

UMPIRE FAQS

NETFEST UMPIRE INFORMATION

There's a bunch of perks to being a NetFest umpire. You get to hang out for 4 days on the Sunshine Coast, getting an amazing tan and sipping fruity drinks. Plus you can use your umpiring skills, make some money, and meet players and umpires from all over the world. We're currently on the hunt for qualified umpires. If you'd like to get involved, drop us a line at info@netfest.com.au.

WHAT IS NETFEST?

NetFest is like the Woodstock of Netball. It's the biggest netball-related party in the world: four days of competition, entertainment and fun, hosted by Netball Australia on the beautiful Sunshine Coast.

This is NetFest's eight year running. The dates for 2019 are Thursday 10th October - Sunday 13th October 2019. It'll be held at the Maroochydore Multi Sports Complex (for the outdoor matches) and Mooloolaba Surf Beach (for the beach netball matches). We'll be running pretty much every form of netball there is: outdoor, Fast5, beach netball, female competitive and social, mixed competitive and social, Masters and men's comps. It's going to be big.

REQUIREMENTS

- Ideally, you'll hold a 'C' Badge accreditation level or above (as per INF netball rules).
- You must be over 14 years old.
- You don't have to umpire every day. We'll roster you onto matches depending on your availability.
- It's BYO whistle and drink bottle, and you'll need to wear white.
- You'll also need to bring: strapping (if you need any), a cap, sunscreen and lunch (or money for lunch). There'll be heaps of food vendors on-site.

HOW TO REGISTER

There's a couple of ways, but they both go through the MyNetball portal.

The first option is to register as part of a team already competing in NetFest. That means you'll be playing and umpiring (and sharing your secret for unlimited energy). The second option is to register as an umpire only. Just follow the links on the MyNetball portal to start the process. Any questions, just email info@netfest.com.au.

MONEY STUFF

Beach netball umpires will be paid \$100 per day. If you're umpiring the outdoor courts, you'll get \$12 per game instead. Payment is based on an umpire completing their allocated session, as per the NetFest umpiring roster.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHERE ARE THE MATCHES PLAYED?

There's two big sites for NetFest. All the beach comps will take place on the Mooloolaba Surf Beach. The outdoor competitions will be held at the Maroochydore Multi Sports Complex.

2. HOW LONG ARE THE MATCHES?

That depends on the competition. Beach matches are 2 x 5-minute halves. Outdoor matches are 2 x 10-minute halves (no break, just a straight swap at halftime).

For beach netball, matches will be allocated by the Umpire Covenor, usually based on availability, bade level and experience.

If you're working the outdoor courts, you'll be grouped into a team of six. Each umpire will be allocated one court for their shift. Each court will also have an umpire team captain.

3. WHAT WILL I GET PAID?

Ah yes, the juicy question. Beach umpires get \$100 per day. Outdoor umpires get \$12 per game.

You'll need to sign in at the Umpire Registration Desk when you arrive each day. We'll also be running an umpire briefing at the start of each session of play.

4. WHO'S MY DAILY POINT OF CONTACT?

If you have any questions during NetFest, your best point of contact is the Umpire Covenor. They're the ones looking after rostering, payment and pretty much everything else. Once you've registered as a NetFest umpire, the Umpire Covenor will be in touch to check your availability.

5. DO I HAVE TO REGISTER EACH TIME I UMPIRE AND WHEN?

Yep. You have to register every day you're rostered to umpire.

Here are the registration times:

Beach:

Friday	9:00am
Saturday	9:00am
Sunday	9:00am

Outdoor:

Thursday	4:30pm
Friday morning shift	7:15am
Friday afternoon shift	3:30pm
Saturday morning shift	7:15am
Saturday afternoon shift	3:30pm
Sunday	8:00am

6. HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT DAYS I AM UMPIRING?

A couple of ways. We'll send you an email once we've confirmed which days or nights you'll be working (for the outdoor competition), or you can check the NetFest Beach Umpires Facebook Group (for the beach competition).

7. HOW MANY GAMES WILL I BE UMPIRING?

It's hard to say exactly before the schedule is released, but around 10 games per session.

8. WHAT IF I'M ALSO IN A TEAM?

You'll umpire during which ever session your team isn't playing. If your team plays in the morning, you'll work in the afternoon, and vice versa. Teams never play morning and afternoon on the same day.

9. DO I GET ANY BREAKS DURING MY SHIFT?

Of course! Beach umpired will be allocated breaks throughout the day. Outdoor umpires will usually go 2 games on, 2 games off, across their session. There'll be plenty of time to rest up and relax.

10. WHEN WILL I KNOW MY UMPIRE TIMES?

Beach umpires, you'll be allocated a court and then rostered to certain times in the session. You'll get an email with the full roster before NetFest kicks off.

Outdoor umpires are allocated to a court, and we'll send through the schedule of games being played on that court. The team of umpires on the court determines who umpires which matches (there's also an umpire team captain to help with allocating and settle match-related arguments).

11. IF I'M A PLAYER AND AN UMPIRE, WILL I UMPIRE MY OWN TEAM OR DIVISION?

Umpiring your own team is generally a no no. That won't happen. But there is a chance you'll end up umpiring the same division. Obviously, you're representing NetFest as an umpire (not your team), so keep things professional and impartial.

12. HOW WILL I KNOW MY COURT ALLOCATION?

Beach umpires, you'll need to check the daily allocation draw when you arrive at the courts.

Outdoor umpires, you'll have to attend the Umpire Meeting before each session starts. The NetFest Umpire Covenor will let you know your court and team captain. You'll get the same court throughout the whole session, so not chopping and changing.

13. WILL I UMPIRE WITH THE SAME UMPIRES EACH DAY?

Well for beach netball there's only one umpire per game, so that's not an issue. For outdoor netball, the Umpire Covenor will let you know your fellow umpires at the beginning of each session. You'll probably be paired up with different people over the tournament, but that's really down to availability.

14. WILL THERE BE UMPIRE COACHES AND COURT SUPERVISORS?

Yep, plenty. Umpire coaches and supervisors will be roaming the courts, dispensing fair judgment and hard-earned umpire wisdom. You can ask them any questions you've got.

15. WHEN DO I NEED TO BE AT THE COURT?

You have to be at the court, ready to roll, at least 5 minutes before the start of each game. There will be loud speaker announcements throughout the day to help jog your memory.

16. DO UMPIRES NEED TO STAY ON THEIR ALLOCATED COURT ALL DAY?

Beach umpires will need to stick around the beach courts for whole day, but don't worry, there are plenty of activities and food vendors around. Outdoor umpires, you don't need to hang around your allocated court all day. Each umpire within your team will know what time they need to be on the court (remember, you have to get there at least 5 minutes early).

17. HOW IS UMPIRE ABUSE GOING TO BE MANAGED?

Fair question. The big thing is to remain calm and professional. The 2019 game management warning system is there to protect you, so please use this if you have a problem. We'll do our best to make sure all umpires are safe and respected, but if you have any issues, you can raise them with the Umpire Court Supervisor at half time (or after the game). If you're a senior umpire and you spot a junior umpire copping abuse, step in and help out. Any big problems can be elevated to the NetFest Umpire Covenor or NetFest Tournament Manager.

18. CAN I UMPIRE MORE GAMES THAN I'VE BEEN ALLOCATED?

No, sorry. We have to try and keep things fair for everyone. Each umpire gets pretty much the same number of games (we also don't want umpires getting fatigued). Remember, you'll only be paid for the games you're allocated to umpire, so don't just jump on a court and start blowing the whistle. The only exception to this is prior approval from the NetFest Umpire Covenor to umpire additional games.

19. CAN I UMPIRE ALL MY GAMES BACK-TO-BACK AND LEAVE NETFEST EARLY?

No again, sorry. All umpires have to stay around the courts until the end of the session. This is to make sure that we have emergency umpires on stand-by (in case of injury or illness).

20. WHERE CAN I LEAVE MY BAGS AND STUFF?

We do have an Umpire Room on site, but personal belongings are the umpires' own responsibility. NetFest can't take responsibility for anything lost or stolen, so it's probably best to pack light and leave valuables at home. If you have something you really need to store in the Umpire Room, chat to the NetFest Umpire Covenor on the day.

21. WHEN DO GAMES START AND FINISH?

It's tricky to say at this point. It'll depend on the number of teams we receive, and we won't finalise that number until entries close. Here's a rough guide from previous years:

BEACH NETBALL:

Friday: 10:00am - 5:15pm
Saturday: 10:00am - 3:45pm
Sunday (FINALS): 10:15am - 12:00pm

OUTDOOR NETBALL:

Thursday: first round 5:30pm last round 9:00pm
Friday: first round 8:00am, last round 7:00pm
Saturday: first round 8:00am, last round 7:00pm
Sunday: finals start 8:00am, last round 11:30am

22. CAN I BUY A WHITE SHIRT OR WHISTLE AT NETFEST?

It's probably safer to bring your own, but NetFest will have a merch tent with clothing available, including a white NetFest branded shirt. Whistles may be available for sale in the club room, but we can't guarantee availability.

23. WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?

No worries. If you'd like to know anything else about being a NetFest umpire, drop us a line at info@netfest.com.au.

GENERAL INFO

1. SCORE SHEET & PAYMENT

You have to print your name on the score sheet at the end of each game. We'll match that sheet with the umpire allocations for your court, and then hand over payment at the end of each shift. Make sure you print your name clearly: if we can't read it, we can't approve payment.

2. FINALS UMPIRE SELECTION

Who gets to umpire the finals is up to the NetFest Umpire Covenor. It'll be based on badge level, experience, and how well you smashed it during the tournament.

3. UMPIRE UNIFORM

Umpires have to wear white, but there are a few variations, depending on the game you're umpiring.

For beach netball, you'll need black shorts and a white top. You can umpire in either bare feet or socks (bare feet is more 'beach-y', but go with what feels good).

For Fast5 netball, colourful clothes are okay (including tops). Freedom!

If you're a playing and an umpire, you have to wear a white shirt over your team uniform. In fact we'd prefer if all player-umpires changed out of their team colours before umpiring (there's plenty of time and space to change). The main thing is that teams don't confuse you for another player.

4. RESERVE UMPIRES

Reserve umpires are super important. If an umpire gets sick or injured, the reserve will be asked to step up. If you're allocated as 'Reserve' for a particular round, you'll have to stay in the Umpires Reserve Tent in front of the clubhouse for that game. Reserve umpires only get paid if they actually do any umpiring. If an umpire gets injured, the reserve will take over all games allocated to the injured umpire (and get paid accordingly).

5. UMPIRES AREA

Umpires get access to their own toilets and change room. We'll provide free fruit and bottled water during NetFest (score!) and you should eat/drink as much as possible. Energy and hydration are super important when you're running around the Sunshine Coast.

6. JUNIOR UMPIRES

Junior Umpires (under 18 years) will handle some of the beach netball games, but they will have a senior umpire on standby if they need help. Junior umpires at the outdoor comps will umpire alongside a senior badged umpire within their group. Two junior umpires won't be on the court at the same time. If you're a junior umpire and you'd like to sign up, just remember we need you to have a badge and some experience umpiring senior netball. sufficient experience in umpiring senior netball.