



## Aspiring Female Umpire Programme 2024/25

### 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, 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 programme aims to:

1. Utilise members to deliver upskilling sessions to youth secondary school girls and club players, with the aim to have these individuals as part of the Aspiring Female Umpire Programme the following year
2. Provide development opportunities to members and bridge the gap between community cricket appointments and domestic cricket appointments.

The programme successfully commenced during the 2021/22 season and there are several exciting new additions to the programme for the 2024/25 season which provides an opportunity to continue this momentum.

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

### What?

The Aspiring Female Umpire Programme is an 8-month programme which provides support and development opportunities to female umpires across Aotearoa, and support members in providing opportunities to engage future female umpires.

All umpires will support in providing upskilling opportunities to engage new umpires from secondary schools and club players, ensuring we are focusing on the future growth of females in umpiring.

All umpires will be appointed to a Domestic One-Day Fixture 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.

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.

The programme also provides other development opportunities for aspiring umpires to see what it takes to progress to the next level of umpiring as well as the opportunity to join a network of female umpires.

## Where?

Members will deliver local upskilling sessions to engage potential future female umpires.

Throughout the 2024/25 NZC Domestic Cricket Season, several matches will be identified for Reserve Umpire appointments within the Aspiring Female Umpire Programme. These matches cover locations across all Major Associations.

## Local Observations

During the 24/25 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 and at NZC tournaments (if appointed to). 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 umpiring 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. Umpires will also be invited to attend a two day in-person residential in Lincoln, Christchurch during October 2024.

Below is a brief outline of this season's programme:

- Registrations open – Thursday 4 July 2024
- Registrations close – Thursday 18 July 2024
- Successful Applicants announced – Tuesday 23 July 2024
- Face-to-face meet and greet – Friday 23 August 2024 (NZCUSA Conference – Dunedin)
- 2-day Residential – Friday 4 October – Sunday 6 October 2024 (Lincoln)
- Visiting International Umpire Connect – TBC (November 2024 – Wellington)
- Delivery of local upskilling sessions for engaging potential future female umpires - TBC

## Online Connects

- 1<sup>st</sup> Online connect – Tuesday 13 August 2024
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Online Connect – Tuesday 17 September 2024
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Online Connect – Tuesday 26 November 2024
- 4<sup>th</sup> Online Connect – Tuesday 21 January 2025
- 5<sup>th</sup> Online Connect – Tuesday 18 March 2025
- 6<sup>th</sup> Online Connect – Tuesday 20 May 2025

## 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 shadow the appointed TV umpire.

## The National Umpire Pathway

This programme can help current and future umpires aspire to begin their journey within the [National Umpire Pathway](#), helping to provide more umpires with opportunities to higher levels of cricket.

**Who can apply for the AFUP?**

Applications for the AFUP are open to current and new female umpires. This includes those interested in beginning their umpiring journey, and those who aspire to continue as an active umpire for the 2024/25 season.

**How do I apply for the 2024/25 programme?**

[Please complete the application form here](#) by 5pm, Thursday 18th July 2024 to apply for the programme.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Eugene Sanders:  
[eugene.sanders@nzc.nz](mailto:eugene.sanders@nzc.nz)