

SAUCNA Grading Procedure

Updated February 2019

SAUCNA offers the opportunity to all umpires to progress to a higher level by undertaking a Grading. This has two main components:

- (a) Test of theory knowledge by completing a written rules test which assesses basic rule knowledge as well as the ability to apply rules to particularly scenarios.
- (b) Assessment of practical skills with three graders observing the umpire on a competition match.

This process (updated February 2019) has been implemented to encourage umpires to take the next step through a series of badges designed to develop them through to officiating at the highest level.

Application

1. To apply for the grading process applicants must sit a SAUCNA Netball Rules Test for Grading (formerly Umpires Exam) and achieve the minimum required percentage mark
 - a. To attempt a C grade badge – 70%
 - b. To attempt a B grade badge – 80%
 - c. To attempt an A grade badge – 90%
2. Examination results are valid for 2 years after the results are released
3. Applications for grading must be made in writing using the online form (<https://forms.gle/x8SAkB9H8aJAGmbA7>)

Screening

1. All applicants applying for a C grade badge must be screened prior to being graded. Applicants for B and A grade badges **may** require formal screening or be approved for grading based on feedback from senior graded umpires who have recently umpired with the applicant.
2. Screenings will be undertaken on matches of at least the lowest grade in the grading levels below.

3. The Grading Officer will select a suitable date and match for screening, appoint a screener to watch (not umpire on the same match) and advise the umpire allocators of the requirements. The screener will be a senior graded umpire (preferably A grade).
4. The screening (and grading) match will form part of the club's usual allocation of umpires and as such it is required that the club internally work through their umpiring roster to enable screenings and gradings to be scheduled.
5. Verbal feedback will be offered throughout the screening match at the quarter breaks and at the end of the match (if time permits).
6. Written feedback from the screening will be given to the applicant by the grading officer if screening is unsuccessful. No written report is required if the applicant is approved for grading.

Grading

1. Applicants who have been successfully screened will be advised of the grading date and time by the Grading Officer.
2. Gradings will be undertaken on **appropriate standard** matches as follows:
 - a. For C grade badge in Winter Season – C1 or B4-B2 (one match)
 - b. For C grade badge in Summer Season – 17 Div 1, or grades equivalent to Winter grades as determined by the Grading officer and Summer secretary (one match)
 - c. For B grade badge (Winter only) – B1-A3 (one match)
 - d. For A grade badge (Winter only) – A1 (two matches)
3. Grading Officer will arrange a grading panel as follows:
 - a. For C grade badge
 - i. Three A grade umpires or
 - ii. Two A grade umpires and One B grade umpire or
 - iii. One each of A, B and C grade umpire
 - b. For B grade badge
 - i. Three A grade umpires or
 - ii. Two A grade umpires and One B grade umpire
 - c. For A grade badge
 - i. Three A grade umpires – two separate panels where possible

4. The grading panel may not contain the screener, applicant's mentor, grader from the same club as the applicant or a relative of the applicant.
5. The grading panel must NOT contain multiple graders from the same club unless approved by the SAUCNA Board due to lack of grader availability.
6. The grading officer will advise the panel members of their appointment and responsibilities.
7. A senior (lead) grader will be appointed for each panel. This grader will be permitted to offer verbal feedback to the applicant at quarter time in their grading match (both matches for A grade applicants).
8. The senior (lead) grader will be responsible for writing the draft report which is then sent to the grading officer for finalisation and distribution.
9. Applicants will be successful if they achieve the following from the grading panel
 - a. For B/C grade badge – two passes out of three graders
 - b. For A grade badge – five passes out of six graders
10. The Grading Officer will finalise the draft report from the senior (lead) grader and produce a written report of the outcome. A copy of the written report will be sent to the candidate, SAUCNA Board Secretary and the Umpire Subcommittee Secretary.
11. Successful applicants must hold their badge for at least 12 months before attempting an upgrade to the next level. The grading panel may recommend the applicant be upgraded within this 12-month period however a suitable amount of time must be allowed for the applicant to work with a mentor before reapplying.
12. Unsuccessful applicants may reapply to be graded based on the recommendation and feedback of the grading panel.