



NEW ZEALAND AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIP 2009 REPORT

Twenty Six Umpires were appointed to the Tournament. Eleven of these were at their first tournament.

The panel would like to extend their thanks to Jan Skilton as the Umpire Manager. This allowed the Umpire Panel members to concentrate completely on their role of coaching the umpires. Additionally the panel would also like to thank Elaine Curtis who did a wonderful job as umpire liaison for the tournament.

Congratulations are extended to:

B Endorsement - Mary McCarthy
B Upgrade - Matthew Davis, Gareth Fowler, Jon Russell and Seli Scutts
NZ Award Endorsement - Liz Cairns, Louise McDonald, Lisa Murphy, Vicki Stevenson, Jacqui Stewart and Lisa Stove

Areas of Competency Evident During the Week:

- Fitness and preparation for tournament evident as no reserves were required on court for the tournament.
- Overall umpires were very receptive to feedback and there was a clear desire to learn and progress.
- Protocols generally well understood and stoppages were handled effectively, especially as the tournament progressed.
- Good clear communication and penalties generally were well set, with players responding to decisions made by the umpires.
- Minor infringements mostly applied correctly, with the exception of stepping.
- Those umpires using the alerts for the first time managed this without any difficulties.
- During the tournament the understanding of contact and fair contest was ruled well with umpires allowing the game to flow.

Areas Identified for Further Development:

- Forward vision to the goal line on the run, caused some concern to umpires timing to the goal line:
 - Umpires were reactive once the ball had been released.
 - Need to look deep
 - Need to look early
 - Look often (players positions change as the game continues down the court).
 - Keep width and depth of vision in goal circle – see eight players
Infringements at top of the circle can be missed.

Position on the goal line:

- Umpires must remember to take up a strong “first” position on the goal line with adjustments in relation to play. Need to be able to see all 8 players in and around the circle, angle as necessary to assess the first phase of play. Often the second phase was being penalized – Contact on the ball when obstruction had occurred first.

Side Line Position:

- Umpires need to be in line with or a slightly ahead of play and not “creep” too far ahead of play, thus causing head movement and narrow vision.

Obstruction:

- 0.9 inconsistently ruled under and close to the goal post. At times this was due to the umpires position directly behind the goal post.
- Timing of whistle important (avoid penalising when player in the air).

Advantage:

- Umpires needed to identify if player *was* under pressure to pass the ball.
- Forward vision required to allow the game to flow and not disadvantage the non offending team.

Terminology:

- Correct terminology to be used when penalizing as players need to know who was infringing, eg. When two opposing centers are involved.

The major bonus of NZAGC this year was holding the tournament indoors, because of the indoor surface being kinder on the body and also allowing longer recovery between games, umpires didn't sustain any injuries. The draw also allowed greater opportunities for the panel to observe umpires for longer periods on games giving more effective feedback.

In conclusion the panel would like to thank the NZAGC 2009 Umpires for their openness for feedback and support that they gave to the “new” umpires at Tournament.
The banded lists are:

Section 1.

Anna Brookie
Matthew Davis
Gareth Fowler
Mary McCarthy
Danielle Maulder
Kylie Morgan
Seli Scutts

Section 2.

Karen Baxter
Liz Cairns
Fiona Horne
Kylie Kerr
Catherine Lapwood
Louise McDonald
Lisa Murphy
Jon Russell
Anna Sheen
Jacqui Stewart
Lisa Stove

Section 3.

Sarah Burnett
Tania Cargo
Laura Hayes
Jill Hayman
Sandy Phear
Vicki Stevenson
Debbie Vincent
Marianne Walton

2009 NZAGC Panel

Anne Blomfield
Pam Clayton
Eleanor Kitching
Yvonne Morgan
Debbie Shoebridge
Anne Marie Leech - Convener