

Technical Bulletin

Subject: Softball Australia Basic and Open Playing Rules Assessment Changes and Increased Flexibility TB_2020- 1

Date: 20/04/2020

Replaces TB_2016-1

The National Umpiring Committee (NUC) continues to provide flexibility for umpires sitting the rules assessment. This bulletin outlines the new assessment procedures to be implemented from April 2020.

1. Softball Australia Open Rules Assessment

- 1.1. The Australian Open Rules Assessment will be available 'online' during the **last full week in APRIL** each year, as an open book assessment; during which time a candidate will answer 100 questions 'online' without time limit.
 - 1.1.1. The exact dates for the assessment will be posted in the portal, *and by email to registered users, state bodies and social media* in January each year.
- 1.2. The Australian Open Rules Assessment is a mandatory requirement to gain and/or maintain currency of accreditation of Level 3-8 Umpires.
- 1.3. This assessment is optional for Level 1 and Level 2 umpires.
- 1.4. The assessment may be attempted in “open book” format.

2. Australian Basic Rules Assessment

- 2.1. The Australian Basic Rules Assessment will be available 'online' from the **last full week in APRIL** each year up **until 31 March of the following year**.
- 2.2. Umpires are required to sit the Australian Basic Rules Assessment to gain and/or maintain their Level 1 or Level 2 accreditation.
- 2.3. The assessment may be attempted in “open book” format.
- 2.4. Candidates must sit a questionnaire of 100 questions 'online' without time limit, at any time during the assessment period.
- 2.5. Candidates may sit the Basic Rules Assessment multiple times during the assessment period, but the score on the last attempt will be regarded as the final grade.
- 2.6. Alternatively, umpires may elect to sit the Australian Open Rules Assessment.

3. Deferred Australian Open Rules Assessment availability.

- 3.1. Level 3 candidates, or Level 3-8 umpires who are unable to sit the Australian Open Rules Assessment during the assessment period due to illness, work commitments or other extenuating circumstances, may apply to the UIC - Technical, through their State Director (SDU), for a Supplementary Assessment.
- 3.2. Applications are to be made within **10** days of the conclusion of the assessment period.
- 3.3. The Supplementary Australian Open Rules Assessment will be available in the **second week of May** online over a one-week period, by email invitation.

4. Supplementary Australian Open Rules Assessment availability

- 4.1. Level 3 and above candidates or *umpires applying for National Championships*, who sit the Australian Open Rules Assessment and do not achieve the required pass mark by 2 points, may apply to their SDU to sit a Supplementary Australian Open Rules Assessment.
- 4.2. The Supplementary Australian Open Rules Assessment will be available in the **second week of May** online over a one-week period, by email invitation.

5. Unaccredited, Level 1 and Level 2 umpires

There are two ways Unaccredited, Level 1 and Level 2 umpires can sit the rules assessment.

- 5.1. They can apply to sit the Australian **Basic** Rules Assessment for Level 1 accreditation.
As an open book assessment; by which a candidate can answer 100 questions 'online' at any time during the assessment period.
Candidates using the paper must correctly answer 65% of the questions.
- 5.2. Level 1 Umpires may apply to sit the Australian **Basic** Rules Assessment to become a Level 2 Candidate.
As an open book assessment; by which a candidate can sit one paper of 100 questions 'online' at any time during the assessment period.
Candidates using the paper must correctly answer 80% of the questions.
- 5.3. Apply to sit the Australian **Open** Rules Assessment
Umpires who sit the Australian **Open** Rules Assessment and do not achieve the required pass mark, and intend on applying to be assessed for their next level of accreditation, may then sit the Australian **Basic** Rules Assessment.
Candidates using the **Open** paper must correctly answer 55% for Level 1 and 65% for Level 2.

Note: 1. Level 2 candidates should be encouraged to sit the Australian **Open** Rules Assessment (required pass mark of 65%). This will enable familiarity with the **Open** Rules Assessment, with the opportunity to sit the **Basic** Rules Assessment if they do not achieve the required mark.

6. Level 3 - 6 candidates

The following pass marks are required to apply for advancement of accreditation and/or to maintain currency of accreditation

- 6.1. Level 3 - 75% pass mark in the Australian Open Rules Assessment
- 6.2. Level 4 - 80% pass mark in the Australian Open Rules Assessment
- 6.3. Level 5-6 - 85% pass mark in the Australian Open Rules Assessment
- 6.4. There is an expectation that *WBSC* accredited umpires maintain a theory mark of 90% in the Australian Open Rules Assessment

7. Softball Australia Umpire Assessment – Required Theory Marks

7.1. The following tables outlines the required theory mark for each level of accreditation within the Australian Umpire Program, relative to the type of assessment.

Australian Umpire Level	Assessment	Pass Mark
Level 1	Open	55%
Level 1	Basic	65%
Level 2	Open	65%
Level 2	Basic	80%
Level 3	Open	75%
Level 4	Open	80%
Level 5 - 6	Open	85%
WBSC	Open	90%

If you have any questions regarding this technical bulletin, please contact your State Director (SDU).

Brooke Wilkins
Technical Project Coordinator
 Softball Australia

Leigh Evans
Umpire in Chief – Technical
National Umpiring Program
 Softball Australia

This is an Approved Softball Australia Limited Technical Bulletin for use in Australia and is current as of 20/04/2020.

For the most current version, visit www.softball.org.au and go to resources