



## **JUNIOR UMPIRE STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR**

Signing up to become an umpire with the YRUA does not merely mean that you arrive at your appointed match and officiate; you also always have a responsibility to perform your duties in a professional manner.

***As a YRUA umpire you are being paid well and are expected to abide by the following guidelines:***

### **Behaviour**

Should be courteous and respectful, and that includes the language used.

### **Dress**

Should be clean, neat and tidy and appropriate.

These are specific occasions when consideration of dress standards is important:

- On-field on match day.
- Off-field on match day.
- When attending a tribunal hearing.
- Several junior umpires also play with junior clubs or have strong ties with some of the clubs. Please refrain from wearing club attire prior to an umpiring appointment and keep the club wear for when you are travelling to your match as a player.

## **Use of appropriate interpersonal skills**

- When meeting with coaches, officials or other umpires for the first time, introduce yourself and shake hands. Stand straight up and look the person in the eye, and use words like “My name is ..., I’m the umpire for today’s match”. Use a strong, firm grip when shaking hands. Smile.
- When visiting the team change rooms before the match, if you haven’t met the coach, seek him out, and introduce yourself. Be relaxed and smile, saying “all the best for today” is an effective way of creating an opportunity to get about your business. Maintain eye-contact with people when talking to them.
- Use words like “please” when making requests eg. “Could you arrange for the footballs to be brought to our rooms, please?” Use words like “thank-you” when people assist you, eg. “Thank-you for the drinks.” Be polite, show respect.

## **General Conduct**

- All YRUA umpires are always expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. This includes at umpiring functions, training and on match day before, during and after the match. Remember, you are not just representing yourself but the entire umpiring group and the League as well.
- All umpires who also play football in the competition are expected to be respectful of the officiating umpires. Any umpire that receives a yellow or red card whilst playing or who is suspended by the Tribunal will automatically be suspended from umpiring at any level for a period of time proportional to the severity of the offence.  
Umpires shall not make derogatory comments about any other umpire, player, coach or official through any medium whether verbally, online, in print etc. These kinds of comments are unacceptable from any umpire and will be treated with the utmost seriousness.

## **Social Media Policy**

- Umpires must always comply with the AFLOE Social Media Policy.

- The digital world can record any comments / photographs permanently no matter how temporary the intention may have been. The policy will provide guidance on what constitutes professional behaviour when using all forms of social media. Refer to the 'resources' section on the [www.yarrarangesumpires.com.au](http://www.yarrarangesumpires.com.au) website for a copy of the policy.

### **Attitude to Umpiring**

- Attitude is often the reason why some people are successful, and some are unsuccessful.
- Most successful sportspeople say that a positive, enthusiastic and responsible attitude was a key factor in achieving success. Certainly, most successful umpires say that.

### **Here are some guidelines to facilitate success**

#### At Training & Coaching Sessions

- Regular Attendance.
- Provide advice of non-attendance.
- Display an enthusiastic attitude to coaching sessions.
- Pay close attention to the person conducting the session.
- Participating in sessions and activities willingly.

#### General

- Accepting any feedback/criticism in good spirit, recognising that there is an opportunity to identify areas to improve and methods to rectify them.
- Accepting all appointments in a positive manner.
- Encouraging and supporting colleagues on match days.
- Never criticise colleagues, coaches or observers.
- Always do your best – remembering the match that you are officiating in is the most important match that day for all involved.
- Always try to promote umpiring to friends, family and acquaintances who you consider may have potential to umpire.