



Aspiring Female Umpire Programme 2023/24

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 and continued during the 22/23 season. There are several exciting new additions to the programme for the 2023/24 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.

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. The long-term objective is to have more females appointed to Development, Emerging, Reserve, National and International Panels.

What?

The Aspiring Female Umpire Programme is an 8-month programme which provides support and development opportunities to female umpires across Aotearoa.

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?

Throughout the 2023/24 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. Reserve Umpires will primarily be appointed to Sunday matches, so as not to impede on regular Saturday club cricket.

2023/24 Aspiring Female Umpire Programme and Application Information

Local Observations

During the 23/24 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. Umpires will also be invited to attend a two day in-person residential in Lincoln, Christchurch during October 2023.

- Online Session #1 – Introduction (July)
 - Introductory Zoom for all successful applicants to get to know each other, meet programme mentors and understand what the programme looks like for the 23/24 season.
- Online Session #2 – Umpire Development, Skills Workshop (September)
- In-person AFUP residential, Lincoln, Christchurch (October)
- Online Session #3 – Residential Reflections (October)
- Umpiring Appointments (Nov-Jan 2024)
- Online Session #4 – Umpire Development, Skills workshop (February)
- Final Reflections (April)

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.

Who can apply for the AFUP?

Applications for the AFUP are open to all female umpires with at least one full season's experience and aspire to continue as an active umpire for the 2023/24 season.

How do I apply for the 2023/24 programme?

[Please complete the application form here](#) by 5pm, Friday 14th July, 2023 to apply for the programme.

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