

Umpire Mentoring Procedures

There are two types of Umpire Mentors:

On-field Umpire Mentor

Off-field Umpire Mentor

On-field mentoring

An on-field mentor accompanies the learner umpire on the field during the fixture and assumes one of two roles:

- **Engaged Mentor** (blowing the whistle) - are required to umpire the fixture, with the learner umpire no further than 1 metre away, 'shadowing' them.
- **Disengaged Mentor** (not blowing the whistle) - are present to 'shadow' the learner umpire no further than 1 metre away, while the learner umpire officiates the match.

Only **ONE** person will be responsible for blowing a whistle during the fixture.

On-field mentors assist the learner umpires by showing them positioning, signalling, explaining rules where necessary, prompting decision making, areas of control, teaching them all facets of umpiring.

ON-FIELD Umpire Mentors are allowed on all divisions up to and including Division 4, JT2 and MM2.

ON-FIELD Umpire Mentors are **NOT** allowed on Division 1, 2, 3, JT1 and MM1 – at any time.

Off-field mentoring

An off-field mentor accompanies the learner umpire to pre-match duties (e.g. coin toss) and then observes the learner umpire from the side line during the fixture.

The off-field mentor takes notes and approaches the learner umpire at half time and full time to discuss their observation.

Off-field mentors are NOT responsible for blowing a whistle during the fixture.

An off-field mentor should not enter the field of play except in extra-ordinary circumstances.

Circumstances where it would be appropriate for the off-field mentor to step onto the field may include an increased risk of danger to the players (losing control of the match) or umpire (behaviour management of players).

OFF-FIELD Umpire Mentors are allowed on all divisions.

General procedures

1. All mentoring roles are required to bring their own whistle, in case they need to use them during the fixture (as a preventative to dangerous circumstances).
2. All mentors must have a current umpiring accreditation, Community Advanced or higher.
3. As an umpire mentor in either role, one should introduce themselves to the following in an official capacity;
 - to the umpire they will be working with
 - to the co-umpire
 - to the tech officials (turf only)
 - to the captains and / or coaches of the teams competing
4. The mentor should specify their 'role' to the umpire, i.e. whether they will be on-field mentoring or off-field mentoring.
5. The mentor should briefly discuss with the learner umpire their expectations and objectives with the upcoming fixture.
6. Where possible, the mentor should facilitate the pre-game discussion between the learner umpire and co-umpire, regarding their 'game plan'.

Grass Procedures

In addition to the general procedures:

1. Meet the learner umpire at least 10 minutes prior to the start of the fixture.
2. Ensure the umpire has signed in at the Downey Park Clubhouse control room (upstairs).
3. Accompany the umpire onto the field to perform the coin toss.
4. Depending on your role (on-field / off-field), return to your position for the start of the fixture.
5. For off-field mentors, stay predominately on the side line, and remain outside of the circle along the backline.
5. Use half time as an opportunity to discuss performance and rules with the learner umpire (it is encouraged to provide no more than 2 points to consider for the second half).
6. At full time, accompany the umpire to sign the match books and ensure the scores are recorded accurately. Any cards given must be recorded on the back of the sheet, with justification.
7. Post-match, use the time to de-brief about the fixture with the learner umpire. Consider things done well, and things which need improvement.
8. BWA mentors are to fill out a feedback sheet (copies are the Saturday Admin Office) and return it to the Saturday Admin Office.
Club mentors are welcome to use the feedback sheets to their discretion.

Turf Procedures

In addition to the general procedures:

1. Sign in on the tech bench as a mentor (mentors organised by BWA should list BWA as the club).
2. Meet the learner umpire at least 10 minutes prior to the start of the fixture.
3. Ensure the umpire has signed in at the tech bench.
4. Accompany the umpire onto the field to perform the coin toss.
5. Depending on your role (on-field / off-field), return to your position for the start of the fixture.
6. For off-field mentors, you must stay outside the perimeter of the field (on the fence). You can track the side line, and remain outside of the circle along the backline.
7. Use half time as an opportunity to discuss performance and rules with the learner umpire (it is encouraged to provide no more than 2 points to consider for the second half).
8. At full time, accompany the umpire to sign the match books and ensure the scores are recorded accurately. Any cards given must be recorded on the back of the sheet, with justification.
9. Post-match, use the time to de-brief about the fixture with the learner umpire. Consider things done well, and things which need improvement.
10. If applicable, fill out a feedback sheet and return it to the tech bench.

Radio / Microphone Procedures

BWA has Radio technology for umpire mentoring available at Downey Park for use on junior and senior grass fixtures.

The BWA radios available are half-duplex systems – allowing the transmission of signals in both directions but not simultaneously (i.e. only one radio can talk at a time).

The purpose of this technology is to allow an off-field mentor to communicate with the learner umpire – NOT for the umpires to communicate with each other.

When using half-duplex radio technology the following applies in addition to the general and grass procedures:

1. The equipment is available for loan from the BWA Saturday Admin Office and must be signed in and out.
2. Only umpires that are capable of umpiring without a mentor should participate with this technology.
3. Ensure the learner umpire is comfortable with the technology and you 'practice' with the equipment prior to the start of the fixture.

4. Advise competing teams Coaches and Managers and the co-umpire that you are using the technology.
4. Allow the learner umpire to predominately make their own decisions, and only prompt/ adjust where necessary.
5. The equipment must be returned after each use. Any problems or damage to the equipment must be reported at this time. Clubs may be charged for any damage caused during the equipment's use.

Radio technology (Full Duplex) for turf umpires is available for Division 1 fixtures only, and will be organised privately by BWHA.