latest information but also in attracting new members.

Speak to your Club or Association about including a menu item for 'Umpiring' on their website. This is where you can post the latest information about becoming an umpire or clinics.

Alternatively, feel free to link to any of the information or pages on www.nswumpires.softball.org.au

The screenshot shows the website for the Softball NSW Umpires Association. The header features the organization's logo and name, along with a navigation menu including 'About Us', 'Membership', 'Merchandise', 'Accreditation', 'Development', 'Recruitment', 'Publications', 'Resources', and 'Latest News'. The main content area includes a 'Home Page' section with a large image of a stadium and the text 'Softball NSW Umpires Association Since 1965' and 'BE YOUR BEST'. Below this is a welcome message and a paragraph about the association's role. A 'Members' section is also present. To the right, there are two social media profile cards: one for 'Softball NSW Umpires...' with 1,291 likes and another for 'Softball Australia Ump...' with 1,064 likes. Both cards show 'Liked' and 'Send Message' buttons and a list of friends who like the page.



Communication is the KEY

Social Media: Facebook

Social media has revolutionised the way people connect and interact. It is relatively inexpensive and easily accessible making it an attractive way to publish, access and share information.

Social media has the ability to reach a wide audience and provides an element of immediacy that other forms of communication do not this is, in part, due to the rise of smart phone and android technology i.e. iPhones.

If you are setting up a Facebook account for umpires within your Association/Club, there are two methods:

- Fan page: anyone can 'like' the page and have access to the content;
- Group: can be open or closed. Closed groups required people to be approved/invited to join.

The SNSWUA utilises a fan page to engage with people on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/softballnswumpires

Some key points to keep in mind when setting up and maintaining a Facebook page include (see picture on following page):

- A. Have more than one administrator to manage the page;
- B. Use your logo/a picture that depicts your page as your profile picture (avatar);
- C. Pictures help to generate conversation (ensure that you have permission to post photos of members – this can be obtained before taking the photo);
- D. ENGAGE, ENGAGE, ENGAGE: the simplest way to engage is to ask a question or post a leading statement i.e. "We LIKE it a lot – congrats to..."
- E. Don't be afraid to share content from other Facebook pages/profiles i.e. SNSWUA, Softball NSW, Softball Australia.

The key thing to remember with your Facebook page/group, is that it can be as big or small as you wish. It is important to keep in mind how much time you (or the administrator) has to keep the page/group up-to-date; one post a week during the season is more than enough.

The online space is constantly evolving, if you would like specific help with setting up your online presence or has any questions; please contact the SNSWUA who will point you in the right direction.

The SNSWUA also utilises a **Members only page** on Facebook. Each person who joins the SNSWUA membership each year is added to the Members zone which is designed specifically for ideas and anything special about umpiring they wish to see.

To join the SNSWUA, check out [Membership](#) on our webpage.

Below you can see an example of how our Facebook page has been set up.

Softball NSW Umpires Association Facebook page





Level 1 Requirements

To be recommended for Level 1 accreditation, there are 4 simple steps that you must complete.



- **Rules Knowledge**

An umpire must achieve the following pass marks for the Australian Basic Rules Assessment. This is an Online Rules assessment done via Blackboard Learn:

1. Register via the Softball Australia website
2. You will receive an invitation to the assessment portal. This usually takes up to 7 days to send.
3. Keep your Username and password recorded to log into the portal
4. Once in the portal, you can access the assessment.
5. A minimum pass mark of 65% is required.

The Australian Basic Rules assessment is open from the last week in April each year until 31st March of the following year.

Visit <https://salfoms.softball.org.au/rules-assessment-online-registration/>

- **Play by the Rules**

An umpire must complete the online “Play by the Rules” course.

Visit www.playbytherules.net.au to complete the course.

- **Softball Australia Officials’ Code of Conduct Agreement**

An umpire must read and sign the SAL Officials’ Code of Conduct Agreement form.

Visit <http://www.softball.org.au/level-1-introductory-to-umpire-program/> to read and have your officials sign.

- **Practical On-Diamond Umpiring Competency**

An umpire must be able to demonstrate basic umpiring skills. This is completed by having practical umpiring experience in at least five games comprising of a minimum two plates and three bases in one season.

NOTE: If you are the recommending umpire, you must complete the competency checklist in full. To be deemed “competent” the applicant must successfully demonstrate all competencies.

- **Working with Children Check**

This is a requirement for any official 18 years and older including umpires as sometimes there are under 18 umpires in training clinics or U18 players that umpires will work with.

The WWCC is recorded by the SNSWUA and SNSW and required to be renewed every 4 years.

Visit <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check> to complete an application.

Once you have an application number, you need to visit the NSW Services along with a proof of identity to complete.

You will receive an email when your Working with Children Check is complete along with a number and expiry date.

Who can recommend an umpire for his/her Level 1?

Any umpire with Level 2+ accreditation can recommend an umpire for Level 1 National Accreditation at their local Association.

To maintain Level 1, the umpire needs to:

- Officiate at least five games comprising a minimum of two plates in one season; and
- 65% pass in the Australian Basic Rules Assessment **or**
- 55% pass in the Australian Open Rules Assessment

Help – I haven't maintained my Level 1, what do I do?

If the umpire hasn't maintained their accreditation for two or more years, then they are deemed to be inactive.

In order to become an "active Level 1", the umpire needs to be reviewed by the Softball NSW Director of Umpiring at an appropriate event for their level.



Accredited Levels

ASSOCIATION LEVEL

It is awarded when a 65% theory pass mark has been attained in either the Australian Basic Rules Assessment or 55% in the Australian Open Rules Assessment and the person has been umpiring 12 months or more at their local Association and has an understanding of the basic umpire mechanics and conduct.



STATE LEVEL

Requires umpires to pass a practical assessment at State Championships, a relevant Rules Assessment pass and attendance at a Level 2 Accreditation Clinic for Level 2 and Level 3 / 4 Accreditation Clinic for Levels 3 and 4 within the last two years and be recommended by a Senior Umpire Level 4+.



NATIONAL LEVEL

Requires umpires to pass a practical examination at National Championships and attain a theory pass of 80% in the Australian Paper and attended an Advanced Clinic. Level 5 examinations are conducted at Junior Nationals and Level 6 examinations at Senior Nationals.



INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

International accreditations are awarded after gaining ISF Certification. Level 7 is awarded after attending one ISF World Event. Level 8 is awarded after attending two ISF World events including an Open age World Championships.



New Level 1 umpires Andrew Walker, Brendan Hodgson and Shane Buchanan from Southern Districts Softball Association.



New Level 2 umpires Matt Beach (PCSA) and Shane Milligan (GRSA) at 2019 Blacktown Junior International Challenge.



Level 8 Kyira Cox in action at Blacktown International Sportspark





Officials Code of Conduct

Umpires can have an enormous influence over athletes, coaches and others in a game of softball. It is therefore essential that they operate professionally and with integrity in their relationships with those who are participating in or associated with the sport.

The Softball NSW Umpires Association abides by the Officials' Code of Conduct as provided by Softball Australia Limited. An abridged version of the code is listed below:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people, and refrain from any discriminatory practices against any person regardless of age, gender, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
- Place the safety and welfare of the players/participants above all else.
- Be fair and impartial.
- Avoid any situation which may lead to a conflict of interest.
- Refrain from any form of personal abuse. This includes verbal, physical and emotional abuse.
- Refrain from any form of sexual harassment. This includes explicit, implicit, verbal and non-verbal sexual harassment.
- Make a commitment to providing a quality service to Softball, to your affiliated club, association and state, and to Softball Australia by continually improving your officiating knowledge and skill.
- Be professional in your appearance and manner and accept responsibility for your actions.
- Operate within the rules and spirit of the sport.
- Value the individual in sport.
- Do not tolerate acts of aggression
- Encourage inclusivity and access to all areas of officiating.
- Refrain from engaging in any behavior that is in breach of Softball Australia's Member Protection Policy.

To view the full Softball Australia's Officials' Code of Conduct Agreement form, [click here](#).





Official Umpires' Uniform and Equipment

To umpire well is to umpire with pride and respect. However, it isn't just about your performance on the diamond; how you present yourself in your uniform goes a long way in gaining the respect of the teams, as well as your fellow crew members.

Dress Code

Softball Australia provides guidelines around the uniform umpires are to wear across the country. The uniform is as follows:



- Navy Blue Cap
 - long peak for base & shorter peak for plate
- Black Mask
- Light Blue Shirt
- White or navy Under Shirt
- Black or Navy Blue Belt
- Navy Blue Trousers
- Navy Blue Ballbag
- Black or Navy Blue Socks
- Black Shoes - Polished
- Navy Blue Jacket
 - Softball Australia Jacket once accredited.
- Sunglasses - Conservative, non-reflective.
- Athletic Protector - for male& female umpires

Apart from their uniform, umpires are also required to have the following equipment:

- **Mask:** black mask (black frame and black or tan pads) with throat protector or extension.
- **Chest protector:** black or navy chest protector, to be worn under powder blue umpire shirt (must be worn by female umpires and is recommended for male umpires);
- **Leg guards:** black or navy leg guards to be worn under trousers (recommended);
- **Ball bag:** black or navy ball bag worn by plate umpire only;
- **Indicator (counter):** used in left hand, all umpires must use one (it is also recommended to carry a spare);
- **Bat ring:** Softball Australia approved; necessary for pre-game equipment checks;
- **Tape measure:** small tape measure (up to 6ft) to be used for pre-game equipment checks;

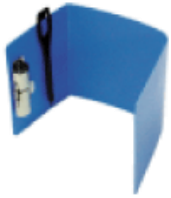
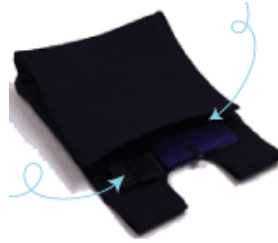
- **Brush:** to fit in hip pocket, brush pouch or ball bag; used to clean home plate or bases;
- **Line-up card holder:** used by plate umpire; keeps team line-up cards dry and allows hard surface for writing;
- **Pen/pencil:** used by plate umpire to make changes on line-up card (usually carried in ball bag).



Official Umpires' Uniform and Equipment

Below you will find the most common things in an umpire's kit bag.

- Shoe cleaning equipment;
- Spare black laces;
- Current rule book;
- Note pad;
- Sewing kit;
- Spare indicator;
- Clothes brush;
- Sunscreen;
- Water bottle;
- Towel/soap and other toiletries.





Where to get the things I need?

Rulebook

The official 2018-2021 Official Playing Rules is available in both electronic and print form.

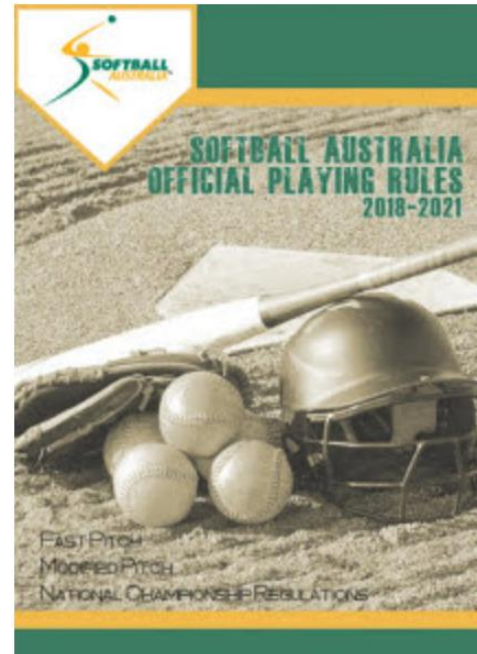
Aimed at umpires, coaches, players and supporters, the new edition is a must-have for those who want to stay up-to-date with the latest rule changes.

Electronic Versions

- Purchase the Google Book [here](#). The Book is currently **on sale** for \$4.95. (normal price \$7.65)

Print Version

- Purchase a printed version through the [Softball Australia Online Store](#) for \$15.00 (inclusive of GST and postage)



Softball Rules in Pictures App

The Softball Australia Rules in Pictures is for the softball player, coach, umpire, parent and teacher. It is also a helpful refresher course for the veteran softballer.

The simple illustrations with captions, and an index guiding the reader to the Official Rules in Softball, provide a quick introduction to learning the rules of softball.

This online application gives greater accessibility to the user.

You can download to your phone and carry it with you at the field.

Whether you are playing, coaching a training session, or taking a course, this application is right at your fingertips!

The app is available on

Google Play and App store for \$5.49 on iOS and \$4.95 on Android.



SNSWUA Merchandise

Softball NSW Umpires Association merchandise can be purchased via our website nswumpires.softball.org.au or at any SNSW event.

All SNSWUA members receive a discounted price on merchandise.



Polo Shirts – White and Navy

Non-members \$38.50 / Members - \$35

Caps –

Non-members \$33 / Members \$30

Hoodie –

Non-members -\$50 / Members \$45

Tracksuit –

Non-members \$110 / Members \$100

The merchandise comes in sizes from XS to 5XL.

As well, there are shoe bags, back packs, ball bags, brushes and brush holders for sale.



On Diamond Jacket

On diamond jackets are available to order through Softball Australia twice a year.

The jackets are bomber style with press stud buttons and a single-layered fleece lining.

A jacket order will be done in April and September.

Jackets are usually can be purchased for \$85.00, with an additional cost of \$15.00 for shipping and come in standard sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL etc.

To order visit the Softball Australia [Online Store](#)

On Diamond Shirt

Softball Australia is also the supplier of on diamond shirts. These shirts are consistent across the country and carry the SAL logo (able to be worn by all accredited umpires).

The SNSWUA keeps a small supply on hand.

On diamond shirts can be purchased for \$62.95, with an addition cost of \$5 shipping (per shirt).

To order visit the Softball Australia [Online Store](#)



Become a member of the SNSWUA

We invite you to become a part of the Softball NSW Umpiring Association family.

What better way to show support for your umpires than to have your association support your umpires and pay for their membership. Remember it's not just accredited umpires that can join but also those who aspire to be an umpire.

Membership is renewable each year.

The cost for 2019 is \$10 for junior/students (K – Y12) and \$30 for adults.

Members receive the following benefits:

- 2019 Members Cap for only \$25.00 - NEW in 2019
- 5% Discount at Elite Sports - NEW in 2019
- 10% Discount on SNSWUA Merchandise
- Drink Bottle - SNSWUA Branded
- Member's Zone - Member Only Facebook Group
- On the Diamond - Email newsletters packed full of latest news
- AND MORE
 - Eligibility to attend SNSWUA Umpire Training Clinics and Umpire Academy
 - Eligibility for assessment for higher accreditation
 - Eligibility for appointment to State Championships



Membership forms can be found at the end of this document or [here](#).

For further information please contact:
Vicki Lansley, SNSWUA Secretary
e nswumpires@gmail.com



Documents to assist you

The document links below will assist you in setting up your recruitment program.

- [Level 1 Umpire Accreditation Application Form](#)
- [On Diamond Competency Checklist](#)



Facebook Post Examples

To use these on your social media sites, simply cut and paste these into Facebook.

Image	Post Text
Create your own	Looking to see sport from a different side? Then why not join our Softball Umpires program. We provide the training, you do the learning all the time having fun. Come and join our program today! #softballumpiring #softball
Create your own	Have you got spare time? If the answer is yes, then why not join our umpire program, make friends and learn some new skills. Contact XX today to find out more. #softballumpiring #softball
Create your own	Come on down and try something new... yes that's right Softball Umpiring... Where there's a ball there's a call... Umpiring is for you... Contact us today if you are interested in becoming an umpire.



Umpire Game Feedback and Reflection

Reflection on your Game – What went well, Take a look at

Name:

Date:

Teams:

Plate

1st Base

3rd Base

WWW – What Went Well

- Areas of your game with which you felt comfortable, or the assessor highlighted as good;
- Things that you want to keep doing and incorporate into your future games; and
- How will you ensure that this happens?

TALA – Take a Look AT

- Areas of your game that you feel need work;
- Feedback from assessor on specific items to work on; and
- How will you implement the feedback?



Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I purchase other umpiring gear and other clothing?

When you join the SNSW Umpires association this year, you receive a 5% discount at Elite Sports at Rooty Hill.

Their website is www.elitesportsaus.com.au

Some umpires also use these online suppliers for equipment:

- Honigs – www.honigs.com/
- Ausports - www.ausport.com.au/
- Red Stitches – www.redstitches.com.au
- Greatex - www.greatrex.com.au
- ASA gear – www.officialgear.com

As a Level 1 umpire, can I umpire at all SNSW State Championships?

SNSW has minimum requirements for each state championship. These are:

U10 Level 1 – 2 umpires per team

U12 Level 1 – 2 umpires per team

U14 1 – Level 2 and 1 – Level 1 or Level 2 candidate per team

U16 2 – Level 2 or Level 2 candidates per team

U18 This is by appointment by the SNSWUA

O35 2 – Level 2 per team

Open This is by appointment by the SNSWUA

You are also eligible to umpire at SNSW Development League played each year in May, association masters tournaments, PSSA school games, CIS, CCC and CHS games.

Can I umpire at a tournament held in another state?

Yes – you can. You should apply for a 'permit' to do this.

Your association registrar can help to organize this for you and it is done through the SportsTG login page.

Can I wear my uniform to the grounds?

No – protocol is that umpires wear the uniform only when officiating a game. Between games, it is expected that they change into other clothing.

As well, it is preferred that your off diamond clothing does not identify yourself with a competing association.

Do I need to be registered with SNSW?

Yes – as an umpire, you still are required to be registered preferably at your local association.

Registration will usually come under a non-playing official and covers your sports insurance.

When can I be considered for my next level?

You need to have umpired as a Level 1 for at least 12 months before presenting as a candidate. Additionally, there are other requirements – attending a SNSWUA Level 2 Clinic, specific theory mark and being a current financial member of the SNSWUA.

Do I need to do the SAL Exam each year?

It is recommended that you sit the SAL exam each year to maintain your accreditation currency. If you wish to be considered for your next accreditation level, you must have a theory pass in that year. To keep current, you must also do a specific number of games (2 plates and 3 bases) each year as a Level 1.

Who do I ask if I have any other questions?

Contact us at nswumpires@gmail.com

Softball NSW – Director of Umpiring

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