



***Ideas and activities for consideration throughout the Community Umpiring Round may include:-***

***AFL level:-***

- AFL umpires to shake hands with the two teams' Coaches pre and **postgame**.
- Have an AFL umpire spend time in a commentary box. (Radio or TV, CH 7 Friday night preferred option – maybe for a ¼ as a special comments person re decisions and to just provide an insight and information about umpiring.
- Umpires interviewed on the ground at ¼ or ¾ time re the feeling about the game and why and how they did some of the things they did. Keep it positive and informative rather than reactive to decisions.
- Umpire interacting with a commentator during play when they are not involved. Eg, Set shot on goal – umpire in opposite end zone, blood rule stoppage- non controlling umpire.
- Arrange for 3 of our umpires to be guest panelists on the Footy Show for about a ten minute segment. Not to comment about teams, players or outcomes of games but to answer general questions about the role of the umpires, training, coaching, fitness, involvement etc.
- Arrange for one of our umpire coaches to spend a ¼ in each teams coaches box during a game.
- Arrange for an AFL coach or assistant coach to spend a ¼ in the umpires observers box during a game and to be in rooms listening to and observing umpires coaching and preparation prior to game or at ½ time.
- Arrange for vision in rooms of umpires meeting, talking to players and coaches.
- Arrange for vision and audio of coaches shaking hands and talking to umpires prior to games. (Supportive and positive)
- Arrange for an umpire/s to appear on Fox Footy's "League Teams" or "360"
- AFL coach/profile player to umpire a junior game/local lower level match. Ensure TV coverage. Interview with coach.
- Arrange for an AFL coach to attend AFL umpire training to observe a coaching session and to give 5 min briefing to the umpires. Ensure TV coverage.
- Through coaches seek permission for injured player/s from each side to come down to the umps rooms pre game to observe and listen to umpire preparations prior to game.
- Invite AFL coach or prominent journalist to train with umpires and sit in a coaching session.

### **Community level:-**

- Have AFL listed umpires attend local training sessions in the week leading up to the Community Umpiring Round
- Accept the invitation from the AFLUD to allow developing umpires to attend training at Visy Park being conducted by the AFL Umpiring Department's coaching panel.
- Nominate first year Green Shirt umpires to lead AFL umpiring panels on to the MCG or Etihad Stadium over the Community Umpiring Round.
- Provide a common article for the Leagues' Football Record specific for the Community Umpiring Round
- Wearing Green armbands to further create the awareness of understanding about the role of the umpire
- Vouchers being supplied to umpires for canteen use
- Guard of honour before each game being played
- Community Umpiring Round posters displayed on the ground and in change-rooms of all clubs
- Free food and drink being supplied in umpires change rooms
- Invite local junior teams' football coaches to umpire one game over the weekend
- The League/s initiate an "Ump's Shout" round where one of the umpires for each senior game is provided with eight drink vouchers that must be used by some members of the umpiring panel, the two coaches and the two captains in the social rooms post game
- Umpires introduced by name as they enter the field prior to the game
- Umpire presenting at League season launch
- Post-Match meetings
- Regular Training sessions with clubs – building relationships – get involved in game sense drills, e.g. ruck contest, marking contests, kick at goal, boundary throw-ins
- Local radio on match day, involving umpire interview, Friday night footy show also
- Article in footy record each week with a bigger focus on '*Community Umpiring Round*'
- Umpire Association – Life Members' Day at a club
- Shaking hands, pre and post-match with coach and players
- Presentation at school assemblies – senior school students are often the U18 players
- Umpires presenting at pre-match function – have the umpires tell their story
- Photo promotion similar to AFL using local football people, player umpire & coach
- Clubs attend umpires training
- Promotion of a '**We**' Attitude not us and them
- Get involved in community projects, e.g. Relay for Life
- Discussion with coaches that the 'buck' stops with them in relation to umpire abuse
- Promote Green Shirt program, place banners in prominent positions at venues
- Develop more structured information sessions with club coaches on Laws and their interpretation
- Umpire develop an approach to learning the names of players
- Build relationship with local Coaches

- Invite all coaches to dinner – opportunity to explain umpiring in more detail
- Formalise pre-game approach in rooms, that is meet all players, not just coach and captain
- Positive media coverage
- Umpiring promotional fliers to be handed out at match venue upon entry to patrons
- Pre-and post-match review with umpires on local community radio
- Umpire profiles printed in local Football Records