**Softball Victoria - Umpiring Development Pathway**

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# Softball Victoria - Umpiring Development Pathway

This document is written to give guidance to softball umpires wishing to develop in Victoria. Please contact the State Director of Umpiring (SDU); contact details listed on the website [www.victoria.softball.org.au](http://www.victoria.softball.org.au) > Umpiring tab.

Local umpires can be a helpful guide when starting out.

## BEGINNING SOFTBALL UMPIRING

All umpires begin umpiring at their local association.

### Community Umpire Program:

Umpires that may never have umpired a game, or are just starting out umpiring juniors and that are interested in learning more about basic umpire skills are encouraged to attend the Community Umpire Program held at the U12 State Spectacular every year. The idea is to teach a small amount of basics and have a mentor at the diamond with you for these modified games of softball.

BEGINNERS

COMMUNITY and

FUP PROGRAM

### Future Umpire Program:

LEVEL 1

LOCAL ASSOCIATION

Umpires that are just starting out and that are interested in learning more about basic umpire skills are encouraged to attend the Future Umpire Program (FUP) held at the U15 State Championship every year. The idea of the FUP is to teach beginning and potential umpires the correct way to umpire a game of softball. Very basic umpiring concepts are discussed. The only pre-requisite to attending this program is to be interested in softball. The idea of the program is to give some basic umpiring knowledge to young umpires who umpire regularly at an association level – and to show them that there is a pathway of umpire levels.

LEVEL 2, 3, 4

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

## UMPIRE ACCREDITATION LEVELS

LEVEL 5, 6

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

All umpires are encouraged to develop their umpiring skills by attaining umpire levels. There are four levels that are awarded by VUC (Victorian Umpiring Committee), a sub-committee of Softball Victoria. Once level 4 is attained, the umpire progresses on to the national umpiring system, where levels 5 and 6 are awarded by NUC (National Umpiring Committee), a committee of SAL (Softball Australia Limited). Levels 7 and 8 are honorary levels awarded by NUC.

LEVEL 7, 8

NATIONAL AWARD

To maintain a level, the SAL exam must be sat at least every second year and meet the pass mark for that level. Returning umpires that exceed this period need to apply to the SDU for consideration of re-instatement of a level.

### Level 1: State entry level

Your local UIC (Umpire In Charge) can inform you and provide local training to achieve Level 1.

The Level 1 Introductory Umpire Program is a nationally recognised training program by the Australian Sports Commissions’ National Officiating Accreditation Scheme (NOAS).

The objective is to introduce beginner umpires to umpiring rules and respect for the game and people involved in sport.

LEVEL 1

PATHWAY

Talk to local UIC

Read Course Material

Complete 3 plates and 3 lines at your local association

Complete “Play by the Rules” online course

Sit Basic Rules Exam at local association

Submit paperwork

This level is obtained by:

1. Read and study the 'Introduction to Umpiring Course' available on line on the SAL web site. There are several forms in the course manual that need to be completed and submitted with the application.
2. Umpiring at a local association by completing a minimum of 3 plates and 3 bases in one season, such that a basic understanding of the mechanics and rotations of the National 2-Umpire System has been demonstrated to an official at the local association. There is a checklist that needs to be completed by the observing official. A copy of the form needs to be submitted with the application.
3. Completing the two modules in the “*Play by the Rules* free online training course”. This can be accessed at <http://www.playbytherules.net.au/interactive-scenarios/free-online-training>. A copy of the certificate should be saved and submitted with the application.
4. Completing one of the exam options. The easiest way is to complete the SAL Basic Rules Exam and obtaining a mark of 50% or greater. There are a few other available exam options which are listed at the SAL web site. A copy of the exam result paper needs to be submitted with the application.

To submit for Level 1 the documentation package should consist of:

1. Check list
2. Level 1 Application form
3. NOAS Application form
4. Code of Conduct form
5. On-diamond Competency Evaluation form
6. Play By The Rules certificate
7. Completed Exam paper

All these documents need to be submitted to the SDU.

The SAL umpire web pages contain more detail on achieving all umpire levels. The web site also contains the NOAS documents needed to achieve Level 1 and Level 2 accreditation.

### Level 2: State development level

The Level 2 Umpire Program is a nationally recognised training program by the Australian Sports Commissions’ National Officiating Accreditation Scheme (NOAS).

LEVEL 2

PATHWAY

Be a current and active Level 1 umpire

Sit exam (May) and achieve required mark

Nominate to sit for Level 2 assessment (by September 1)

Application reviewed by VUC

Attend Level 2 Development Umpire Clinic

Pass 2 x Pre-assessment games at a local association

Pass 5 x assessment games at State Championships

The objective is to build upon the Level 1 program and is designed for Level 1 Umpires who wish to continue further with the formal accreditation system.

The following steps are the usual method of obtaining Level 2 accreditation:

* + 1. Achieve 60% in the SAL Rules Examination or 70% in the SAL Basic Rules Examination. The SAL Rules Examination is held on the last Monday in May every year. The SAL Basic Rules Examination can be sat once per year at any time of the year – this exam can be obtained by contacting the SDU or a level 5 or above umpire.
    2. Apply to the VUC on the ‘Nomination for State Championship Form’ to be a Level 2 candidate, or via email. The notification must be submitted to the SDU by September 1st.
    3. Upon successful review of the nomination by the VUC the candidate will be required to attend the Level 2 Development Umpire Clinic. Attendance to this course may be waived by the SDU if the candidate attended this course in the previous year.
    4. Achieve a Level 2 pre-assessment pass on a practical assessment on one plate and one base prior to presenting for the Level 2 practical assessment. The two pre-assessment games are usually carried out at local association or equivalent games of equal skill level to that expected at the assessment games, using the National 2-Umpire System.
    5. Achieve a Level 2 pass on a practical assessment at six games (3 plates and 3 bases) at an U17 State Championship or equivalent standard tournament using the National 2-Umpire System. The mark that was obtained during the base pre-assessment will be used as one of the bases for the practical assessment. Candidates only need to perform 3 plates and 2 bases during the 2 day practical assessment.

The SAL umpire web pages contain more detail on achieving all umpire levels. The web site also contains the NOAS documents needed to achieve Level 1 and Level 2 accreditation.

### Level 3: State intermediate level

The Level 3 Umpire Program is currently being developed for national accreditation.

LEVEL 3

PATHWAY

Be a current and active Level 2 umpire

Sit exam (May) and achieve required mark

Nominate to sit for Level 3 assessment (by September 1)

Application reviewed by VUC

Attend Intermediate Umpire Clinic

Pass 2 x Pre-assessment games at a local association

Pass 5 x assessment games at State Championships

The current training program is developed by the VUC.

The objective is to build upon the Level 2 program and is aimed for Level 2 Umpires who wish to continue further with the formal accreditation system, typically umpires that aim for national competitions.

The following steps are the usual method of obtaining Level 3 accreditation:

1. Achieve 70% at the SAL Rules Examination. The SAL Rules Examination is held on the last Monday in May every year. Exam flexibility allows for deferment where the exam cannot be sat on the assigned date due to extenuating circumstances. Apply to the SDU within 7 days of the SAL exam dates. A supplementary exam can be applied for by candidates that do not achieve the required pass mark by 2 points.
2. Apply to the VUC on the ‘Nomination for State Championship Form’ to be a level 3 candidate, or via email. The notification must be submitted to the SDU by September 1st.
3. Upon successful review of the nomination by the VUC the candidate will be required to attend the VUC Intermediate Umpire Clinic. Attendance to this course may be waived by the SDU if the candidate attended this course in the previous year.
4. Achieve a Level 3 pre-assessment pass on a practical assessment on one plate and one base prior to presenting for the Level 3 practical assessment. The two pre-assessment games are usually carried out at local association or equivalent games of equal skill level to that expected at the assessment games, using the National 3-Umpire System.
5. Achieve a Level 3 pass on a practical assessment at six games (3 plates and 3 bases) at an U19 State Championship and other equivalent standard tournament using the National 3-Umpire System. The mark that was obtained during the base pre-assessment will be used as one of the bases for the practical assessment. Candidates only need to perform 3 plates and 2 bases during the 2 day practical assessment.

### Level 4: State senior level

LEVEL 4

PATHWAY

Be a current and active Level 3 umpire

Sit exam (May) and achieve required mark

Nominate to sit for Level 4 assessment (by September 1)

Application reviewed by VUC

Attend Intermediate Umpire Clinic

Pass 2 x Pre-assessment games at a local association

Pass 5 x assessment games at State Championships

The Level 4 Umpire Program is currently being developed for national accreditation.

The current training program is developed by the VUC.

The objective is to build upon the Level 3 program and is aimed for Level 3 Umpires who wish to enter the national umpiring system to umpire at national competitions run by SAL.

The following steps are the usual method of obtaining Level 4 accreditation:

1. Achieve 75% at the SAL Rules Examination. The SAL Rules Examination is held on the last Monday in May every year. Exam flexibility allows for deferment where the exam cannot be sat on the assigned date due to extenuating circumstances. Apply to the SDU within 7 days of the SAL exam dates. A supplementary exam can be applied for by candidates that do not achieve the required pass mark by 2 points.
2. Apply to the VUC on the ‘Nomination for State Championship Form’ to be a Level 4 candidate, or via email. The notification must be submitted to the SDU by September 1st.
3. Upon successful review of the nomination by the VUC the candidate will be required to attend the VUC Intermediate Umpire Clinic. Attendance to this course may be waived by the SDU if the candidate attended this course in the previous year.
4. Achieve a Level 4 pre-assessment pass on a practical assessment on one plate and one base prior to presenting for the Level 4 practical assessment. The two pre-assessment games are usually carried out at local association or equivalent games of equal skill level to that expected at the assessment games, using the National 3-Umpire System.
5. Achieve a Level 4 pass on a practical assessment at six games (3 plates and 3 bases) at an Open State Championship or equivalent standard tournament using the National 3-Umpire System. The mark that was obtained during the base pre-assessment will be used as one of the bases for the practical assessment. Candidates only need to perform 3 plates and 2 bases during the 2 day practical assessment.

Once Level 4 is achieved by an umpire – they will present and nominate to the NUC for national appointments and higher level umpire accreditation.

## UMPIRE TRAINING PROGRAMS

### Local Association Training Program:

Your local association Umpire in Chief (UIC) can carry out Level 1 accreditation at any time of the year using the SAL umpiring resources. This training is designed to be self-reading and assisted via a mentor. Approach your local association UIC to get going on Level 1 accreditation.

### VUC Training Programs:

Available Training

Local

* Level 1 Training

VUC

* Community Umpire Program
* FUP Program
* Development Umpire Clinic
* Intermediate Umpire Clinic

NUC

* Advanced Umpire Clinic

Two training programs are run by the VUC Training Sub-Committee.

* ASC-accredited Level 2 Development Umpire Clinic. All umpires presenting for Level 2 accreditation need to attend this course. Attendance to this course may be waived by the SDU if the candidate attended this course in the previous year. The training reviews rotations, mechanics, rules, the assessment processes, most common errors detected from previous candidates, and what examiners are looking for. The training will endeavour to be presented in a practical manner in concert with a suitable tournament, and candidates will be expected to umpire for valuable on-diamond feedback.
* VUC Intermediate Umpire Clinic. All umpires presenting for Level 3 or Level 4 accreditation need to attend this course. Attendance to this course may be waived by the SDU if the candidate attended this course in the previous year. The training reviews elements covered in the NOAS Level 2 Development Umpire Clinic including mechanics, rules, the assessment processes, most common errors detected from previous candidates, what examiners are looking for, as well as the 3-Umpire rotation system. The training will engage umpires in discussions such as game management and other advanced concepts.

### NUC Training Programs:

The NUC Advanced Umpire Clinic is held for Level 4 umpires that are progressing to National Competitions. The clinic covers advanced umpiring concepts. See the SAL Umpiring Web pages for more information.