



UMPIRING MATTERS

COMMUNICATION TO ALL UMPIRES FROM THE SOUTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE UMPIRING DEPARTMENT

Edition 2: July 2015

Excellence in Umpiring

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FINALS ON THE HORIZON

As we are well into the second half of the Home and Away season, I take this opportunity to thank you for your performances so far this year. As a group we have worked well as a team to deliver consistent umpiring across all Divisions of football.

For the latest umpiring news please visit sfnl.com.au, then select the umpiring tab.

FEMALE UMPIRES

A number of female Field, Boundary and Goal Umpires attended a special coaching session recently, with SFNL Umpiring Ambassador and four time AFL Grand Final, Stephen McBurney.

Steve's session focussed on the skills needed as an Umpire at community, state and national level. Most importantly he reminded Umpires to have fun and enjoy umpiring.

While Steve has retired from umpiring at the highest level, he is now heavily involved in assisting the first female Field Umpire to take the stage at the national level. He personally coaches two female Umpires who are on AFL Female Umpire Pathway Scholarships. Both Umpires currently umpire in the Senior VFL competition.

Other themes covered in the coaching session included attitude, teamwork, work rate and match management. Discussion also surrounded the supportive environment, the need for all Umpires to have mentors and the wonderful opportunities that exist in football umpiring in the SFNL.

CHANGE OF TRAINING VENUE

Thanks to everyone who has made positive comment about the change of training venue for the three Thursday nights in July.

I take this opportunity to thank the South Metro Junior Football League (SMJFL) for allowing us to use the wonderful facilities at Moorleigh Reserve.

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 ongoing 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 the Umpiring Department.

We are already preparing for 2016, so if you know someone who might make a good Umpire, bring them down this year to show them how it all works or refer them to the sfnl.com.au website.

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

As you are aware, Toby Jedwab has moved on from the SFNL.

I thank Toby for his tremendous work assisting the Umpiring Department and Umpires during his time as Administration Manager.

See below a note from SFNL CEO, David Cannizzo:

"I am very pleased to advise that the SFNL positions of Administration & Events Officer and Media Officer have now been filled.

Matthew Grimwood has been appointed full-time Administration & Events Officer.

Matthew maybe familiar to some of you as he completed a yearlong internship with the SFNL last year and worked as Matt Duck's main deputy with operations.

Will Hunter has been appointed part-time (contract until 31 October) Media Officer.

Will is currently a boundary rider for the SFNL Match of the Day broadcast as well as being a media (print and web) journalist for the SFNL over the last three years.

We are very excited to welcome these two new members to the SFNL administration team and I am sure you will make them both feel welcome."

ARRIVAL AT MATCHES

It's important to note that the expected arrival time at venues for matches for the Home and Away season is as follows:

Club 18 Thirds:	At least 45 minutes before scheduled match starting time.
Under 19's:	At least 45 minutes before scheduled match starting time.
Reserves:	At least 45 minutes before scheduled match starting time.
Seniors:	At least 60 minutes before scheduled match starting time.

Please note that your arrival time for the Finals differs to that of the Home and Away season. You will be advised of the expected arrival time for Finals matches at the commencement of the Finals series.

PATHWAY PROGRAMS

A number of our Umpires are part of talent pathways programs. We currently have representatives in the following programs:

AFL Mates Program
AFL Victoria Female Umpire Academy
AFL Victoria Rookie Squad for Field, Boundary, Goal
AFL Victoria U16 Championships

FIRST YEAR UMPIRE PROGRAM

Earlier in the season several first year Umpires, or Umpires who are new to the SFNL, attended a two night compulsory induction session.

The First Year Umpire program ensures that all new Umpires settle effectively into the world of community umpiring.

Many success secrets were shared, including effective communication, match day management, feedback, match day assessment, how the Umpires Association works and the benefits of being an Umpire.

"MY STORY"

We are now seeking Expression of Interest for Umpires who wish to participate in "My Story".

Provide details of your own umpiring story, including your background, how you became involved in umpiring, why you like umpiring, etc...

Please let me know if you are interested in participating in this program.

UMPIRE MANUAL

The 2015 Umpire Manual can be found at sfnl.com.au, under the umpiring tab, Umpire Manual.

The Umpire Manual covers off standards, policies and expectations for all SFNL Umpires.

The Manual is updated each season, and on occasions is updated throughout the season.

MATCH DAY UNIFORMS

There are set standards for the way uniforms are to be worn. This forms part of your performance criteria. Please wear your uniform with pride.

The most up to date SFNL uniform is to be worn. Your uniform must be clean, including your footwear.

Field and Boundary Umpires are expected to wear **white** runners or white football boots - not black. Goal Umpires are expected to wear **black** football boots.

If under garments (similar to skins) are to be worn with shorts they should be of a skin colour, preferably a short cut. Long black or long white under garments are not to be worn.

Female and male Umpires must not wear any jewellery when umpiring. Goal Umpires must wear a watch as part of their match day uniform.

The Umpires Association coordinates the sale of match day uniforms. There are still some uniform items available for purchase before the Finals.

MANAGING YOUR "AVAILABILITY" TO UMPIRE MATCHES

To enable the Umpiring Department to effectively roster Umpires to matches, it is requirement that you accept any game that you are appointed to by the Umpiring Department. Matches may be at any location and on any day of the week. Most matches are played on a Saturday; however, some matches are played on a Friday afternoon, Friday night or anytime Sunday.

It is your accountability to ensure that you manage your "availability" effectively by using the on-line Schedules system.

Please Note: Schedules defaults to "unavailable" for the entire season, until you change it yourself.

*Your availability must be current for the next Round of matches by **5.00pm Sunday**, as the Umpiring Department commence arranging Appointments from this time onwards each week.*

If for some reason you have a special request for the upcoming Round, or become unavailable after 5.00pm Sunday, due to illness etc..., please ensure that you contact your category Coach by text or mobile, as a matter of urgency.

In addition to managing your Availability on Schedules, please ensure that you follow the instruction of your Category Coach regarding Availability procedures.

Failure to follow the Appointments process may result in disciplinary action.

IMPORTANT: Please note that matches are being played on both Saturday and Sunday during the upcoming Finals series. Please plan ahead and update your Schedules account accordingly.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK (WWCC)

Are you 18 years or over, or turning 18 years of age this 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 sfl.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 SFL HQ.

UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

The Umpires Association Committee is duly elected by its members and is independent of the Southern Football Netball League and the Southern Football Netball League Umpiring Department.

The Umpires Association acts to protect the rights of all SFL Umpires and coordinates all of the social events for all current members and Life members. The Umpires Association also coordinates the sale of all match day uniforms and represents all Umpires at SFNL Tribunal hearings.

Please refer to the Umpires Association website for further details: sflumpires.com

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Recently, myself and Brad Lowe, Field Umpires Coach, were selected to participate in an AFL Victoria Umpire Coaches Leadership Program, over a three day period, along with six other Umpire Coaches from country and metro Victoria.

The program commenced by attending the St Kilda v Richmond match, including a visit to the Umpires Rooms pre match, and a post-match coaching review the following day.

A series of presenters covered topics such as coaching, nutrition, teamwork, leading others, coaching development, coaching philosophy and managing effective environments.

The program also included a visit to AFL Victoria Umpiring headquarters at Victoria Park, including a discussion with Head Coach, AFL Victoria, Cameron Nash.

UMPIRING DEPARTMENT COACHES ATTEND AFL COACHING NIGHT

Last week several of the Umpiring Department Coaches had the opportunity to attend AFL Umpires training and coaching at Princes Park.

It was a great opportunity to observe how the AFL Field, Boundary and Goal Umpire Coaches and Assistants conduct their coaching sessions and training program.

2015 KEY DATES

- Thu 6 Aug:** Finals Footy and Pathways Presentation.
6.00pm – Goal / 6.20pm – Boundary / 6.40pm - Field
- Thu 13 Aug:** Final official coaching sessions for 2015. Training continues Tue's and Thu's.
- Thu 20 Aug:** SFL Umpires Association (SFLUA) Season Wrap - Last Supper
Dinner provided to all SFLUA members after training at Bricker Reserve.

7.30pm. Announcement of Finals Appointments.
- Sat 22 Aug** Week 1 Finals Division 3.
Sun 23 Aug: Week 1 Finals Division 3.
- Thu 27 Aug:** 7.15pm. Announcement of Finals Appointments.
- Sat 29 Aug:** Week 2 Finals Division 3.
Week 1 Finals Division 1 and 2.
- Sun 30 Aug:** Week 2 Finals Division 3.
Week 1 Finals Division 1 and 2.
- Thu 3 Sep:** 7.15pm. Announcement of Finals Appointments.
- Sat 5 Sep:** Week 3 Finals Division 3.
Week 2 Finals Division 1 and 2.
- Sun 6 Sep:** Week 2 Finals Division 1 and 2.
- Thu 10 Sep:** Final Thursday training night.

Light dinner for all Umps at Bricker Reserve.

7.30pm Announcement of Division 3 Grand Final Umpires and other Finals Appointments.
- Sat 12 Sep:** Week 4 Grand Final Division 3 / Week 3 Finals Division 2.
Sun 13 Sep: Week 3 Finals Division 1.
- Tue 15 Sep:** Final Tuesday training night.
- Wed 16 Sep:** **Grand Final Appointments and Presentation Night.**
- Thu 17 Sep:** No training.
- Sat 19 Sep:** Week 4 Grand Final Division 2.
Sun 20 Sep: Week 4 Grand Final Division 1.

FINALS VENUES

- Division 1 & Under 19s – Springvale Reserve.
Division 2 & Thirds (Blue) – Jack Barker Oval, Cheltenham.
Division 3 & Thirds (Red)-Weeks 1 & 3 – Meade Reserve, Clayton.
Division 3 & Thirds (Red)-Weeks 2 & 4 – Heatherton Recreation Reserve.

Please note that there are two Club 18 Thirds Grand Finals this year.

LATEST NEWS

For the latest umpiring news during the season and off season please log onto the Southern Football Netball League website 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

On behalf of the entire Umpiring Department, best wishes for the remainder of the Home and Away season and the upcoming Finals series.

Kind regards

Peter

Peter Mair

Director of Umpiring
Southern Football Netball League

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