



## UMPIRING POLICY

*(Inclusive of Male and Female Umpires)*

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidance on the recruitment, appointment, conduct, and management of umpires within the Mount Isa AFL competition. This policy aims to ensure all matches are officiated in a fair, safe, and professional manner while supporting the development and inclusion of both male and female umpires across all levels of the competition.

### **2. Scope**

This policy applies to all umpires, including male and female participants, as well as players, coaches, clubs, officials, and spectators involved in the Mount Isa AFL competition. All parties are expected to uphold the standards outlined in this policy to ensure the integrity of the game is maintained.

### **3. Inclusion and Equal Opportunity**

The Mount Isa AFL competition is committed to providing an inclusive environment that supports the participation of both male and female umpires. Umpire appointments will be based on merit, experience, accreditation, and availability, without discrimination based on gender. The league encourages the recruitment and development of female umpires and supports pathways for all umpires to progress within the sport.

### **4. Umpire Appointment**

Umpires will be appointed by the Mount Isa League or relevant league official responsible for match day operations. Accredited umpires will be prioritised for higher-level matches, while developing umpires may be allocated to lower divisions to support their growth. In circumstances where there is a shortage of umpires, clubs may be required to provide a suitable and competent individual to officiate matches as directed by the league.

## **5. Accreditation and Registration**

All umpires must be registered with the competition through the relevant platform, such as PlayHQ, and are encouraged to obtain appropriate AFL accreditation. The league will support umpire education, training, and mentoring to improve officiating standards and this can be found via [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#). (FREE TRAINING)

## **6. Roles and Responsibilities**

Umpires are responsible for officiating matches in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football and ensuring the game is played in a safe and fair manner. This includes managing the flow of the game, making consistent decisions, enforcing rules, and reporting any incidents of misconduct or injury. Umpires must always act in the best interest of the game and player safety.

## **7. Conduct and Behaviour**

All umpires are expected to maintain a high standard of professionalism, integrity, and impartiality at all times. They must treat players, coaches, and officials with respect and avoid any conflicts of interest. Likewise, players, coaches, and spectators are required to respect all umpires, regardless of gender or experience level. Any form of abuse, dissent, harassment, or intimidation towards umpires will not be tolerated and may result in penalties, including free kicks, reports, fines, suspensions, or tribunal action.

## **8. Safety and Welfare**

The Mount Isa AFL competition is committed to ensuring a safe and supportive environment for all umpires. Umpires have the authority to stop play if conditions are unsafe or if player welfare is at risk. Any concerns regarding safety, facilities, or behaviour must be reported to the league and will be addressed promptly. A zero-tolerance approach applies to any form of verbal or physical abuse directed at umpires.

## **9. Match Day Requirements**

Umpires are required to arrive at matches at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time, wear the approved uniform by AFL Mount Isa Committee, and conduct necessary pre-match checks of the ground, equipment, and player readiness. Clubs are responsible for providing a safe playing environment and ensuring that additional officiating roles, such as boundary and goal umpires, are filled where required.

## **10. Payments**

Where applicable, umpires will be remunerated in accordance with the league's approved payment structure. Payments will be managed by the league or through the relevant system, such as PlayHQ, and will be communicated clearly to all umpires prior to the season.

## **11. Complaints and Disputes**

Any concerns or complaints regarding umpiring performance must be submitted through the league's official channels. Public criticism of umpires, including via social media, is not permitted and may result in disciplinary action. All complaints will be handled fairly, respectfully, and confidentially.

## **12. Development and Pathways**

The league is committed to developing umpires at all levels and encourages participation from both male and female officials. Opportunities will be provided for junior umpire development, mentoring programs, and progression to higher-level competitions. Supporting umpire growth is essential to the long-term success of the competition.

## **13. Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Mount Isa AFL committee to ensure it remains relevant, effective, and aligned with AFL community football standards.

Please refer to Field Umpiring Handbook for further information

<https://www.aflq.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Field-Umpiring-Handbook-Digital-Version.pdf>