

# THE THISTLE MARK

Handbook



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**Netball Scotland's new Club Accreditation Scheme, THE THISTLE MARK has been created to support and empower our clubs to strive to be the best they can be.**

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### THE KEY AIMS OF THE THISTLE MARK ARE:

- To ensure our clubs provide safe, welcoming and inclusive environments
- To support and empower our clubs to develop and improve club governance
- To support our clubs to have quality coaches, officials and volunteers
- To support our clubs to provide participation and/or competition opportunities for all

There are three levels of the Scheme open to clubs, **BRONZE**, **SILVER** and **GOLD**, follow the links to find out the criteria, rewards and application process for each respective level.

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Applications will be accepted in line with the following deadlines over the course of the season:-

- **31st October**
  - **28th February**
  - **31st May**
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As well as on-going support from the Club & Competitions Manager and the Regional Development team, clubs can visit the [Club Tools](#) section on the Netball Scotland website to access a range of templates, guidelines and examples to assist you in developing your club.

Note: any club currently holding a valid Local Authority accreditation will automatically be awarded Netball Scotland's Bronze Level Accreditation, subject to providing evidence, and provided all club members are affiliated to Netball Scotland.



**GOLD**



**SILVER**



**BRONZE**

## BRONZE LEVEL CRITERIA

### GOVERNANCE

- Supply the name of and contact details for the main club contact or session facilitator. This should be correct & current for the season the club accreditation application is being submitted.
- Affiliate all club members to Netball Scotland.
- Demonstrate that the club is committed to enforcing equality under Netball Scotland's recommended guidelines.
- If the club has a junior section, demonstrate that all the individuals who work with any junior members have a certified PVG through that club.

### PROFILE

- Have a social media and/or online club presence that is easily accessible for new and current members.

### PERFORMANCE

- Demonstrate that the club encourages players of all levels of experience and ability to get involved in the game.

### EMPOWERMENT

- Demonstrate that the club supports the development of club members with their personal development aims. This can range from players to coaches, umpires and volunteers.
- Demonstrate that the club has a session(s) that caters for specific target groups, e.g. Junior, Senior, BBN sessions, etc.

## Bronze Level Accreditation Rewards

- A Netball Scotland accreditation certificate.
- Information on level of accreditation given when signposting new members and published on the Netball Scotland website.
- Exclusive use of the Netball Scotland Thistle Mark Logo for club marketing.
- Netball Scotland staff support to develop the club's ability to achieve higher accreditation levels.
- And much more...



**BRONZE**

### How to apply for the Bronze Level Thistle Mark?

Netball Scotland have created a Club Guidelines Document to support you through completing the Bronze Level Application. This can be downloaded from the Netball Scotland website –

[www.netballscotland.com/BronzeLevel](http://www.netballscotland.com/BronzeLevel)

To complete Bronze Level either click here OR visit our website –

[www.netballscotland.com/SubmitApplication](http://www.netballscotland.com/SubmitApplication)

## SILVER LEVEL CRITERIA

### GOVERNANCE

- Supply the name of and contact details for the main club contact or session facilitator.
- Affiliate all club members to Netball Scotland.
- Have a club constitution or working club guidelines along with all necessary club policies, procedures and documents in place.
- Have a club committee in place, positions filled and hold regular meetings.
- Hold a club/treasurers bank account (2 from 3 signatories)
- Have written and signed Role Descriptions for committee members to adhere to.
- Hold and record minutes of an Annual General Meeting.
- If the club has a junior section, demonstrate that all the individuals who work with any junior members have a certified PVG through that club.

### PROFILE

- Have a social media and/or online club presence with regular communications with club members.
- Welcome all new members into the club equally.
- Have a club identity.

### PERFORMANCE

- Demonstrate that the club encourages players of all levels of experience and ability to be involved in the game.
- Demonstrate your involvement with current competition opportunities.
- Encourage appropriate player development by nominating players for trials.

### EMPOWERMENT

- Demonstrate that the club supports the development of club members with their personal development aims.
- Demonstrate that the club has a session(s) that caters for specific target groups.
- Encourage and support the development of club members gaining coaching and officiating awards/qualifications.
- Demonstrate that the club recognises all club volunteers & members.
- Demonstrate that the club committee gives club members the opportunity to input into the running of the club.

### Silver Level Accreditation Rewards

- All previous level rewards plus...
- £50 credit to be redeemed against any Netball Scotland Education courses.
- 10% discount into any Netball Scotland delivered competitions.
- Early bird access to all ticketed events.
- And much more...



**SILVER**

For a full breakdown of Silver Level criteria please refer to the Club Guidelines document found at – [www.netballscotland.com/SilverLevel](http://www.netballscotland.com/SilverLevel)

**How to apply for the Silver Level Thistle Mark?**  
Netball Scotland have created a Club Guidelines Document to support you through completing the Silver Level Application. This can be downloaded from the Netball Scotland website – [www.netballscotland.com/SilverLevel](http://www.netballscotland.com/SilverLevel)

To complete the Silver Level either click here OR visit our website – [www.netballscotland.com/SubmitApplication](http://www.netballscotland.com/SubmitApplication)

## GOLD LEVEL CRITERIA

### GOVERNANCE

- Supply the name and contact details for the main club contact or session facilitator.
- Affiliate all club members to Netball Scotland.
- Have a club constitution or working club guidelines along with all necessary club policies, procedures and documents in place.
- Have a club committee in place and positions filled and hold regular meetings.
- Hold a club/treasurers bank account (2 from 3 signatories).
- Have written and signed Role Descriptions for committee members to adhere to.
- Hold an Annual General Meeting.
- If the club has a junior section, demonstrate that all the individuals who work with any junior members have a certified PVG through that club.
- Have a current club strategy or action plan.

### PROFILE

- Have a social media and/or online club presence with regular communications with club members.
- Welcome all new members into the club equally.
- Have a club identity.
- Demonstrate that the club has developed community engagement.

### PERFORMANCE

- Demonstrate that the club encourages players of all levels of experience and ability to be involved in the game.
- Demonstrate your involvement with current competition opportunities.
- Encourage appropriate player development by nominating players for trials.

### EMPOWERMENT

- Demonstrate that the club supports the development of club members with their personal development aims.
- Demonstrate that the club has a session(s) that caters for more than one specific target groups via a player pathway.
- Encourage and support the development of club members gaining coaching and officiating awards/qualifications.
- Demonstrate that the club recognises all club volunteers & members.
- Demonstrate that the club committee gives club members the opportunity to input into the running of the club.
- Support and implement a coaching programme or structure within the club.
- Support an officiating and/or coaching mentor programme.

### Gold Level Accreditation Rewards

- Netball Scotland staff support
- Exclusive use of The Thistle Mark logo
- Financial support
- Educational course Offers
- NS Conference special offers
- Early-bird access to all ticketed events
- Complimentary Awards dinner tickets
- CPD opportunities with the National Technical Team
- Increased promotion and marketing support from NS
- Tailored Gilbert kit packages
- And much more...



**GOLD**

For a full breakdown of Gold Level criteria please refer to the Club Guidelines document found at – [www.netballscotland.com/GoldLevel](http://www.netballscotland.com/GoldLevel)

#### How to apply for the Silver Level Thistle Mark?

Netball Scotland have created a Club Guidelines Document to support you through completing the Gold Level Application. This can be downloaded from the Netball Scotland website – [www.netballscotland.com/GoldLevel](http://www.netballscotland.com/GoldLevel)

To complete the Gold Level either click here OR visit our website – [www.netballscotland.com/SubmitApplication](http://www.netballscotland.com/SubmitApplication)

## APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS AND GRANTING AWARDS

The Thistle Mark application process differs slightly depending on each respective level your club is applying for, the details of which are summarised below.

| ACCREDITATION LEVEL      | APPLICATION PROCESS   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>BRONZE</b>            | Online Application Form   |
| <b>SILVER &amp; GOLD</b> | <p>Online Application Request Form.</p> <p>This will notify Netball Scotland that you wish to submit an application for this level.</p> <p>An application pack will then be sent to your club – this pack is provided on a Netball Scotland USB which contains the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Application guidelines</li> <li>– Application form</li> <li>– Folders to provide application evidence</li> </ul> <p>Following completion of the application the USB (containing your application form and evidence) must be returned to Netball Scotland for submission and marking within the cycle deadline.</p> |

## VALIDITY

The Thistle Mark Accreditation will be valid for 2 years from the point of being granted. Following this 2 year period clubs will be required to complete the accreditation process again, although at any point within this period they will be eligible to apply for a higher level application.

To submit an application for any of our accreditation levels click on the respective level below or visit our website – [www.netballscotland.com/SubmitApplication](http://www.netballscotland.com/SubmitApplication)

### BRONZE LEVEL

### SILVER LEVEL

### GOLD LEVEL

- Clubs are eligible to apply for any accreditation level at any point.
- There are 3 submission deadlines in each season and clubs must complete the appropriate application process prior to/on these dates in order to be considered for accreditation within that cycle.
- Submission deadlines are:
  - **31st October**
  - **28th February**
  - **31st May**

Full details on how accreditations will be granted can be found on our website – [www.netballscotland.com/SubmitApplication](http://www.netballscotland.com/SubmitApplication)



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## THANK YOU

For further information or support on The Thistle Mark Accreditation process do not hesitate to get in touch with your local Regional Development Manager or contact the Netball Scotland office on [clubs@netballscotland.com](mailto:clubs@netballscotland.com) or telephone **0141 428 3464**.



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