



June 2013



National UIC's Call

With Tricia Sibraa

Welcome to the June edition of the BNOL.

This month will be exciting for Amanda Houison (NSW) and Phil Waller (Vic) both who will be attending their first international appointments at the ISF X Junior Women's World Championships in Brampton, Canada. Good calling Amanda and Phil! We look forward to reading about your experiences on your return to Australia. In this edition you can read Amanda's interview in preparation for her international adventure.

During the Queen's Birthday long weekend, Queensland recently held the South Brisbane Club Classic. Leigh Evans, Debbie Grove, Haydyn Wood and Chris Trengove joined Queensland umpires to officiate over this competitive tournament which attracts Australian and International open Men's players. Women Master's competition was held also simultaneously at South Brisbane.

New South Wales umpires were also kept busy during the June long weekend with the Softball NSW over 35 State Masters Championship.

Included in this edition are articles from New South Wales and Queensland relating to these championships. Also enclosed is the Play by the Rules e-Bulletin for July to August 2013.

For those umpires who participated in this year's umpiring theory exam, results will be mailed out shortly, if you have not received them all ready. Good luck.

Happy reading and good calling everyone,
Tricia.

In this edition

Local sporting champion grants program	2
New South Wales	2
Queensland	4
Play by the rule	6

Local sporting champion grants program

The next round of local sporting champion grants is open and closes on 31 October 2013. This government initiative is designed to provide financial assistance to young people aged 12–18 towards the cost of travel, accommodation, uniforms or equipment when competing, coaching or officiating at an NSO endorsed state, national or international sporting championships. For details click [here](#).

New South Wales

Canada is calling Houison

Team USA ice hockey coach Herb Brooks once said “great moments are born from great opportunities”. For Penrith City umpire Amanda Houison, these words will ring true when she makes her International Umpiring debut at the 2013 ISF X Junior Women’s World Championship in Brampton, Canada.

Departing Sydney on Monday 24 June with Victorian umpire Phil Waller and the Aussie Pride team, Houison will no doubt be tingling with excitement at the prospect of her first Junior World Championship.

“I’m looking forward to it. It is the next challenge in my umpiring career and I can’t wait to get out on the diamond for my first game,” Houison said.

“We have an umpiring crew of 24 plus three in the management crew and they’re from all over the world including Canada, Japan and Singapore.

“We’ve been doing a few getting to know you games over email. One of the best activities we’ve done has been ‘name that umpire’ based on the photos we’ve submitted for our accreditation. All I’ll say is thank goodness for Facebook!”

Houison’s preparation for the Junior World Championship, which gets underway on July 1, has included umpiring at the rain-affected Softball NSW U19 Women’s State Championship.

“Obviously the level of pressure will be different, but the equation is still the same – the players and teams are there to win. They keep you on your toes and you have to be switched on for every pitch,” she said.

The NSW Umpiring Family had the opportunity to farewell Houison, Phil Waller and Aussie Pride at Blacktown International SportsPark over the weekend of 22-23 June when they umpired a series of practice matches.



Photo: Amanda Houison

Masters Mind Games

It was a June long weekend with a difference at Blacktown International Sportspark (BISP) when the crew in blue were greeted by Umpire-in-Chief Kyra Cox.

When the 32 umpires wheeled their kit bags into the venue on Saturday morning they thought they'd just signed on to umpire at the Softball NSW Over 35 State Championships – but they got a little more than they bargained for (in a good way).

In the lead-up, Cox found herself doing the sums - 32 umpires, four diamonds and six timeslots. Sounds simple enough – plenty of umpires to go round. But Cox knew that in order to keep the crew engaged on those long, cold days and during their breaks that she had to think outside the square - and think outside the square she did.

“I wanted to create activities – fun activities – that everyone on the crew could participate in when they weren't out on the diamond,” Cox said.

“I came up with three quizzes and a guessing competition; it was a bit of fun and generated a lot of discussion and friendly rivalry, particularly when the winner of the quizzes took home a \$50 gift voucher.

“The great thing about the umpiring program is its people and by having a little bit of organised fun off the diamond I'd like to think that we were also encouraging conversations and opening lines of communication that carried through onto the diamond.”

So who was the umpire that emerged victorious in the Masters Mind Games? Susan Miller from Cumberland Nepean swept the prize pool, taking out the guessing competition and the overall quiz winner – well done Susan!

Congratulations to the following umpires on their Grand Final appointments:

NSW Over 35 State Championship – Women

Joint Winners: Manly Warringah and Penrith City (poor visibility stopped play)

P: James Townsend (North Shore)
1B: Steve Smith (Southern Districts)
3B: Katrina Bulmer (North Shore)



Photo: L-R Steve Smith, James Townsend, Katrina Bulmer

NSW Over 35 State Championship – Men

Cumberland Nepean 14 defeated Campbelltown 3

P: Shane McIntosh (Southern Districts)
1B: Tom Ryan (Hornsby)
3B: Tony Moncaster (Tamworth)



Photo: L-R Tony Moncaster, Shane McIntosh, Tom Ryan

Photos supplied by Tom Ryan photography.

Queensland

South Brisbane Club Classic

The South Brisbane Club Classic including Women Masters Championships was held over Queensland's Queens Birthday long weekend at the South Brisbane Softball Association. While the World's Men Championship was recently held in New Zealand, this event continued to attract the Aussie Men Steelers team players and other Internationals. What brings such high competition to South Brisbane? This championship is only one of a few events in Australia which is played for a prize pool, so the games are always played hard and fast paced.

Eight teams played over the weekend, coming from Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland. Players from New Zealand also joined the sides which made each team exceptionally competitive.



Photo: Norelle Thomas at the plate

Queensland umpires welcomed our interstate counterparts – Leigh Evans, Debbie Grove, Andrew Compton, Krissi Travis, Haydyn Wood and Chris Trengove. With a strong umpiring crew, we enjoyed the opportunity to run some four-man systems.

Developing umpires welcomed feedback during the weekend from Leigh Evans, Debbie Grove, Darren Sibraa, Helen Strauss and Yvonne Kahler. Thank you for much welcomed feedback.

The games also permitted some of the Queensland level 3 umpires to run some bases on the Classic games. Kylie Knight, Ross Winn and Vicianne Crane reflected on the how their awareness and decision-making had to step up a notch to adjust to the speed and aggression played by the men.

The highlight for me over the weekend was calling the balls and strikes in the only game played Sunday night – Mariners with Adam Folkard pitching and Andrew Havercroft catching versus Sharks with Andrew Blackshaw pitching and Luke Van de Griendt catching. The game was nil all until the seventh innings when Mariners hit the winning run.

On day two, the team go together to have an umpiring dinner – Indian style! It was a great opportunity with games finishing at 7:30pm each night for the umpires to have some fun off the park with the typical umpiring humour coming out thick and strong.



Photo: Darren Sibraa as plate umpire

The final day was a rollercoaster after such a promising first two day. A number of teams were still vying for positions, with Giants, Sharks and Monarchs all needing to continue winning to challenge the Mariners team from WA.

Local team, Sharks triumphed over two games to defeat Giants, then Monarchs to set up the showdown. The game against Monarchs was suspended before resuming to finish in nine innings. The standard of play, and umpiring was amazing despite the worsening weather conditions.

The grounds crew worked tirelessly to prepare the diamond for the final between Mariners and Sharks, however the umpiring crew: Darren Sibraa, Leigh Evans, David Casey and Debbie Grove determined at the pre-game meeting with the coaches that the conditions had worsened to a state where there was risk of injury to the players, and the game was abandoned.

Thank you to South Brisbane Softball Association for feeding the umpiring crew over the weekend. A big thank you to Tricia Sibraa, TCU for South Brisbane Classic and Sally Crawford, TCU for Masters.

Writer: Bridget Cameron

Play by the rule



e-Bulletin – July-August 2013

Working With Children Checks

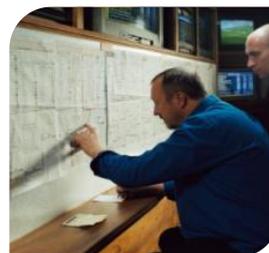
Fundamental to every child-safe environment is the recruitment of staff and volunteers who are both competent and do not pose a risk to children.



One way this is done is by screening people who are involved with children in sport through Working With Children Checks. The Working With Children Check [fact sheets](#) are updated on the *Play by the Rules* website as laws change (as they recently did in [NSW](#)). Be sure to keep updated with the latest information to keep your sporting environment safe for all.

Gambling and amateur sport

What would you do if a betting agency started offering odds on your club's matches? Where does your club stand? If you are against gambling in amateur sports or fearful that it could ruin the integrity of your sport, don't just hold out for legislative change, because that may take a while. For the moment we have to rely on the integrity of local players and officials to keep sport fair. Read this [article](#) for some things your club can do to encourage fair play.



The Other Talk

The [Australian Drug Foundation](#) is encouraging parents to have 'The Other Talk' – a discussion about alcohol and other drugs and related issues such as peer pressure, health, parties, safety and expectations. The [website](#) provides great resources for parents wanting to learn about alcohol and drugs to protect their kids from associated harm.



Racism campaign a great success

Hot on the heels of the successful *Play by the Rules/Racism It Stops With Me* TV Community Service Announcement, which is received extensive national airplay and has been watched online over 240,000 times, we have just released six 30-second radio CSAs for the campaign. Featuring some of the biggest names in sport, the ads carry the same simple message – racism has no place in sport and everyone deserves a fair go, regardless of their skin colour, background or culture. You can listen to their messages, along with those from a range of other sporting legends on the *Play by the Rules* [website](#).



Sporting webinars a hit

If you missed the recent iWebinar on 'Inclusion in sport' you can access the video presentation and FAQs [here](#). Upcoming webinars are on Presentation skills for people in sport (1 August) and Making sport safe, fair and inclusive (22 August), which will discuss how your club and sport can benefit from using *Play by the Rules*. For details on how to register for these free webinars click [here](#).

Local Sporting Champion grants program

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ASADA update on supplements

There have been a number of athletes who have been sanctioned recently due to testing positive for some substances commonly found in supplements. ASADA has provided repeated warning on these products, but it seems that athletes are still taking them. To help get the message across ASADA has developed a new [learning update](#) on their eLearning system and a new [video](#) which spells out the dangers.



Basketball – a Fair go Sport!

Fair go, sport!, the program aimed at making sport an inclusive and welcoming option for participants from Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (GLBTI) communities, has been run under the direction of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission for the last few years. The Commission is now expanding the program to other sports and Basketball Victoria is one of the new Victorian State Sporting Associations to sign on, recently announcing that the 2013 Fair go, sport! Big V Finals Series will be tipping off in August. More details of the program will be publicised as it gets under way.



Training for the sports community

Volunteers are often thrown into the deep end with little training or preparation to assist them. To address this, Sports Community are now running a range of training courses to help train club volunteers in all aspects of running a club, from planning and setting goals, to fundraising and using social media to drive membership and participation. There are upcoming courses in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Click [here](#) for details.

Assault a player or official and go to jail

In May, the Northern Territory Government announced amendments to the *Criminal Code Act* for tougher penalties, which have the potential to impact NT sport and recreation organisations, including assaults on players, officials, coaches and other volunteers. The offence provision will apply when a worker is unlawfully assaulted while he or she is working in the performance of their duties. Under the new Act, it will see offenders sentenced to a minimum of three months jail for the first offence and 12 months for repeat offenders.

Be the 'go to' person in your club

Member Protection Information Officers (MPIOs) play an essential role in sport; they are the 'go to' person in a club who are responsible for providing information and options to a person making a complaint or raising a concern, as well as support during the process. If you are interested in being an MPIO for your club or sport then all you need to complete a free online training course and a face-to-face workshop organised in your state or territory. It's easy – click [here](#) for details.



Know an inspiring local basketballer?

Sensis are on the hunt for inspiring Australians to feature on the covers of their 2014/15 Yellow Pages and White Pages with the theme – Inspiring Others to Achieve, so Basketball Australia has put a call out to fans to nominate their most inspiring volunteer, coach, mentor or role model. For details go to www.whitepagescommunity.com.au (nominations close 14 July).

Great free course for officials

The ASC have developed the *Introductory Officiating General Principles* online course to assist officials in learning the basic skills they will need to officiate effectively, which is initially available free of charge to Australian officials. The course contains three modules, which cover a range of general officiating topics, including ethical responsibilities of officials, preparation for officiating, safety, communication, dealing with conflict and people management. Go on, take that first step to accreditation by registering [here](#).



The Big Banter

"Children and young people are experts in their own lives and so, before I can work out what needs to be done, I need to ask the experts!", says Australia's first-ever Children's Commissioner Megan Mitchell, who is travelling all over the country talking to as many children and young people as she can. 'The Big Banter' is the Commissioner's way of listening to and speaking with children and young people and hearing their stories and issues. I bet she hears a sporting story or two on her travels! You can get involved by sharing your story at <http://somethingincommon.gov.au/thebigbanter>



Refugee sports sponsorships

Sport is an excellent way for young people to engage positively with their local communities, build confidence and a sense of belonging. The Refugee Youth Sports Sponsorship Program, developed by the NSW Community Relations Commission, aims to help settle young refugees into their new lives in Australia through grants totaling \$150,000. Teams and clubs can apply for sponsorship of up to \$500 per player to help refugees cover costs such as registration, uniforms and playing equipment. For details go to:

www.cr.c.nsw.gov.au/refugee_youth_sports_sponsorship_program

Tassie gets best ever results

Recently released ABS figures show that Tasmania has achieved its best ever results in participation levels for sport, recreation and physical activity. The 2011–12 figure for regular participation by people aged 15 and over in physical activity (at least three times a week) was 26.5 percent, which placed Tasmania second in relation to other states and territories, below only the ACT on 33.6 percent. This is a great result for the government and its agencies who have invested so much in assisting sporting organisations to grow the capacity of their sports.

Link from your website to ours

If you would like a *Play by the Rules* logo to be able to link to us from your website, simply send a request via email to admin@playbytherules.net.au and we will send you the logos to upload on your site. This will provide a direct link for your members to access a range of excellent *Play by the Rules* resources, information, tools and templates, and our online training course.



ACT Winter Sport campaign

ACT Sport and Recreation recently used *Play by the Rules* as part of their Winter Sport campaign to encourage respect, equality and social inclusion in sport. The campaign used PBTR and radio messages from Brett White (Raiders), David Pocock (Brumbies), Phil Davis (GWS Giants) and Grace Gill (Canberra United), along with tweets from Minister Barr, and teams and state sporting organisations including: Canberra Cavalry, Cricket ACT, Hockey ACT, Netball ACT, Softball ACT, Canberra Gunners (+Basketball ACT), Tennis ACT (and Canberra Velocity), Suzuki-Bontrager (ACT Cycling team), Canberra Knights (ACT Ice Hockey), Volleyball ACT and Canberra Heat (volleyball) and Orienteering ACT.



Premier's Challenge a hit

The 2013 NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge includes a range of initiatives with a common purpose – to have more students, more active, more of the time! Schools already registered in this year's Challenge will receive a newsletter and samples of Encouragement, Community and Hero Award certificates to help maintain momentum throughout the Challenge. There's also a new iPhone app for staff and secondary students to log activity time during the challenge. Click [here](#) for details.



Free posters for your club

If your club would like some *Play by the Rules* posters, flyers, respect cards or postcards to promote safe, fair and inclusive sport in your new member kits or to put up around your clubhouse, simply go to our [resources](#) section, download what you'd like and print out as many as you want. We also have A0 sized posters available which can be printed out and put up in stadiums or on fencing around playing fields – email admin@playbytherules.net.au to get the printer files for these posters.



Don't forget to find us on facebook and YouTube

Click on our facebook, Twitter and YouTube buttons to find us, follow us or become a fan. Pass this onto your networks and help us build an informed, safe, inclusive and fair sport culture.