



# UMPIRING MATTERS

## COMMUNICATION TO ALL UMPIRES

### FROM THE SOUTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE UMPIRING DEPARTMENT

**December 2015**

## *Excellence in Umpiring*

### **2015 END OF SEASON REVIEW**

*See below a report of the 2015 season.*

#### **OVERVIEW**

The umpiring group enjoyed another successful year. With a focus on the development of communication and decision making skills across field, boundary and goal categories, umpiring performances continued to improve. With a blend of youth and experience in all categories of umpiring, a number of umpires were appointed to their first match, first senior match or umpired in a higher division than previously.

The primary responsibility of the SFNL Umpiring Department was to appoint field, boundary and goal umpires to Senior, Reserve and Under 19 matches across all divisions for each round of the season and the SFNL SAS Security Finals Series. In excess of 4,300 umpire appointments were rostered for the season.

Other key areas of the umpiring program for 2015 included coaching, development, education, physical performance, performance evaluation and list management of all umpires. The umpiring program operated within an inclusive, safe and fun environment, where clear performance expectation levels were communicated effectively.

#### **COACHING**

The umpiring coaching framework and coaching program was based around the newly introduced national curriculum. This curriculum covered topics including Laws of the Game, Effective Communication, Match Management, Positioning, Reporting and Tribunal Procedures and Order-Off Procedures, including the use of Red, Yellow and Green Cards.

## **UMPIRE EDUCATION**

### ***National Umpires Accreditation Scheme***

Several Umpires were elevated to either Level 1 or Level 2 as part of the Australian Football League (AFL) National Umpires Accreditation Scheme (NUAS), which is a compulsory scheme for all field, boundary and goal umpires participating at community level.

### ***Video Learning***

A new initiative was the introduction of video learning at coaching sessions for field umpires, which assisted with improving umpires' positioning on match day and the fundamentals of the game. The videoing of match day performances also continued this season.

## **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

### ***New Initiatives***

Three new performance initiatives were introduced in 2015 for field umpires, which improved the performances of umpires across all levels of experience. These were:

- Introduction of self-assessment feedback
- Immediate match day feedback via electronic two-way system
- Use of a newly designed performance management app, which allowed match day coaches to enter details of an umpire's performance directly onto an iPad.

## **UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT**

### ***Pathways***

One of the success factors of the SFNL is that promising umpires have the opportunity to transition to an elite level by participating in AFL Victoria umpiring pathway programs. A clearly defined pathway exists for umpires to progress to the next level of football.

### ***Player To Umpire Program***

A number of former players made up the composition of the SFNL umpiring group. This assists with the ongoing development of better relationships with football coaches, captains and players.

### ***Metropolitan Championships***

In a wonderful result for SFNL umpiring, a field umpire (Annie Mirabile) and a goal umpire (David Mandelbaum) were selected to officiate in the AFL Vic Metro vs AFL Queensland representative match held in Queensland in June. To have two representatives from our League judged as the best Melbourne metropolitan umpires from the AFL Victoria Metro Championships confirms the success of our development and coaching programs.

## **FEMALE UMPIRES**

With the professional environment that exists in SFNL umpiring, we are one of the leading competitions nationally with a high number of female umpires.

Highlights:

- A representative in the first televised AFL-approved women's match, which had a national television audience in excess of 300,000 (Annie Mirabile, as well as former SFNL umpire Libby Toovey)
- A representative in the AFL Vic Metro v AFL Queensland representative match (Annie Mirabile)
- For the third time in the history of the SFNL a female field umpire was appointed to the Division 1 Senior Grand Final (Annie Mirabile)
- For the first time in the history of the SFNL a female goal umpire was appointed to the Division 1 Senior Grand Final (Tayla Manning)
- Representatives forming part of the AFL Female Umpires Academy

**RECOGNITION**

The season was celebrated at the Grand Final Appointments and Annual Awards Night. Over 200 people attended the evening that recognised the individual achievements of umpires. The Grand Final umpires across all grades were announced.

**THANKS**

Our umpiring program doesn't exist without the help and support of many people.

I acknowledge the support of the outgoing SFNL Board Chairman, Mark Seymour, and his team, as well as David Cannizzo, Adam Sparrow, Matt Grimwood and the rest of the Administration team.

My Umpiring Department colleagues deserve recognition for their wonderful contribution to the coaching and development of a quality group of umpires.

I want to also thank the Umpires Association for their positive approach to the well-being of umpires, and thank all umpires for their passion and love of the game.

Thanks must also go to the club presidents, officials, coaches, captains and players for their ongoing contribution to local community football. A number of clubs have embraced the understanding that when the match day environment is positive for umpires, there's a better chance that umpires will perform to a higher standard and remain in the game. The ongoing improvement of the umpire-coach/captain/player relationships continued to strengthen the on-field spirit of community football.

The quality of umpires in the 2015 Grand Finals, and their overall performance, was at an exceptional standard for community football. The umpires allowed the players to play football and officiated in a positive and professional manner.

As a collective we achieved a great deal this year in umpiring. Managing the ongoing development of the field, boundary and goal umpires was extremely satisfying. The professionalism, dedication and commitment of our umpires has been incredible. The Umpiring Department looks forward to working in partnership with all umpires and key football stakeholders during 2016.

## **LOOKING FORWARD TO 2016**

The Umpiring Department is looking forward to having you back involved in umpiring at community level in 2016.

Registrations are now open. Please sign up as soon as you can. You may have already received an email to remind you to register.

Complete the on-line **Registration Form** at [sfnl.com.au](http://sfnl.com.au).

Under the main "Umpiring" tab select "Register To Become An Umpire".

Please ensure that you update your **Schedula** profile with correct personal contact and banking details.

Please also refer to the "Registration Checklist" on-line at [sfnl.com.au](http://sfnl.com.au)

*Remember to invite a friend to umpire too!*

## **GET IN THE GAME - INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN OUR GREAT GAME**

Did you know research shows that the best form of recruitment is by "word of mouth"? How did you become involved in umpiring? Did a friend mention how good it was?

To assist with the development of our umpiring group it's vital that we continue to bring new people into our organisation. Do you know someone who may make a good Umpire? If so, invite them along to training and introduce them to your fellow umpires and to the Umpiring Department when training commences.

## **PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE (FITNESS TEAM)**

I'm happy to announce our new Fitness Team for 2016, who will lead our Physical Performance Program:

Our Physical Performance Program will be headed up by **Ryan Gordon**.

Ryan, who has an Exercise Science degree and was a Fitness Assistant this season, brings a wealth of sports fitness knowledge to our group. Ryan will be assisted by **Andrew Scott** and **Mark Hamilton-Smith**. Ryan, Andrew and Mark will continue to umpire.

***Our Physical Performance training commences on Thursday 4 February 2016 for Field and Boundary Umpires. Goal Umpires will start on Thursday 3 March 2016. Stand-by for further details.***

## **UMPIRING DEPARTMENT**

The structure of the Umpiring Department for next season will be finalised in the coming weeks. However, I'm delighted to announce that the following Umpiring Department coaching team has been confirmed:

**Stephen McBurney** will, for the third year, continue as an Ambassador for SFNL Umpiring. Umpiring over 400 AFL matches and four AFL Grand Finals, Steve brings a wonderful level of experience to our group. He will work with assisting umpires develop to the next step in their careers.

**Troy Nicholson** has been appointed Boundary Umpires Coach. Troy has Field umpired many Grand Finals over a number of years, confirming his capability of performing well under pressured match day environments. Troy was Assistant Boundary Umpire Coach in 2015 and brings a wealth of umpiring experience to the head Boundary Umpire Coach role. Troy is a Level 1 Umpire Coach, as part of the AFL Umpire Coaching Accreditation Program.

**Craig Davenport** has been re-appointed as Goal Umpires Coach. **Brett McGeorge** is Assistant Coach, and **Rob Epstein** will continue as an Observer.

Recently Brad Lowe stepped down as Field Umpires Coach. Brad had agreed to Coach again, as recently as four weeks ago, however, due to changes in his family commitments, he is unable to continue.

I take this opportunity to thank Brad for his wonderful work as Field Umpire Coach over the last three years. During Brad's time we have seen the number of Field Umpires increase, a number of Umpires developed successfully to officiate in senior footy and the introduction of a number of excellent coaching programs. Above all, Brad has brought a fantastic level of professionalism to our group.

Due to work commitments Jonathan Auditore is unable to continue as Field Umpires Skill Development Coach. I also take this opportunity to thank JA for his work this year.

**Brad Lowe, Garry Embleton, David Smith, Michael Ellison-Jones (EJ)** and **Scott Van Noordennen** have all indicated that they will be involved in 2016.

Once a Field Umpires Coach is appointed, the rest of the Umpiring Department coaching structure will be finalised.

## **WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK (WWCC)**

### **Are you 18 years or over, or turning 18 years of age in the 2106 season?**

It is a compulsory requirement for all Umpires 18 years of age and over to obtain a Working With Children Check.

Please refer to the registration page on [sfnl.com.au](http://sfnl.com.au) for further details.

When applying for a WWCC be sure to select "Sport Volunteer", as no fee is required for this category.

Please ensure that you advise Matt Grimwood once you have your WWCC, together with the expiry date.

Questions about WWCC? Contact Matt at SFNL HQ.

## **NATIONAL UMPIRES ACCREDITATION SCHEME (NUAS)**

It is a compulsory requirement that all Field, Boundary and Goal Umpires are at least Level 1 accredited, as part of the AFL National Umpire Accreditation Scheme. This must be completed before you commence umpiring in 2016.

Please refer to the registration page on [sfnl.com.au](http://sfnl.com.au) under the umpiring tab for further details. Please ensure that you provide a copy of your Completion Certificate to Matt Grimwood.

## **LATEST NEWS**

For the latest umpiring news during the off season please go to the Southern Football Netball League website [sfnl.com.au](http://sfnl.com.au), then select the Umpiring tab.

From time to time emails will also be sent to your email address.

You can also follow me on Twitter @PeterBMair

Umpires Association news can be found at [sflumpires.com](http://sflumpires.com)

**On behalf of the entire Umpiring Department, best wishes for a happy Christmas and a safe holiday period.**

Kind regards

*Peter*

### **Peter Mair**

Director of Umpiring

Southern Football Netball League



follow me on twitter: @PeterBMair  
[sfnl.com.au/umpiring](http://sfnl.com.au/umpiring)