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Policy overview:	This policy outlines the grading system process.

Grading System Policy

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Grading System

1. Background and Purpose

The Softball New Zealand (SNZ) Umpiring Programme grading system aims to establish a fair and transparent pathway for the softball community to become competent umpires of the sport.

The objective of this policy is to ensure a transparent process is provided for the softball community to engage, be evaluated and measured against the grading system.

2. Scope

This policy covers the process our softball community and members follow to engage with the grading system.

3. Policy Statement

The grading system is an integral part of delivering quality umpiring to the softball community and a continual educational process to keep the community up to date with world's best practices.

4. Responsibility

The NUS is accountable for managing the grading system and will assign appointed members to the Pathways Committee to administer the grading system.

The local Umpire in Chief (UIC) is responsible for developing their membership using the grading system framework to measure and test members against the system.

The grading system is fully supported by the Softball New Zealand Pathways Framework.

5. Procedures

Procedure	Responsibility	Form / Tool
Appointment of members to Pathway's Committee	SNZ UIC	
SNZ Pathways Framework reviewed annually for first three years to assess performance Thereafter, reviewed every second year	Pathways Committee	Survey of participants
Local UIC annual report captures all grading requirements	Local UIC	Local UIC annual report
Local UIC annual report includes copies of regional evaluations	Local UIC/RDU	Regional evaluation form level 1, 2, 3
SNZ tournament chief umpire (TCU) report includes copies of umpire evaluations	TCU	SNZ umpire evaluation – level 4, 5 and 6
National umpire database is updated annually with level grading information from local UIC annual reports and SNZ TCU reports	Database administrator	National umpire database
Umpires not meeting annual requirements are identified and communicated with to establish circumstances	Database administrator and RDU	National umpire database
TCU / ATCU season game abatement (if required for minimum game numbers) will be determined by tournament/s duration	NUS	Local UIC annual report