

INF PROCEDURE

IUA TESTING

1.0 International Umpires' Award (IUA)

The IUA is the highest award for umpiring Netball. It recognises a standard of elite performance and signifies the ability of an umpire to control international matches. The award is gained by a practical assessment.

1.1 Current IUA

An IUA is 'current' if his/her most recent test was grade 'Met' not more than four years previously and they are actively umpiring at the highest level in their home country and region during that period. A badge and certificate are presented to an umpire when s/he first gains an IUA i.e. is endorsed and a certificate is awarded for each subsequent successful test.

Note: It is expected that umpires will be actively umpiring at the highest level in their home country and region unless they are living or working overseas or there are exceptional circumstances which can be considered by the INF, in consultation with the home country, with a view to having a suitable alternative program agreed by the ITP and the umpire involved.

1.2 Non-Current IUA

An IUA who has either received a result of grade 'Not Yet Met' from a test or has not had a test scheduled within four years shall be regarded as retired from international umpiring or, if deemed appropriate by the ITP, be listed as 'non-current' for a period not exceeding eighteen months, where they will be considered for international appointment as per an International Talent Identified Umpire (ITID) to allow further time to regain their IUA. An umpire will be regarded as retired from international umpiring should a result of 'Not Yet Met' from a test or no test be scheduled within that eighteen month timeframe.

2.0 Re-endorsement of IUA

An umpire who is either a 'current IUA' or a 'non-current IUA' may have the award renewed ('re-endorsed') by meeting the grade of an IUA test and shall be considered 'current' for four years from the date of that test. The ITPs could recommend to the Regional Officiating Coordinated (ROC) that an umpire be automatically re-endorsed as an IUA based on the outcome of the continued assessment on international ranking games. The ROC will forward the recommendation, together with all supporting evidences, to the International Umpiring Manager (IUM) for verification.

3.0 Prerequisites for Testing

3.1 Fitness Requirement

An umpire undertaking an IUA test must meet the fitness standard specified by INF, namely:

- 9.1 on the Multi-Stage Fitness Test (Beep/Bleep/20m Shuttle Run Test); or
- Level 15.1 on the Yo-Yo Intermittent Recovery Test Level 1.

3.2 Initial Test/s

An umpire who does not hold an IUA award, must also meet the following criteria:

- hold the highest national/regional umpiring qualification of a member country/region within their defined system; and
- be actively umpiring at the highest level in their home country and region; and
- be screened as 'ready for testing' (refer Section 4).

If an umpire is not listed on the current INF 'Fit to Umpire' register at the date of the IUA test, 10 days are allowed for registration. In this case, the result of the IUA test will be conveyed to the umpire but it will remain provisional pending fitness registration.

3.3 Re-endorsement Test

An umpire seeking re-endorsement has up to ten days after being tested to be listed on the current INF 'Fit to Umpire' register. In addition, a 'non-current' IUA umpire must be screened before being tested.

4.0 Screening

4.1 Screening Process

Screening is a process where an umpire is observed on matches of a suitable standard to assess his/her readiness to undertake an IUA test, based on the IUA grade descriptors, and is recorded on the INF match assessment report form. This will involve:

- at least one member of the International Umpires' Award Testing Panel (ITP) observing the umpire (it is recommended at least two ITPs or one ITP and one ITP Cadet be used where possible); and
- observation on 2 matches.

The timing of a screening will be at the recommendation of the ITP or ITP Cadet to the Region ROC who will inform the IUM.

Note: The INF and ROC should make every effort to have suitable opportunities made available

4.2 Who requires to be screened?

An umpire will require screening before being tested in order to assess their readiness for testing if he/she:

- does not hold an IUA award; or
- is a 'non-current IUA'.

4.3 Advice regarding Screening

An umpire is advised of when screening is occurring and the outcome. If the outcome from a screening is that an umpire is ready to undertake an IUA test this remains 'live' for up to six months of the playing season relevant to the umpire.

5.0 Requirements for Tests

5.1 International Umpires' Award Testing Panel (ITP)

INF appoints a panel of qualified and experienced persons to undertake testing for the award. Although ITP members are spread over different regions, they are authorised to test worldwide in line with this procedure.

5.2 Who conducts the test?

Two ITP members shall conduct a test and must undertake no other duties during the test. Thus if two umpires are tested on the same game, two separate sets of testers will be required. The testers are required to watch the entire match, unless the standard of the match is deemed inadequate or the umpire is unable to complete the match because of illness/injury, in which case the test should be aborted and a new test scheduled.

5.3 Test game

A test will consist of one match (minimum of 60 minutes play). The match must be a fast, competitive game of a standard that will test the umpire's skill level and indicate his/her ability to control international matches. As a guideline, the match standard is defined as being between two teams ranked in the top twelve in the world or the top four participating teams at the INF Netball World Youth Cup (NWYC), provided it meets the above requirements. This extends to include some 'approved events' (see Section 5.4). It is the responsibility of the testers during the test to determine if the match provides a suitable standard of play.

Note: Tests may not be taken on matches where the Rules regarding play on the court have been varied from those in the INF Rules of Netball.

5.4 Scheduling of Tests

- Although it is desirable that umpires are tested in their own country, this is not a requirement.
- Where umpires are officiating regularly in country events of a suitable standard it is likely tests will be arranged on these events. [This could include matches played in country Superleagues and Premier Leagues or other leagues of a similar standard]
- For other umpires, INF will locate suitable international games (usually as part of a test series or tournament).
- A test may be scheduled at any time up to twelve months before or up to eighteen months after the expiry date of the previous grade 'Met' test.

6.0 Assessment Standards

6.1 Criteria for Assessment

Assessment is based on graded performance standards in eight categories. Grades range from 1 (high level of performance) to 4 (low level of performance). The categories are:

- (1) Position & Timing
- (2) Vision
- (3) Game Management & Protocols
- (4) Contact
- (5) Obstruction
- (6) Advantage
- (7) Minor Infringements
- (8) Communication & Sanctions.

Note: Associated competencies are to be drafted.

6.2 Agreement of Testers

When determining grades, the two testers must come to mutually agreed conclusions.

6.3 Grade Met Standard

To gain an IUA, an umpire's grade total must not exceed 15 and a grade 3 in any category leads to a result of 'Not Yet Met'. If an umpire does not meet the level required, at least 6 months must elapse before a further test may be taken (except as outlined in Section 6.4).

6.4 Recommendation for Additional Test

If an umpire does not meet the level required, but gains a grade total of 16 or 17, a further test may be recommended which can be done within 6 months from the date of the original test. The recommendation is based on the expectation that the umpire could improve his/her performance to a grade 'Met' level. Each test stands alone, thus feedback is given after the first test and a report provided.

7.0 Reporting

7.1 Verbal Feedback

At the end of a test game, the result must be conveyed to the umpire. Verbal feedback, delivered in an appropriate manner, should be constructive, honest and helpful.

7.2 Test Report

Within seven days of the test, the testers must forward an electronic report to the umpire and INF Secretariat. Both testers must agree on the content of the report. A copy of the Test Report Form is attached.

8.0 Costs

If a member country is responsible for any cost they must be involved in the scheduling arrangements of a test and approve the approach taken, taking into consideration the Requirements for Tests.

8.1 Costs of testers

These will normally be met as follows:

- When the test game is part of a test series or tournament, the event organisers will be responsible for the cost of one tester and the umpire's own country will meet the costs of the second tester.
- When the test is taken in the umpire's own country, that country will meet the costs of both testers.

8.2 Umpire's costs

- When the test game is part of a test series or tournament to which the umpire has previously been appointed, the costs will be part of the event costs.
- When the test is taken in the umpire's own country, that country will meet the costs of the umpire.
- If the test is required to be taken at a venue outside his/her country (because no matches of a suitable standard are otherwise available) the umpire's country will be responsible for costs involved, but may apply to INF for funding to assist with such costs.



INTERNATIONAL
NETBALL
FEDERATION

INTERNATIONAL NETBALL FEDERATION
INTERNATIONAL UMPIRE'S AWARD (IUA)
TEST REPORT

Umpire's Details

Name	
Mailing Address	
Country	
Region	
Phone Number/s <i>including country & area codes</i>	
Email Address	

Match Details

Date	
Venue	
Teams	
Event	

Testers	
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Result (circle)	IUA Test / Re-endorsement	GRADE	MET / NOT YET MET
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TECHNIQUES	
Position and Timing	
Vision	
Game Management & Protocols	
APPLICATIONS	
Contact	
Obstruction	
Advantage	
Minor Infringements	
Communication & Sanctions	
SUMMARY	
Areas of Strength	
Areas for Development	



IUA GRADE DESCRIPTORS - SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

An International Umpire's Award (IUA) or its re-endorsement requires a grade total of no more than 15 and a grade 3 in any category leads to a result of 'Not Yet Met'

Techniques		
Position & Timing	1	Consistently related well to play
	2	Mostly related well to play
	3	Generally related well to play; increased consistency desirable
	4	Varies; often not related to play
Vision	1	Consistently related well to play
	2	Mostly related well to play
	3	Generally related well to play; increased consistency desirable
	4	Varies; often not related to play
Game Management & Protocols	1	Applies and maintains clear standards and effective tone; protocols applied correctly
	2	Mostly ensures good control and tone & protocols correct; only occasional errors
	3	Generally maintains good standards in all areas; increased consistency desirable
	4	Varies; players sometimes unsure of requirements
Application		
Contact	1	Understands interference well; applies rule to a consistently high level
	2	Mostly judges interference well; high level of correct decisions
	3	Generally ruled well; increased consistency desirable
	4	Varies; inconsistent applications; improvement needed
Obstruction	1	Distance and rule applied to a consistently high level
	2	Mostly judges distance and rule well; high level of correct decisions
	3	Generally ruled well; increased consistency desirable
	4	Varies; distance and application of rule need improvement
Advantage	1	Applied at a consistently high level to enhance play
	2	Mostly applied well; high level of correct applications
	3	Generally applied well; increased consistency of application desirable
	4	Applied inconsistently
Minor Infringements	1	Ruled to a very high level of accuracy
	2	Mostly ruled well; only occasional errors
	3	Generally ruled well; some areas need attention
	4	Inconsistent applications; improvement needed
Communication & Sanctions	1	Communication clear and effective; all sanctions set correctly
	2	Communication clear; almost all sanctions set correctly
	3	Communication mostly clear; most sanctions set correctly
	4	Communication varies; some sanctions not set correctly