



HOW DO I BECOME A NATIONAL UMPIRE?

At the end of this month, accreditation for Level 2 umpires will expire and a new system will apply from April 1, 2015, explains BQ Umpire co-ordinator, John Kirkpatrick.

WHAT IS THE NEW SYSTEM?

All Level 2 Umpires, whose accreditation expired between January 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015, have had their accreditation extended to March 31, 2015.

From the end of this month, there will be two options to continue as an official (umpire).

- The first option is to accredit as a National Umpire (NU).
- The second option is, after being re-accredited as a NU, to accredit as an International Technical Officer (ITO), which is a World Bowls accreditation.

As far as umpires are concerned, the NU is the only Umpire status now available.

Level 2 Umpires re-accredit as a National Umpire (NU) as per the process below for re-accreditation.

(This new system for Umpire accreditation/re-accreditation has been a staged process, during 2014 and 2015, as an initiative of Bowls Australia (BA), in conjunction with the Australian Sports Commission (ASC). As of January 1, 2014, accreditation/re-accreditations ceased to exist for Level 2 Umpires.)

ACCREDITATION AS A NATIONAL UMPIRE (NU)

Becoming a NU involves completing three modules, marker, measurer and then the NU.

A person may become either a marker or a measurer, only.

This involves completing that module only.

Should a marker or measurer wish to become an NU, it will be necessary to

complete the outstanding module (marker/measurer) prior.

Thus the three modules are still completed.

The vast majority of work undertaken by officials involves measuring.

The only difference between a measurer and a NU is an understanding of the laws of the game.

I realize this may seem like a daunting change, but in reality, it is quite simple:

- ▶ The three modules can be completed in one weekend.
- ▶ There are no exams in any module.
- ▶ There is a quiz for all modules and an on-green competency for the marker and measurer.

THE PROCESS

Any person wishing to undertake the module/s applies through their Club.

The Club forwards the application, with the relevant monies, to Bowls Queensland (BQ). At the conclusion of the course, the applicant and District will be advised accordingly.

Once the application has been received and processed by BQ, a manual will be forwarded to the applicant.

The manual is divided into the various modules, with some areas being of general nature.

The relevant District Umpire Coordinator will also receive documentation from BQ.

This will include all quizzes and on-green competencies.

There are quizzes for all modules and they must be completed and returned to BQ.

RE-ACCREDITATION

Umpires wishing to re-accredit apply through their Club to BQ.

Again the applicant is forwarded the manual, and the relevant documents forwarded to the District Umpire Committee.

Re-accreditation involves a set of five questions for each of the three modules (a total of 15 questions).

Re-accreditation also involves an on-green competency test.

As with everything, there is a cost, each module costs \$22.00.

Should the applicant undertake all three modules, the cost is reduced from \$66.00 to \$55.00.

Re-accreditation cost is \$33.00.

(These costs include GST.)

It is a requirement that at least one member of a District Umpire Committee be approved competent as a presenter/assessor before conducting the modules.

To be assessed as a competent presenter/assessor, it is necessary to have recognized prior learning, and to be assessed by BQ development officers Daryl Francey or Charlie Harkness (both qualified in Cert IV workplace and assessor training).

Districts are to prepare and ensure all participants are competent to perform the duties of each module.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact Bowls Queensland's Umpires Committee via BQ on (07) 3355 9988 or admin@bowlsqld.org.

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