

# UMPIRING WITH THE WACA

*“Being worthy of the role”*

*Beliefs, Responsibilities and Ethical standards*

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The Australian Sports Commission describes the duty of sports officials is to act as impartial judges of sport competitions. When acting as an official the duty carries with it an obligation to perform with accuracy, fairness and objectivity through an overriding sense of integrity.

Although the vast majority of cricket umpires work as an amateur official, it is vital every official approach each assignment in a professional manner. Because of their authority and autonomy, officials must have a high degree of commitment and expertise. The WACA believes these facts impose on its umpire's the higher ethical standard by which true professionals are judged.

By choosing to umpire in the WACA district competition you have elected to be part of the peak cricket body in Western Australia and therefore inherently accept the responsibilities that go with that commitment.

The WACA is committed to improving all aspects of cricket in Western Australia at all levels. Playing, coaching and officiating are all part of the one brand and the WACA aspires to be the best in all of these areas.

Quality officiating plays a vital role in player development and in the public image of the sport. It is important that all umpires who choose to umpire with the WACA be part of this commitment and aspire to do their best to enhance a positive image of WACA cricket.

Every time an umpire wears the uniform it says '*I am a representative of the WACA*', and we must be seen to maintain the highest standards in everything we are seen to do.

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## **OUR PHILOSOPHY**

As umpires we are an integral part of the cricket community, working with other stakeholders to provide a positive cricket experience for all participants.

### **We believe:**

- That every official in all WACA competitions should demonstrate the highest standards of ethics and sportsmanship and promote the development of good character and other valued life skills.
- That every official has the opportunity to perform at the highest level at which they are capable.
- That, to achieve this, all umpires will demonstrate a commitment to their personal development.
- That all officials are committed to the six core principles of:
  - Trustworthiness – involves integrity and honesty
  - Respect – displaying sportsmanship to all participants
  - Responsibility – being accountable and prepared
  - Fairness – making sure that everyone is treated equally
  - Caring – showing compassion for every persons role
  - Sportsmanship – playing by the rules.

## **YOUR RIGHTS**

As an official operating on behalf of the WACA you have the right to expect that:

- Your health and safety are paramount
- You will be treated with respect and openness
- You will be appointed to a level of competition appropriate to your level of competence
- You will have access to training and self-improvement opportunities.

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## OUR THEME

Individual umpires who wear the WACA uniform, will demonstrate that they are part of the collective umpiring body by:

- Following the WACA Umpires *Code of Ethics*, being professional in all of their actions, having the utmost integrity and possessing an individual quest for excellence in preparation and performance.
- Being a positive part of the umpiring community, sharing and growing together for the betterment of umpiring and cricket
- Being part of the education process by which everyone can gain through the sharing of experiences, enforcing rules in a consistent manner and working to enhance the sporting experience for all.

## OUR MISSION

- To provide trained and accredited umpires for all matches in each competition conducted by the WACA.
- To provide the highest quality standard of umpiring possible, for each level of WACA cricket, by individuals who are appropriately trained and prepared.
- To be recognised as the state that produces the best umpires for the national and international umpiring environment.

In striving to achieve this, it is expected that all umpires will have in place an individual plan by which they can demonstrate their commitment to their personal and professional development. This plan should be available to the WACA Umpire Coordinator on request for evaluation and becomes an integral factor in the determining the umpires progress.

To achieve this and to support individuals to achieve their goals, the WACA will:

- Establish recruitment strategies to encourage interested men and women to become umpires to increase the body of officials available each week.
- Provide training programs that develop the individuals understanding of the Laws of cricket, Playing Conditions for all competition and specific technical training in best practice field craft.
- Encourage observation of the 'Spirit of Cricket', sportsmanship, fair play and ethical standards on all occasions.
- Recognise achievement and development by the promotion of individuals along a recognised pathway.

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## **WACA UMPIRES CODE OF ETHICS**

The WACA is entrusted with the development of cricketers from when they enter the sport to the National and International level for those who achieve the highest level of recognition. This process requires that umpires at all levels be independent, impartial and responsible to the people they serve. The official is appointed to carry out the roles and responsibilities as identified by the governing body (District Club Cricket Council, the WACA or Cricket Australia).

The umpire should at all times follow the directions of the governing body especially in the area of maintaining standards.

Violation, by an umpire, of the Code of Ethics may result in sanctions by the governing body.

### **An umpire shall:**

- Place the welfare of the individual player above all other consideration.
- Maintain confidence and control at all times when in the role of the umpire.
- Devote time, thought and study to improving his understanding of the Laws, Playing Conditions and craft to provide an effective and creditable performance in a fair and unbiased manner.
- Work with fellow umpires and the WACA in a spirit of harmony and cooperation for the betterment of cricket.
- Resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position to benefit oneself.
- Under all circumstance avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group other than the sport we serve.
- Always act in a dignified manner in all personal conduct with players, coaches, club officials, WACA officials and the public whilst acting as the official.
- Be prepared both physically and mentally, dress according to expectations and maintain a proper appearance befitting the importance of the event.
- Honour WACA appointments, regardless of any possible inconvenience or financial loss.

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- Not make public comment or statement to news media that is critical of any stakeholder in the sport.
  - Not smoke in the vicinity of the playing area.
  - Not present in public in an intoxicated state.
  - Carry a responsibility to act in a manner becoming of a professional person. The conduct of the umpire influences the public attitude towards the sport and the umpire.

## **GUIDELINES FOR UMPIRES**

Individual umpires must take responsibility for all of their actions and be ultimately responsible for their own progression. Whilst others may decide on your progress it is the individual who has control over their improvement.

### ***Set yourself up for success.***

The umpire who waits for success to come their way will be passed by others who *lead change*.

As the official, *what makes you stand out?*

When an appointment for higher duties was made, ask yourself; why was that person chosen ahead of me?

Your credibility as an official is determined by your understanding of the game and your technical ability to manage the match. The successful official demonstrates best practice communication skills and develops a professional working relationship with all stakeholders.

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## **Code of Conduct for umpires**

### **All WACA umpires:**

1. Shall accept responsibility for all actions taken.
2. Bear a responsibility for promoting a positive public image of the WACA and the sport.
3. Shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally; shall dress neatly and appropriately before, during and after an event and shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the profession.
4. Will respect the basic tenets of history, integrity, neutrality, respect, sensitivity, professionalism, discretion and tactfulness.
5. Shall be impartial and fair in all deliberations.
6. Shall uphold the traditions, etiquette and dignity of cricket.
7. Shall master the Laws of Cricket and the mechanics to enforce the Laws in an impartial, firm and controlled manner.
8. Shall display and execute superior communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal.
9. Must avoid conflicts of interest both real and perceived.
10. Shall encourage inclusivity and access for all.
11. Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards players.
12. Shall be punctual and professional in the fulfilment of their duties.
13. Shall work with each other and the governing body in a constructive and cooperative manner.
14. Must not make false or misleading statements in regard to any matter arising from their officiating.