

Netball Central Zone

Netball Central is a regional netball organisation focused on promoting the game of netball and delivering advice and support services to the people behind the game, and the programmes, teams, events and competitions they run.

Advocating for Central

- We work with Netball New Zealand and other bodies like Regional Sports Trusts, Local Government etc to develop sustainable programmes and events that meet the needs of our netball communities.
- We specifically work with Netball New Zealand to ensure they understand the needs of Central when developing strategies, policies and programmes, and then support the roll-out and delivery of new and existing initiatives.
- We also lobby Netball New Zealand to bring national and international netball events to Central.

Backing our Centres

We enjoy the largest netball participation rates in New Zealand, due to the outstanding work of our netball centres, clubs and schools. As at August 2019, across 13 Centres and junior netball competition spread across one of the largest geographical area of any netball zone in the country, we have 29,853 players, 2747 coaches, 197 clubs, 477 schools, 1697 umpires and technical officials. This does not include the tireless work of 100s of Centre, School and Club staff and volunteers that coordinate teams and run netball competitions and programmes. Given that busy and vibrant environment the support role of Netball Central is vital.

- We consult with Centres on national programmes as they are being developed and rolled out, ensuring Centres are well informed, supported, resourced and prepared for new programmes and for sustaining existing programmes.
- We connect the Centre representatives into communities of specialty such as player performance, coaching and umpiring so that knowledge, resources, development opportunities and support mechanisms can be shared, and for our own understanding of where the needs lie so we can align our support services at a regional level.
- We are available to the Centres when unexpected issues arise that they need advice and support on and we advise Centres on matters such as governance, structure and funding.
- We provide one Centre forum per year, whereby representatives from Centres come to be updated on developments in netball, showcase and share their own achievements at Centre level and receive education on compliance and policy requirements if applicable i.e. health and safety, child protection etc
- We recognize outstanding achievement by members of the netball community.

Supporting the Environment for our Players

Netball Central believes with a passion that playing a team sport offers fantastic benefits for players, not only in respect of building game skills, being fit and being with friends, but in learning life skills such as team work, leadership, organising themselves, time management and experiencing the enjoyment of winning while also learning to cope with the disappointment of losing. Valuable skills that stay with a player long after they have hung up their netball shoes. The role of Netball Central is very much working behind the scenes to make the netball experience a good one so that as many young people as possible reap these benefits.

Coaches are vital to everyone's enjoyment of netball including their own.

We have dedicated resource in the form of a Coach Lead who will make multiple coach development opportunities available to all coaches every season no matter their level of expertise. This includes -

- o Coach Development Workshops targeting all levels of coaches from beginner through to elite coaches covering off the full range of training needs including a variety of modules at Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels.
- o Leading a network of Coach Developers that are trained facilitators delivering a schedule of workshops accessible to all of our netball communities throughout our Zone.
- o Connecting Coach Coordinators from the Centres and keeping them informed of coach development opportunities so they are.
- o Managing the coach qualification process to ensure coaches are recognised for their experience and development.
- o Liaising with regional sports organisations and NNZ to bring in specialist speakers for one-off informal coach insights and specialist seminars.
- o Providing advanced opportunities for coaches wishing to move into higher level coaching roles with representative teams including observations and feedback, apprentice coaching opportunities with our Steel or Beko team and overall exposure to the elite netball environment.
- o Supporting all of the above, we manage a coach database and promote coach development opportunities via our communication channels i.e. online, Centres, our database.

Umpires are no less vital to the game of netball. As any umpire will tell you, there is no game without an umpire! Our job is to provide and coordinate a range of umpire development opportunities that helps them grow and enjoy their netball experience. This area can be very challenging for Centres and some need more intense support than others to attract and retain umpires. Our Umpire Lead works behind the scenes to wrap support around new and existing umpires by –

- o Building and supporting a network of coach developers and that are trained facilitators able to deliver updates and workshops to umpires.

- o Offering multiple levels of workshops that fit the experience level of umpires and ensuring our umpires are supported to achieve qualifications and recognised for their achievements.
- o Creating umpire operational plans at each Centre to continue to future proof the game.
- o Leading a group of emerging Secondary School umpires attending the North Island Secondary Schools tournament, providing observations and feedback in a four-day tournament environment.
- o Connecting the umpire coordinators from Centres and keeping them abreast of rule changes, development opportunities and emerging issues for the game.

An Assortment of Development Opportunities – Coaches and umpires are not the only beneficiaries of our development efforts. Our technical officials and team managers also get opportunities.

- o We provide development opportunities including workshops for team managers and tournament support for technical officials.
- o We have Netball Smart Development Officer and facilitators throughout the zone who will deliver education workshops for coaches, umpires and players, activations at key events and promotion all in the name of reducing injury rates to players.

Providing Pathways for our Best Talent

With a big population and a big geography like ours we need to plan and prepare well to ensure we offer fair opportunity for our talent to be identified and developed in effective performance environments. This is critical to the ability of our local performance programme to act as a feeder of talent to firstly the Central Manawa and onto the Te Wānanga o Raukawa Pulse

- Identifying talent involves a range of activities by Netball Central.
- We also deliver four Talent Identification Clinics from Centre nominated secondary school players Year 11-12 wishing to receive some extra development, held in Taranaki, Manawatu, Hawkes Bay and Wellington.
- To watch our best talent in action we will attend Under 17s and Under 19s National Age Group tournaments and LNISS and NZSS, so that we have a handle on progress.
- We also observe talent coming through our Premier grades, and have Centres refer their top talent to us for trials and clinics.

Developing talent by identifying and keeping track of progress of talented players, we then select up to 30 players for our Performance Programme. Within the programme we provide up to two days of performance camps for players to attend giving them exposure to advanced skills, game play, strength and conditioning programmes, mental skills, nutrition and game analysis.

The Central Manawa is the top of our amateur performance pathway and a vital feeder into the Te Wānanga o Raukawa Pulse. This is a substantial team competing around the country in a eleven-week league with the best amateur talent in New Zealand. We provide an environment for this team that mirrors, as much as we can afford, the Pulse environment, particularly in terms of access to a

high performance facilities and high performance trainers, coaches and specialist staff. The value of this investment in the Central Beko team is proving itself given the high number of local talent not only heading into the Te Wānanga o Raukawa Pulse, but also appearing in other franchise teams.

Promoting Netball in our Region – When our young people have so many options available for their leisure and entertainment, keeping netball relevant and promoting it to keep it front of mind has grown as a role for Netball Central.

- o We run a Zone SuperZone tournament which brings the best centre talent in our zone together over one weekend to compete. This provides an additional pathway of talent identification, umpire and bench official opportunities and provides a selection platform for the Central Manawa beko team.

- o We respond to requests from the netball community, visiting primary and secondary schools responding to requests for support and assistance with trainings and trials, student coach training etc.

- o We also run a schedule of community engagement for the Te Wānanga o Raukawa Pulse whereby we work with Centres and schools to visit and engage with local netball communities.

How is it Paid For – The total zone levy received by Netball Central from players pays for 46% of the services you see above. We apply for funding and/or charge user fees (i.e. team entry forms to tournaments) to meet the remainder of the costs.

Feedback and Future Direction – Across the services listed above we seek feedback from our centres and member's so we are able to continuously improve what we do but also so that as future direction is set we have a good understanding of how well netball is doing in our zone (Lower North Island) and where the opportunities lie. You are welcome to give Netball Central feedback anytime by sending us a message using the quick link on our website.